# Proposal to Encode Additional Latin Orthographic Characters for Uighur Latin Alphabet

**A. Administrative**

1. **Title:** Proposal to Encode Additional Latin Orthographic Characters for Uighur Latin Alphabet

2. **Requester’s name:** Lorna A. Priest

3. **Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):** Individual contribution

4. **Submission date:** 28 January 2005 (updated 21 February 2005)

5. **Requester’s reference (if applicable):** L2/05-029

6. **Choose one of the following:**
   - This is a complete proposal: Yes
     - More information will be provided later: No

**B. Technical – General**

1. **Number of characters in proposal:** 6

2. **Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):**
   - A-Contemporary
   - B.1-Specialized (small collection)
   - B.2-Specialized (large collection)
   - C-Major extinct
   - D-Attested extinct
   - E-Minor extinct
   - F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic
   - G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols

3. **Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3) (see Annex K in P&P document):** 1

4. **Is a rationale provided for the choice?** No

5. **Is a repertoire including character names provided?** Yes
   - Are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document? Yes
   - Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? Yes

6. **Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?** SIL International
   - If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

7. **References:**
   - Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? Yes
   - Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? Yes

8. **Special encoding issues:**
   - Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)? Yes, suggested character properties are included, as are lower case representations (see section D)

9. **Additional Information:**
   - Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UCD.html and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

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C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?  
   No
   If YES explain ____________________________________________________________

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, 
   user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?  
   Yes
   If YES, with whom? linguists
   If YES, available relevant documents: Email correspondence. See also References.

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: 
   size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?  
   Yes
   Reference: See comments in Section E

4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) 
   Reference: Orthographic characters are used in general literature.
   Common

5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?  
   No
   If YES, where? Reference: 

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely 
   in the BMP?  
   Preferably
   If YES, is a rationale provided?  
   If YES, reference: If possible, should be kept with other related blocks in the BMP.

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?  
   Yes

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing 
   character or character sequence?  
   No
   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?  
   If YES, reference: 

9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either 
   existing characters or other proposed characters?  
   No
   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?  
   If YES, reference: 

10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) 
    to an existing character?  
    No
    If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?  
    If YES, reference: 

11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?  
    No
    If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?  
    If YES, reference:
    Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) 
    provided?  
    If YES, reference:  

12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as 
    control function or similar semantics?  
    No
    If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)  

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?  
    No
    If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?  
    If YES, reference: 

D. Proposed Characters

A code chart and list of character names are shown on a new page.
### D.1. Proposed Characters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2C65</td>
<td>LATIN CAPITAL LETTER H WITH DESCENDER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C66</td>
<td>LATIN SMALL LETTER H WITH DESCENDER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C67</td>
<td>LATIN CAPITAL LETTER K WITH DESCENDER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C68</td>
<td>LATIN SMALL LETTER K WITH DESCENDER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C69</td>
<td>LATIN CAPITAL LETTER Z WITH DESCENDER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C6A</td>
<td>LATIN SMALL LETTER Z WITH DESCENDER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### D.1. Character Names

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<tr>
<td>• lowercase is 2C66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C66</td>
<td>LATIN SMALL LETTER H WITH DESCENDER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• uppercase and titlecase is 2C65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C67</td>
<td>LATIN CAPITAL LETTER K WITH DESCENDER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• lowercase is 2C68</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
D.3. Unicode Character Properties

2C66, 2C68, and 2C6A should have a general category of Li. Other properties for these characters should match those of similar characters, such as U+0061 LATIN SMALL LETTER A.

Other characters should have a general category of Lu. Other properties for these remaining characters should match those of similar characters, such as U+0041 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER A.

E. Other Information

E.1 Latin Extended

LATIN LETTER H WITH DESCENDER, LATIN LETTER K WITH DESCENDER and LATIN LETTER Z WITH DESCENDER have been in use since at least 1966 and in active use at least until 1984. For all of these, most of the readers are still alive. They are probably in their 40s, 50s and 60s in terms of age.

The Uighur Latin Alphabet (see Figure 1) was adopted during the time of the cultural revolution, after the rift between China and the Soviet Union took place in 1961. The script seems to have been a part of language reform in China, which also attempted at one point to replace Chinese characters with the Latin “hanyu pinyin.”

Officially, the Latin script was replaced by a modified Arabic script due to pressure from Uighur cultural leaders. There was the perception on the part of Uighurs that the Latin script was making it possible for the Chinese to introduce a large number of Chinese loanwords into the Uighur written language. Arabic script was reintroduced to stem the cultural tide, and renew the Uighurs’ and other Turkic peoples ties with Islam. However, since the script was introduced in the early to mid sixties (1961 - 1966) to the time it was phased out between 1984-1986, over twenty years had passed, and millions of people had been educated in Latin script, but not Arabic. The result is that there are millions of people who were literate, but now are illiterate, and disenfranchised from their linguistic and cultural heritage. The people in their 60s were educated in the old Arabic script, so the segment of the population who are illiterate in their language are in their 40s and 50s.

LATIN SMALL LETTER H WITH DESCENDER and LATIN CAPITAL LETTER H WITH DESCENDER is used by Uighur (see Figure 2 and 5-7). Phonetically, in Uighur, LATIN LETTER H WITH DESCENDER represents /h/.

LATIN SMALL LETTER K WITH DESCENDER and LATIN CAPITAL LETTER K WITH DESCENDER were used orthographically by Uighur (see Figure 2 and 5-7), Kazakh, Kirghiz, and Daur. However, note
that the Chinese-Qazaq dictionary was reprinted in 2000 (see Figures 3 & 4). Phonetically, in Uighur and Qazaq LATIN LETTER K WITH DESCENDER represents /q/ (uvular stop). LATIN LETTER K WITH DESCENDER is very common. In Qazaq, among consonants, it is the second most frequently occurring letter next to Jj.

LATIN SMALL LETTER Z WITH DESCENDER and LATIN CAPITAL LETTER Z WITH DESCENDER were used orthographically by Uighur (see Figure 2 and 5) and Daur. Phonetically, LATIN LETTER Z WITH DESCENDER represents /ʒ/. It is used for Russian loanwords, especially having to do with industrial/technical vocabulary and is infrequent in usage. Jj is often substituted for LATIN LETTER Z WITH DESCENDER.

![Figure 2. LATIN LETTER H, K and Z WITH DESCENDER (Ma Junmin, 1982, p.7). [Uighur-Chinese Dictionary]](image1)

![Figure 3. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER K WITH DESCENDER and LATIN SMALL LETTER K WITH DESCENDER (Nayman, 1979, 2000, p.4)](image2)

![Figure 4. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER K WITH DESCENDER and LATIN SMALL LETTER K WITH DESCENDER (Nayman, 1979, 2000, introductory page)](image3)
Due to the poor quality graphic, red indicates letters with descenders, blue indicates letters without descenders.
LATIN SMALL LETTER H WITH DESCENDER and LATIN CAPITAL LETTER H WITH DESCENDER are also orthographically used for Tat (see Figure 8). They were used in the Judeo-Tat orthography in the 1920-30s; other orthographies have since been introduced that do not use this character, but the earlier orthography is still encountered.

Figure 8. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER H WITH DESCENDER and LATIN SMALL LETTER H WITH DESCENDER (Agarunov, 1997, p. 90) [Tat]

F. References


