The half-title page

Once the title page style is established, attention can turn to the half-title page. This page will only bear the title of the book – and possibly an image in the case of illustrated books.

If the book is to be hard bound, bear in mind that the endpaper is glued to the half-title page, using up to 5 mm of the page in the gutter margin. The text should be positioned further towards the fore-edge to allow for this.

Originally books were sold only as a set of signatures for the buyer to bind; the half-title page was only an outer sheet to protect the title page. It was then known as a blank page – not a real part of the book and bearing only the book’s title.

When books began to be sold as bound objects the page persisted as the half-title.

The typography of the half-title will be the same as the title page, reduced in size:

CALL IF YOU NEED ME

A small illustration may add to the appeal of a heavily illustrated book and reduce the emptiness of the page. It should be positioned to allow for the endpaper lying.

CALL IF YOU NEED ME
The title page

The elements of a title page are best laid out in groups:

TITe
AUTHOR

TITe
SUB-TITe
AUTHOR

TITe
AUTHOR

EDIToR
FOREwORD
TRANSLATOR

LOGO
PUBLISHER

LOGO
PUBLISHER

LOGO
PUBLISHER

DATE

A simple title
Two groups
Three groups

The position on the page will indicate title and author - the word 'by' is redundant.

If the title is set in upper and lower case, the traditional rules on the treatment of capitalization of the words of the title are as follows:

**Capital first letter**

*The first word of the title*

Definite and indefinite articles – the, a, an, etc.

*All nouns*

Prepositions – by, with, for, etc

*All adjectives*

Verbs (usually)

*The first word after a colon*

Conjunctions – and

*Personal pronouns – I, me, you, etc.*

Possessive pronouns – my, our, etc.

**Call Me if You need Me**

*Textile Mills in the Nineteenth Century: Their Development*

*The Shock of the New*

Publishers may have individual house rules and will advise on this. Additional contributors noted on the title page are treated in two lines:

With illustrations by

Artist's name

With a Foreword by

Writer's name

With an Introduction by

Writer's name

Translated by

Translator's name

The editor will indicate capitalization of these elements.