L2/98-035

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N1688

DATE: 1998-01-18

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2
Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) – ISO/IEC 10646
Secretariat: ANSI

DOC TYPE:	Expert contribution
TITLE:	**Proposal to encode Sinaitic in Plane 1 of ISO/IEC 10646-2**
SOURCE:	Michael Everson, EGT (IE)
PROJECT:	JTC1.02.18.02
STATUS:	Proposal.
ACTION ID:	FYI
DUE DATE:	--
DISTRIBUTION:	Worldwide
MEDIUM:	Paper and web
NO. OF PAGES:	3 (printed at 80%)

A. Administrative

1. Title	Proposal to encode Sinaitic in Plane 1 of ISO/IEC 10646-2
2. Requester's name	Michael Everson
3. Requester type	Expert request
4. Submission date	1998-01-18
5. Requester's reference	
6a. Completion	This is a complete proposal.
6b. More information to be provided?	No

B. Technical -- General

1a. New script? Name?	Yes. Sinaitic
1b. Addition of characters to existing block? Name?	No.
2. Number of characters	19
3. Proposed category	Category D
4. Proposed level of implementation and rationale	Level 1
5a. Character names included in proposal?	Yes
5b. Character names in accordance with guidelines?	Yes
5c. Character shapes reviewable?	Yes
6a. Who will provide computerized font?	Michael Everson
6b. Font currently available?	Michael Everson
6c. Font format?	TrueType
7a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts, etc.) provided?	Yes.
7b. Are published examples (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of use of proposed characters attached?	No
8. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing?	Yes

C. Technical -- Justification

1. Contact with the user community?	No.
2. Information on the user community?	Sinaitic enjoys mostly scholarly use, though it is often shown in books about the history of alphabets.
3a. The context of use for the proposed characters?	Used to write ancient Semitic languages (Proto-Sinaitic/Proto-Canaanite).
3b. Reference	See below.
4a. Proposed characters in current use?	Yes, by enthusiasts of various kinds.
4b. Where?	By scholars and enthusiasts.
5a. Characters should be encoded entirely in BMP?	No. Plane 1
5b. Rationale	Accordance with the Roadmap.
6. Should characters be kept in a continuous range?	Yes
7a. Can the characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?	No.
7b. Where?	
7c. Reference	
8a. Can any of the characters be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?	No
8b. Where?	
8c. Reference	
9a. Combining characters or use of composite sequences included?	No.
9b. List of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images provided?	No.
10. Characters with any special properties such as control function, etc. included?	No

D. SC2/WG2 Administrative

To be completed by SC2/WG2

1. Relevant SC 2/WG 2 document numbers:	
2. Status (list of meeting number and corresponding action or disposition)	
3. Additional contact to user communities, liaison organizations etc.	
4. Assigned category and assigned priority/time frame	
Other Comments	

The Sinaitic script is the prototypical alphabetic Semitic script, ancestor of Hebrew, Ethiopic, Arabic, Phoenician, Greek, Latin, and Brahmic scripts. Many of its characters are recognizable images of the names of the characters (ALPU is an ox, BETU is a doorway), and there is some evidence that these were borrowed from Egyptian hieroglyphics. The Sinaitic default directionality is RTL.

Issues:

The names are reconstructed, but sources available did not provide all of them. I made an educated guess at five of them based on the evidence of the others. Anyway we need an expert to speak to this topic.

The script could be layed out parallel to Hebrew and other ancient Semitic scripts, with gaps. Would there be any advantage to this?

U+0001xx00	SINAITIC LETTER ALPU
U+0001xx01	SINAITIC LETTER BETU
U+0001xx02	SINAITIC LETTER gimel (GIMLU?)
U+0001xx03	SINAITIC LETTER daleth (DALTU?)
U+0001xx04	SINAITIC LETTER he
U+0001xx05	SINAITIC LETTER WAWWU
U+0001xx06	SINAITIC LETTER zain (ZENU?)
U+0001xx07	SINAITIC LETTER heth (HETU?)
U+0001xx08	SINAITIC LETTER YADU
U+0001xx09	SINAITIC LETTER KAPPU
U+0001xx0A	SINAITIC LETTER LAMDU
U+0001xx0B	SINAITIC LETTER MAYYUMA
U+0001xx0C	SINAITIC LETTER NAHASHU
U+0001xx0D	SINAITIC LETTER ENU
U+0001xx0E	SINAITIC LETTER san
U+0001xx0F	SINAITIC LETTER qoppa (QAPPU?)
U+0001xx10	SINAITIC LETTER RASHU
U+0001xx11	SINAITIC LETTER shin
U+0001xx12	SINAITIC LETTER TAWWU
U+0001xx13	(This position shall not be used)
U+0001xx14	(This position shall not be used)
U+0001xx15	(This position shall not be used)
U+0001xx16	(This position shall not be used)
U+0001xx17	(This position shall not be used)
U+0001xx18	(This position shall not be used)
U+0001xx19	(This position shall not be used)
U+0001xx1A	(This position shall not be used)
U+0001xx1B	(This position shall not be used)
U+0001xx1C	(This position shall not be used)
U+0001xx1D	(This position shall not be used)
U+0001xx1E	(This position shall not be used)
U+0001xx1F	(This position shall not be used)

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1	⊓	⌣
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5	⸙	
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7	Ⅲ	
8	⌐	
9	⫙	
A	۹	
B	ᵚ	
C	⅃	
D	⬭	
E	ⴲ	
F	8	

Bibliography

Haarmann, Harald. 1990. *Universalgeschichte der Schrift*. Frankfurt/Main; New York: Campus. ISBN 3-593-34346-0

Healey, John F. 1990. *The early alphabet*. (Reading the Past) Trustees of the British Museum: British Museum Press. ISBN 0-7141-8073-4

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