

John Downer John Downer is a sign painter by trade, with a specialty in gold leaf lettering. He has a B.A. in Fine Art from Washington State University and both an M.A. and an M.F.A. in Painting from The University of Iowa. He began his career as a freelance type designer in 1983.

Mr. Downer writes about type and type history for *Emigre* magazine, *House* magazine, and other publications. He lives in Iowa City, and travels widely in the United States and Europe, always on the lookout for interesting letterforms.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- 1968 Began training as a sign painter before graduating from high school in Longview, Washington.
- 1969–1973 Continued to paint signs while attending college in Pullman, Washington and during vacations.
- 1973 Completed a sign painter's apprenticeship in Des Moines, Iowa. Rank of Journeyman.
- 1973–1976 Worked in the sign trade part-time while enrolled as a graduate student at The University of Iowa. Gained expertise lettering billboards and gilding.
- 1976–1987 Owned and operated a commercial sign shop in Coralville, Iowa, doing hand-lettered signs, gold leaf, silk screen printing, graphic design, and typography. Designed sign alphabets for proprietary use. Began designing typefaces as a part-time venture in 1984.

John DownerPROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND *continued*

- 1988–1992 Freelance type designer in San Francisco, drawing text faces for book printing. Designer of text and display digital typefaces, plus screen fonts for text, on Macintosh computers.
- 1992–*present* Independent type designer, lettering artist & graphic designer in Iowa City, licensing original typefaces to font publishers and selling exclusive letterform & logo outline data for computerized imaging devices to companies in North America and Europe.

RETAIL FONTS & PUBLISHER

- 1990 Triplex Italic (3 fonts) Emigre Fonts, Inc.
Roxy (2 fonts) The Font Bureau, Inc.
- 1991 Iowan Old Style (6 fonts) Bitstream Inc.
- 1991–1992 Ironmonger (4 fonts) The Font Bureau, Inc.
- 1993 Roxy (4 fonts) The Font Bureau, Inc.
Ironmonger (1 font) The Font Bureau, Inc.
SamSans (2 fonts) The Font Bureau, Inc.
- 1994–1996 Simona (21 fonts) Design Lab, Inc. (with Jane Patterson)
SamSans Italic (2 fonts) The Font Bureau, Inc.
- 1999 Brothers (7 fonts) Emigre Fonts, Inc.
Council (3 fonts) Emigre Fonts, Inc.
Vendetta (9 fonts) Emigre Fonts, Inc.
- 2001 Iowan Old Style Titling (1 font) Bitstream Inc.
- 2005 Paperback (18 fonts) House Industries, Inc.