Caslon Type Project -Eric Zorn

History

Caslon is a group of serif typefaces designed by William Caslon I (1692–1766), and various revivals thereof.

Caslon shares the irregularity characteristic of Dutch Baroque types. It is characterized by short ascenders and descenders, bracketed serifs, moderately high contrast, robust texture, and moderate modulation of stroke. The A has a concave hollow at the apex, the G is without a spur. Caslon's italics have a rhythmic calligraphic stroke. Characters A, V, and W have an acute slant. The italic p, Q, v, w, and z all have a suggestion of a swash.

1. MAINLY USED IN BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS, STATION-ARY, AND OTHER

PRINT

2. Based on the original Caslon face cut by William Caslon in the eighteenth

century. Caslon's type, based on Dutch old style faces, was an instant hit;

Benjamin Franklin was a fan, and the first printing of the American

Declaration of Independence was set in Caslon. The old printer's adage goes,

"When in doubt, use Caslon."

- 3. Transitional Typeface
- 4. Many to be the greatest of English letter writers regard Caslon. In the 18th

century, English printing was at a low ebb and was dependent on Holland for

its types. Caslon changed all this and stopped the importation of Dutch type.

Thus, Caslon heralded a turning point for English type founding.

5. He started his career engraving government marks on gunlocks. A group of

London printers and booksellers asked the young engraver to cut a font of

Arabic of English size for a Psalter and a New Testament for Oriental use - it

was hoped that the natives of newly discovered lands would

take up

Christianity. Soon he was cutting his own font designs. Caslon types were

actually modeled on Dutch type but were much more delicate and

interesting. He went on to create a large number of 'exotic' typefaces.

6. The taste for Caslon spread to America, and Caslon was the type used for the

Declaration of Independence of the USA in 1776. In the 1840s in Britain,

there was a revival of Caslon typefaces. George Bernard Shaw insisted that

only Caslon be used for all his books.

7. "In the class of types which appear to be beyond criticism from the point of

view of beauty and utility, the original Caslon type stands first. (Updike

- 8. Identifying Characteristics
- a. cropped apex of A
- b. high, horizontal crossbar of e
- c. C has double serif
- d. italic V,W,A may appear to be falling over
- e. bowl curve of italic p overlaps stem
- f. long serifs on middle arm of E
- g. long arm on L
- h. bottom arm longer on Z
- i. narrow c has low stress
- j. large loop on k
- k. T has long serifs tapering out from thin arms, lower at center
- 9. Modeled after late 17th century Dutch designs, Caslon became the most popular type of

the 18th century. Its design shows the evolution of the Old Style types and bears some of

the traits that would characterize the Transitional designs.

Its stroke variation is more pronounced

Serifs display a more graceful bracketing.

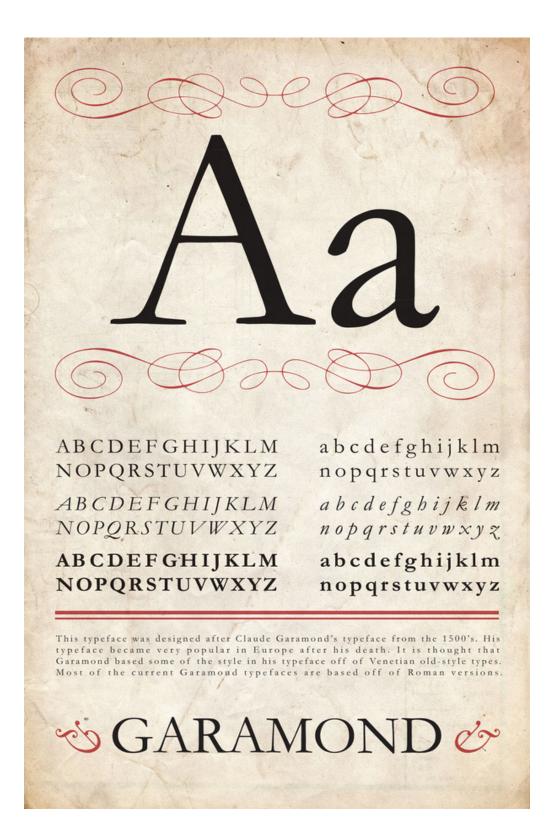
Lowercase characters bear wedge-shape top serifs

the Uppercase 'A' has a distinctive curve at the apex.

Caslon can be used to express a formal dignity. It is a highly readable typeface which evokes the

charm of its period.

Inspiration



Robert Slimbach

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non en ce que je figure un objet, mais plus fondamentalement parce que dans l'écriture, mon corps jouit de tracer, d'inciser rythmiquement une surface vierge (le vierge étant l'infiniment possible).

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« L' art qui m'est familier est une petite chose menue. » Claude Garamond, 1545

Adobe Garamond

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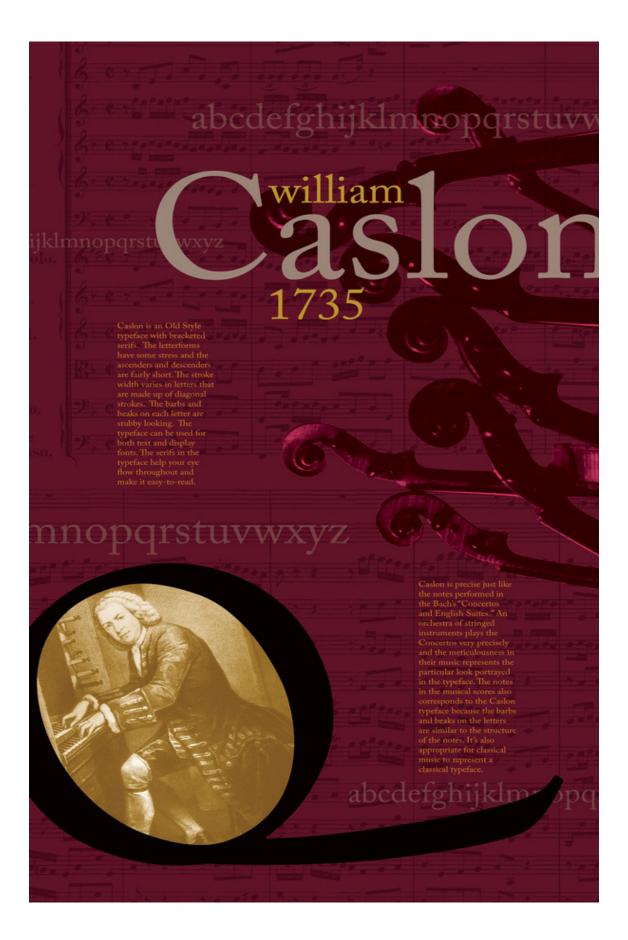
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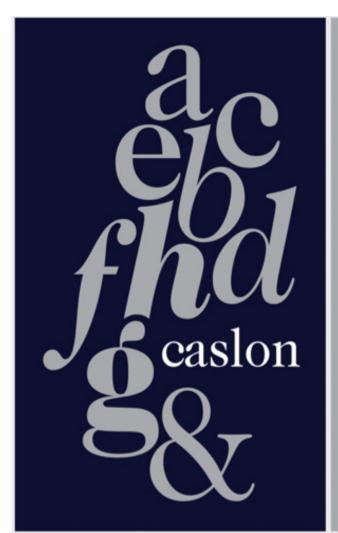
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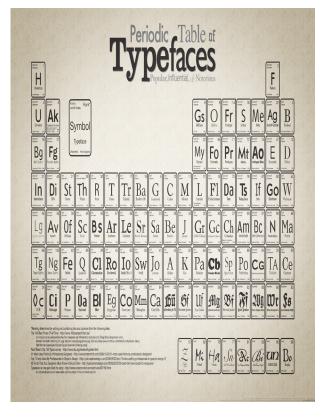
Regular Italic Semibold Semibold Italic Bold Bold Italic











Type Studies

Adobe Caslon Pro

Adobe Caslon Pro Bold

Adobe Caslon Pro Bold Italic

Adobe Caslon Pro Italic

Adobe Caslon Pro Regular

Adobe Caslon Pro Semibold

Adobe Caslon Pro Semibold Italic

Big Caslon

Color Study

CMYK: 20,11,82,0

CMYK: 20,67,74,6

CMYK: 26,38,89,3

CMYK: 42,41,67,11

CMYK: 23,15,36,0

CMYK: 10,55,84,0

CMYK: 51,7,35,0

CMYK: 52,20,54,1

Sketches

