

To: UTC
From: Debbie Anderson, Script Encoding Initiative, UC Berkeley
Subject: Brief Report from Cambridge meeting of Egyptologists and Update
Date: 25 July 2016

Participants: Ingelore Hafemann (Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae, Berlin), Marwan Kilani (University of Oxford), Simon Schweitzer (Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae, Berlin), Serge Rosmorduc (Ramses/JSesh/CNAM, Paris), Stéphane Polis (Ramses, University of Liège), Mark-Jan Nederhof (University of St. Andrews), Deborah Anderson (UC Berkeley), Robert Richmond, Heleen Wilbrink, So Miyagawa (University of Göttingen), Katja Diederichs (University of Bonn), Michael Everson, Michel Suignard, Richard Ishida, Nigel Strudwick (University of Cambridge), and Helen Strudwick (Fitzwilliam Museum)

A meeting of the International Association of Egyptologists' Informatique et Egyptologie group took place in Cambridge, England, from 11-12 July 2016, with Nigel Strudwick as moderator and official organizer. The facilities at the Fitzwilliam Museum were kindly arranged by Helen Strudwick.

The meeting afforded a good opportunity to meet others with an interest in the digital representation of Egyptian hieroglyphs, and a chance to present the current Unicode proposals and discuss various topics in detail (with most attention given to the control characters).

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Characters being proposed for inclusion in Unicode should have source documentation.
- When choosing between any glyphs that differ between Gardiner and Hieroglyphica, rely on Gardiner.
- Two arrow characters indicating direction are possible candidates for submission to Unicode (unless other arrows already encoded can be used).
- Of the three proposed control characters, the LIGATURE character was deemed to be under-specified. Any proposed control characters need to be fully documented.
- Attendees were encouraged to fully review the Hieratic proposal from Michael Everson, and the proposal should also be circulated to project members in Mainz who are working on Hieratic.
- Collaboration was highly encouraged, both in sharing data and in reviewing any Unicode proposals.
- Several attendees voiced the need to be able to search on those characters that make up a stack. They also want recursivity.
- Michel Suignard relayed that from his perspective the Unicode Technical Committee would not be receptive to canonical decomposition of complex hieroglyph forms.

Topics discussed also included the extended repertoire, the handling of monograms, and the number, nature, and syntax of control characters.

As a follow-up to the meeting, an email list to discuss topics relating to the encoding of Egyptian hieroglyphs in Unicode was started. Archives are accessible at:

http://everytype.com/pipermail/egyptian_everytype.com/