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TITLE: Spelling of CROSS POMMY in 1F540, 1F541, 1F542

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STATUS: Liaison member contribution (from SEI, UC Berkeley)

ACTION: For consideration by WG2

DISTRIBUTION: ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG 2

Three Typikon characters were approved at Meeting #56 of the ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2 WG2 meeting in April 2010 (L2/10-142 = N3834). They have the following spelling:

1F540 CIRCLED CROSS POMMY

1F541 CROSS POMMY WITH HALF-CIRCLE BELOW

1F542 CROSS POMMY

At the same WG2 meeting, it was agreed that the *Oxford English Dictionary* will serve “as the primary reference for the spelling of English words in characters names, unless a proposal document provides credible evidence to use alternative spellings” (N3832).

Upon investigation, the *OED*'s headword is “pommé” (see figure 1), with an acute accent, which is not allowed in the spelling of character names in 10646.

According to the *OED* guidelines, “The headword shows the most common modern spelling of the word” (<http://dictionary.oed.com/about/guide/head.html>).

A check on Google on August 6, 2010, however, reveals that the spelling with ée/ee is most common, followed by é/e:

(*Web*) “cross pommée” 5180 hits (/“cross pommee” 5170 hits), “cross pommé” 575 hits  
(/“cross pomme” 477 hits), “cross pommy” 277 hits.

This breakdown is similar to the results in Google Books and Google Scholar:

(*Google Books*) “cross pommée” 1050 hits (/“cross pommee” 1040), “cross pommé” 182 hits  
(/“cross pomme” 181 hits), “cross pommy” 83 hits

(*Google Scholar*) “cross pommée” 57 hits (/“cross pommee” 57 hits), “cross pommé” 14 hits  
(/“cross pomme” 14 hits), “cross pommy” 5 hits.

A check in two handbooks on heraldry also show the spelling with “é” or “ée”:

- “pommée” in Slater, Stephen, *The Complete Book of Heraldry*, London, 2002 (p. 77)
- “pommé, cross” in Scott-Giles, C.W. and J.P. Brooke-Little, *Boutell's Heraldry*, London and New York, 1963 (p. 303).

When asked about the spelling of “pommy”, Bruce Durie, Course Director, Genealogical Studies, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, wrote:

In fact, as "croix" is feminine, the correct version is "pommée", likewise for cross patée. However, we also use cross flory (when the French would be "fleurie") and cross fitchy (French fitchée). In all these cases, formally the é or ée is correct and the -y ending is an anglicisation of the French, and we can avoid accents by using the -y form (e.g., chevron raguly).

The *OED* citation (figure 1) notes that the spelling POMMY appears in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1913, another word spelled with "y" appears. This POMMY is a colloquial term, usually derogatory, that refers to immigrants to Australia or New Zealand from Britain. (It may be that the current preference for the spelling with ée or é is because it differentiates the heraldic term from the offensive word.)

Because the spelling of the *OED* headword without the accent (POMME) doesn't reflect the current pronunciation and could lead to confusion, I would suggest one of the following two options be considered:

- a. Change the spelling of the characters' names to match the most common usage, POMMEE, but include an annotation that the word also appears with an accent and can also be spelled cross pommé or cross pommy.
- b. Retain the current spelling, POMMY, but add an annotation:
  - usually spelled cross pommée, or with accent suppressed as cross pommee

**pommé, adj.** DRAFT REVISION June 2008 [Ea](#)

*Heraldry.*

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**Forms:** 16 **pommeè**, 17 **pomme**, 17 **pommee**, 17 **pommeey**, 17- **pommé**, 18 **pomee**, 19- **pommy**.

Of a cross: having the limbs ending in knobs like the pommels of sword hilts.

**1612** [H. PEACHAM](#) *Gentlemans Exercise* iii. 153 A crosse Pateè, Pommeè [etc.]. **1725** [J. COATS](#) *New Dict. Heraldry* at *Pommettée*, A Cross Pommettée is certainly the same above call'd Pommee and Pommelee. **1728** [E. CHAMBERS](#) *Cycl.* (at cited word), A Cross-Pomme, or Pommette, call'd also a Trophée, is a Cross with a Ball or Knob at each End. **1869** [J. E. CUSSANS](#) *Handbk. Heraldry* (rev. ed.) iv. 60 A Cross, the limbs of which are terminated by a single ball, is termed a Cross Pommé, or Pommellé. **1969** [J. FRANKLYN & J. TANNER](#) *Encycl. Dict. Heraldry* 264/1 *Pommé*, cross, a cross humetty having a circular terminal to each limb. **2004** *Re: Republican Senatorial Medal of Freedom* in *alt.talk.royalty* (Usenet newsgroup) 28 Aug., Congressional Space Medal of Honour—five pointed enamelled star. Brevet Medal (Marines)—four armed bronze cross pommé.

Figure 1 (from *OED Online*)