

Bitstream Charter

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Bitstream Charter is a serif typeface designed by Matthew Carter in 1987 for Bitstream Inc.^[1] Charter is based on Pierre-Simon Fournier's characters, originating from the 18th century.^[2] Classified by Bitstream as a transitional-serif typeface (Bitstream Transitional 801), it also has features of a slab-serif typeface and is often classified as such.^{[3][4]}

Charter was originally optimized for printing on the low-resolution 300 dpi laser printers of the 1980s, and remains suitable for printing on both modern high-resolution laser printers and inexpensive lower resolution inkjet printers due to its strong, legible design. Its structure was optimised for low-memory computers and printers. In a 2013 interview, Carter explained that it used "a very simplified structure and a minimum number of curves, more straight-line segments... very economical compared to, say, Times New Roman," but noted that rapid development of printers made this unnecessary even before he had finished the design.^[5] In its simplification of serif forms, it anticipates Carter's later landmark design, Georgia for Microsoft.

In 1992 Bitstream donated a version of Charter, along with its version of Courier, to the X Consortium under terms that allowed the font to be modified and redistributed. This has resulted in open source derivatives of Bitstream Charter, including Charis SIL.^[6] Some consider Bitstream Charter to be one of the best free fonts available.^[7]

Due to its popularity, a new Charter Pro release of the typeface was released in 2004, with an expanded character set including additional symbols, ranging figures (old-style) and small capitals.

^[8] This version was later added as a system font on OS X.

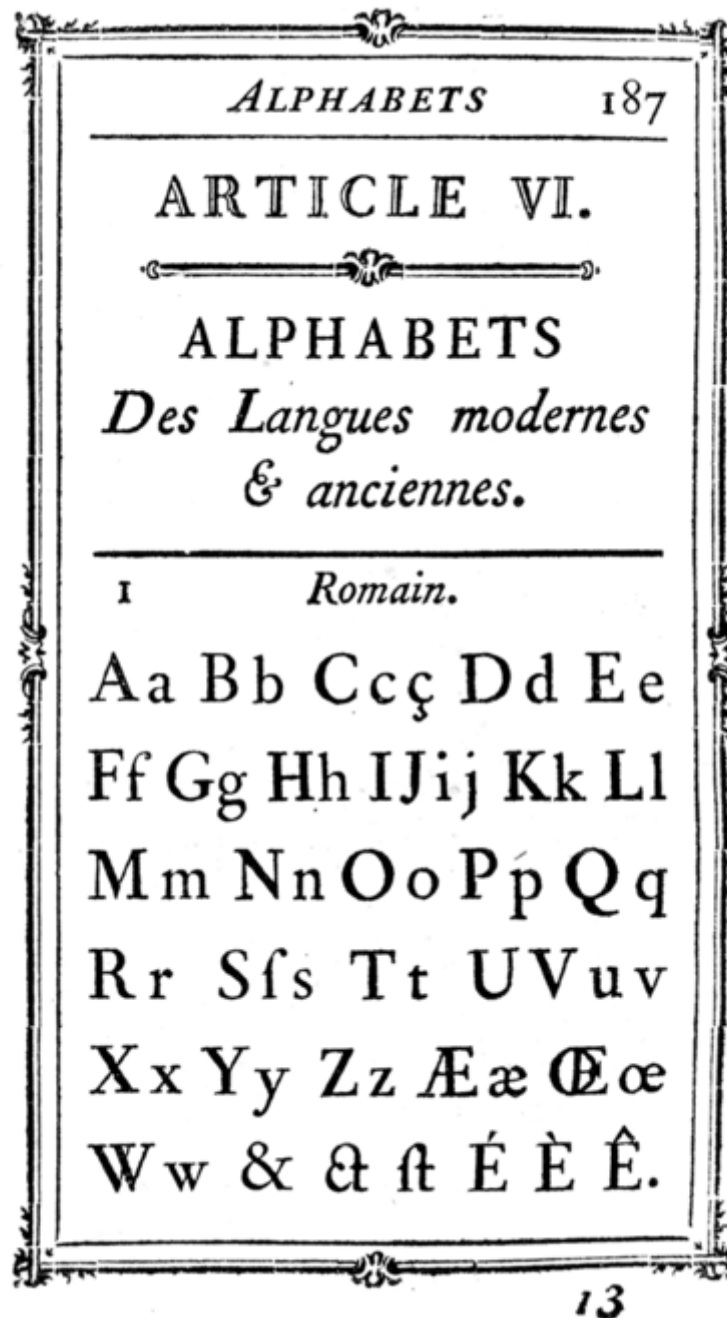
Bitstream Charter

<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Bitstream Charter</p> <p>Bb Qq Ee a</p> <p>Nn Jj Ff</p> <p>Parceled</p> <p>a b c d e f g h i j k l m</p> <p>n o p q r s t u v w x y z</p> <p>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> </div>	
Category	Serif
Classification	Transitional serif
	Slab-Serif
Designer(s)	Matthew Carter
Foundry	Bitstream Inc.
Date created	1987
License	[1]

Carter was later asked by Monotype to consider releasing a sans-serif companion to Charter. Finding his attempts unsatisfying, he scrapped the idea for a more radical, less directly complementary design, Carter Sans.

History

Charter is based on the characters^[9] of Pierre-Simon Fournier, a French 18th century punch-cutter, typefounder and typographic theoretician who invented the “point system”, standardized measurement system for font sizes.



References

1. *"Typedia: Charter". Typedia. Retrieved 24 September 2014.*
2. *Miñoza, Nicole (20 May 2014). "Introducing Source Serif: A new open source typeface from Adobe". Adobe Typekit Blog. Adobe Systems Incorporated. Retrieved 27 June 2014.*
3. *"Charter Postscript Font Metrics". Comprehensive TeX Archive Network (open source:one of many sources). Retrieved 29 September 2014.*
4. *Sharpe, Michael (July 2014). "Recent Additions to TeX'sFont Repertoire" (PDF). Presentation to TUG, Portland.*
5. *Middendorp, Jan. "Matthew Carter interview". MyFonts. Monotype. Retrieved 28 September 2014.*
6. *Stephen Gildea (March 29, 1992). "Bitstream contributes Type1 outlines for Charter and Courier fonts". Newsgroup: comp.archives. Usenet: r3j0kINNa64@agate.berkeley.edu. Retrieved August 1, 2013.*
7. *Butterick, Matthew (2013). "Charter". Butterick's Practical Typography. Retrieved August 1, 2013.*
8. *"Charter Pro". MyFonts. Monotype. Retrieved 28 September 2014.*
9. *Miñoza, Nicole (20 May 2014). "Introducing Source Serif: A new open source typeface from Adobe". Adobe Typekit Blog. Adobe Systems Incorporated. Retrieved 27 June 2014.*

External links

 Media related to Bitstream Charter at Wikimedia Commons

- [Free Bitstream Charter as OTF, TTF and webfonts](#)
- [Updated Bitstream Charter for sale on MyFonts](#)
- [Graphic Content: Carter Sans, by Steven Heller, New York Times, February 2, 2011](#)

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