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Request of change to the proposal to add Etruscan to Unicode/ISO-IEC 10646

Etruscan, Oscan, and Umbrian are three different languages which partly share the same alphabet whose origin is probably from Fenician and Archaic Greek. The Etruscan language origins are still unknown. That language, however, uses a known alphabet that was inherited by the Indo-European languages of most Italic people: Oscan, Samnitis, Veneticis, and at the end, the Romans.

This document highlights the differences between the three languages, and how in the original proposal few symbols do not belong to any of the proposed languages. It is not up to this paper to suggest a single character set for all those languages, or three different ones. However we might have all symbols in a single character set if necessary, but in such a case the set could not be called anymore Etruscan, but Ancient Italic Languages.

Original Proposal

This proposal does not contain the Etruscan alphabet, but an alphabet from which the Etruscan alphabet originated. However, in Etruscan, certain phonemes (D, O, etc...) do not exist.

0	A	1
1	⌘	M
2	7	♀
3	∩	4
4	3	5
5	1	T
6	I	Y
7	β	X
8	⊗	φ
9	l	γ
A	λ	β
B	∨	1
C	ϣ	∇
D	ϣ	
E	⊗	
F	○	

Proposed positions

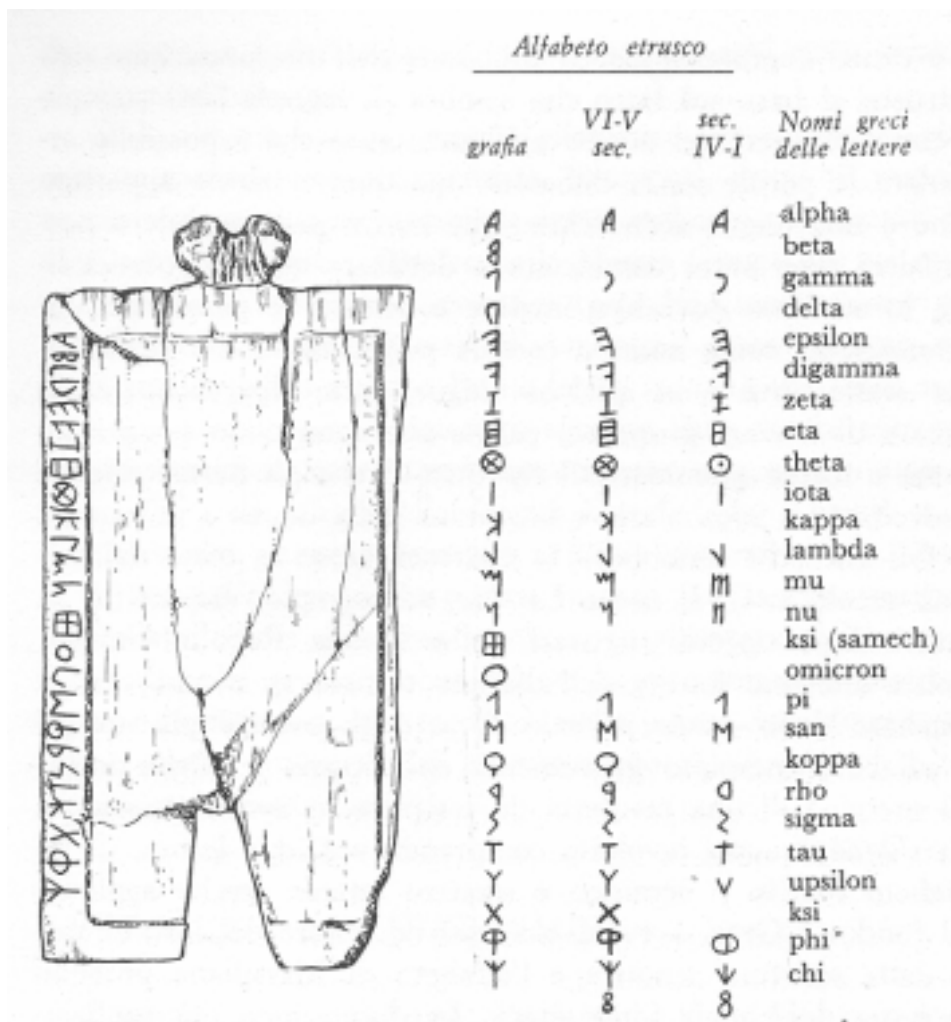
0001 xx00	ETRUSCAN LETTER A	0001 xx10	ETRUSCAN LETTER P
0001 xx01	ETRUSCAN LETTER B	0001 xx11	ETRUSCAN LETTER SH
0001 xx02	ETRUSCAN LETTER C	0001 xx12	ETRUSCAN LETTER Q
0001 xx03	ETRUSCAN LETTER D	0001 xx13	ETRUSCAN LETTER R
0001 xx04	ETRUSCAN LETTER E	0001 xx14	ETRUSCAN LETTER S
0001 xx05	ETRUSCAN LETTER V	0001 xx15	ETRUSCAN LETTER T
0001 xx06	ETRUSCAN LETTER Z	0001 xx16	ETRUSCAN LETTER U
0001 xx07	ETRUSCAN LETTER H	0001 xx17	ETRUSCAN LETTER SS
0001 xx08	ETRUSCAN LETTER TH	0001 xx18	ETRUSCAN LETTER PH
0001 xx09	ETRUSCAN LETTER I	0001 xx19	ETRUSCAN LETTER KH
0001 xx0A	ETRUSCAN LETTER K	0001 xx1A	ETRUSCAN LETTER F
0001 xx0B	ETRUSCAN LETTER L	0001 xx1B	ETRUSCAN LETTER II
0001 xx0C	ETRUSCAN LETTER M	0001 xx1C	ETRUSCAN LETTER UU
0001 xx0D	ETRUSCAN LETTER N	0001 xx1D	(do not use)
0001 xx0E	ETRUSCAN LETTER S	0001 xx1E	(do not use)
0001 xx0F	ETRUSCAN LETTER O	0001 xx1F	(do not use)

Etruscan alphabets

There are two Etruscan alphabets. The former was used from VI to V century before Christ, the latter was used from IV to I century before Christ. Even if the Etruscan language is not similar to any other language in the world, and it is surely not an Indo-European language, the Etruscan alphabet was originated from a mix of Fenician or Semitic alphabet, and Archaic Greek alphabet. Etruscan language is read from right to left.

Both alphabet can be found in a tablet called Tablet of Marsiliana. In that tablet there is also the alphabet from which the Etruscan characters originated. Few characters are missing in Etruscan since the Etruscan language have not certain phonemes. For example, Etruscan language has no consonant B and D, nor the vowel O.

The original proposal was probably based on that ancient alphabet, rather than the two Etruscan alphabet. Furthermore, it contains letter that belongs to other alphabets: Oscan and Umbrian. Those languages inherited the Etruscan alphabet, but since they are different languages, they had to create new characters. The Marsiliana alphabet was probably used by the Eubei people of Cuma, and it is a variant of Archaic Greek alphabet.



Picture 1 - Tablet of Marsiliana

Oscan alphabet

𐌒 a	𐌖 b	𐌘 c	𐌚 d
𐌜 e	𐌞 v	𐌠 z	𐌢 h
𐌤 i	𐌦 k	𐌨 l	𐌪 m
𐌬 n	𐌰 p	𐌲 r	𐌴 s
𐌶 t	𐌸 u	𐌺 f	𐌼 í
𐌾 ú			

Umbrian alphabet

𐌒 a	𐌖 b	𐌘 r'	𐌜 e
𐌞 v	𐌠 z	𐌢 h	𐌤 i
𐌦 k	𐌨 l	𐌪 m	𐌬 n
𐌰 p	𐌲 r	𐌴 s	𐌶 t
𐌸 u	𐌺 f	𐌼 ç	

Request for change

Here is a list of changes to apply to the original proposal. The characters of the original proposal are referenced according to the names used there. Those names are in most of cases not correct or not appropriate.

1. Define four different alphabets: Early Etruscan (VI-V cen.), Late Etruscan (IV-I cen.) , Oscan and Umbrian.
2. Both Early and Late Etruscan have not the following characters of the original proposal: beta (ETRUSCAN LETTER B), delta (ETRUSCAN LETTER D), ksi (ETRUSCAN LETTER S), omicron (ETRUSCAN LETTER O), Oscan letter I acute (ETRUSCAN LETTER II), Oscan letter U acute (ETRUSCAN LETTER UU).
3. Late Etruscan has not the following characters of the original proposal: kappa (ETRUSCAN LETTER K), koppa (ETRUSCAN LETTER Q), ksi (ETRUSCAN LETTER SS).
4. ETRUSCAN LETTER C does not exist: there was no C in Etruscan and Archaic Latin alphabets, but G, or better GAMMA.
5. The following characters in the Early Etruscan alphabet are different from the Marsiliana alphabet: ETRUSCAN LETTER E and V are not vertical but slanted; ETRUSCAN LETTER K has the two diagonal segment joined in the middle of vertical bar; ETRUSCAN LETTER P has a rounded bump, and not an angular one; ETRUSCAN LETTER S is reversed with respect the original proposal, like in Oscan and Umbrian.
6. The following characters in the Late Etruscan alphabet are different from the Early Etruscan alphabet: ETRUSCAN LETTER Z has the horizontal segments crossing the vertical one; ETRUSCAN LETTER H has a single horizontal segments in the middle rather than two; ETRUSCAN LETTER TH has a dot in the middle of the circle, not a cross; ETRUSCAN LETTER M and N are very different, looking like those in Oscan and Umbrian alphabets; ETRUSCAN LETTER R is like a mirrored Latin letter D; ETRUSCAN LETTER T has the vertical and horizontal line crossing like in an asymmetric plus sign; ETRUSCAN LETTER U looks like a small V; ETRUSCAN LETTER PH and KH have no more tail at the bottom.
7. The following Oscan characters should be defined for the Oscan alphabeth: ETRUSCAN LETTER II and UU.
8. The Etruscan characters should be named by the Greek names, not the Latin ones, apart the letter F, from which the Latin letter F comes. Therefore, it should be used ALPHA, BETA, GAMMA, DIGAMMA, etc... In addition, the following Semitic names should be used: SAMECH, SAN, KOPPA.
9. Oscan and Umbrian are missing some Etruscan characters, but have additional ones. In Oscan there is a real letter C and two acute vowels; in Umbrian there is an RH or R', and a

sound similar to cedilla ç. Oscan and Umbrian B have rounded bumps, differently from Marsiliana alphabet. The Oscan A is also very different, and the acute I looks like a mirrored ETRUSCAN LETTER II in the original proposal.

New proposal

It might be useful to use a compact character set for all those alphabets, by using the positions of small and capital alphabetic characters in ASCII character set for Early and Late Etruscan, and the equivalent high positions (7th bit set) for Oscan and Umbrian characters.

	-0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-A	-B	-C	-D	-E	-F
0-																
1-																
2-																
3-																
4-		A		>	Ǝ	Ǝ	I	⊞	⊗	I	K	J	Ƶ	ƶ	1	M
5-	Q	Q	Z	T	Y	X	Φ	Υ	8							
6-		A		>	Ǝ	Ǝ	±	⊞	⊙	I		J	M	Π	1	M
7-		D	Z	T	V		⊙	∇	8							
8-																
9-																
A-																
B-																
C-		N	B	<	R	E	L	I	B	I	K	J	M	H	Π	
D-		D	Z	T	V				8	ƒ	Ŷ					
E-		A	B		P	E	L	I	⊙	I	K	J	M	H	1	
F-		D	Z	T	V				8	P						

Proposed positions

Early Etruscan

0001 xx40 (do not use this position)
0001 xx41 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER ALPHA
0001 xx42 (do not use this position)
0001 xx43 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER GAMMA
0001 xx44 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER EPSILON
0001 xx45 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER DIGAMMA
0001 xx46 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER ZETA
0001 xx47 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER ETA
0001 xx48 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER THETA
0001 xx49 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER IOTA
0001 xx4A EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER KAPPA
0001 xx4B EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER LAMBDA
0001 xx4C EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER MU
0001 xx4D EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER NU
0001 xx4E EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER PI
0001 xx4F EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER SAN
0001 xx50 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER KOPPA
0001 xx51 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER RHO
0001 xx52 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER SIGMA
0001 xx53 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER TAU
0001 xx54 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER UPSILON
0001 xx55 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER KSI
0001 xx56 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER PHI
0001 xx57 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER CHI
0001 xx58 EARLY ETRUSCAN LETTER F
0001 xx59 (do not use this position)
0001 xx5A (do not use this position)
0001 xx5B (do not use this position)
0001 xx5C (do not use this position)
0001 xx5D (do not use this position)
0001 xx5E (do not use this position)
0001 xx5F (do not use this position)

Late Etruscan

0001 xx40 (do not use this position)
0001 xx41 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER ALPHA
0001 xx42 (do not use this position)
0001 xx43 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER GAMMA
0001 xx44 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER EPSILON
0001 xx45 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER DIGAMMA
0001 xx46 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER ZETA
0001 xx47 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER ETA
0001 xx48 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER THETA
0001 xx49 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER IOTA
0001 xx4A (do not use this position)
0001 xx4B LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER LAMBDA
0001 xx4C LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER MU
0001 xx4D LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER NU
0001 xx4E LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER PI
0001 xx4F LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER SAN
0001 xx50 (do not use this position)
0001 xx51 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER RHO
0001 xx52 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER SIGMA
0001 xx53 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER TAU
0001 xx54 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER UPSILON

0001 xx55 (do not use this position)
0001 xx56 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER PHI
0001 xx57 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER CHI
0001 xx58 LATE ETRUSCAN LETTER F
0001 xx59 (do not use this position)
0001 xx5A (do not use this position)
0001 xx5B (do not use this position)
0001 xx5C (do not use this position)
0001 xx5D (do not use this position)
0001 xx5E (do not use this position)
0001 xx5F (do not use this position)

Oscan

0001 xxC0 (do not use this position)
0001 xxC1 OSCAN LETTER A
0001 xxC2 OSCAN LETTER B
0001 xxC3 OSCAN LETTER C
0001 xxC4 OSCAN LETTER D
0001 xxC5 OSCAN LETTER E
0001 xxC6 OSCAN LETTER V
0001 xxC7 OSCAN LETTER Z
0001 xxC8 OSCAN LETTER H
0001 xxC9 OSCAN LETTER I
0001 xxCA OSCAN LETTER K
0001 xxCB OSCAN LETTER L
0001 xxCC OSCAN LETTER M
0001 xxCD OSCAN LETTER N
0001 xxCE OSCAN LETTER P
0001 xxCF (do not use this position)
0001 xxD0 (do not use this position)
0001 xxD1 OSCAN LETTER R
0001 xxD2 OSCAN LETTER S
0001 xxD3 OSCAN LETTER T
0001 xxD4 OSCAN LETTER U
0001 xxD5 (do not use this position)
0001 xxD6 (do not use this position)
0001 xxD7 (do not use this position)
0001 xxD8 OSCAN LETTER F
0001 xxD9 OSCAN LETTER I ACUTE
0001 xxDA OSCAN LETTER U ACUTE
0001 xxDB (do not use this position)
0001 xxDC (do not use this position)
0001 xxDD (do not use this position)
0001 xxDE (do not use this position)
0001 xxDF (do not use this position)

Umbrian

0001 xxE0 (do not use this position)
0001 xxE1 UMBRIAN LETTER A
0001 xxE2 UMBRIAN LETTER B
0001 xxE3 (do not use this position)
0001 xxE4 UMBRIAN LETTER RS
0001 xxE5 UMBRIAN LETTER E
0001 xxE6 UMBRIAN LETTER V
0001 xxE7 UMBRIAN LETTER Z
0001 xxE8 UMBRIAN LETTER H
0001 xxE9 UMBRIAN LETTER I
0001 xxEA UMBRIAN LETTER K
0001 xxEB UMBRIAN LETTER L
0001 xxEC UMBRIAN LETTER M

0001 xxED UMBRIAN LETTER N
0001 xxEE UMBRIAN LETTER P
0001 xxEF (do not use this position)
0001 xxF0 (do not use this position)
0001 xxF1 UMBRIAN LETTER R
0001 xxF2 UMBRIAN LETTER S
0001 xxF3 UMBRIAN LETTER T
0001 xxF4 UMBRIAN LETTER U
0001 xxF5 (do not use this position)
0001 xxF6 (do not use this position)
0001 xxF7 (do not use this position)
0001 xxF8 UMBRIAN LETTER F
0001 xxF9 UMBRIAN LETTER Ç
0001 xxFA (do not use this position)
0001 xxFB (do not use this position)
0001 xxFC (do not use this position)
0001 xxFD (do not use this position)
0001 xxFE (do not use this position)
0001 xxFF (do not use this position)