

# HUGO PELLINEN — Type Liberation Project

## Phase 1

As technology has changed in the past fifty years, the value of letterpress type has changed as well. There is an abundance of metal type and fewer printers who use it. As old letterpress shops close, it is often more valuable to sell the letters as "scrap metal" than it is to find letterpress printers willing to buy the type. I was interested in finding out about what has been happening with this old scrap metal and researching this online when I discovered that at-home ammunition makers find the foundry type metal ideal for their bullet making. As a writer, I found the idea of taking words and letters and turning them into bullets barbaric. We should use words and letters and writing to stop physical violence, not become part of it! The *Type Liberation Project* is a way to resist.

In October 2012, I ordered ten pounds of the assorted foundry type. After sorting the type by size and by font (and organizing it alphabetically) I printed the letters onto a 12 x 20 sheet of paper. For more about the genesis of the project, [click here](#).

On November 15, 2012, at a stop on the *Improbable Places Poetry Tour*, broadsides were handed out to writers willing to help.

**I want the writers to have as much license as they need to create the work, so I won't give instructions what to do with the printed version of the letters or the PDF below. Some writers have talked about creating a new line at every break or new font. Others, choosing less constraint, have decided to use any available letter. The level of constraint and restriction is up to each individual. My hope is that some writers will choose to write directly on the broadside. Others will type the final poem and send it in an email. These are all possible. The important thing is doing the work.**

In the meantime, if you do have questions, feel free to contact me at [hugo.h.pellinen@gmail.com](mailto:hugo.h.pellinen@gmail.com). The text on the broadside and in the image below gets VERY small. I recommend downloading the PDF. It's a much clearer image and one that allows you to zoom in. If you're interested in the acquiring a printed broadside (either a copy to write on or a more finely printed version that is ideal for framing!), please send me an email.

## Phase 2

In this latest phase (2021) of the Type Liberation Project, Hugo is printing broadsides of the Bill of Rights – THE sacred document for many Americans – using additional bulk purchases of type reclaimed from the hands of bullet makers. This mission seems more urgent than ever, as the far-right communities associated with the American Militia Movement who exalt the Second Amendment right to bear arms above all others, move from the shadowy fringes ever-closer to the center of political discourse and action, leading racist, xenophobic marches in public squares, taking it upon themselves to violently suppress Black Lives Matter Protests, and most recently, to stage an insurrection in the U.S. Capitol. The thirty pounds of type used here could make the equivalent of 3,400 rounds of bullets for an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle. At its core, this project is a performance. The final printed document is a witness to the buying, sorting, reading, and making of meaning as the type ran out and substitutions and replacements had to be made. The type that arrived consists of many typefaces and sizes all mixed together. Certain rules for this phase of the project were generated over time, including:

1. Once an individual letter gets used, it cannot be moved and used again. The galley trays are part of the final project.
2. Use the largest possible type at the top of the document (as in the original 1789 Bill of Rights).
3. Type size must be consistent on each line and in each paragraph (wherever possible).
4. Leave blanks and substitutions when letters of a given size run out.
5. When it is clear that there are not enough letters of a particular size to make the next paragraph at all intelligible, move down to the next smallest size.
6. At the end, the left-over type will, like it was in TLP – phase 1, be given to an audience which will be encouraged to create their own expressions from these “scraps.”

# Congress of the united s a s

Begun and held at the city OF NEW YORK, On  
Wednesday The 4Th of March, 1789.

THE Conventions of a Number of The States, Having At the Time of their Adopting the CONSTITUTION, EXPRESSED A Desire, in ORDER To Prevent MISCONSTRUCTION OR ABUSE of its POWERS, THAT FURTHER Declaratory & RESTRICTIVE clauses SHOULD BE AdDED: & AS extending ThE GROUNd OF PUBLIC confid3n3 in h3 GOV-ERNMEnT, will BES NSUR h B-n-ji nt -3 of i3 1n3-i-u-10n,

Resolved By the Senate & the HouSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in CONGRESS assembled, two thirds OF BOTH Houses Concurring, that the following ARTICLES be PROPOS'd to THE LEGISLATURES of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of 7th. UNID 57a7E5, all OR any OF Which articles, when Ratified by 3:4 or the said LEGISLATURES, shall be VALID 2 4/1 In7n" n PURPOZ, to pr Ur ]re ejid 30nz1U'Xun; v; z

Articles in addition to and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, Pursuant to the Fifth Article of the Original Constitution.

Article the Third: congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a Redress of grievances.

Article the Fourth: A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Article the Fifth: No Soldier shall, in time of Peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of War, but in a manner to be prescribed by Law.

ARTICLE THE SIXTH: THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO BE SECURE IN THEIR PERSONS, HOUSES, PAPERS, & EFFECTS, AGAINST UNREASONABLE SEARCHES & SEIZURES, SHALL NOT BE VIOLATED, & NO WARRANTS SHALL ISSUE, BUT UPON PROBABLE CAUSE SUPPORTED BY OATH OR AFFIRMATION, & PARTICULARLY Designating the place to be searched, & the persons or things to be seized.

ARTICLE THE SEVENTH: NO PERSON SHALL BE HELD to answer for a Capital, OR OTHERWISE INFAMOUS crime, UNLESS on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, Except in Cases arising in the Land or Naval forces, OR IN THE MILITIA, When IN actual service IN time of War or Public danger; nor shall any person be Subject to the same Offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb: NO: Shall be compelled in any Criminal case to be a witness against himself: FURTHER: NO: Shall be deprived of life, LIBERTY, OR PROPERTY, WITHOUT due PROCESS OF LAW; nor shall Private Property be Taken FOR PUBLIC USE, WITHOUT JUST COMPENSATION.

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The type used above was purchased at an online site marketing it to at-home ammunition makers. Ten pounds of type arrived by mail. I sorted it by size & by font and then ordered it alphabetically. My hope is that writers will use these letters to create words more powerful than the metal would have been if melted down and made into bullets. HP