Ontario History

About the Typeface

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About the Typeface

The main body text of *Ontario History* is set in Garamond Premier Pro, a modern variation of the famous typeface developed over 450 years ago by punch-cutter Claude Garamond (c.1480-1561). The type that came to bear his name is an old-style serif typeface known both then and today for its fluidity and gracefulness, combining, according to one source, "an unprecedented degree of balance and elegance" [*www.myfonts.com*]. It is believed that Garamond based his designs on a combination of various old-style Venetian types and the handwriting of Angelo Vergecio, librarian to the French King, Francis I.

Claude Garamond rose to prominence in 1540 by creating a typeface for a series of books by Robert Estienne, the official printer in Greek to Francis I. In time, the court officially adopted Garamond's beautiful yet practical Roman types, which popularized them across Europe. The type is easily identified by its extra long extenders, downward-sloping top serifs and a characteristically small bowl on the 'a' and a similarly small eye of the letter 'e'. (*The italic version of the type is derived from the designs of Garamond's assistant Robert Granjon*).

The typeface used here—Garamond Premier Pro—was developed in 1988 by Adobe senior type designer Robert Slimbach who made a close study of Claude Garamond's original metal punches now held by the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp, Belgium. In this way, he retained the characteristics and cleanness of the original designs, while creating a practical modern type family. As such it is much closer to the original Garamond typeface than most "fonts" that now bear the name Garamond and which are actually based on the nineteenth-century misattribution of a seventeenth-century typeface created by Jean Jannon.