

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set  
International Organization for Standardization  
Organisation Internationale de Normalisation  
Международная организация по стандартизации

**Doc Type:** Working Group Document  
**Title:** Response to Project Editor's contribution N3146, "Draft disposition of comments on SC2 N3875 (PDAM text for Amendment 3.2 to ISO/IEC 10646:2003)"  
**Source:** Irish National Body  
**Status:** National Body contribution  
**Action:** For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2  
**Date:** 2006-09-21

**1. Scope of the amendment.** The Irish National Body disagrees with the suggestion made by the Project Editor in N3146 that Irish comments were "out of scope" of the Amendment under ballot. The intention of Action Item AI-46-10.e taken in Xiamen was not to ban the addition of characters in ballot comments, but rather to restrict requests for additions to matter related to what was in fact on the ballot. The characters which Ireland requested be added to the ballot were requested to be added to four blocks which *were* under ballot: Greek, Myanmar, Latin Extended-C, and Latin Extended-D.

We note that two national bodies in addition to Ireland requested a character to be added to the Myanmar block, along with other characters for the Mon language, and that the Project Editor did not rule this out of scope, saying "Myanmar is being revised by this amendment".

Most of the characters in Ireland's comment are requested for addition to Latin Extended-D, where many new characters for medievalist use are under ballot. The insular letters we requested were first proposed in document N3027 which contains the bulk of the additions balloting in Latin Extended-D. The insular letters were not accepted when N3027 was presented to WG2, pending further study. N3122 provides detailed evidence for the medievalist and Celticist use of the insular characters, plus a few additions used alongside the insular characters in an 18th-century orthography for Late Cornish. The set of characters completes the set of characters proposed in N3027, and are not, we believe, out of scope of the amendment. One of the characters used for Late Cornish, the LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED A, was proposed for inclusion in the Latin Extended-C block simply because it is more modern and less medieval than the insular letters, and the character seems to "fit" better there although it is part of a set most of which is encoded in Latin Extended-D. We admit that the proposed GREEK CAPITAL KAI SYMBOL has a less obvious relation to the archaic Greek consonants under ballot in the Greek block. However, all three of the blocks mentioned here are "being revised by this amendment".

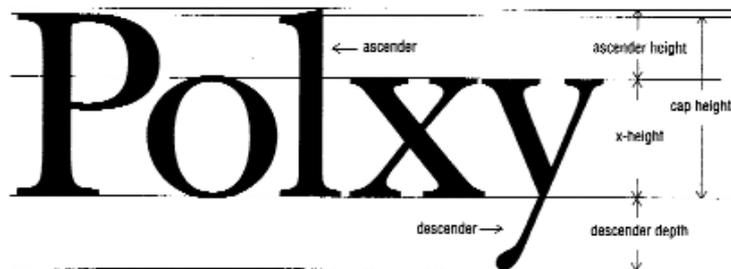
Comments which *do* seem to us to be out of scope of the Amendment are two requests for glyph corrections from the U.S. National Body. These comments, which the Project Editor proposes to accept, will *add* the Combining Diacritical Marks block and the Cyrillic block to the ballot. While Ireland agrees with the changes proposed, it seems peculiar that the Project Editor would treat these as within the scope of the amendment while treating our requests as out of scope.

Ireland believes that the correct proposed disposition of comments for our T1, T3.a, and T4 should be "**WG2 decision**", not "**Out of scope**".

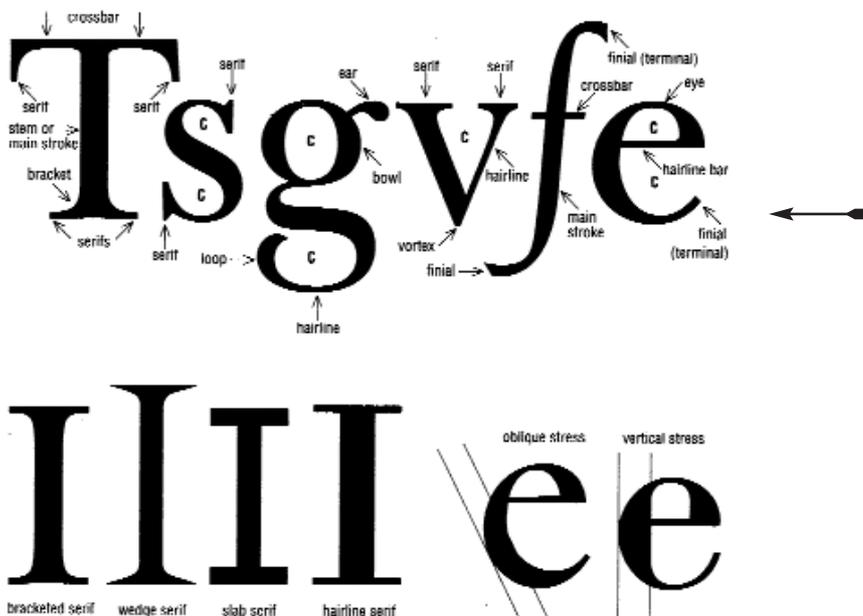
**2. The name FINIAL.** The Irish National Body appreciates the advance warning of this comment by the Project Editor, because it gave us just enough time to be able to respond to it. The Project Editor is quite right that in architecture, the word *finial* refers to features of parapets and balustrades. However, in typography the term has the precise meaning given in our ballot comment. We show below three references for this term as requested by the Project Editor. In answer to his question as to whether we need to introduce new terminology here, it is our view that we do need to add this term at this time. It differs considerably in shape from the typical “tail” or “hook” which is normally made out of the terminal of a *j* or an *f*. The letter in question, LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH DOUBLE FINIAL is part of a larger set of phonetic characters used in the Nordic countries. There are quite a few unique characters in that set, and a number of them have double finials. The technically correct term is *finial*, and we stand by our request for a name change here.

APPENDIX I *The Parts of a Letter*

Rounded characters, such as o, e, and s, extend slightly above and below the x-height to maintain a visual rather than a mathematical alignment. In many typefaces the height of the ascenders is greater than the height of the capital letters.



The counters of a letter, marked c in the figure below, are the white spaces enclosed or defined by the strokes of the letter.



**Figure 1.** Table from Chicago University Press showing the typographical names for the different parts of a number of letters. Shown is the term *finial* applied to the part in question of the letter *e*.  
 Source: Richard Eckersley, Richard Angstadt, Charles M. Ellertson, Richard Hendl, Naomi B. Pascal, Anita Walker Scott. 1994. *Glossary of typesetting terms*. (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press. ISBN 0-226-18371-8

Finial - Type Anatomy Glossary

http://desktoppub.about.com/cs/typeanatomy/g/finial.htm

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## "Finial"

From [Jacci Howard Bear](#), Your Guide to [Desktop Publishing](#). **FREE** Newsletter. [Sign Up Now!](#)

**Definition:** The part of a letter known as a **finial** is usually a somewhat tapered curved end on letters such as the bottom of C or e or the top of a [double-storey a](#).

Another definition for **finial** is a swash or ornamental flourish, much like an extended serif, ascender, or descender, often added as a variation to some characters in a typeface.

**Also Known As:** terminal

**Common Misspellings:** fineal

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finial

C e a

←

also see terminal

**Figure 2.** Definition of *finial* as a typographic term, showing its position on three letters including the letter *e*. Source: Jacci Howard Bear. 2006. *Desktop Publishing: Type Anatomy Glossary*.  
[desktoppub.about.com/cs/typeanatomy/g/finial.htm](http://desktoppub.about.com/cs/typeanatomy/g/finial.htm)

## Bits and pieces

### SERIFS

are the fiddly bits at the end of some stems, and they have two kinds of quality. They are either *slab*, *wedge* or *hair*. And they are *bracketed* or *unbracketed*.

A *hair serif* is self explanatory. Bodoni has hair serifs, that being a line of minimum thickness. These are unbracketed. As soon as the line gets thicker it becomes a *slab serif*. A thin slab serif is called *fine*. A fat one is called *heavy*. On Egyptian fonts like Rockwell these are unbracketed. On fonts like Times the serifs are called bracketed. More later.

M i i

But first, the third kind of serif is a *wedge serif*, like those in Wide Latin.

So that is the first division on serifs: hair, slab and wedge. The second division is whether they are *bracketed* or *unbracketed*.

The brackets can be *full brackets*, which means that the concave curve runs from the stem right out to the tip of the slab or hair serif, or *fine brackets*, when the curve has flattened before it gets to the end of the serif, giving a flat horizontal piece at the end.

M i i

There are other serifs. You know about the arms on a C or an S. But we also have the *barbs*, or *cat's ears*, those sticky out bits on the top of C and S and G, and the *beaks* - the bigger ones on L and the T and the E. The end of a *loop*, like the bottom right finish on the C or e, is called a *finial*. Lastly on the top of the T in Garamond and Perpetua, for example, we have *spurs*.



C S G T

### TERMINALS

are not what you think they are. They are a particular kind of curved stroke. They are not even curved strokes that end. They are certainly not strokes that end in serifs.

C S g g y j n

The most sensible terminal is a tail (see above). But the part of a C before it hits the arm (see above) is a terminal. Strokes at an edge seem to be eligible for 'terminal status'. The part of an S after the spine and before it hits an arm is a terminal. The *ear* on a g is a terminal.

A *swash*, (like those with which, by extending the serifs, ITC ruined Bookman), is a terminal. A *loop*, as that which wraps round the counter of a Baskerville g, is a terminal. A *link*, as that which joins the two parts of a g, is sometimes a terminal. You can also have a link on a chain, and a link of sausages.

The curved bit at the bottom of letters like y and j, or the top of an a, is a terminal. In Times, and other serif faces, all three of these tend to end in what is called a *tail dot*.

**Figure 3.** Glossary from Microsoft Typography describing the typographical names for the different parts of a number of letters. "The end of a loop, like the bottom right finish on the C or e, is called a *finial*." Source: Microsoft Typography. 1998. *A disagreeably facetious type glossary for the amusement & edification of people beginning a love affair with fonts*. Chapter 4: Bits and Pieces. [www.microsoft.com/typography/glossary/ch4.htm](http://www.microsoft.com/typography/glossary/ch4.htm)