













**Title:** Additional Siddham Variants  
**Source:** Scripts Encoding Initiative (SEI)  
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**Status:** Liaison Contribution  
**Action:** For consideration by UTC and WG2  
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

## 1 Introduction

The “Proposal to Encode Variants for Siddham Script” (N4407R) submitted by Taichi KAWABATA, Toshiya SUZUKI, Kiyonori NAGASAKI, and Masahiro SHIMODA seeks to encode five additional characters, which are variants of already-approved Siddham vowel letters and signs. The rationale for encoding these glyphic variants as separate characters is based upon the notion that they represent distinct religious icons, such as various manifestations of *bodhisattva*-s, and should be considered as ‘ideographically’, therefore semantically, distinct from the normative characters. The five variant characters proposed in N4407R are:

VARIANT	REGULAR	
		U+11582 SIDDHAM LETTER I
		U+11582 SIDDHAM LETTER I
		U+11583 SIDDHAM LETTER II
		U+11585 SIDDHAM LETTER U
		U+115B2 SIDDHAM VOWEL SIGN U
		U+115B3 SIDDHAM VOWEL SIGN UU

The names proposed in N4407R for these variants are as follows

SIDDHAM LETTER I VARIANT FORM A  
 SIDDHAM LETTER I VARIANT FORM B  
 SIDDHAM LETTER II VARIANT FORM A  
 SIDDHAM LETTER U VARIANT FORM A  
 SIDDHAM VOWEL SIGN U VARIANT FORM A  
 SIDDHAM VOWEL SIGN UU VARIANT FORM A

However, there are other glyphic variants that may also be considered as being ‘ideographically’ distinct from the normative form. Note, for example, the variant form  of  SIDDHAM LETTER AA used in writing the seed-syllable  (see figure 1). See also the variants given in the *Shittan Sanmitsushō* (figures 2 and 3). Some of these are listed below.

VARIANT	REGULAR	
𑖀	𑖀	U+11581 SIDDHAM LETTER AA
𑖁	𑖁	U+11581 SIDDHAM LETTER AA
𑖂	𑖂	U+11581 SIDDHAM LETTER AA
𑖃	𑖃	U+11585 SIDDHAM LETTER UU
𑖄	𑖄	U+11586 SIDDHAM LETTER VOCALIC R
𑖅	𑖅	U+11587 SIDDHAM LETTER VOCALIC RR
𑖆	𑖆	U+11587 SIDDHAM LETTER VOCALIC RR
𑖇	𑖇	U+1158C SIDDHAM LETTER O
𑖈	𑖈	U+1158D SIDDHAM LETTER AU
𑖉	𑖉	U+115C1 SIDDHAM SIGN SIDDHAM

## 2 Recommendation

The 5 characters proposed in N4407R do not constitute a complete set of Siddham variants. No decision should be taken on N4407R until additional research can be conducted in order to establish a complete set of variants. The recommendation to postpone a decision on N4407R certainly has no bearing on the progress of the encoding of the Siddham block, which is already at an advanced stage of ISO balloting. In any case, encoding decisions should not be rushed and should only be taken after due diligence has been performed.

## 3 References

- 淨嚴 [Jōgon]. 1682. (𑖀𑖁𑖂) 三密鈔 [Shittan Sanmitsushō]. In *Taishō Shinshū Daizōkyō* (大正新脩大藏經), vol. 84, no. 2710, 715–810. Accessed electronically at the SAT Daizōkyō Text Database [http://21dzk.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp/SAT/ddb-sat3.php?s=&mode=detail&useid=2710\\_,84](http://21dzk.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp/SAT/ddb-sat3.php?s=&mode=detail&useid=2710_,84)
- Kawabata, Taichi; Toshiya Suzuki; Kiyonori Nagasaki; Masahiro Shimoda. “Proposal to Encode Variants for Siddham Script”. N4407R. June 11, 2013. <http://std.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n4407.pdf>
- Pandey, Anshuman. 2012. “Proposal to Encode the Siddham Script in ISO/IEC 10646”. ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N4294 L2/12-234R. August 1, 2012. <http://std.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n4294.pdf>
- 徳山暉純 [Tokuzan, Kijun]. 1974. 図説梵字 – 密教の壁 : 悉曇参究 [Zusetsu Bonji – mikkyō no kabe : shittan sankyū]. 東京 : 木耳社 [Tōkyō : Mokujisha].

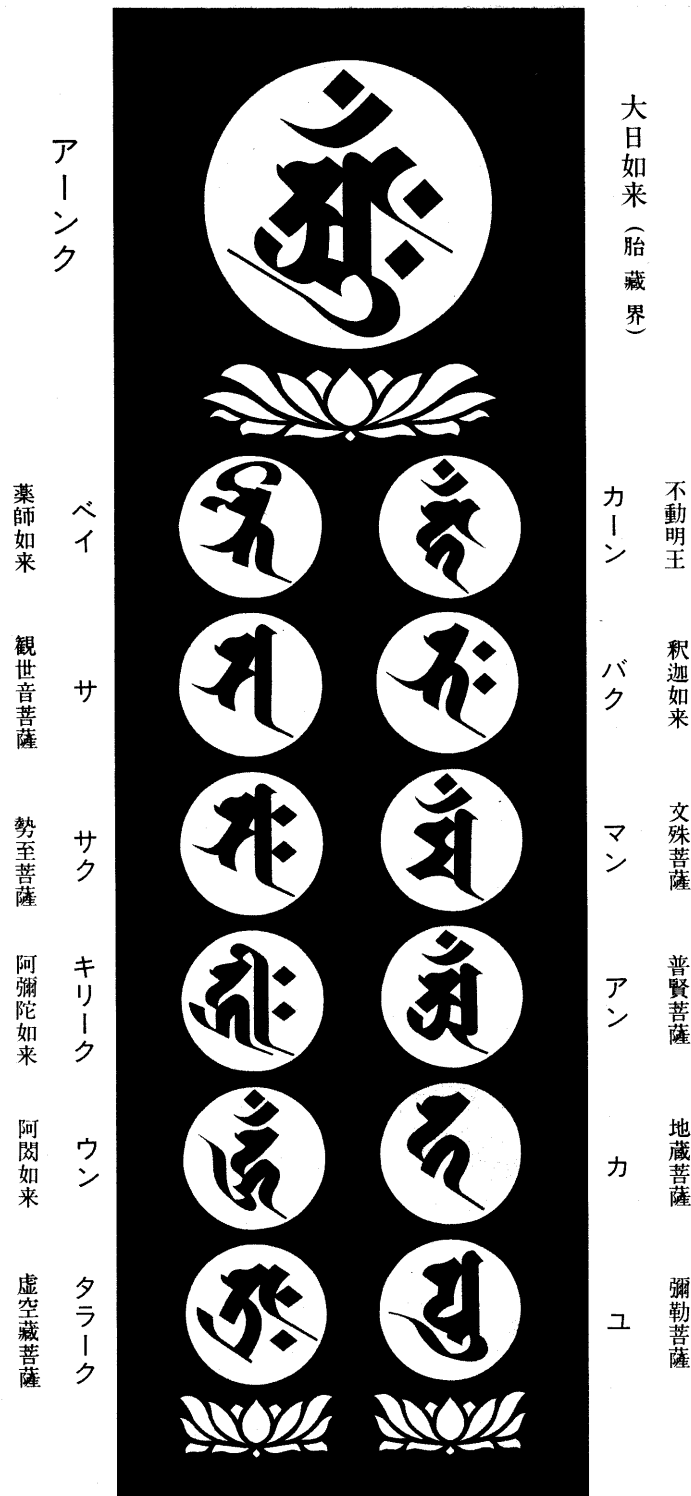


Figure 1: Seed-syllables for the thirteen Buddhas (from Tokuzan 1974: 27). Note the use of the variant form 𑖀 of 𑖀 SIDDHAM LETTER AA in writing the seed-syllable 𑖀.



