



TRAJAN



TRAJAN

Typeface By Carol Twombly, 1989 Adobe

Specimen by Rebecca Jalowicz
Ewing New Jersey October 2020
The College of New Jersey

TABLE OF CONTENTS

History of Trajan	4
Carol Twombly	5
Weight Variations	6
Alphabet	8
Numbers and Glyphs	10
Latin Alternatives	11
Trajan Sans	12
Why is Trajan Important	14
Why I Chose Trajan	15

HISTORY OF TRAJAN



Designed in 1989 by Carol Twombly

Trajan was based off of roman square capitals. Twombly specifically took inspiration from the inscription at the base of Trajan's Column, carved in the 2nd century CE. The column is carved with images depicting emperor Trajan's campaigns against the Dacians.

At the height of the Roman Empire's power, these letterforms were the standard and there was a revival of this style of letterforms during the renaissance in 16th century Italy. It also has been used for many years in official British public buildings such as government offices along with an increase in movie poster usage in the past twenty years.

AA BB

CC DD

Trajan is an all capitals typeface because romans did not use lowercase letters.

CAROL TWOMBLY

Carol Twombly was born in 1959. She started working at Adobe in Concord, Massachusetts. She designed typefaces from 1988 to 1999. She is most famous for designing Trajan, Myriad and Adobe Caslon. Trajan was one of her first projects where she earned her masters degree. She translated roman inscriptions from both computer science and stone carvings on Trajan's column. typographic design.

“WHEN CAROL TWOMBLY CREATED THE TYPEFACE TRAJAN FOR ADOBE IN 1989, HER INTENTION WAS TO MAKE AS FAITHFUL AN ADAPTATION AS POSSIBLE, WHILE TURNING LETTERS THAT HAD BEEN CARVED IN STONE INTO A DIGITAL FONT”

Adobe Trajan 3 Online Specimen

TRAJAN
PRO 3
TRAJAN
SANS

Adobe has released new versions of Trajan, most notably Trajan Pro 3 developed by Robert Slimbach with Twombly's Consultation. Within this new version 4 additional weights were added along with both cyrillic and greek glyphs. Robert Slimbach also developed Trajan Sans as a companion typeface which made Trajan a font superfamily.

EXTRALIGHT

LIGHT

REGULAR

SEMI BOLD

BOLD

BLACK

A B C D E F G

Trajan is a serif font, the serifs being thin compared to wider strokes and are curved at the ends.

H I

Along with being modeled after roman capitals, the stem also resembles roman columns.

J K L M N

R S T U V

There are descenders despite being an all capitals typeface.

O P Q

W X Y Z

The tail in the Q is very long and exaggerated, adding a feeling of elegance to the typeface.

THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG.

Trajan is made for large display text as opposed to print.

NUMBERS

0 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9

GLYPHS

. , ! : ; “ ‘

@ # \$ % ^

& * () { }

LATIN ALTERNATIVES

Trajan initially was not compatible with writing in latin. Latin alternatives were added when Slimbach designed Trajan Pro 3.

N N—NN
T T—TT

A double N and a double T ligature is available as opposed to an NN or a TT in text

As an alternative to the traditional letter Q, there is an option for a longer tail

Q
Q

&
& ℰ

There are two alternative ampersands along with the default. One is a more connected version of the default and the other resembles a three

TRAJAN SANS

Trajan Sans was made as a companion to Trajan. It has the same look and feel Trajan but it is sans serif. Trajan sans was designed by Robert Slimbach with consultation by Carol Twombly. With the addition of Trajan sans, Trajan has become a type superfamily.

EXTRALIGHT	0	1
LIGHT	2	3
REGULAR	4	5
SEMIBOLD	6	7
BOLD	8	9
BLACK		

. , ! : ; “ ‘ @ #
\$ % ^ & * () { }

TRAJAN PRO 3

A

Pro 3 has serifs
while Sans does not

H

While Sans does
not have serifs, the
stem has the same
overall shape

J

Both the J's have
descenders but Pro
3's comes to a point
while Sans' does not

Q

Like the J's Pro 3's
Q has a tail that
comes to a point
and Sans does not

TRAJAN SANS

A

H

J

Q

WHY TRAJAN IS IMPORTANT

Trajan is a very important typeface based on the fact that it is based off of some of the first letterforms created, capitalis monumentalis or roman capitals. Trajan letterforms are some of the first instances of designing typography so Trajan is one of the oldest typefaces in the world. Twombly took an ancient letterform and adapted it for the digital age, she successfully took the old and made it new. Now it is used in so many movie posters and books including but limited to: October Sky, The Joy Luck Club, Titus, A Beautiful Mind, and Minority Report.

According to Yves Peters in a video for Vox titled, "How One Typeface Took Over Movie Posters," Trajan is used in 100 movie posters per month.

"TRAJAN IS THE NEW HELVETICA"
- JAMES MOSELY

Type in History: Trajan, Notes On Design

It is also so interesting that Trajan is so popular today, in the twenty-first century, yet the basis of it comes from the ancient Roman Empire. It just goes to show that even if new typefaces and fonts are created, classics are still beautiful and reliable options. Trajan truly is the embodiment of that sentiment.

WHY TRAJAN

I chose Trajan because it is a beautifully simple typeface yet extremely precise and well thought out at the same time.

"ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF TRAJAN LETTERS IS THAT THEY ARE NOT STRICTLY GEOMETRICAL BUT INSTEAD SUBTLY ADAPT TO FIT TOGETHER AND HARMONIZE WITH EACH OTHER"

Adobe Trajan 3 Online Specimen

**CLASSIC
POWER
STRONG**

Trajan has a lot of breadth and room for variation but it can convey these feelings effortlessly. No matter what it is used for, the result is stunning.

I picked Trajan because of how simple and traditional it seems but it is also so powerful at the same time. It is in so many movie posters and media in pop culture because it is so versatile and can fit so many moods and genres.



Sources

Trajan Pro 3 Online Type Specimen, Adobe

Trajan (Typeface), Wikipedia

Carol Twombly, Wikipedia

*Why Trajan, The World's Oldest
Typeface, Still Matters, ALGA*

*How One Typeface
Took Over Movie
Posters, VOX*

*Type in History:
Trajan, Notes
On Design*