

A METAFONT for Rustic Capitals

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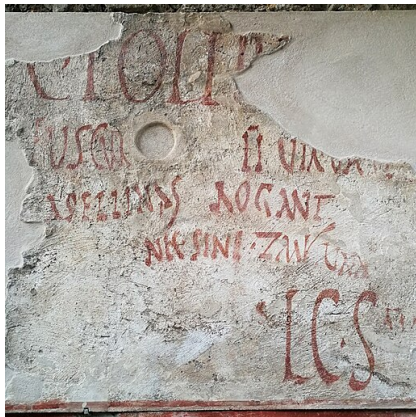
Acknowledgement



The French-speaking Group of T_EX Users (GUT) aims to promote the use of T_EX and L^AT_EX by helping people to discover and use them.

<https://www.gutenberg-asso.fr/>

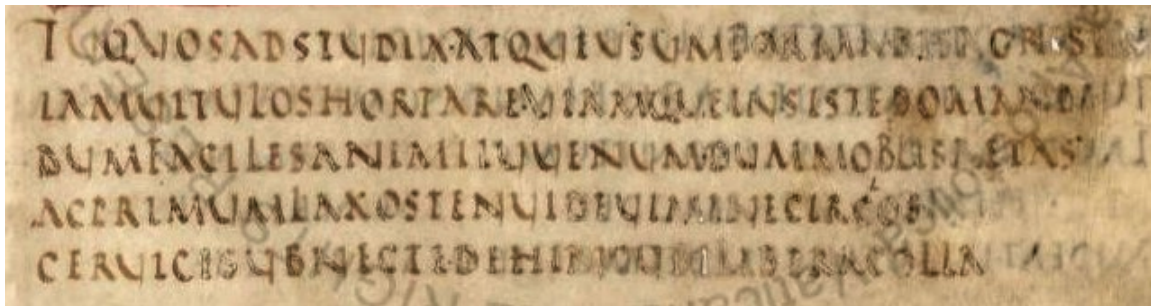
What are Rustic Capitals?



Quick summary [Bib03]:

- Earliest examples: 1st century CE (election posters in Pompeii)
- Regularisation: 4th and 5th centuries
- Titles and distinctions: 9th and 10th centuries

Our main source: the *Vergilius Vaticanus* manuscript¹

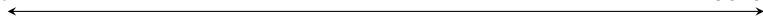


¹https://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS_Vat.lat.3225

Our goal with this METAFONT

Olocco and Patanè [OP22] define a spectrum of type revivals:

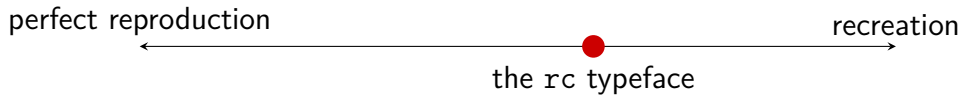
perfect reproduction



recreation

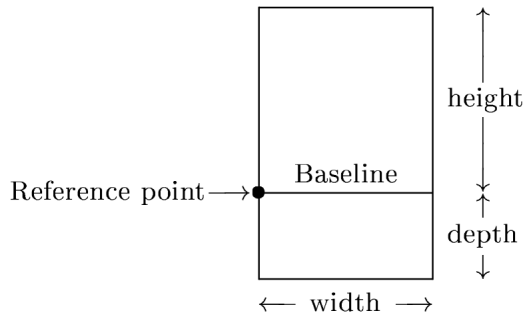
Our goal with this METAFONT

Olocco and Patanè [OP22] define a spectrum of type revivals:



Character height

After numerous measurements on various fragments of the manuscript:



```

u# := 1/12 * 10 pt#; % unit
cap_height# := 9 u#;
asc_height# := 11 u#;
desc_height# := 1 u#;
crossbar_height# := 5 u#;

```

Virtual pen



```
thick# := 5/4 u#;
thin# := 1/3 u#;
pen_angle := 65; % 90 - 35
```

```
pickup pensquare
  xscaled thick
  yscaled thin
  rotated pen_angle;
```

```
rustic_pen := savepen;
```


The `draw_serif` macro



```
def draw_serif(suffix i, j)(expr width) =
  rt x.j - lft x.i = width;
  y.i = y.j;
  draw z.i{dir serif_angle}
    .. {dir serif_angle}z.j;
enddef;
```

The `draw_diag_stroke` macro



```
def draw_diag_stroke(suffix i, j)(expr a) =
  z.i - z.i.l = z.j.r - z.j
    = spur_width * dir spur_angle;
  z.j - z.i = whatever * (dir a);
  draw z.i.l .. z.i
    .. tension 3
    .. z.j .. z.j.r;
enddef;
```

A few ligatures



```
ligtable "A": "T" kern -u#;  
ligtable "K": "O" kern -.5u#;  
ligtable "L": "T" kern -u#;  
ligtable "R": "O" kern -.5u#;  
...
```

Earlier work on rustic capitals

WILSON
LANDERS

Earlier work on rustic capitals

WILSON
LANDERS
SANNIER



LOCUSINQUI

LOCUSINQUI



LOCUSINQUI

LOCUSINQUI

LOCUSINQUI



LACRIMASQUE

LACRIMASQUE



LACRIMASQUE

LACRIMASQUE

LACRIMASQUE



UNDEGENUS DUCIS
UNDEÇENUS DUCIS



UNDEGENUS DUCIS

UNDEGENUS DUCIS

UNDEGENUS DUCIS

The Aeneid

ARMA VIRUMQUE CANOTROIAEQUIPRIMUS ABORIS
 ITALIAE FATOPROFUGUS LAUINIAE UENIT
 LITORA MULTUM ILLE TERRIS INCTATU SET ALTO
 UISUPERUMS AEU NEMEMORE MI UNONIS OBIRAM

Future work

- iterate on the shapes of a few characters,
- consider your suggestions,
- submit the typeface to the CTAN

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THANK YOU

References

- [Bib03] Bibliothèque Nationale de France. *La rustica*. French. Educational dossier accompanying the exhibition “Jean Fouquet: peintre et enlumineur du XVe siècle”. 2003. URL: <http://expositions.bnf.fr/fouquet/reperes/32/ecriture/rustica.htm>.
- [OP22] Riccardo Olocco and Michele Patanè. *Designing Type Revivals*. Lazy Dog Press, 2022. ISBN: 978-88-98030-48-4.