

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set  
International Organization for Standardization  
Organisation internationale de normalisation  
Международная организация по стандартизации

**Doc Type: Working Group Document**

**Title: Preliminary proposal to encode the Old North Arabian script in the SMP of the UCS**

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**Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC**

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**1. Introduction.** The South Semitic script family split from the original consonantal alphabet in the second millennium, and was used exclusively in Arabia and its immediate environs between at least the tenth century BCE and the sixth century CE. There were two branches: the Old North Arabian (Semiticists now tend to use the term Ancient North Arabian or ANA) and the Old South Arabian (also called Ancient South Arabian or ASA), and from the latter the abugida used for Ge'ez and other languages of Ethiopia was derived. First the Old North Arabian, and then the Old South Arabian scripts disappeared in the first half millennium CE, and with the coming of Islam they were replaced by the Arabic script, which was derived from Aramaic via Nabataean.

The South Semitic scripts of Arabia are known only from inscriptions and all represent “dead” languages or dialects. So we cannot know the exact sounds represented by the letters. However, by comparing the etymology of the words in these scripts with related words in other Semitic languages (particularly Arabic) one can work out what is called the “etymological phoneme” expressed by each letter (regardless of how this was actually realized in speech). The etymological phonemic repertoire appears to be the same as that of Classical Arabic, with 28 consonants in Old North Arabian and 29 in Old South Arabian.

Old North Arabian is the collective term for a group of scripts (and the dialects they express) which were used in the western two-thirds of Arabia from Syria to the borders of Yemen. Three were used in oases and form a subgroup “Oasis North Arabian”, while the others were used by nomads, and are known as “Desert North Arabian” (Macdonald 2009 I: 74–96). On the nomenclature used here see Macdonald 2009 III: 32–36. The earliest datable texts (Taymanitic and Thamudic B) are from the mid-sixth century BCE and the Old North Arabian scripts are thought to have fallen out of use after the fourth century CE since they reveal no trace of Christianity. Dadanitic (formerly “Dedanite” and “Lihyanite”) was used in the oasis of Dadan/Dedān (modern al-‘Ulā in northwest Saudi Arabia). There are many formal inscriptions (often carved in relief) on stelae and rock-faces, and hundreds of graffiti. All formal inscriptions and most graffiti run horizontally right-to-left with words separated by a vertical line in the inscriptions. No everyday texts on perishable materials have yet been found, but their existence may be implied by the presence of cursive-style letter shapes which are mixed with monumental-style ones in many public inscriptions. These different forms were once thought to have chronological significance (Caskel 1954: 21–37) but their presence in the same inscriptions shows this is not so (Macdonald *forthcoming a*). There are also many Minaic inscriptions at Dedān and this is the only known occasion on which settled users of an Old South Arabian and an Old North Arabian script lived in close proximity.

**2. Processing.** Old North Arabian is an alphabetic script consisting only of consonants; vowels are not indicated in the script, though some Dadanitic texts do make limited use of *matres lectionis*. The script has been encoded with right-to-left directionality, which is typical for Dadanitic. (Taymanitic and Thamudic B can also be written from left-to-right as well as right-to-left and boustrophedon. Thamudic C and D are usually written vertically downwards. Safaitic and Hismaic can be written in any conceivable direction including horizontally, vertically (up or down), boustrophedon, coils, zig-zags, etc.) Glyphs may be mirrored in lines when they have left-to-right directionality, though in Safaitic and Hismaic inscriptions this is not always the case; the choice must be a matter for the font for such palaeographic implementations.

**3. Ordering.** Traditional sorting orders are poorly attested. One abecedary based on “Northwest Semitic” order is known, as is one based on “South Semitic” ordering, similar to that used in Old South Arabian. A number of other “abecedaries” are known which sort the letters by shape; it is assumed that these may be mnemonic systems used to learn the alphabet, which seems to have been passed from person to person rather than imparted via formal schooling.

**3.1. Order in the code chart.** Because Old North Arabian letters are related to those of Old South Arabian, the order of the characters in the code chart follows the latter. Note that the letter 𐩛 is found only in the Taymanitic branch of Old North Arabian. In the table below, transliteration is given, followed by the Old North Arabian and then the Old South Arabian and Ethiopic:

	h	l	ḥ	m	q	w	s <sup>2</sup>	r	b	t	s <sup>1</sup>	k	n	ḥ	ṣ	s <sup>3</sup>	f	'	‘	ḍ	g	d	ḡ	ṭ	z	ḍ	y	ṭ	z		
NARB	𐩇	𐩈	𐩉	𐩊	𐩋	𐩌	𐩍	𐩎	𐩏	𐩐	𐩑	𐩒	𐩓	𐩔	𐩕	𐩖	𐩗	𐩘	𐩙	𐩚	𐩛	𐩜	𐩝	𐩞	𐩟	𐩠	𐩡	𐩢	𐩣	𐩤	𐩥
SARB	𐩦	𐩧	𐩨	𐩩	𐩪	𐩫	𐩬	𐩭	𐩮	𐩯	𐩰	𐩱	𐩲	𐩳	𐩴	𐩵	𐩶	𐩷	𐩸	𐩹	𐩺	𐩻	𐩼	𐩽	𐩾	𐩿	𐪀	𐪁	𐪂	𐪃	𐪄
ETHI	ሀ	ለ	ሐ	መ	ቀ	ወ	ሠ	ረ	ቤ	ተ	ሰ	ከ	ነ	ኅ	ጸ	—	ፈ	አ	ዐ	ፀ	ገ	ደ	—	ጠ	ዘ	—	የ	—	—		

**3.2. Order for sorting.** Modern scholars specializing in Old North Arabian prefer an alphabetical order based on the Arabic order; some other Semiticists prefer the Northwest Semitic order. We recommend that the Unicode Collation Algorithm and ISO/IEC 14651 default to the former, but we give both here:

UCA	'	b	t	ṭ	g	ḥ	ḥ	d	ḍ	r	z	s <sup>1</sup>	s <sup>2</sup>	s <sup>3</sup>	ṣ	ḍ	ṭ	z	'	ḡ	f	q	k	l	m	n	h	w	y	
	𐩙	𐩏	𐩐	𐩑	𐩒	𐩓	𐩔	𐩕	𐩖	𐩗	𐩘	𐩙	𐩚	𐩛	𐩜	𐩝	𐩞	𐩟	𐩠	𐩡	𐩢	𐩣	𐩤	𐩥	𐩦	𐩧	𐩨	𐩩	𐩪	𐩫
	'	b	g	d	ḍ	h	w	z	ḥ	ḥ	ṭ	z	y	k	l	m	n	s <sup>1</sup>	'	ḡ	f	ṣ	ḍ	q	r	s <sup>2</sup>	s <sup>3</sup>	t	ṭ	
	𐩙	𐩏	𐩐	𐩑	𐩒	𐩓	𐩔	𐩕	𐩖	𐩗	𐩘	𐩙	𐩚	𐩛	𐩜	𐩝	𐩞	𐩟	𐩠	𐩡	𐩢	𐩣	𐩤	𐩥	𐩦	𐩧	𐩨	𐩩	𐩪	𐩫

**4. Character names.** Although “Ancient North Arabian” has become quite common among Semiticists for this script, the term “Old North Arabian” is still current amongst students of writing systems. Since the UCS tends to use OLD in character names, the script has been called OLD NORTH ARABIAN here, parallel to the already-encoded OLD SOUTH ARABIAN. Some sources involved with writing systems use the term “North Arabic” but this term is misleading; the Old North Arabian dialects and the Old South Arabian languages are not “Arabic” (which is a language not a language family).

Character names have been based on UCS names for Arabic letters, with some alterations to reflect pronunciation. The letter 𐩛 [g] is written GEEM rather than JEEM [dʒ], the letter 𐩛 (which may have been pronounced [ḡ]) is written ES-2, the letter 𐩙 (which may have been pronounced [ʃ]) is written ES-1, and the letter 𐩛 (which may have been pronounced [s]) is written ES-3. This reflects their typical

transliteration:  $\aleph s^2$ ,  $\aleph s^1$ , and  $\aleph s^3$ . This last character is found only in the Taymanitic variety of Old North Arabian.

**5. Numbers.** Three numbers are attested in Old North Arabian: 1 (I, a unit), 10 ( $\diamond$ , possibly derived from AYN for  $\aleph s^2$  ‘šr ‘10’), and 20 ( $\aleph$ , two 10s stacked). The numbers have right-to-left directionality. In the chart below, the third column is displayed in visual order. This table is a reconstruction; the only numbers actually attested are marked with an asterisk (1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 20, 30).

1*	I	1 ←	11	I $\diamond$	1 + 10 ←
2	II	1 + 1 ←	12	II $\diamond$	1 + 1 + 10 ←
3*	III	1 + 1 + 1 ←	13	III $\diamond$	1 + 1 + 1 + 10 ←
4	IIII	1 + 1 + 1 + 1 ←	14	IIII $\diamond$	1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 10 ←
5*	IIIII	1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 ←	15	IIIII $\diamond$	etc
6	IIIIII	1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 ←	16	IIIIII $\diamond$	
7	IIIIIII	etc	17	IIIIIII $\diamond$	
8	IIIIIII		18	IIIIIII $\diamond$	
9*	IIIIIIII		19	IIIIIIII $\diamond$	
10*	$\diamond$	10 ←	20*	$\aleph$	20 ←
30*	$\diamond\aleph$	10 + 20 ←	40	$\aleph\aleph$	20 + 20 ←
50	$\diamond\aleph\aleph$	10 + 20 + 20 ←	60	$\aleph\aleph\aleph$	20 + 20 + 20 ←
70	$\diamond\aleph\aleph\aleph$	10 + 20 + 20 + 20 ←	80	$\aleph\aleph\aleph\aleph$	20 + 20 + 20 + 20 ←
90	$\diamond\aleph\aleph\aleph\aleph$	10 + 20 + 20 + 20 + 20 ←			

**6. Punctuation.** In Dadanitic, a vertical word separator is usually used between words, but this is not widely used in the other dialects. In form it is typically identical to OLD NORTH ARABIAN NUMBER ONE. A script-specific word separator has not been proposed here, as the character can do double duty here as in Old South Arabian

**7. Glyph shapes.** The glyph shapes used above and in the chart below reflect the monumental Dadanitic glyphs. As can be seen in Figure 2, the other alphabets differ considerably, but it is envisaged that these differences are best handled by dialect-specific fonts. This is similar to the model used for Old Italic.

## 8. Unicode Character Properties

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10A80;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER HEH;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A81;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER LAM;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A82;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER HAH;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A83;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER MEEM;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A84;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER QAF;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A85;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER WAW;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A86;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER ES-2;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A87;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER REH;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A88;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER BEH;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A89;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER TEH;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A8A;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER ES-1;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A8B;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER KAF;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A8C;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER NOON;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A8D;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER KHAH;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A8E;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER SAD;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A8F;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER ES-3;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A90;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER FEH;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A91;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER ALEF;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A92;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER AIN;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A93;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER DAD;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A94;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER GEEM;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A95;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER DAL;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A96;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER GHAIN;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A97;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER TAH;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A98;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER ZAIN;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A99;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER THAL;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;
10A9A;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER YEH;Lo;0;R;;;;;N;;;;;

































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10A9B;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER THEH;Lo;0;R;;;N;;;;;  
10A9C;OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER ZAH;Lo;0;R;;;N;;;;;  
10A9D;OLD NORTH ARABIAN NUMBER ONE;No;0;R;;;1;N;;;;;  
10A9E;OLD NORTH ARABIAN NUMBER TEN;No;0;R;;;10;N;;;;;  
10A9F;OLD NORTH ARABIAN NUMBER TWENTY;No;0;R;;;20;N;;;;;

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## 10. Bibliography

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	10A8	10A9
0	 10A80	 10A90
1	 10A81	 10A91
2	 10A82	 10A92
3	 10A83	 10A93
4	 10A84	 10A94
5	 10A85	 10A95
6	 10A86	 10A96
7	 10A87	 10A97
8	 10A88	 10A98
9	 10A89	 10A99
A	 10A8A	 10A9A
B	 10A8B	 10A9B
C	 10A8C	 10A9C
D	 10A8D	 10A9D
E	 10A8E	 10A9E
F	 10A8F	 10A9F

## Letters

- 10A80 𐤇 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER HEH  
• transliterated as h  
→ 1200 𐩧 ethiopic syllable ha  
→ 10A60 𐩨 old south arabian letter ha
- 10A81 𐤈 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER LAM  
• transliterated as l  
→ 1208 𐩩 ethiopic syllable la  
→ 10A61 𐩪 old south arabian letter lamedh
- 10A82 𐤉 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER HAH  
• transliterated as 1E25 𐩫  
→ 1210 𐩬 ethiopic syllable hha  
→ 10A62 𐩭 old south arabian letter heth
- 10A83 𐤊 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER MEEM  
• transliterated as m  
→ 1218 𐩮 ethiopic syllable ma  
→ 10A63 𐩯 old south arabian letter mem
- 10A84 𐤋 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER QAF  
• transliterated as q  
→ 1240 𐩰 ethiopic syllable qa  
→ 10A64 𐩱 old south arabian letter qoph
- 10A85 𐤌 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER WAW  
• transliterated as w  
→ 12C8 𐩲 ethiopic syllable wa  
→ 10A65 𐩳 old south arabian letter waw
- 10A86 𐤍 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER ES-2  
• transliterated as s2  
→ 1220 𐩴 ethiopic syllable sza  
→ 10A66 𐩵 old south arabian letter shin
- 10A87 𐤎 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER REH  
• transliterated as r  
→ 1282 𐩶 ethiopic syllable ra  
→ 10A67 𐩷 old south arabian letter resh
- 10A88 𐤏 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER BEH  
• transliterated as b  
→ 1260 𐩸 ethiopic syllable ba  
→ 10A68 𐩹 old south arabian letter beth
- 10A89 𐤐 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER TEH  
• transliterated as t  
→ 1270 𐩺 ethiopic syllable ta  
→ 10A69 𐩻 old south arabian letter taw
- 10A8A 𐤑 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER ES-1  
• transliterated as s1  
→ 1230 𐩼 ethiopic syllable sa  
→ 10A6A 𐩽 old south arabian letter sat
- 10A8B 𐤒 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER KAF  
• transliterated as k  
→ 12A8 𐩾 ethiopic syllable ka  
→ 10A6B 𐩿 old south arabian letter kaph
- 10A8C 𐤓 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER NOON  
• transliterated as n  
→ 1290 𐩿 ethiopic syllable na  
→ 10A6C 𐯀 old south arabian letter nun
- 10A8D 𐤔 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER KHAH  
• transliterated as 1E2B 𐯁  
→ 1280 𐯂 ethiopic syllable xa  
→ 10A6D 𐯃 old south arabian letter kheth
- 10A8E 𐤕 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER SAD  
• transliterated as 1E63 𐯄  
→ 1338 𐯅 ethiopic syllable tsa  
→ 10A6E 𐯆 old south arabian letter sadhe
- 10A8F 𐤖 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER ES-3  
• transliterated as s3  
→ 10A6F 𐯇 old south arabian letter samekh
- 10A90 𐤗 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER FEH  
• transliterated as f  
→ 1348 𐯈 ethiopic syllable fa  
→ 10A70 𐯉 old south arabian letter
- 10A91 𐤘 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER ALEF  
• transliterated as 02BC  
→ 12A0 𐯊 ethiopic syllable glottal a  
→ 10A71 𐯋 old south arabian letter alef
- 10A92 𐤙 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER AIN  
• transliterated as 02BD  
→ 12D0 𐯌 ethiopic syllable pharyngeal a  
→ 10A72 𐯍 old south arabian letter ayn
- 10A93 𐤚 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER DAD  
• transliterated as 1E0D 𐯎  
→ 1340 𐯏 ethiopic syllable tza  
→ 10A73 𐯐 old south arabian letter dhadhe
- 10A94 𐤛 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER GEEM  
• transliterated as g  
→ 1308 𐯑 ethiopic syllable ga  
→ 10A74 𐯒 old south arabian letter gimel
- 10A95 𐤜 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER DAL  
• transliterated as d  
→ 12F0 𐯓 ethiopic syllable da  
→ 10A75 𐯔 old south arabian letter daleth
- 10A96 𐤝 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER GHAIN  
• transliterated as 0121 𐯕  
→ 10A76 𐯖 old south arabian letter ghayn
- 10A97 𐤞 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER TAH  
• transliterated as 1E6D 𐯗  
→ 1320 𐯘 ethiopic syllable tha  
→ 10A77 𐯙 old south arabian letter teth
- 10A98 𐤟 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER ZAIN  
• transliterated as z  
→ 12D8 𐯚 ethiopic syllable za  
→ 10A78 𐯛 old south arabian letter zayn
- 10A99 𐤠 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER THAL  
• transliterated as 1E0F 𐯜  
→ 10A79 𐯝 old south arabian letter dhalet
- 10A9A 𐤡 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER YEH  
• transliterated as y  
→ 12E8 𐯞 ethiopic syllable ya  
→ 10A7A 𐯟 old south arabian letter yodh
- 10A9B 𐤢 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER THEH  
• transliterated as 1E6F 𐯟  
→ 10A7B 𐯠 old south arabian letter thaw
- 10A9C 𐤣 OLD NORTH ARABIAN LETTER ZAH  
• transliterated as 1E93 𐯡  
→ 10A7C 𐯢 old south arabian letter theth

## Numbers

- 10A9D 𐤤 OLD NORTH ARABIAN NUMBER ONE  
10A9E 𐤥 OLD NORTH ARABIAN NUMBER TEN  
10A9F 𐤦 OLD NORTH ARABIAN NUMBER TWENTY

Figures

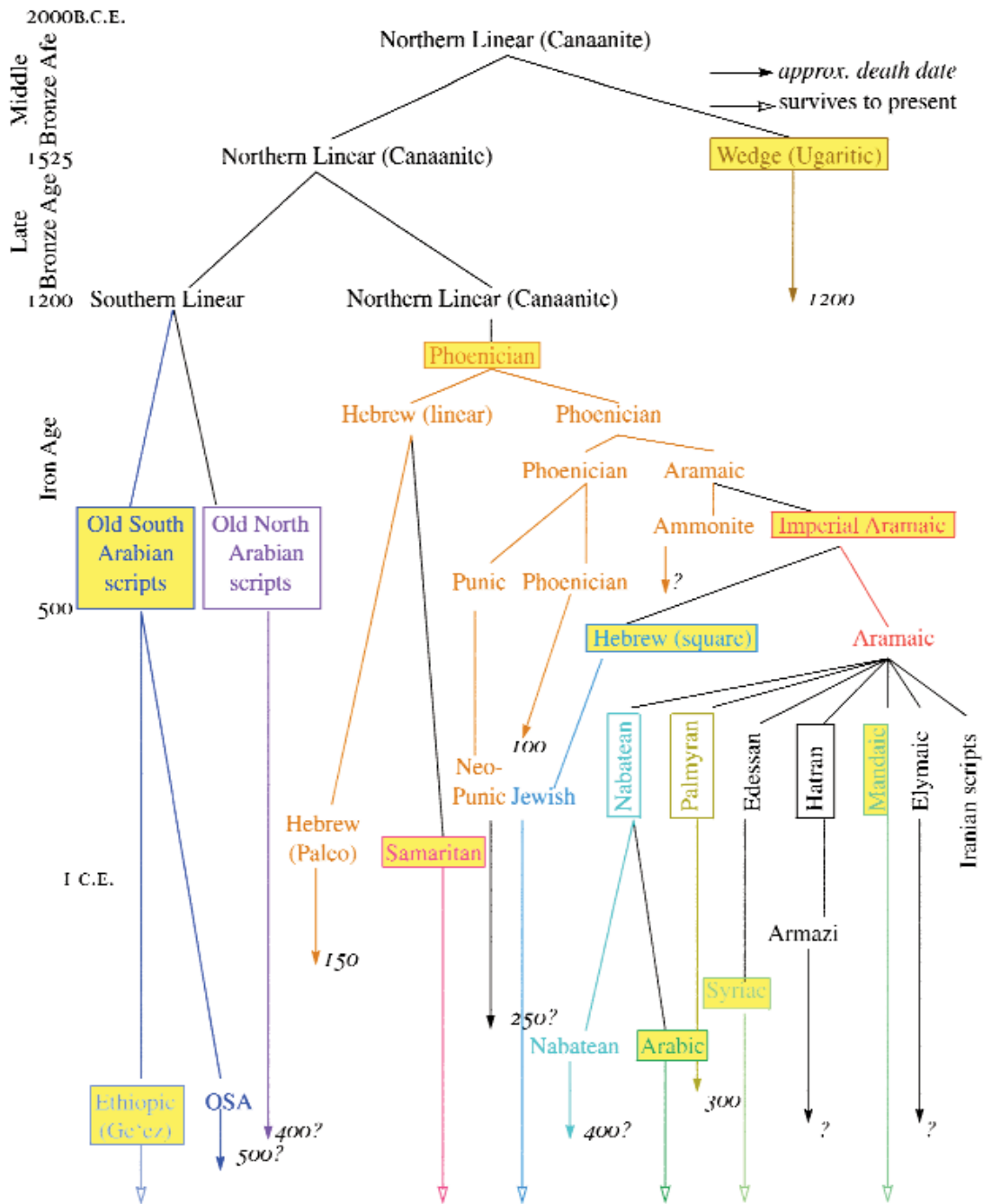


FIGURE 4. Family tree of ancient Semitic scripts

**Figure 1.** Family tree of ancient Semitic scripts, from O'Connor 1996, to which an "Iranian scripts" node has been added and with edits to the relationship between Old North Arabian and Old South Arabian. Boxes have been drawn around nodes which have been or are expected to be encoded. Colour indicates familial unifications.

Transliteration	Dadanitic	Taymanitic	Dumaitic	Thamudic B	Thamudic C	Thamudic D	Hismaic	Safaitic
ʾ	𐩦𐩧	𐩦	𐩦	𐩦𐩧	𐩦𐩧	𐩦	𐩦𐩧	𐩦𐩧
ʿ	𐩨𐩩	𐩨	𐩨𐩩	𐩨	𐩨𐩩	𐩨	𐩨	𐩨
b	𐩪𐩫	𐩪	𐩪	𐩪	𐩪	𐩪	𐩪	𐩪
d	𐩬𐩭	𐩬	𐩬	𐩬	𐩬	𐩬	𐩬	𐩬
ḏ	𐩮	𐩮	𐩮	𐩮	𐩮	𐩮	𐩮	𐩮
d	𐩰𐩱		𐩰	𐩰𐩱	𐩰	𐩰	𐩰	𐩰
f	𐩲𐩳	𐩲		𐩲	𐩲	𐩲	𐩲	𐩲
g	𐩴𐩵	𐩴		𐩴	𐩴	𐩴	𐩴	𐩴
ḡ	𐩷𐩸	𐩷		𐩷	𐩷	𐩷	𐩷	𐩷
h	𐩹𐩺	𐩹	𐩹	𐩹	𐩹	𐩹	𐩹	𐩹
ḥ	𐩻𐩼	𐩻		𐩻	𐩻	𐩻	𐩻	𐩻
ḥ	𐩽𐩾	𐩽		𐩽	𐩽	𐩽	𐩽	𐩽
k	𐩿𐺀	𐩿	𐩿	𐩿	𐩿	𐩿	𐩿	𐩿
l	𐺁𐺂	𐺁	𐺁	𐺁	𐺁	𐺁	𐺁	𐺁
m	𐺃𐺄	𐺃	𐺃	𐺃	𐺃	𐺃	𐺃	𐺃
n	𐺅	𐺅	𐺅	𐺅	𐺅	𐺅	𐺅	𐺅
q	𐺆	𐺆		𐺆	𐺆	𐺆	𐺆	𐺆
r	𐺇𐺈	𐺇	𐺇	𐺇	𐺇	𐺇	𐺇	𐺇
s <sup>1</sup>	𐺉𐺊	𐺉	𐺉	𐺉	𐺉	𐺉	𐺉	𐺉
s <sup>2</sup>	𐺋	𐺋		𐺋	𐺋	𐺋	𐺋	𐺋
s <sup>3</sup>		𐺌						
ṣ	𐺍𐺎	𐺍	𐺍	𐺍	𐺍	𐺍	𐺍	𐺍
t	𐺏𐺐	𐺏	𐺏	𐺏	𐺏	𐺏	𐺏	𐺏
ṭ	𐺑	𐺑		𐺑		𐺑	𐺑	𐺑
ṭ	𐺒	𐺒		𐺒		𐺒	𐺒	𐺒
w	𐺓	𐺓	𐺓	𐺓	𐺓	𐺓	𐺓	𐺓
y	𐺔	𐺔	𐺔	𐺔	𐺔	𐺔	𐺔	𐺔
z	𐺕	𐺕	𐺕	𐺕	𐺕	𐺕	𐺕	𐺕
z	𐺖	𐺖					𐺖	𐺖

Figure 2. Table of Old North Arabian alphabets.





**Figure 3.** Sample of a Dadanic inscription.



**Figure 4.** Sample of a Dadanic inscription.



**Figure 5.** Old North Arabian inscriptions.



**Figure 6.** Dadanitic monumental inscription with the word separator shown as a broken bar !.



**Figure 7.** Sample of a Taymanitic inscription.



**Figure 8.** Sample of a Hismaic inscription.

## A. Administrative

1. Title

**Proposal to encode the Old North Arabian script in the SMP of the UCS.**

2. Requester's name

**Michael Everson and M. C. A. Macdonald.**

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

**Individual contribution.**

4. Submission date

**2010-03-30**

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

6. Choose one of the following:

6a. This is a complete proposal

**No.**

6b. More information will be provided later

**Yes.**

## B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

**Yes.**

1b. Proposed name of script

**Old North Arabian.**

1c. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

**No.**

1d. Name of the existing block

2. Number of characters in proposal

**32.**

3. Proposed category (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)

**Category E.**

4a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

**Yes.**

4b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?

**Yes.**

4c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

**Yes.**

5a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

**Michael Everson.**

5b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

**Michael Everson, Fontographer.**

6a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

**Yes.**

6b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

**Yes.**

7. 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.**

8. 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 Unicode Character Database <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

**See above.**

## C. Technical – Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.

**No.**

2a. 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.**

2b. If YES, with whom?

**Michael C. A. Macdonald.**

2c. If YES, available relevant documents

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

**Semiticists and other scholars.**

4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

**Rare.**

4b. Reference

5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

**Yes.**

5b. If YES, where?

**Scholarly publications.**

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

**No.**

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

6c. If YES, reference

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

**No.**

8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

**No.**

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

**No.**

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

**Yes.**

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

**Yes.**

10c. If YES, reference

**Old North Arabian is related to Old South Arabian, and there is a similarity between some of their glyphs.**

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?

**No.**

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

11c. If YES, reference

11d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

**No.**

11e. If YES, reference

12a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

**No.**

12b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

**No.**

13b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?