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Phoreus Cherokee

*A multi-weight type family
with cursive italics for
the Cherokee language*

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Phoreus™ Cherokee

In the summer of 2011, Roy Boney Jr. and Joseph Erb from the Language Technology Office of the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, spoke at a type conference about their efforts to integrate the Cherokee language into current communications technology. They finished with an earnest request to type designers to create Cherokee typefaces, since new digital types are required to build the resources they need to preserve their language and culture.

I heeded the call and began by choosing a Latin design already in progress as the proportional basis for the 85 glyphs of the Cherokee syllabary. The first phase of development involved reading most of the available research into the historical aspects of the syllabary, an analysis of the existing types, and making form studies from manuscript images provided by the Cherokee Nation and the James Mooney manuscript collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

Since there were no useable multi-weight Cherokee type families at the time of their presentation, my initial strategy was to create a family of upright fonts in various weights. But when the light and bold were nearing completion, I asked what they thought of my creating an italic - not just an oblique, but a real cursive italic inspired by Cherokee handwriting. With their encouragement, I researched and culled the forms I needed from almost 180 years of manuscripts. The result - the first Cherokee cursive italic typeface design - was given a very positive evaluation by the Language Technology Office.

Phoreus Cherokee was produced primarily for use in the Cherokee language with the occasional insertion of words and phrases in the Latin script. Phoreus' distinct and uncomplicated forms are particularly suited to very young readers - a primary target audience in language preservation. There is also a "small cap" version of each glyph, so that bilingual texts can be set in which a Cherokee text attains the same color as an English text set in upper and lower case.

The name *Phoreus* is the ancient Greek word for *bearer* or *carrier* and could refer to type (and the Cherokee syllabary) as a vehicle of language and visual culture.

Phoreus Cherokee: typeface design and trademark
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အနာဂတ်အတွက် အသက်မွေးဝမ်းကျောင်း အခြေခံအားဖြည့်ဆည်းပေးရန်

Θι ρΘΛ ρ

DFWA TGTPodVJ TGsdJ GfYJ qOPodLqJ JsdYALsdJ GYGP

DELFRAV

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CWY JSAHGA

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ክፍለ ልማት ከገቢዎች ልማት ጋር ማሳሰብ ያስፈልጋል

ර R ෙ G^w

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IDE · VOA · WPJ · KTL · OYL · JΘY · ΞΣΘ

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TKCWY TV&T.

[illegible]

DBLTGNDY Ds GYTh

ADZ ወጊዎች ፀ ማህከ ልፅ DBLTሬው ሆርባት. ፐሪሪ
Dhጋጋው እንሂህ ሄለ ፀራሳት. Dhጋጋ Dhጋጋው እንሆነፀ,
ክሊሃ ክፀራሳ ርክጋጋል ፀፒፀሲሳት. ሆሃጋ ርፀጋ Dhጋጋ

ማክረፖፕፕ ለደ. ስፀሎልላ፤ ማክረፖፕ ለደ ርኩወ. ለደ፤ ግረፖልሃ
 ፀ ማህክ ደፍ ደቢፒፒፒ ፒፒ ስፀረፒፒ.

AARYZ KIR DHPW P DNP. hAARZ DHPVP JSCU E.
 TBLTZ KOT D D UG LHPPT, TBLTZ KOT D D JLU
 AUA T T R.

[illegible]

TS DYĤĤ, SĖ4ŕT. RPĖĖ TĖYĤĤ ĀĤĤ DYĤĤ
 ĤĖT Dŕ ĤĖP ĤY TSĤĖŖ. DĖĤĤYĤ TĖPĖWĖ, ĤĖĤŖĖĤY
 ĤY. ĤŖĖ ĀĤĤ ĤĤĤĤ ĖYVĤ TSĤ TĖĖĖŖ TSĤ TAĤĤ,
 SĖ4ŕ ĤD TĖĤ.

RVA JWKJDLF GZPFGVA
GShT Dh

[illegible]

ADZ WZPန မ ဝှ်ဟ် Dန DBLIGန ဝဲဇနာ်. TSILZ DနZPနန နနာ်လ် ခုန
ဇဇဇနာ်. DနITZ DနZPနန နနာ်နန, ကလ်န ကဇဇဇနာ်. ဝှ်နန ဇနာ် DနIT
ဝှ်နနPT နန. ဝဲဇနာ်နန ဝှ်နနPT နန ဇနာ်. ADZ WZPနန မ ဝှ်ဟ် Dန
DBLIGနန TEနန ဇနာ်နန.

[illegible]

THUNDER AND THE UK'TEN'

In older times there were two boys. They used to hunt all the time with bows and arrows. Sometimes they killed birds and squirrels, sometimes rabbits and many (other) small animals.

Once the two boys were walking in a deep valley where it was very rugged and rocky. As they were walking among big rocky crags, they found a large snake lying upon a rock. This snake was very lean and hungry. He told the boys to stop, that he wanted to ask them something.

"I'm very hungry," he said to them. "Would you find me some food? I'll eat birds or squirrels. When I become strong again, you can use me, or I'll help you in whatever you are doing in any way that I can for as long as we live."

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