

# The Trajan fonts\*

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2005/06/29

## Abstract

The *trajan* package provides a set of uppercase fonts as carved on the Trajan column in Rome in 114 AD.

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## 1 Introduction

Around the beginning of the 16th century several authors published designs for uppercase characters. The more well known among these were Albrecht Dürer who wrote *On the Just Shaping of Letters* which was published in Nuremberg in 1525, and Geofroy Tory who wrote *Champ Fleury* which was published in Paris in 1529. Fra Luca Bartolomeo de Pacioli preceeded by of these by developing his recipe for uppercase characters in 1497 and which was published in *De Divina Proportione* at Venice in 1509. Metafont versions of the Dürer and Pacioli fonts are available<sup>1</sup> from CTAN.

Many typographers rank the capitals carved on the Trajan column in Rome, dated at 114 AD, as the high point of the Roman's artistic legacy. These letter shapes were the best basic form in the subsequent development of uppercase fonts. The top line of the letters on the Trajan column are about six feet above eye level, with the letters being about four and a half inches tall. There are six lines of text and the letter height on the lowest line has been reduced to about 75% of the those at the top of the inscription.

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\*This file has version number v1.1, last revised 2005/06/29.

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<sup>1</sup>In directories *duerer* and *pacioli* respectively, in the font area.

Fortunately, Jan Tschichold [Tsc92] provides a more accessible source for the Trajan characters, and I have used his work in developing this rendition of the lettering.

This manual is typeset according to the conventions of the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X DOC-STRIP utility which enables the automatic extraction of the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X macro source files [GMS94].

Section 2 describes the usage of the package. Commented code for the fonts and source code for the package is in later sections.

## 2 The trajan package

The Romans did not have the J, U or W letters in their abecedy, and rarely used H, K or Z. Jan Tschichold designed glyphs for these six letters to complement the character set on the Trajan column.

I have also added modified versions of Knuth's Computer Modern punctuation characters so that, perhaps, the Trajan font could be used as a titling font.

Trajan's font as provided here consists of the uppercase letters, the punctuation marks !,;,:'?', the hyphen together with the en- and em-dash, and the alphabetic characters ()[]&. All the characters are accessed by typing them as you usually do in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

`trjnfamil`      The family name is `trjn`. Use the `trjnfamil` environment for long stretches of text.

`\texttrjn`      Use `\texttrjn{a word or two}` to typeset a word or two in the Trajan font.

## References

- [GMS94] Michel Goossens, Frank Mittelbach, and Alexander Samarin. *The LaTeX Companion*. Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1994.
- [Tsc92] Jan Tschichold. *Treasury of Alphabets and Lettering*. W. W. Norton, 1992.

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Numbers written in italic refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; numbers in roman refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

| E                      | T                      |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| environments:          | <code>\texttrjn</code> | ..... 2                |
| <code>trjnfamil</code> | <code>trjnfamil</code> | (environ-ment) ..... 2 |