Zen Old Mincho (ZenOldMincho-SemiBold.ttf downloaded 2024/10/31)

This Japanese serif font covers Japanese, some European languages written in Latin alphabets, Russian amd monotonic Greek. But the lowercase Greek letters are slanted, and show the two vowels which should have dialytika and tonos as only having dialytika.

This font uses the traditional old style which is said to have the most legible face. The sizes and spacing have been adjusted to correct the optical illusion that the square Kanji are bigger.

For variations of the Latin and Cyrillic alphabets and for monotonic Greek I attempt to show the whole alphabet, followed by Article 1 of the UDHR (it is traditional!). For other scripts and languages I merely display the digits (if not common 0..9) and Article 1.

Sources:
http://unicode.org/udhr/assemblies/first_article_all.html
http://www.omniglot.com/
https://en.wikipedia.org

For Japanese Kanji ('Han' ideograms) it is impossible to know exactly which codepoints you are likely to encounter. For Chinese and Japanese I have started by assuming that older fonts are probably adequate for common usage and so I have ignored covereage of CJK Extension B and later when trying to determine if a font is likely to be adequate.

I am primarily concerned with informal postings online where you might, for example, see a question-mark in Japanese (more formally, a ka preposition indicates a question so no question mark would be used), but I have tried to estimate which items might be found in more formal texts, and to note which codepoints from the Base Modal Plane I have noticed are missing. This font has 6716 Kanji but omits three (U+7486, U+7E11,U+8843) used in the selected paragraphs of the bxjalipsum package which I use to test the coverage of Japanese.

CJK languages use an ellipsis codepoint to shown omissions or tailing -off in speech. The codepoint is ideally placed at mid-level (most old CJK fonts do that if they do not cover non-English Latin languages), but in Unicode 14 the mid-level ellipsis (a mathematical symbol) was recommended for this purpose. Before that, Japanese fonts tended to ignore that mathematical symbol because it was not in the JIS tables of glyphs. This font provides low ellipses for both codepoints, which seems to be acceptable for Japanese text.

This document was prepared using X⅃LATEX and fontspec. Missing glyphs will be replaced by a blank space.

This font has weights of regular, medium, semibold, bold and black. There is very little differnece between them when using black text on a white background, and (as is common with Mincho fonts) all seem pale. Here I am using SemiBold, with Black for the bold text (headings, title).

This font lacks the OpenType tags 'hani', 'cyrl', 'grek' needed to use polyglossia for CJK, Cyrillic or Greek scripts.

1 Latin Alphabet (European variants)

1.1 Catalan

A a, B b, C c, Ç ç, D d, E e, É é, È è, F f, G g, H h, I i, J j, K k, L l, (L and l or L·L l·l are a different pronunciation to LL and ll), M m, N n, O o, Ó ó, Ò ò, P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u, Ü ü, V v, W w, X x, Y y, Z z

Tots els éssers humans neixen lliures i iguals en dignitat i en drets. Són dotats de raó i de consciència, i han de comportar-se fraternalment els uns amb els altres.

1.2 Danish

A a, B b, C c, D d, E e, F f, G g, H h, I i, J j, K k, L l, M m, N n, O o, P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u, V v, W w, X x, Y y, Z z, Æ æ, Ø ø, Å å

Alle mennesker er født frie og lige i værdighed og rettigheder. De er ud-styret med fornuft og samvittighed, og de bør handle mod hverandre i en broderskabets ånd.

1.3 Dutch

As well as the standard 26 letters, the IJ digraph ( ) may be encountered.

Alle mensen worden vrij en gelijk in waardigheid en rechten geboren. Zij zijn begiftigd met verstand en geweten, en behoren zich jegens elkander in een geest van broederschap te gedragen.

1.4 French

A a, À à, Â â, Æ æ, Ä ä, B b, C c, Ç ç, D d, E e, É é, È è, Ê ê, Ë ë, F f, G g, I i, Î î, Ï ï, J j, K k, L l, M m, N n, (Ñ ñ may be seen on words of Spanish origin), O o, Ô ô, Œ œ, Ö ö, P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u, Ù ù, Û û, Ü ü, V v, W w, X x, Y y, Ÿ ÿ, Z z

Tous les êtres humains naissent libres et égaux en dignité et en droits. Ils sont doués de raison et de conscience et doivent agir les uns envers les autres dans un esprit de fraternité.

1.5 German

A a, Ä ä, B b, C c, D d, E e, F f, G g, H h, I i, J j, K k, L l, M m, N n, O o, Ö ö, P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u, Ü ü, V v, W w, X x, Y y, Z z and ß (but ss in Switzerland)

Alle Menschen sind frei und gleich an Würde und Rechten geboren. Sie sind mit Vernunft und Gewissen begabt und sollen einander im Geist der Brüderlichkeit begegnen.

1.6 Icelandic

A a, Á á, B b, D d, Ð ð, (eth is not used for the first letter of any word) E e, É é, F f, G g, H h, I i, Í í, J j, K k, L l, M m, N n, O o, P p, R r, S s, T t, U u, Ú ú, V v, X x, Y y, Ý ý, Þ þ, Æ æ, Ö ö

Hver maður er borinn frjáls og jafn öðrum að virðingu og réttindum. Menn eru gæddir vitsmunum og samvizku, og ber þeim að breyta bróðurlega hverjum við annan.

1.7 Italian

A a, À à, B b, C c, D d, E e, É é, È è, F f, G g, H h, I i, Í í, Ì ì, Ï ï, L l, M m, N n, O o, Ó ó, Ò ò, P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u, Ú ú, Ù ù, V v, Z z

Tutti gli esseri umani nascono liberi ed eguali in dignità e diritti. Essi sono dotati di ragione e di coscienza e devono agire gli uni verso gli altri in spirito di fratellanza.

1.8 Portuguese

A a, Á á, Â â, Ã ã, À à, B b, C c, Ç ç, D d, E e, É é, Ê ê, F f, G g, H h, I i, Í í, J j, K k, L l, M m, N n, O o, Ó ó, Ô ô, Õ õ, P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u, Ú ú, V v, W w, X x, Y y, Z z

Todos os seres humanos nascem livres e iguais em dignidade e em direitos. Dotados de razão e de consciência, devem agir uns para com os outros em espírito de fraternidade.

1.9 Spanish

A a, Á á, B b, C c, D d, E e, É é, F f, G g, H h, I i, J j, K k, L l, M m, N n, Ñ ñ, O o, Ó ó, P p, Q q, R r, S s, T t, U u, Ú ú, Ü ü, V v, W w, X x, Y y, Z z

Todos los seres humanos nacen libres e iguales en dignidad y derechos y, dotados como están de razón y conciencia, deben comportarse fraternalmente los unos con los otros.

1.10 Welsh

A a, Á á, Â â, À à, Ä ä, B b, C c, D d, Dd dd, E e, É é, Ê ê, È è, Ë ë, F f, Ff ff, G g, Ng ng, H h, i i, Í í, Î î, Ì ì. Ï ï, L l, Ll ll, M m, N n, O o, Ó ó, Ô ô, Ò ò. Ö ö, P p, Ph ph, R r, Rh rh, S s, T t, Th th, U u, Ú ú, Û û, Ù ù, Ü ü, W w, Ẃ ẃ, Ŵ ŵ, Ẁ ẁ, Ẅ ẅ, Y y, Ý ý, Ŷ ŷ, Ỳ ỳ, Ÿ ÿ In addition, the letters J j, K k, Q q, V v, X x, Z z are used — J appears to be becoming assimilated into Welsh, the others are used in technical terms although sometimes transliterations are used. But K was part of the Welsh language until the bible was translated, when it was replaced by C because 'the printers did not have enough Ks'.

Genir pawb yn rhydd ac yn gydradd â'i gilydd mewn urddas a hawliau. Fe'u cynysgaeddir â rheswm a chydwybod, a dylai pawb ymddwyn y naill at y llall mewn ysbryd cymodlon.

2 Cyrillic Alphabet

2.1 Russian

А а, Б б, В в, Г г, Д д, Е е, Ё ё, Ж ж, З з, И и, Й й, К к, Л л, М м, Н н, О о, П п, Р р, С с, Т т, У у, Ф ф, Х х, Ц ц, Ч ч, Ш ш, Щ щ, Ъ ъ, Ы ы, Ь ь, Э э. Ю ю, Я я

Все люди рождаются свободными и равными в своем достоинстве и правах. Они наделены разумом и совестью и должны поступать в отношении друг друга в духе братства.

3 Greek Alphabet

3.1 monotonic

In theory, modern Greek is all monotonic with only an acute accent (tonos) and diaeresis (dialytika).

Α α, Ά ά, Β β, Γ γ, Δ δ, Ε ε, Έ έ, Ζ ζ, Η η, Ή ή, Θ θ, Ι ι, Ί ί, Ϊ ϊ, ΐ, Κ κ, Λ λ, Μ μ, Ν ν, Ξ ξ, Ο ο, Ό ό, Π π, Ρ ρ, Σ σ ς, Τ τ, Υ υ, Ύ ύ, Ϋ ϋ, ΰ, Φ φ, Χ χ, Ψ ψ, Ω ω, Ώ ώ

Όλοι οι άνθρωποι γεννιούνται ελεύθεροι και ίσοι στην αξιοπρέπεια και τα δικαιώματα. Είναι προικισένοι με λογική και συνείδηση, και οφείλουν να συμπεριφέρονται μεταξύ τους με πνεύμα αδελφοσύνης.

4 CJK scripts

4.1 Japanese

As well as the 3 missing codepoints I mentioned above, this font lacks white lenticular brackets, white tortoiseshell brackets and white square brackets, all of which are uncommon in horizontal text, and the double hyphen used in translated hyphenated names.

すべての人間は、生まれながらにして自由であり、かつ、尊厳と権利とについて平等である。人間は、理性と良心とを授けられており、互いに同胞の精神をもって行動しなければならない。

5 Quotation-marks, etc.

In real-world usage, particularly when looking at news sites, the presence or absence of the correct quote characters will make a difference. As a coder, I use '...' or "..." but in good text there are variations and this font supports:

left and right single quotes '...'   angle brackets 〈...〉
left and right double quotes "..."   double angle brackets 《...》
 single turned comma,   corner brackets 「...」
with right single quote '...'   white corner brackets 『...』
double low 9 and left double quotes
„..."
guillemets «...»
angle quotes ＜...＞

In Spanish languages, the inverted exclamation-mark ¡ and the inverted question-mark ¿ are necessary.

6 Symbols

6.1 Currency Symbols

Many countries have symbols for their currencies. In alphabetic order:

   Cedi (Ghana)   Manat (Azerbaijan)
¢ Cent (many places)   Naira (Nigeria)
   Colon (Costa Rica, El Salvador)   £ Pound Sterling
   Cruzeiro (Brazil)   Rouble (Russia)
$ Dollar (many places)   Tenge (Kazakhstan)
   Dong (Vietnam)   Turkish Lira
€ Euro   Won (Korea)
   Hryvnia (Ukraine)   ¥ Yen (Japan)

6.2   Other symbols in text

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‡ Double Dagger

‰ Per mille

¶ Pilcrow

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