Typotheque’s project *History* has been in development longer than any other project the foundry has ever undertaken. Its beginnings can be traced to the early 1990s when Peter Biľak experimented with decorative layering systems inspired by 19th century Tuscan types.¹

Years later the project took a new twist when Biľak worked on proposals for the Twin Cities typeface.² Instead of proposing one new typeface, he presented the idea of a typeface system that could take any form, inspired by the evolution of typography. While the Twin Cities proposal was a conceptual typeface that reused existing typefaces, *History* goes one step further.

Based on a skeleton of Roman inscriptions capitals, *History* includes 21 layers, 21 independent typefaces which share widths and other metric information so that they can be recombined. Thus *History* has the potential to generate thousands of different unique styles through the superimposition of layers ranging from humanist renaissance, transitional, baroque, script-like, early grotesque and 19th century vernacular to digital types. Since all these fonts share the same widths and skeleton, the most interesting things happen when various seemingly incompatible elements are combined. Just try combining pixel letters with Didot-like serifs, or put 19th century slab serifs on top of a renaissance construction. While careless use can generate freakish results resembling Frankenstein’s monster, more careful experimentation can produce not only amusing, but surprisingly fresh and usable typeface samples.

Realising that controlling 21 different layers can be a daunting task, Typotheque not only delivers *History* as a set of OpenType fonts, but also provides an application called *History Remixer*. This web-based software processes single text input through an interface which allows the user to work with the layers, activating, deactivating, arranging, setting colour, and luminosity. The application generates an open PDF file suitable for direct use.

¹ See *Decoratica*
² See book *Metro Letters, a typeface for the Twin Cities*, Deborah Littlejohn, Design Institute Minneapolis, 2003, ISBN 0-9729696-1-6, (The project was not selected)
By W. Caslon II (1730–1800)

In 1750, Caslon introduced his Caslon Display typeface, which was designed for the advertising boom. This typeface featured heavy, rounded serifs with high contrast, allowing for greater legibility on the early low-resolution computer screens. Caslon Display became one of the most popular typefaces in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and its influence can still be seen in modern typefaces today.
Yes, that's right careful reader, we didn't manage to fit here all 21 samples, and layer 20 (outline version of layer 19) is missing. Please see it online.
Turkey cuts ties over spelling mistake
Four flies murdered in bakery
Ceasefire deal after font wars
Sex, politics & rock'n'roll
Garamond to run in second round
Didot backlash in hinting row
Pelicans vote to leave Florida
Quarantined fonts given all-clear
Microsoft contests $20 fine
**History Remixer Tutorial**

**Start Again.**

To help control the 21 layers of the typeface, we offer the History Remixer online software. Instead of entering text separately for each layer, you enter it only once, after which you can adjust the layers’ colour, visibility, opacity, etc. History Remixer then generates a high resolution PDF.

**Layer Order.**

You might want to change the order of layers, for example to have a certain layer on top, rather than on the bottom. Just drag the layer you want to move to the new position. The layers appear in the list from topmost to bottommost.

**Colour.**

History Remixer is intended for graphic designers, and so we offer a colour menu that you might recognise from your favourite design application. Mix a CMYK colour that you like, and click Apply. If you can’t decide on a colour, just click the Random Colours option at the bottom of the application window.

**Getting PDF.**

History Remixer is an application which enables licensed users to control the 21 fonts. You need to get a license for the fonts to be able to generate the PDF. Without the license, you will only see a rough online preview. Licensed users get a vector PDF suitable for direct use, or editing in software such as Adobe Illustrator®.

**Random Choices.**

With History Remixer you can control many different design parameters, and get thousands of unique samples. If you don’t want to think about all these choices, just choose the Random Layers and/or Random Colours options and History Remixer will choose for you.

**Concept**

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An aggregation of truths, half-truths, semi-truths, fables, myths, rumors, prejudices, personal narratives, gossip, and official prevarications. It is a canvas upon which thousands of artists throughout the ages have splashed their conceptions and interpretations of a day and an era. Some motifs are grotesque and some are magnificent.