

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

**Doc Type: Working Group Document**

**Title: Proposal to encode an Armenian Dram currency symbol**

**Source: Karl Pentzlin**

**Status: Individual Contribution**

**Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC**

**Date: 2010-02-10** (Rev. 1: The decisions of UTC #122 regarding the naming and the code point are incorporated.)

## Currency sign



U+058F      ARMENIAN DRAM SIGN

Properties:

058F;ARMENIAN DRAM SIGN;Sc;0;ET;;;;N;;;;

The symbol is proposed to be located in the "Armenian" block, rather than in the "Currency Symbols" block.

This follows the practice shown for other "script-specific" currency symbols, like e.g.:

U+060B AFGHANI SIGN

U+17DB KHMER CURRENCY SYMBOL RIEL

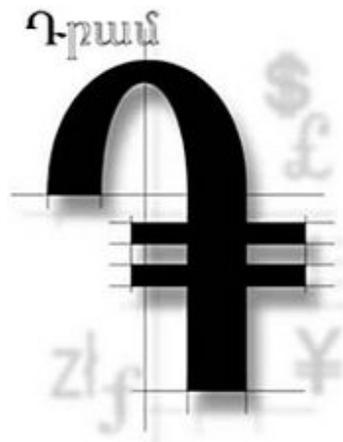
## Information

*The following information was gathered 2009-12-03 from:*

*[http://www.armeniapedia.org/index.php?title=Armenian\\_Dram\\_Sign](http://www.armeniapedia.org/index.php?title=Armenian_Dram_Sign)*

*The information is used by permission.*

## History

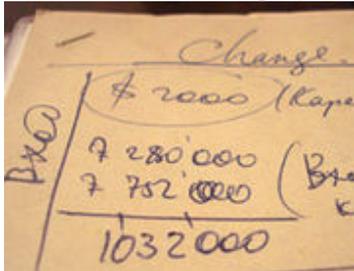


The original idea by K.Komendaryan for the Dram Sign shape among the other symbols. Euro was not announced yet.

After proclamation of independence [Armenia](#) put into circulation own national currency – [Armenian Dram](#), the usage of which revealed the necessity for a monetary sign. As the result of common business practice and the unique pattern of Armenian letters the shape of the Sign and its variations appeared in the business scratches. Since that time and until the official endorsement of the Sign a number of artists and businessmen developed and offered various shapes for it.

### **Heritage of Mashtots**

There is a strong believe that the shape of Dram Sign is a direct projection of the [Armenian alphabet](#) – the brilliant work of [Mesrop Mashtots](#). It is not hard to notice the clean-cut geometry of Armenian letters, so did the author of the Sign when studied the alphabet. Later he became a proponent for the hypothesis <sup>[1]</sup>, which states that the prototype of the [Armenian alphabet](#) is a variety of combinations of resembling curves and horizontal elements. Subsequently these horizontal elements played a key role in the Sign development.



One of the first records of USD exchange for AMD at the rate of 516 dram/dollar

### **Date of Creation**

September 7, 1995. This date refers to the specific page in the preserved scratches for cash flow in business activity of a start-up company. Since that date the Sign together with the dollar sign is constantly present in cash flow records (euro wasn't in circulation yet), and no record at earlier date is tendered by anybody.

### **Incentives**

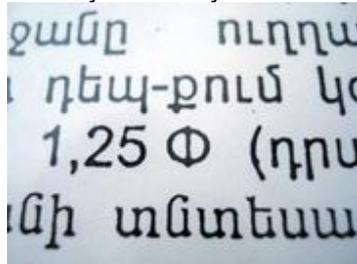
The objective of the Sign is to symbolize the Armenian National Currency and come in handy wherever a graphical symbol for the currency would be in demand, for instance in: financial documents, price-lists and tags, currency exchange displays, computer fonts, correspondence, etc.

The shape of the Sign has to be easily recognized as a national monetary symbol like the other foreign symbols, therefore it:

- denotes the Armenian National Currency by graphical means;
- recalls the outlines of Armenian letters;
- carries elements typical for the foreign monetary symbols;
- is easily reproduced with a few strokes;
- is enough plain to memorize it.



Offer by R.Arutchyan



Offer by V.Phenesyan

### **Present to Republic**

The exceptional chance to present the Sign to Republic of Armenia became real in connection with celebration of the 1700th Anniversary of Christianity Proclamation in Armenia as state religion in 2001. The Sign's proposal has been presented to the President of the Republic of Armenia, at that date Mr. R.Kocharyan. Together with this gift a special letter with congratulation on the Anniversary has been sent to the Catholicos of all [Armenians](#) Garegin II.

### **CBA Contest**

The special committee of Central Bank of Armenia handling the proposal announced the contest, entertained the offer among the other proposals and approved it together with the similar one. CBA Panel Ordinance declared to “accept the designs of Dram Symbol presented by K.Komendaryan and R.Arutchyan and forward it to the state organizations for official processing and standardization.”<sup>[2]</sup>

### **Other Offers**

To the right are the designs for Dram Sign submitted to CBA contest by an artist R. Arutchyan and an architect V. Phenesyanyan correspondingly. The offer by R.Arutchyan cognates with Euro sign shape and the offer by V.Phenesyanyan is based on the first letter of Armenian word Փող (pronounced as "phokh") meaning "money".



10000 Dram Bill

### **Placement on Dram Bill**

Since year 2003 the original shape of the Sign is present on the reverse side of [10,000 Armenian Dram bill](#). The bill's other issuances took place in 2006 and 2008.

### **Placement on Dram Coin**





5000 Dram Coin

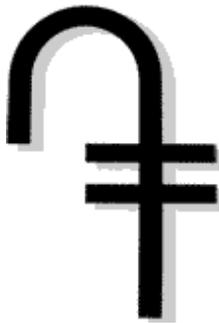
Since year 2008 the original shape of the Sign is present on the reverse side of [5,000 Armenian Dram Commemorative Coin](#).

### **Sign Shape**

The graphics of the symbol is based on the shape of the first letter of Armenian word "դրամ" (pronounced as "dram"). The transformation of the letter toward the monetary symbol is done in accordance with the graphics of the range of foreign monetary signs. As a result, the Sign combines its Armenian origin with two strokes present in the majority of other monetary symbols.

### **Copyright**

The two principal international copyright conventions ([Berne Convention](#) and [UCC](#) - Universal Copyright Convention) state, that copyright starts at the time of a subject creation without respect to its registration time; thus, the shape acquired copyright when it was drafted in 1995. To ensure protection of authorship the requests have been sent to Armenian National Standards Institution and Copyright Bureau of Library of US Congress. However, the Article 6 of [Law on Copyright and Neighboring Rights](#) adopted by the National Assembly of Armenia on 8 December, 1999, states that state emblems and signs are not considered as objects for copyright. Nevertheless, the Sign appears to be one of the national attributes and is supposed to be treated as one of them.



The standard shape fixed by Armenian National Institute for Standards

### **Standartization**

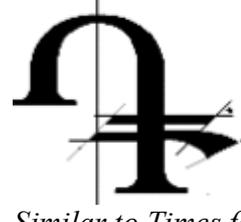
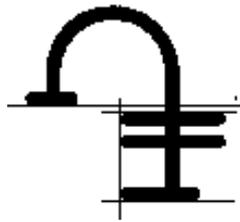
There are standards, representing world currencies and Armenian character sets:

- ISO 4217, Codes for the Representation of Currencies and Funds – defines the format of three-letter abbreviation for world currencies. To Armenian Dram is assigned AMD code.
- Arm.Stand. 34.001-2006, Character Sets and Keyboards – defines Armenian characters encoding and keyboard layouts. The code for the Sign is 91 and shorthand is 'armdram'.
- Unicode 5.0 and ISO/IEC 10646, Joint standardization for coding multilingual text – yet has to place the Sign.

### **Variations of Design**

Upon creation of Sign's original shape a number of designs for it were developed to conform to the most popular font styles and their derivatives. In 2001 the designs together with the original shape were gifted to the Republic as templates for national font sets.

Below are presented three main samples, which, however, are not standard symbols.



*Similar to Arial fontstyle, 2001* *Similar to Courier fontstyle, 2001* *Similar to Times fontstyle, 2001*

In 2008 under the auspices of Ministry of Culture of Armenia and Microsoft-Armenia in National Book Chamber of Armenia took place "Granshan 2008" competition for the complete set of Armenian letters and characters, for which were developed styles for the Sign among the other characters and symbols.

### **Promotion**

The Sign's official presentations have been conducted by author at the Central Bank of Armenia and at the first historical Congress of Armenian Technologies ArmTech 2007 in San-Francisco, north to Silicon Valley. Also, in order to promulgate it the author arranged lectures at American Corners of Yerevan and Gyumri, and Armenian State University of Economics in Yerevan and Yeghegnadzor<sup>[3]</sup>.

In connection with celebration of 15th Anniversary of Armenian Dram in November 2008 the Central Bank of Armenia issued a [commemorative coin](#) with the Sign on the reverse side just against Noah's Arch on the National Coat of Arms on obverse. The same year the Sign was widely populated in a number of local periodicals<sup>[4][5][6][7][8][9]</sup> and in a state university's press<sup>[10][11]</sup>.

### **References**

1. ↑ Mouraviev, Serge (Сергей Муравьев). *The Mystery of Mesrop Mashtots*, "Literaturnaya Armenia" #2, Yerevan, 1985
2. ↑ *Armenian Dram Sign Establishing Act*, The Council of Central Bank of Armenia, Act #25 October 9, 2001
3. ↑ Komendaryan, Ken (Karen), *The History of Dram, Dollar, Euro Monetary Symbols*, lectures
4. ↑ *The Road Passed by Armenian Dram*, Newspaper of Union of Banks of Armenia #4, November, 2008
5. ↑ Komendaryan, Ken (Karen) *Graphical Symbol for Armenian Dram*, "Bazis", First Armenian Economics Magazine #8-9, October-November, Yerevan 2008
6. ↑ Arzumanyan, Karen *Symbol for Armenian Money*, Delovoy Express", Armenian Business Newspaper, #43, 21-28 November Yerevan 2008
7. ↑ Zakharyan, Violetta, *Valjuntarizm*, "Yerevan" Magazine, #12, December Ethnopress Armenia-Russia-USA 2008
8. ↑ *A Monument to Currency*, "Yerevan" Magazine, #12, December 2008
9. ↑ "Economics" Economic, Public, Cultural Analytic Magazine #3 (9), Winter 2008-2009
10. ↑ *Graphical Sign for Armenian Dram*, "Tntesaget" official newspaper of Armenian State University of Economics, #9 (641), November 2008
11. ↑ "Tntesaget" official newspaper of Armenian State University of Economics, #4 (645), April 2009

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2  
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS  
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646<sup>1</sup>**

**Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.**

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html>.

See also <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html> for latest Roadmaps.

**A. Administrative**

1. Title:	<b>Proposal to encode an Armenian Dram currency symbol</b>
2. Requester's name:	<i>Karl Pentzlin</i>
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):	<i>Individual contribution</i>
4. Submission date:	<i>2010-01-09</i>
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):	
6. Choose one of the following:	
This is a complete proposal:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
(or) More information will be provided later:	<input type="checkbox"/>

**B. Technical – General**

1. Choose one of the following:		
a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Proposed name of script:		
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Name of the existing block:	<i>Armenian</i>	
2. Number of characters in proposal:	<i>1</i>	
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):		
A-Contemporary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B.1-Specialized (small collection) <input type="checkbox"/>	B.2-Specialized (large collection) <input type="checkbox"/>
C-Major extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	D-Attested extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	E-Minor extinct <input type="checkbox"/>
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic <input type="checkbox"/>	G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
5. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?	<i>The proposer. The font is released into the Public Domain.</i>	
If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:	<i><a href="http://www.europatastatur.de/material/ArmenianDramProposalFont.ttf">http://www.europatastatur.de/material/ArmenianDramProposalFont.ttf</a>; containing the symbols as "A"</i>	
6. References:		
a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
7. Special encoding issues:		
Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

**8. Additional Information:**

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UCD.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

<sup>1</sup> Form number: N3152-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05)

**C. Technical - Justification**

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES explain	No
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? If YES, with whom? If YES, available relevant documents:	No
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	Yes <i>Inhabitants of Armenia</i>
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	common
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	Yes <i>see text</i>
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? If YES, is a rationale provided? If YES, reference:	Yes Yes <i>Usual practice for currency symbols in use</i>
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	n/a
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? If YES, reference: Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:	No
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	No
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)? If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified? If YES, reference:	No