

Comments on Proposal to Encode Siyaq Number Mark (L2/15-074R)

Shervin Afshar, 2 May 2016

Considering the following notes, it can be argued that a single character can not be assigned to identify a siyaq number mark:

- In existing siyaq manuscripts and financial documents, an elongated word or letter is used as the heading title of an individual distinct block of siyaq. This word can differ based on the nature of information presented in that unit; e.g. “کـ” (elongated Kaf abbreviated for “کمرک”, customs) seen in Fekete Table XXXI, “یکونـ” (“total”) seen in Fekete Table XXIII, etc.
- Sometimes the elongated word might be the first word of the description which follows right below. The siyaq numerical string appears right below the description.
- Each section can have sub-sections and sub-headers with the siyaq string right below the sub-header.
- The only source which mentions a uniquely defined siyaq number mark as an elongated Seen is Pihan.
- The images in Pihan are prototypes which seem to be created for presentation purpose only; e.g. they have the number written in siyaq as well as digits, a setting which is rarely observed in actual manuscripts and financial documents.
- According to majority of existing materials (specifically Fekete), siyaq numerical sequences can be visually grouped by any

elongation of words or letters.

- Few examples are reproduced here; in Figure 1 (which is taken from Figure 5 of L2/15–066R, p.19) the boxes and highlighted section in magenta are the section titles which show the presence of elongated letters; In the middle of the figure, the word “اموال” (with an elongated Lam; i.e. “اموالـ”) can be identified. In other parts of the folio other elongated titles like “المغربـ”, “الاهـواد”, etc. can be identified.

References

- Pihan, Antoine Paulin, *Exposé des signes de numération usités chez les peuples orientaux anciens et modernes*, 1860.
- Fekete, Lajos. *Die Siyāqat-Schrift in Der Türkischen Finanzverwaltung: Beitrag Zur Türkischen Paläographie*. Budapest: Akadémiai Kairo, 1955.

كوبية
ماريوت
ماريوت

ديب
اربع
بالمعاني

الموصوف
وغيره
احمدية
اربع

طراب
العراب
رؤى

الحماة
اربع

لعمال الاعمال المشابهة ولعمال الخاصة والاعمال الموقوفة وعمود

Title: "Properties"

المتحدة بعد الذكر
جوى من صمان واسنظ
رسوق مال الخاصة
ماريوت

اموال
الاهوار
المسند
اربع

واعمالها
الاهوار
المتشدد
اربع

الصباغ
الاهوار
المتشدد
اربع

الموقوف
الاهوار
المتشدد
اربع

الصباغ
الاهوار
المتشدد
اربع

الصباغ الموقوفة في سنة
ثلث وثلاث مائة
مالها

احمدية
الاهوار
المتشدد
اربع