Small *Kana* Characters Proposed in the PDAM 1.2
Evaluating the results of a survey made by Japanese researchers

The Japan National Body
March 31, 2017

**Introduction**
About the proposed small *kana* characters, the Japan National Body voted in the negative at the voting of the PDAM 1.2, with the following comments and recommendation.

>[The] Japan NB disagrees to encode these 9 small Kana characters at this moment with the following reason:

As shown in the contribution that will be submitted by the Japanese expert shortly after, we found the evidence of usage for more small *kana* characters. And furthermore more small *kana* characters would be found through the further investigation.

We have no information about the selection criteria of these 9 small *kana* characters. Even the proposal to encode these small *kana* character is not found in SC2 and WG2 document registry.

The encoding mechanism should be considered depending on the whole repertoire of small *kana* characters. For example, it may be appropriate to encode small *kana* characters corresponding to all *kana* characters except the ones already encoded, or to encode some kind of modifier to be associated with any *kana* characters.

**Proposed change and recommendation:**
Delete 9 small *kana* characters on this PDAM. Recommend to discuss the issue of the small *kana* characters at the next WG2 meeting.

Results of a survey made by a group of Japanese researchers, as well as our evaluation of the results are reported in the following paragraphs. The survey was done in a short period of time, and it is not a complete, comprehensive survey.

**Small *kana* characters that have been found during the survey:**

**Hiragana:**

こ た な ん

**Katakana:**

キ コ セ チ ノ マ キ エ ヨ ャ ヌ

**Katakana (handwritten on maps)**

ク ト フ ボ ヌ マ ム ラ リ ル レ ロ ョ ャ ヌ

(Some characters existing in the *Katakana* Phonetic Extensions are included.)
Actual conditions of the use of small kana characters:
○ All small kana characters used to transcribe text in modern Japanese have already been encoded. Use of small kana characters has been stabilized, since an ordinance defining hiragana and katakana characters for use in educational organizations was promulgated in 1900.

○ Most examples of small kana use for printed matters were made during the Meiji, Taisho and pre-war Showa eras*.

○ Small kana characters were used to demonstrate and retain the originality of some literary books published in the Meiji and Taisho eras†.

○ Also, it is recognized that there were many cases where small kana characters were used to transliterate pronunciations of foreign words.

Understanding of the small kana character issue by Japanese experts:
○ The urgency of encoding additional small kana characters is not great.

○ During the short-term survey, it was possible to find multiple use cases of small kana characters not included in the current PDAM1.2. If we made a survey covering a wider range of printed matters, more use cases of such small kana characters would be found.

○ It is impossible to identify which kana characters have not been used as small kana, unless we examine a vast amount of books printed since the beginning of the Meiji‡ era. Therefore, it is practically impossible to identify small kana characters to be encoded.

○ It is more reasonable to use a different method, for example, using some modifier especially to switch any one kana character to a small kana glyph.

Examples of small kana characters used to represent obsolete pronunciations:


たことによる。また、キャ・キュ・キョのような拗音に加えて、古くはクッ・キュ・クエの発音があり、これを合拗音と言う。古文で「開白」に「くわんぱく」、「観音」に「くわんのん」とルビを振ってあることがあるが、これらは合拗音を表記したものである。

Examples of small kana characters used to transcribe foreign words:
See the attached document: 近代日本語雑誌の小書き仮名170124.pdf
See the attached document: SmallLettersOnGaihoku.pdf

Examples of small kana characters used for modern literary works:
Small kana character こ

Small kana character た

Small kana character チ
This does not represent any non-standard pronunciation, but is used as a transliterating mark.


In another Japanese Literature Series, no small kana characters are used at all.

Small kana character な

It is thought that this is to represent a dialect in Iwate in Tohoku (North East Japan).

Small kana character ノ

This does not represent any non-standard pronunciation, but is used as a transliterating mark.


In another Japanese Literature Series, no small kana characters are used at all.

Iwano, Homei. 「神秘的半獣主義」 (Shimpi-teki Hanjyu-shugi; Mysterious Therianthropism), Upper column in p. 351. 『明治文学全集71』 (Complete Works in the Meiji Era, published on March 10, 1965).

This does not represent any non-standard pronunciation, but is used as a transliterating mark.


This does not represent any non-standard pronunciations, but is used as a transliterating mark.


It is thought that this is to represent a dialect in Iwate in Tohoku (North East Japan).


This is representing a dialect in Nara.
All examples are from the ‘Gaihozu Digital Archive’ http://chiri.es.tohoku.ac.jp/~gaihozu/ which is published by Tohoku University.

1.
Printed in 1940 by the Former Japanese Army.

Small ‘ラ’ is used in ‘サブリー州’ as an upper administration name of the connecting map.
2.
Printed in 1940 by the Former Japanese Army.

Small ‘ヲ’ is used in the index name of map as ‘コヲーンケェン’.
Small ‘グ’ is very often used like ‘ノーグ’ which phonetically transcripts the Thai word ‘นอง’, or ‘nong’ if Romanized.

Small ‘ム’ and small ‘ワ’ are used in the administration name of the connecting map as ‘クムパワーピ区’. In this example, small ‘ム’ is not so obvious, but other example of small ‘ム’ is shown in the next page.
3.


Printed in 1940 by the Former Japanese Army.

Small ‘マ’ is used in the index name as ‘ピマーイ’.

Small ‘ム’ is used in the village name ‘コークサムローン村’.
Small ‘ヌ’ is used in the village name ‘ノーンヌタン村’.
4.


Printed in 1940 by the Former Japanese Army.

Small ‘ト’ is used in the city name ‘カンシント町’．Small ‘ト’ represents the sound ‘t’ as a final consonant, which is not used in the standard Japanese.
Small ‘ク’ is used in the mountain name as ‘パーサンク山’. Small ‘ク’ represents the sound ‘k’ as a final consonant, which is not used in the standard Japanese.
Small ‘ロ’ is often used in the Khmer village name as ‘サロック’.
Small ‘リ’ is used in the name of historic site ‘プアウィヒア’, which is UNESCO's world heritage ‘the Preah Vihear Temple’.

Small ‘レ’ is used in the village name ‘テレーンマー’.

Prepared by NAGATA Yoshikatsu, Osaka City University
16 Jan. 2017
近代日本語雑誌の小書き仮名

高田智和 (国立国語研究所)


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以下、8種の小書き片仮名の使用例を掲げる。

① 小書き片仮名ヰ
『明六雑誌』36号 (1875年) シヴ＝リゼーション

『国民之友』2号 (1887年) ウ＝ルヘルム

『太陽』第1巻第3号 (1895年) マル＝ネ
② 小書き片仮名ヱ
『明六雑誌』6号（1874年） ロルドウ＝レスリー

③ 小書き片仮名ヲ
『明六雑誌』7号（1874年） レフ＝ルム、ビル

④ 小書き片仮名キ
『国民之友』第13号（1887年） シュ＝スピードー

『太陽』第15巻第11号（1909年） ウ＝デル海

『太陽』第31巻第3号（1925年） サヴ＝イアルプス

『国民之友』11号（1887年） フ＝ルチナント

『太陽』第11号（1874年） ロルドウ＝レスリー
⑤ 小書き片仮名コ
『太陽』第 7 巻第 7 号（1901 年） リュシタニ＝ス

⑥ 小書き片仮名セ
『国民之友』第 25 号（1888 年） シ＝キスピール

⑦ 小書き片仮名マ
『国民之友』第 13 号（1887 年）

⑧ 小書き片仮名ン
『国民之友』第 17 号（1888 年） ファースト、プリ＝シブル