Open position: Font Software Designer

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Tiro Typeworks Ltd is seeking an experienced and self-motivated individual for a full-time position making fonts. The job requires both creative and technical knowledge and skills, following a holistic approach to font making as a craft practice in an industrial design and software development context.

About Tiro Typeworks
Founded in 1994 by John Hudson and Ross Mills, Tiro Typeworks is a digital font foundry specialising in multiscript type design and font development. The core of our business is creation of custom font solutions for internationalisation and localisation of business communications and branding, software and media platforms, publishing, and scholarship. Tiro's clients include major software companies (Microsoft, Adobe, Google), newspapers (*Ananda Bazar Patrika*), and scholarly publishers (Brill, Dumbarton Oaks). Many of our fonts are produced in collaboration with respected experts in the typography of particular scripts and languages, including Dr Fiona Ross, Tim Holloway, Neelakash Kshetrimayum, Dr Titus Nemeth, and others.

From 2017, Tiro Typeworks will be actively expanding the retail side of our business, marketing and selling commercial font licenses.

About the job
This is a permanent, full-time position (32–40 hours per week), working directly with John Hudson and Ross Mills to complete fonts ready for delivery to clients or for retail licensing. This will involve both design work to complete glyph sets for new fonts font makerand extensions of typeface family weights and styles, and technical production work. An initial task will be to help document existing Tiro production, testing, and quality assurance practices, and establish new collaborative workflows.

Secondary responsibilities are likely to involve research in support of new projects, customer support, and production of typeface specimens. Initially, type design work will focus on European scripts (Latin, Cyrillic, and Greek), but opportunities to engage with non-European writing systems are very probable. Future responsibilities may involve project management and coordinating freelancers or other Tiro employees.

Tiro Typeworks is a distributed organisation, with headquarters on two islands in the Salish Sea, near Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The nature of the full

time position working directly with Tiro's partners requires the successful applicant to live within this geographical area: Metro Vancouver; southern Vancouver Island; or select southern Gulf Islands (Gabriola, Saltspring, or Galiano). The successful applicant will need to be self-motivated and able to work from home, attending regular meetings with Tiro partners but without daily supervision.

We are looking for someone to begin work in Spring or early Summer of 2017.

About the applicant

The successful applicant will have a Masters degree in typeface design or equivalent professional experience (*e.g.* two or more years employment in the font industry; publication of one or more font families; or be able to show a suitable portfolio of design work and demonstrate requisite technical skills). The applicant should either be a Canadian citizen or have permanent resident status, a relevant work permit, or no legal impediment to relocating to Canada. In the event that we are unable to find a Canadian citizen or permanent resident for the job, we will endeavour to work with an applicant and immigration services to obtain the necessary permits.

The applicant must be fluent with one or more industry standard glyph creation tool (FontLab Studio, Glyphs, or RoboFont); familiarity with Microsoft's Visual OpenType Layout Tool (VOLT) and/or Visual TrueType hinting tool (VTT) is a definite plus. Knowledge of and experience with the Python programming language as applied to font production scripting will be a major advantage for any candidate. The ability to learn and adapt to new processes and tools will be important.

The applicant must be detail-oriented, and demonstrate strong visual design skills and a sympathetic eye for nuances of form and proportion within, at least, the Latin script (preferably in one or more additional writing systems). The ability to understand complex shapes, how they are adapted to a range of weights and styles, and how optimally to represent them using cubic bezier curves in glyph creation software is a must. The applicant may be asked to complete some tests to demonstrate these skills.

Expected salary range: 60,000–85,000 CAD, plus benefits

To apply, please email your resumé in PDF format, along with specimens of your type design work, to jobs@tiro.ca. Please include a statement of your status with regard to ability to live and work in Canada in your cover letter. If you have questions or would like to talk with us regarding the position, please email us.