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Introduction  
This document is based on an expert backed process involving encoding and computing specialists, Rovas (rö-v-a-sh) researchers and representatives of the user community. Please, send any response to this proposal to Tamás Rumi (email: rovasinfo@gmail.com), Editor-in-Chief, Rovas Info News Portal or László Sípos (email: rovasfoundation@gmail.com), President of the Rovas Foundation.  
The document N4367 (“Revised proposal for encoding the Rovas in the UCS”, 2012-10-14, http://std.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n4367.pdf) submitted recently by researchers and user base representatives contains several arguments against the incorrect term “Old Hungarian”, and arguments for the proper term “Rovas”. In the recent contribution, further arguments against the incorrect terms “Old Hungarian” and “Hungarian Runic” are included with a special emphasis on the second one. Note that either the “Old Hungarian” or the “Hungarian Runic”, or any combinations of these are unacceptable to name the Rovas script.  

1. Arguments against the term “Hungarian Runic”  
The earlier documents N3664 and N3697, which are unsupported by the clear majority of the Rovas experts, use the expression “Hungarian Runic” to name the Rovas script. Similarly, in the ISO 15924 Registry, the expression “Hungarian Runic” appeared in October 16, 2012.  
According to the linguist Assoc. Prof. Erzsébet Zelliger, the term “Hungarian Runic” is equally incorrect as the other term “Old Hungarian”. Despite of the similar writing technologies (carving into stone, wood, etc.) of the Rovas and the Runic, these scripts cannot be considered as relatives. The

The script named *Runic* (Unicode range: 16A0-16FF) has several variants as orthographies: *Elder Futhark*, *Gothic Runes*, *Anglo-Saxon futhorc* (*Rök runes* and *Hälsinge runes*), and *Scandinavian runes* (*Markomannic runes*, *Medieval runes*, and *Dalecarlian runes*). All of them are close relative to each other. A. Stötzer proved the Germanic root of *run-* in Unicode mailing list on Friday November 7 2008: “… though we have the runic range named “Runic” & not “Old Germanic” we have the old turkish ‘Runes’ named “Old Turkic” because *run-* is a germanic root & as such inappropriate to the turkish script. …” (Retrieved in 2010 from: [http://unicode.org/mail-arch/unicode-ml/y2008/m11/0107.html](http://unicode.org/mail-arch/unicode-ml/y2008/m11/0107.html)).

Since the *Rovas* script with its various orthographies (e.g. Szekely-Hungarian Rovas, Carpathian Basin Rovas) is different from the Runic script, the Hungarian-origin term “Rovas” has to be used for naming it, and not the German-origin rune or runic.

It is noteworthy that scholars have examined the indirect relation of the Rovas script to the *Old Turkic* script as well (Sebestyén, 1909: 288; Németh, 1917-1920: 31-44; Ligeti, 1925: 50-52; Nagy, 1985: 269-276; Róna-Tas, 1994; Róna-Tas, 1996: 581; Sándor, 1996: 83-93; Hosszú 2012: Fig. 3.1-1). They resulted that the Old Turkic script is not an ancestor of the Rovas script; however, they are distance relatives.

### 2. Terminological conflict

In the paleography, the term “Old Hungarian” means the medieval version of the Hungarian orthography of the Latin script ([http://wiki.rovas.info/index.php/Old_Hungarian_script](http://wiki.rovas.info/index.php/Old_Hungarian_script)). In the linguistics, the “Old Hungarian” denotes the medieval age of the Hungarian language. These two meanings are coherent. Oppositely, the use of the term “Old Hungarian” to identify the Rovas script leads to serious terminological conflict. *Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7* demonstrate the correct use of the term “Old Hungarian” as the medieval Hungarian Latin orthography in different contexts.

Moreover, *Fig. 8* presents the incorrect use of the term “Old Hungarian script” in the English Wikipedia. In this context, the medieval Hungarian Latin orthography cannot be specified. Oppositely, in the Rovaspedia, there is no terminological conflict, see *Fig. 9*. 


A. MOLNÁR FERENC

A magyar hosszúmaássalhangzó-rendszer kialakulásáról és néhány finnegor eredetű szavunk hangtani fejlődéséről

The system of long consonants in present-day Hungarian is not of Finno-Ugric origin. It emerged in the independent life of Hungarian. Relying mainly on Old Hungarian texts and taking into account part of the relevant results found in the literature, the author of the present study points out that the long consonant system may have been formed through gemination in the imperative at first: ad + /j + on > ogyon > agyon (Sg3.adj. adj.; cf. ad ‘give’); vet + /- en > *vesen > vessen’ (Sg3; cf. vet ‘throw’) etc. From the intervocalic position, the long consonant spread to final position after a vowel: ad + /j + .agy > aggy (Sg2 adj.); vet + /- ves > vess (Sg2 vess’). A systematic investigation of Old Hungarian texts also shows that the long consonants (l, rr) in some Hungarian words of Finno-Ugric origin (e.g. all ‘stand’, mell ‘breat’, narr ‘saw’ are not the results of an (*lk >) *ly > ll or (*rk >) *1y > rr assimilation — as is generally held in Finno-Ugric linguistics — but those of a gemination /l > ll, r > rr. So it was the γ that was first dropped.

Figure 1: The use of the term “Old Hungarian” for medieval Hungarian Latin-based orthography (Molnár, A. Ferenc, 2003.)

Figure 2: Old Hungarian poem from a codex in the English Wikipedia, written with Old Hungarian Latin-based orthography (Retrieved in July 4, 2011 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Hungarian_language)
**Figure 3:** Using the term “Old Hungarian text” in a conference presentation: Csaba Oravecz, Bálint Sass, Eszter Simon: “Semi-automatic Normalization of Old Hungarian Codices”; the authors are from the Research Institute for Linguistics, Budapest (Retrieved in July 4, 2011 from [http://ilk.uvt.nl/LaTeCH2010/LPF/4_slides.pdf](http://ilk.uvt.nl/LaTeCH2010/LPF/4_slides.pdf))

**Figure 4:** Using the term “Old Hungarian text” in the summary of a study in the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest (Dániel Szmerka: The land of priest John – notes on the sources of Saint Thomas apostle's legend, Retrieved in July 4, 2011 from [http://sermones.elte.hu/?az=356tan_plaus_szdaniel](http://sermones.elte.hu/?az=356tan_plaus_szdaniel))

**Figure 5:** Wikipedia article: the name “Rohonczi” is written with Old Hungarian orthography (Retrieved in July 4, 2011 from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rohonc_Codex](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rohonc_Codex))
spect reference is made to the Transylvanian genealogist Dénés Szabó’s comment: “The family name Konkoly Thége has no relation to the plant it originates from the town Konkoly, which was located on the land of Matyas in Comor County before the village was devastated by Turkish raids the name should be pronounced as “konkoly” rather than as “konkolo”.

Another rule of orthography issued in 1930 prescribed the use of “ő” instead of “ó” for Hungarian place names. According to these orthographic rules, the “ő” should be pronounced as “ó” in the old Hungarian orthography for personal names, one u of “ő” when the previous consonant was “t”, “n”, or “t” + 4. In these cases the “ő” should be pronounced “ő”.

be noted by those readers who do not speak Hungarian that there is a further element of distinction in the use of “ő”/“ó” instead of “ő”. The use of place names means “from” as well. However, in most cases this does not indicate nobility. However, when “ő” or “ó” is added to a place name to hen, almost without exception, we are talking about a noble family.

Figure 6: Web page with the use of the term “Old Hungarian orthography” (Retrieved in July 4, 2011 from http://konkoly-thege.com/enhist.html)

Village with 2,500 inhabitants 15 km northwest of Miskolc on the southern part of the Cserehát range of hills. Calvinist church, originally a Benedictine abbey where the Funeral sermon, the first old Hungarian text of some length was written (around 1200). The text was found in the Pray Codex. On the northern side of the church built from 1175 to 1180 in Romanesque style the remains of the monastery, while on the southern side the foundations of a round church with a 12 m diameter and in the church traces of a settlement from the so called Bükk culture of about 3000-2800 B.C. can be seen. Roman Catholic church of neoclassic style (1838-39).

Figure 7: Mention an Old Hungarian text in a web page (Retrieved in July 4, 2011 from http://www.1hungary.com/info/boldva/)

Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia

Old Hungarian

Old Hungarian may refer to:
- Old Hungarian language
- Old Hungarian script

This disambiguation page lists articles associated with the same title.

If an internal link led you here, you may wish to change the link to point directly to the intended article.

Categories: Disambiguation pages

Figure 8: The confusion clearly appears on Wikipedia “disambiguation page”. The “Old Hungarian language” is linked to the correct article http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Hungarian_language#Old_Hungarian; however, the “Old Hungarian script” is linked to the page of Rovas script. Consequently, the medieval version of the Hungarian orthography of the Latin script cannot be specified in this context.
Figure 9: The correct use of the terms “Old Hungarian” and the “Rovas” in the Rovaspedia, the Rovas-related information base. Retrieved in October 21, 2012 from http://wiki.rovas.info

3. The international use of the term Rovas

Table 1 presents the variants of the word “Rovas” in different languages. The contribution N4120 (2011-07-05, http://std.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n4120.pdf) contains several examples for the international use of the word “Rovas” or its derivatives. In the following, some additional examples are added.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Version of the word Rovas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albanian</td>
<td>rabush, labush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgarian</td>
<td>равош, рабуш, ровуш, ръвош</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech</td>
<td>rabuše</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish</td>
<td>Rovás Skriften</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>Rovasschrift</td>
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<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>le rovache</td>
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<td>German</td>
<td>die Rovás-Schrift</td>
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<td>Polish</td>
<td>rowasz</td>
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<td>Romanian</td>
<td>răvaș, răbuș, răboj, răboș răbaș</td>
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<td>rováš, rováša</td>
</tr>
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<td>Ukrainian</td>
<td>роваш</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1: Examples of the international use of the word Rovas*

4. About the authors

The authors of this contribution are responsible for supporting the appropriate encoding of the Rovas script. Their affiliations and backgrounds are the following:

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5. Bibliography


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