

L2/04-052

University of Portsmouth,
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16 January 2004

Dear Sirs,

May I propose an amendment to the proposal for encoding glagolitic in the UCS? This concerns the glagolitic suspension marker, which was inadvertently omitted from the original proposal. It was intended to include it, but as a result of a breakdown in communication the proposal (N2610R) was submitted to the committee without it. As one of the authors of the proposal, I now propose that this omission should be rectified.

The glagolitic suspension marker is a combining diacritical mark which was used in square glagolitic manuscripts to indicate an abbreviation in which the first letter or letters only of a word are written. Its use is thus similar to that of the point or colon in English (e.g. T.C.D. or Trin: Coll: for Trinity College Dublin). It should be stressed that this is clearly distinct from the use of the titlo in glagolitic or old cyrillic, which indicates a contraction (i.e. a letter or letters omitted from the *middle* of a word). It has no equivalent in old cyrillic. The glagolitic scribes also consistently distinguish it in form from the titlo: the two are not interchangeable either in form or function.

No such mark is at present encoded in Unicode.

On the basis of the above I suggest that the suspension maker is an essential element in the repertory of glagolitic characters and ought to be included in the UCS. This was also the opinion of the specialists who responded to the consultation exercise which we carried out while writing the proposal. I hope it will therefore be possible to include the suspension mark at this stage in the process.

Yours faithfully,

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Professor of Slavonic Studies

To: The Unicode Consortium

From: Ralph Cleminson, ralph.cleminson@port.ac.uk (forwarded by D. Anderson)

Sent: Monday, January 19, 2004 2:15 AM

Subject: 2619R Corrections

I have also looked at the 2619R proposal on the web, and I find the following.

1. On p.4, the last sentence of the paragraph headed "Punctuation and Diacritics" ("A number of additional punctuation marks are also required") appears redundant after the revision of the beginning of this paragraph. If it is still to be included, however, there should be a full stop at the end of it.

2. On p.5, the last line, there is a misprint: the first letter of the glagolitic letter-name should be fita, not jotated great jus.

3. There is an inconsistency in the letter-name of the penultimate character. In the table on pp.5-6 it is "trokustasti a", and in the table on p.9 it is "trokustasti azu". The former is preferable.

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