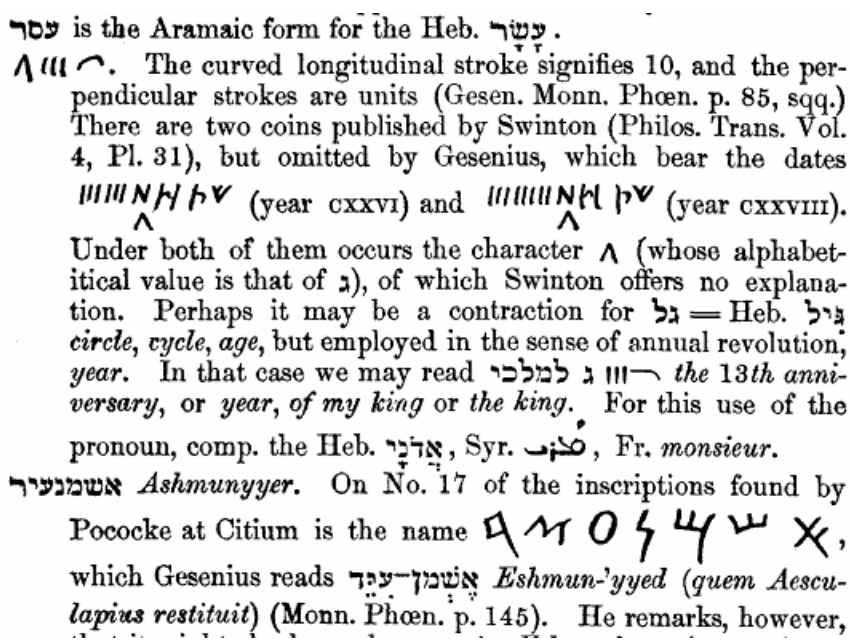
ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N2772
L2/04-178
2004-06-04

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
Organisation Internationale de Normalisation

Doc Type: Working Group Document
Title: Additional Support for Phoenician
Source: Deborah Anderson
Status: Individual Contribution
Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC
Date: 2004-06-04

This document adds additional documentation in support of the encoding of Phoenician (N2746).

1. The following are examples of square Hebrew and Phoenician, taken from William W. Turner, "The Sidon Inscription, with a Translation and Notes." *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, vol. 5, 1855, p. 247 (accessed via JSTOR):


עסר is the Aramaic form for the Heb. עָשָׂר.

. The curved longitudinal stroke signifies 10, and the perpendicular strokes are units (Gesen. Monn. Phœn. p. 85, sqq.) There are two coins published by Swinton (Philos. Trans. Vol. 4, Pl. 31), but omitted by Gesenius, which bear the dates (year CXXVI) and (year CXXVIII). Under both of them occurs the character (whose alphabetitical value is that of ג), of which Swinton offers no explanation. Perhaps it may be a contraction for גל = Heb. גִּיל *circle*, *cycle*, *age*, but employed in the sense of annual revolution, *year*. In that case we may read ג למלכי *the 13th anniversary*, or *year*, *of my king* or *the king*. For this use of the pronoun, comp. the Heb. אֲדֹנָי, Syr. ܡܪܝ, Fr. *monsieur*.

אשמנעיר *Ashmunyyer*. On No. 17 of the inscriptions found by Pococke at Citium is the name , which Gesenius reads אֶשְׁמֹן־עִיֵּד *Eshmun-'yyed* (*quem Aesculapius restituit*) (Monn. Phœn. p. 145). He remarks, however,

Note the use of Phoenician numbers in the example above.

A second example from "Remarks on the Phoenician Inscription at Sidon" by William W. Turner, *JOAS*, vol. 7, 1860, p. 50:

There is one feature which disadvantageously distinguishes our productions from all the rest; it is the erroneous value given almost throughout to the character 𐤍. We were led astray by Gesenius's alphabet in the Monumenta, Tab. 1, in which he has given it only the value of נ,* although he had correctly read the character as 𐤍 in the third Athenian inscription (Tab. 10), being guided by the accompanying Greek.

2. As stated in my original message on 2 May 2004 in support of Phoenician (contained in L2/04-149), the subject of the history of the alphabet is of interest to Indo-Europeanists. It is perhaps of even greater interest to those studying Classics, for whom the history of the Greek alphabet is part of required background knowledge. Charts showing Phoenician and the early Greek forms appear in one of the standard handbooks used, Carl Darling Buck's *Comparative Grammar of Greek and Latin* (Chicago, 1933, p. 69), and specific details on the Greek alphabet in relation to its Phoenician progenitor likewise appear in *New Comparative Grammar of Greek and Latin* by Andrew Sihler (Oxford, 1995, pp. 18-20).

3. The following examples demonstrate the use of Phoenician glyphs within inline text, all within the context of the history of the Greek alphabet.

The original Greek shape of *iōta* must have been some kind of vertical zigzag (𐤉), different from the ordinary Phoenician 𐤉.[84] Another eighth-

(From Barry B. Powell, *Homer and the Origin of the Greek Alphabet*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991, p. 31)

M steht in den ältesten Inschriften regelmäßig auf zwei Senkrecht-Hasten, das phönizische Zeichen 𐤑 wenigstens auf einer; die griechische Form ist m. E. recht einfach aus der phönizischen ableitbar[65]:

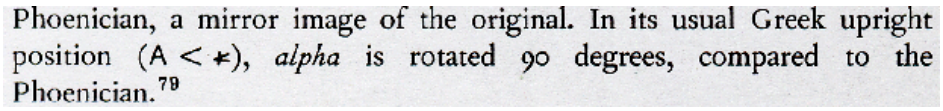
Translation: "M [GREEK CAPITAL LETTER SAN, 03FA] in the oldest inscriptions regularly stands on two perpendicular legs, the Phoenician sign [SADE, proposed for U+10911] at least on one; the Greek form is, in my opinion, simply derived from the Phoenician"

(From Rudolf Wachter, "Zur Vorgeschichte des griechischen Alphabets," *Kadmos* 28.1, 1989, p. 50)

(Note: In the above examples, I would use a font to reflect the early Greek iota.)

4. As an example of the type of problem that might occur if Phoenician is not separately encoded, compare the following:

(a) Original (from Barry B. Powell, *Homer and the Origin of the Greek Alphabet*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991, p. 30)


Phoenician, a mirror image of the original. In its usual Greek upright position (A < 𐤀), *alpha* is rotated 90 degrees, compared to the Phoenician.[79]

If the sentence above were written with Square Hebrew, the sentence would make no sense, because the Square Hebrew ALEF glyph does not have the shape Powell refers to:

(b) With Square Hebrew:

> In its usual Greek upright position (A < א), alpha is rotated 90 degrees, compared to the Phoenician.

5. Legibility of Hebrew amongst Greek and Indo-European scholars

In a survey of my handbooks for Indo-European and Greek, I was not able to find any examples of the original Hebrew script in use for Phoenician (or Hebrew). The books were all published in the U.S. or western Europe. I was able to find Latin transliteration used, but not square Hebrew. Markus Egetmeyer, who worked on the "Epigraphische Mitteilungen" section of the journal *Kadmos*, a journal devoted to pre- and early Greek epigraphy, concurred that square Hebrew is rare. I would therefore suggest that relying on a default square Hebrew for displaying Phoenician would be difficult to read for many scholars from North America and western Europe and, because discussion is often on specific letter shapes, would cause problems in sense, as describe in point 4 above.

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