The Literature Of Papermaking, 1390-1800

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Scribes, Script, and Books: The Book Arts from Antiquity to the...
1800 – Iron presses. Inspired by earlier attempts by Swiss typefounder Wilhelm Haas, Charles Stanhope, the third Earl Stanhope, builds a press which has an iron frame instead of a wooden one. It can print around 200 impressions per hour. Because this Stanhope press is also more durable and can print larger sheets, other press manufacturers soon switch to a similar type of construction.

1810 – History of Printing in America. The Canadian inventor Charles Fenerty and his German counterpart F.G. Keller simultaneously invent a new papermaking technique based on pulping wood. Until then all paper was made from pulped rags. Cotton fiber is still used today but only for specialty applications such as currency. A brief history of papermaking reveals how something we now take for granted was once a hard-fought-for commodity.

Papermaking: The Beginnings. Though the Egyptians were known for their use of papyrus more than four thousand years ago, and the Chinese themselves wrote on parchment fashioned out of bamboo throughout history, the invention of paper as we know it did not come about until the Han Dynasty, which lasted from 206 BCE until 220 CE.