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Proposal to encode the Elymaic script in Unicode

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1 Introduction

This proposal is a revision and expansion of "Preliminary proposal to encode the Elymaic script in Unicode" (L2/17-055). It contains additional background details, an expansion of the character repertoire, notes on letters, and several new specimens.

The Elymaic script was identified by Michael Everson in 2001 in "Roadmapping early Semitic scripts" (N2311) as a suitable candidate for encoding in Unicode. It was allocated to the "Roadmap to the Supplementary Multilingual Plane" (v. 3.0) in the same year. Although no proposal to encode the script was submitted during the past sixteen years, preliminary research indicates there is current and active scholarly interest in the script and the associated history, culture, and language of Elymais.

2 Background

The proposed script was used in the ancient state of Elymais, located in the southwestern region of modern Iran at the head of the Persian Gulf (see figure 1). It flourished from the 2nd century BCE to the early 3rd century CE as a semi-independent polity that was intermittently under the control of the Parthian empire (247 BCE – 224 CE). The name 'Elymais' is a romanization of the Hellenic designation *Ἐλυμαίς* for the region known in Sumerian sources from the middle of the third millennium BCE as 𒌷 (NIM) *elam*; in Akkadian as *elamū* and *elammatu*; and in the indigenous ancient Elamite language as *ẖaltamti* or *ẖatamti* (Poebel 1931). Known in English as 'Elam', the region lies in the present-day Iranian province of Khuzestan, the name of which derives from 𐎿𐎢𐎺 *hūjiya*, the Old Persian name for the area.

There is no attested native name for the script. It is referred to as 'Elymaic' and 'Elymaean' in English scholarly literature. It appears that 'Elymaic' is the more widespread name for the script today, cf. Naveh (1997), Häberl (2006), Gzella (2008); and 'Elymaean' was used earlier, cf. Henning (1952), Bivar and Shaked (1964). The term 'Elymaic' is also used in general works on writing systems, cf. Healy (1990), O'Connor (1996). Recent articles in the *Encyclopædia Iranica* offer a distinction between the two terms: they refer to 'Elymaic' inscriptions (Humbach 2011), but 'Elymaean' people and coinage (Hansman 2011). Based upon the prevalence of 'Elymaic', it has been selected as the identifer for the script in Unicode.

Elymaic is a right-to-left, non-joining *abjad* derived from the Aramaic script used by the Achaemenid chancellery. Although there is no evidence that the Aramaic language was spoken in Elymais, the local administration developed a regional variety of the script for writing standard Achaemenid Aramaic (Gzella 2008: 127). The script is best attested on stone inscriptions produced by local ruling dynasties, from the 1st through 3rd centuries CE. Some important epigraphical records are:

- *Tang-e Sarvak* This "valley of the cypresses" in eastern Khuzestan is considered to be the most important archaeological site in Elymais. It is believed to be a sacred grove used for the coronation of Elymaean kings. The site contains four free-standing monuments, with rock reliefs consisting of thirteen panels (Haerinck 2005). The artefacts at the site are generally dated between the 1st century CE and the first quarter of the 3rd century. Six inscriptions are extant (see figures 7–13).

- *Tang-e Butan* There are five inscriptions on two large rock reliefs in the "valley of the idols" in the Shimbar valley in northeastern Khuzestan (see figures 14–18). The first relief depicts one individual and the second depicts twelve individuals (Bivar and Shaked 1964). The reliefs are dated between the 1st century BCE and the 3rd century CE.

- *Tang-e Chilau* A large triangular stone containing graffito written in carbon ink. Bivar and Shaked note that "Elymaean script of the first and second centuries A.D., similar to that of the Tang-i Butān was especially prominent" here and that "[s]everal examples seemed to mark a stage transitional in the development from chancery Aramaic to Elymaean, and may be of the first century B.C. or even earlier" (1964: 283). In addition to the Elymaic graffiti (figures 19–21), there are also ink texts in the Parthian and Pahlavi scripts.

- *Hong-e Kamalwand* A relief at Hong-e Kamalwand in Susiana, east of Elymais, has one inscription in a script that closely resembles Elymaic (figure 22. The inscription has been dated to 100 CE (Gzella 2008: 121).

The script is also attested on coinage. There are several types of numismatic records from Elymais, bearing inscriptions in Greek, Parthian, and Elymaic. Coins with Elymaic legends were minted during the Arsacid period. The inscription from a tetradrachm of Kamnaskires Orodes is shown in figure 23. The script on this coin differs from that used on small copper coins struck by Orodes II and Kamnaskires, shown in figures 24–25. It appears that two scripts were used for coinage in Elymais. That of the tetradrachms resembles those of the stone inscriptions, while that of the small coppers has letters similar to Parthian forms (compare the letters, respectively, of the '*grand module*' and '*petit module*' coins in figure 26).

Elymaic is related to other Aramaic-based scripts of southern Mesopotamia, mostly closely to Parthian and Mandaic, and also to Characenean (see Coxon 1970, Häberl 2005, Naveh 1997, Rezakhani 2012). A comparison of these scripts is shown in table 1. There is some debate regarding the relationship of Elymaic and Mandaic. Some scholars are of the opinion that Elymaic is the ancestor or sibling of Mandaic, while others state that it is a descendant of the latter.

3 Script details

3.1 Character names

Indigenous names for Elymaic letters are not attested. Therefore, for purposes of standardization, it is practical to follow the Unicode naming convention used for the 'Imperial Aramaic' block. These names differ slightly from traditional scholarly names for Aramaic letters. But, as the convention has been adopted for the Unicode encodings for Parthian and Pahlavi, it is followed for Elymaic.

In this document, names in italics refer to scholarly names for graphemes while names in small capitals refer to proposed Unicode characters, eg. 𐿠 is *aleph* and ELYMAIC LETTER ALEPH. For sake of brevity, the descriptor 'ELYMAIC' is dropped when referring to Elymaic characters, eg. ELYMAIC LETTER ALEPH is referred to as ALEPH. Characters of other scripts are designated by their full Unicode names. Latin transliteration of Elymaic letters follows the currrent scholarly convention.

3.2 Representative glyphs

The script of the stone inscriptions is most representative of an 'Elymaic' character. While there are differences in the shapes of some letters across the inscriptions, they may be considered stylistic or local variations. On the whole, the scripts on the inscriptions exhibit uniformity and convey the sense of a single writing system. With regard to the letterforms in the Tang-e Sarvak inscriptions, Henning notes: "The writing is simply the same as that found on the coins which the kings of Elymais issued in Parthian times" and may be "allocated to the first and second centuries" CE (1952: 163). With regard to the script of Tang-e Butan, Bivar and Shaked write, "the Shīmbār inscriptions are very close from the point of view of palaeography to the Elymaic script of Tang-i Sarvak" (1964: 271). Gzella writes: "The same script [as that of Tang-e Sarvak], with a few palaeographic differences which might be due to local variation, has also been used for five inscriptions accompanying rock sculptures from Tang-e Butan in the Shimbar Valley" (2008: 119). Similarly, the inscription at Hong-e Kamalwand, although outside of Elymais proper, has more archaic forms, but has a a close resemblance to other Elymaic inscriptions (Gzella 2008: 121).

As there is no standard form of Elymaic, the representative glyphs are normalizations of forms used in the inscriptions. The script used at Tang-e Sarvak serves as the basis for both the character repertoire and glyphs because the full 22 letter *abjad* is attested in its inscriptions. These letterforms are also suitable for representing numismatic inscriptions, particularly those on tetradrachm coins (those on small coppers may be represented using the Parthian encoding). The specific style of a particular inscriptions is to be managed typographically through the selection of fonts designed specifically for each style.

4 Proposed repertoire

The proposed repertoire for Elymaic contains 23 characters: 22 letters and 1 ligature. The full Elymaic *abjad* is attested in the five epigraphs at Tang-e Sarvak.

4.1 Letters

The ordering of Elymaic letters follows that of the Unicode block for ‘Imperial Aramaic’:

Glyph	Unicode character name	Variant	Aramaic	Latin
𐹀	ELYMAIC LETTER ALEPH	𐹈	*ālap*	ʾ
𐹁	ELYMAIC LETTER BETH		*bēth*	b
𐹂	ELYMAIC LETTER GIMEL	𐹛	*gāmal*	g
𐹃	ELYMAIC LETTER DALETH	𐹝	*dālath*	d
𐹄	ELYMAIC LETTER HE	𐹄 𐹅	*hē*	h
𐹅	ELYMAIC LETTER WAW		*waw*	w
𐹆	ELYMAIC LETTER ZAYIN	𐹆	*zain*	z
𐹇	ELYMAIC LETTER HETH		*ḥēth*	ḥ
𐹈	ELYMAIC LETTER TETH		*ṭēth*	ṭ
𐹉	ELYMAIC LETTER YODH	𐹉	*yodh*	y
𐹊	ELYMAIC LETTER KAPH		*kāp*	k
𐹋	ELYMAIC LETTER LAMEDH	𐹋	*lāmadh*	l
𐹌	ELYMAIC LETTER MEM	𐹌	*mem*	m
𐹍	ELYMAIC LETTER NUN	𐹍	*nun*	n
𐹎	ELYMAIC LETTER SAMEKH	𐹎	*semkath*	s
𐹏	ELYMAIC LETTER AYIN		*ʿē*	ʿ
𐹐	ELYMAIC LETTER PE	𐹐	*pē*	p
𐹑	ELYMAIC LETTER SADHE	𐹟	*ṣādhē*	ṣ
𐹒	ELYMAIC LETTER QOPH		*qop*	q
𐹓	ELYMAIC LETTER RESH		*rēsh*	r
𐹔	ELYMAIC LETTER SHIN	𐹔	*shin*	š
𐹕	ELYMAIC LETTER TAW	𐹞	*taw*	t

Notes on the letters:

- The letters 𐿪 *kaph* and 𐿳 *resh* have a similar structure, but they are distinguished by their terminals. The terminal of *kaph* is written with a long descender, which stretches below the baseline, while that of *resh* is shorter and does not cross the baseline. Even in texts where letters are wander from the baseline and letter heights are inconsistent, the *kaph* differs from *resh* on account of its elongated tail. Inscriptions #1 and #2 from Tang-e Sarvak show the letters distinctively in the word 𐿪𐿥𐿳𐿮𐿩𐿠 *kwrsy*ʾ (figures 8, 9). The difference is also clear in the word 𐿴𐿳𐿥𐿪𐿥 *šrwkw* in Tang-e Butan inscription #2 (figure 15), as well as in 𐿪𐿥𐿬𐿳𐿠 *kwmr*ʾ in the inscription at Hong-e Kamalwand (figure 22).

- The letters 𐿯 *ayin* and 𐿳 *resh* may appear similar, but they have distinctive shapes. The basic stucture of both consists of one arc intersecting another. In *ayin*, the smaller left arc bisects the primary right arc; while in *resh*, the terminal of the left arc joins the origin of the right arc, or meets at a point close to the origin. Also, the terminal of the right stroke in *ayin* stops at the base line, while that of *resh* often curves at or along the baseline. The differences are apparent in Tang-e Butan inscription #4: compare the *ayin* in 𐿯𐿵𐿩𐿣 *ʿtyd* with the *resh* in 𐿡𐿳 *br* and 𐿠𐿩𐿳𐿮𐿩 *ʾyrsy* (figure 17). See also Tang-e Sarvak inscription #3, in which the *ayin* in 𐿯𐿫𐿩𐿤 *ʿlyh* and 𐿩𐿯𐿡𐿣 *yʿbd* are clearly different from the *resh* in 𐿡𐿳 *br* and 𐿥𐿳𐿥𐿣 *wrwd* (figure 10). Here, the appearance of the letters is quite rigid, but there is a sense of a deliberate differentiation between the letters by inscribing *ayin* with a prominent angular stroke.

- The letters 𐿦 *zayin* and 𐿫 *lamedh* are similar, but the latter has a longer ascender. In some inscriptions, the ascender of *lamedh* has a slight curve or ripple at top, and *zayin* may have no curve.

- The letters 𐿫 *lamedh* and 𐿭 *nun* are also similar. The *nun* is written with an elongated descender and hook, while *lamedh* rests along the baseline.

- The 𐿩 *yodh* is represented using the form ı in Tang-e Sarvak #3 (see figure 10). It may be an alternate form, but is considered a glyphic variant at present.

4.2 Ligature

A ligature for the Aramaic heterogram *zy* is proposed as a distinctive character:

Glyph	Unicode character name	Variant	Aramaic	Latin
𐿶	ELYMAIC LIGATURE ZAYIN-YODH	𐿶 𐿶	*zy*	zy

In several Elymaic inscriptions the Aramaic 𐿦𐿩 *zy* is represented using the form 𐿶, a ligature of 𐿦 *zayin* and 𐿩 *yodh*. As Elymaic is a non-joining script the *zy* ligature may be considered a special case, as there is no convenient means for producing the ligature. The proposed character is named after the letters that compose the ligature. This LIGATURE ZAYIN-YODH may correspond to ࡖ U+0856 MANDAIC LETTER DUSHENNA.

4.3 Other features

Punctuation There are no special signs for punctuation. Word boundaries are generally not indicated, but in some inscriptions it appears that spaces are used between words.

Digits Digits are not attested.

Line-breaking There are no formal rules for the breaking of words at end of line. In some inscriptions lines appear to be broken at phrase boundaries. In digital layouts, line-breaks may occur after any character.

Cursive writing In the majority of inscriptions the letters are freestanding. In some sources, the strokes of adjacent letters of a word may connect or overlap, eg. Tang-i Butan #5 (see figure 18). But the script does not possess intrinsic conjoining or cursive behavior. The only evidence of deliberate cursive writing is the ligature ZY.

4.4 Collation

The sort order of the letters follows the encoded order:

𐿠 ALEPH < 𐿡 BETH < 𐿢 GIMEL < 𐿣 DALETH < 𐿤 HE < 𐿥 WAW < 𐿦 ZAYIN <
𐿧 HETH < 𐿨 TETH < 𐿩 YODH < 𐿪 KAPH < 𐿫 LAMEDH < 𐿬 MEM < 𐿭 NUN <
𐿮 SAMEKH < 𐿯 AYIN < 𐿰 PE < 𐿱 SADHE < 𐿲 QOPH < 𐿳 RESH < 𐿴 SHIN <
𐿵 TAW

The LIGATURE ZAYIN-YODH should be collated after the sequence <𐿦 ZAYIN, 𐿩 YODH>, for example:

→ …	𐿨𐿦	<	𐿩𐿦	<	𐿨	<	𐿪𐿦	… →
	zṭ		*zy*		*zy*		*zk*	
	ZAYIN, TETH		ZAYIN, YODH		ZAYIN-YODH		ZAYIN, KAPH	

5 Character Properties

5.1 `UnicodeData.txt`

```
10EC0;ELYMAIC LETTER ALEPH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC1;ELYMAIC LETTER BETH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC2;ELYMAIC LETTER GIMEL;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC3;ELYMAIC LETTER DALETH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC4;ELYMAIC LETTER HE;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC5;ELYMAIC LETTER WAW;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC6;ELYMAIC LETTER ZAYIN;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC7;ELYMAIC LETTER HETH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC8;ELYMAIC LETTER TETH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
```

```
10EC9;ELYMAIC LETTER YODH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ECA;ELYMAIC LETTER KAPH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ECB;ELYMAIC LETTER LAMEDH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ECC;ELYMAIC LETTER MEM;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ECD;ELYMAIC LETTER NUN;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ECE;ELYMAIC LETTER SAMEKH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ECF;ELYMAIC LETTER AYIN;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED0;ELYMAIC LETTER PE;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED1;ELYMAIC LETTER SADHE;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED2;ELYMAIC LETTER QOPH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED3;ELYMAIC LETTER RESH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED4;ELYMAIC LETTER SHIN;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED5;ELYMAIC LETTER TAW;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED6;ELYMAIC LIGATURE ZAYIN-YODH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
```

5.2 `LineBreak.txt`

```
10EC0..10ED6;AL   # Lo  [23] ELYMAIC LETTER ALEPH..ELYMAIC LIGATURE ZAYIN-YODH
```

6 References

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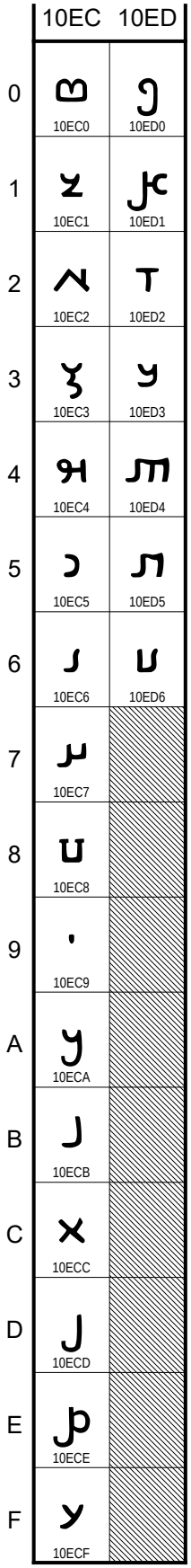


Letters

10EC0 𐏀 ELYMAIC LETTER ALEPH
10EC1 𐏁 ELYMAIC LETTER BETH
10EC2 𐏂 ELYMAIC LETTER GIMEL
10EC3 𐏃 ELYMAIC LETTER DALETH
10EC4 𐏄 ELYMAIC LETTER HE
10EC5 𐏅 ELYMAIC LETTER WAW
10EC6 𐏆 ELYMAIC LETTER ZAYIN
10EC7 𐏇 ELYMAIC LETTER HETH
10EC8 𐏈 ELYMAIC LETTER TETH
10EC9 𐏉 ELYMAIC LETTER YODH
10ECA 𐏊 ELYMAIC LETTER KAPH
10ECB 𐏋 ELYMAIC LETTER LAMEDH
10ECC 𐏌 ELYMAIC LETTER MEM
10ECD 𐏍 ELYMAIC LETTER NUN
10ECE 𐏎 ELYMAIC LETTER SAMEKH
10ECF 𐏏 ELYMAIC LETTER AYIN
10ED0 𐏐 ELYMAIC LETTER PE
10ED1 𐏑 ELYMAIC LETTER SADHE
10ED2 𐏒 ELYMAIC LETTER QOPH
10ED3 𐏓 ELYMAIC LETTER RESH
10ED4 𐏔 ELYMAIC LETTER SHIN
10ED5 𐏕 ELYMAIC LETTER TAW

Ligature

10ED6 𐏖 ELYMAIC LIGATURE ZAYIN-YODH
• used for the Aramaic heterogram zy

https://media1.britannica.com/eb-media/25/1725-004-630DAE31.jpg

Figure 1: Map of the Parthian around the 1st century BCE showing the location of Elymais (near center). Source: *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

	Elymaic	Mandaic	Inscriptional Pahlavi	Inscriptional Parthian	Imperial Aramaic
aleph	𐿀	ࡀ	𐭠	𐭠	𐡀
beth	𐿁	ࡁ	𐭡	𐭡	𐡁
gimel	𐿂	ࡂ	𐭢	𐭢	𐡂
daleth	𐿃	ࡃ	𐭣	𐭣	𐡃
he	𐿄	ࡄ	𐭤	𐭤	𐡄
waw	𐿅	ࡅ	𐭥	𐭥	𐡅
zayin	𐿆	ࡆ	𐭦	𐭦	𐡆
heth	𐿇	ࡇ	𐭧	𐭧	𐡇
teth	𐿈	ࡈ	𐭨	𐭨	𐡈
yodh	𐿉	ࡉ	𐭩	𐭩	𐡉
kaph	𐿊	ࡊ	𐭪	𐭪	𐡊
lamedh	𐿋	ࡋ	𐭫	𐭫	𐡋
mem	𐿌	ࡌ	𐭬	𐭬	𐡌
nun	𐿍	ࡍ	𐭭	𐭭	𐡍
samekh	𐿎	ࡎ	𐭮	𐭮	𐡎
ayin	𐿏	ࡏ	(𐭥)	𐭯	𐡏
pe	𐿐	ࡐ	𐭰	𐭰	𐡐
sadhe	𐿑	ࡑ	𐭱	𐭱	𐡑
qoph	𐿒	ࡒ	(𐭬)	𐭲	𐡒
resh	𐿓	ࡓ	(𐭥)	𐭳	𐡓
shin	𐿔	ࡔ	𐭲	𐭴	𐡔
taw	𐿕	ࡕ	𐭵	𐭵	𐡕

Table 1: Comparison of Elymaic, Mandaic, Inscriptional Pahlavi, Inscriptional Parthian, and Aramaic. Mandaic letters have unique names that differ from Aramaic names. Parenthesis indicate that a letter has been unified with another in the respective encoding. In Inscriptional Pahlavi, *ayin* and *resh* are unified with *waw*, and *qoph* with *mem*.

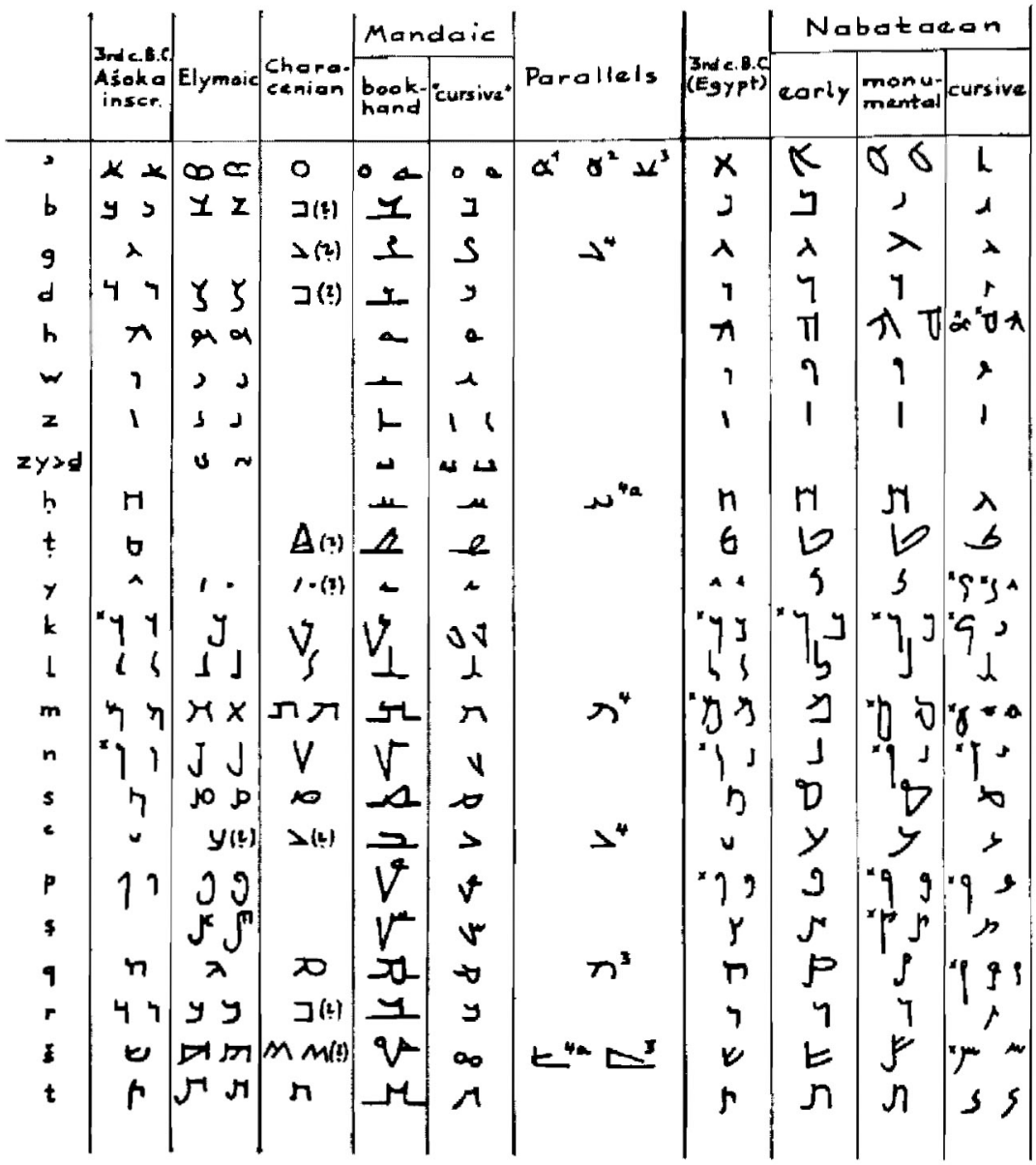


Fig. 119. Development of the South Mesopotamian scripts (in comparison with Nabataean). Key to the parallels: (1) a bulla from Babylonia; (2) the Nash papyrus; (3) Hatra; (4) the Birecik inscription, Syriac of 6 A.D.; (4a) Syriac inscription of 165 A.D. from Samatar Harabesi (A raised x marks final forms)

Figure 2: Comparison of Elymaic, Mandaic, Nabataean, and other scripts (from Naveh 1997: 137).

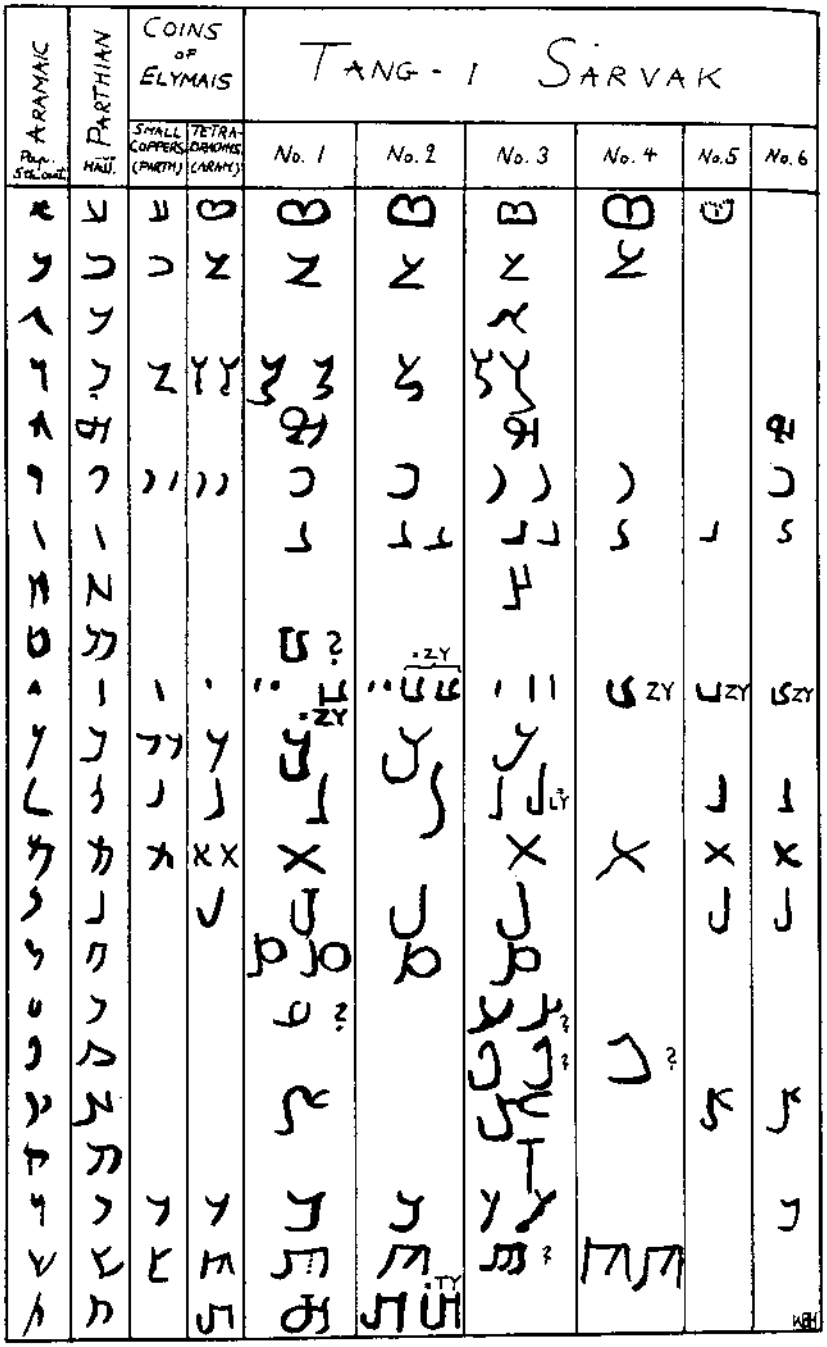


Figure 3: Comparison of Aramaic and Parthian with Elymaic (from Henning 1952: 168).

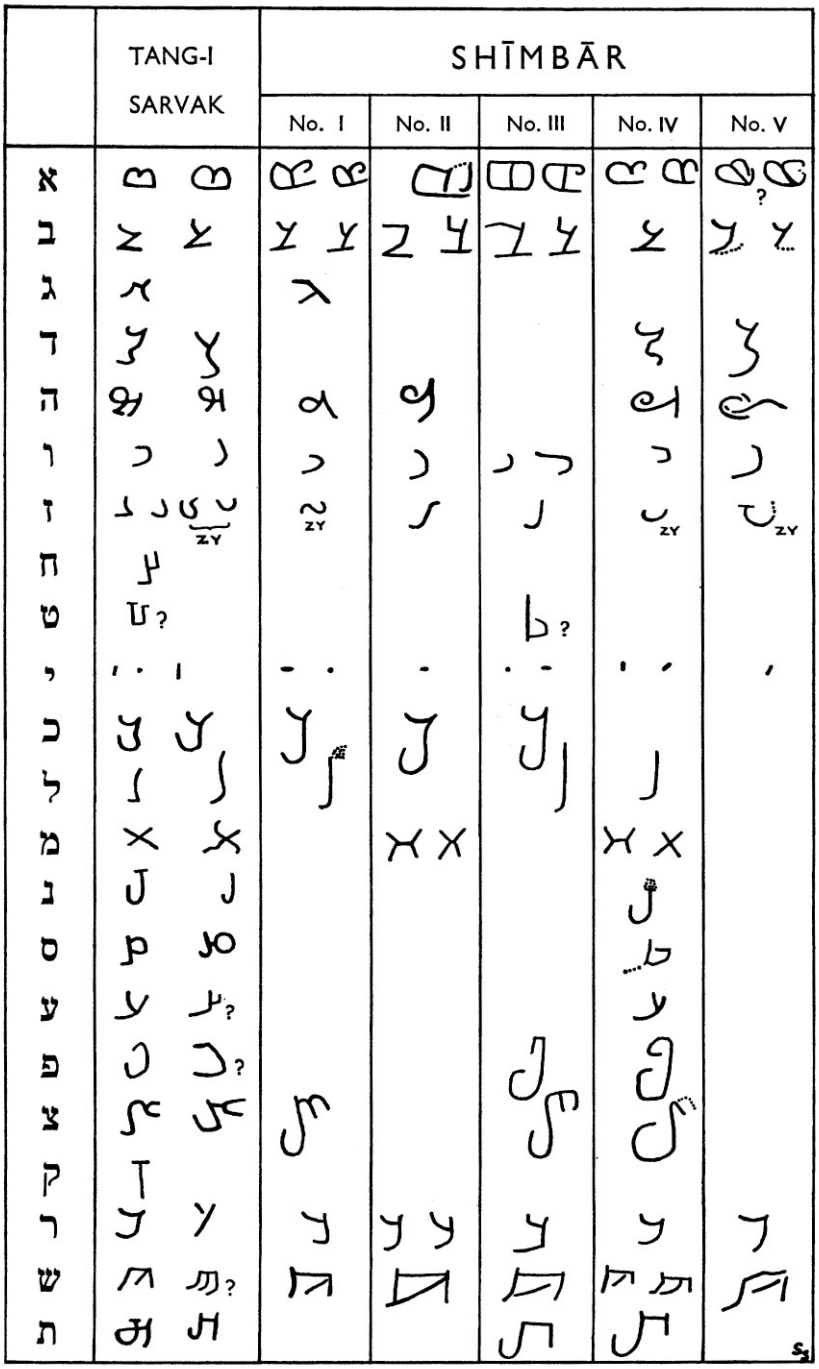
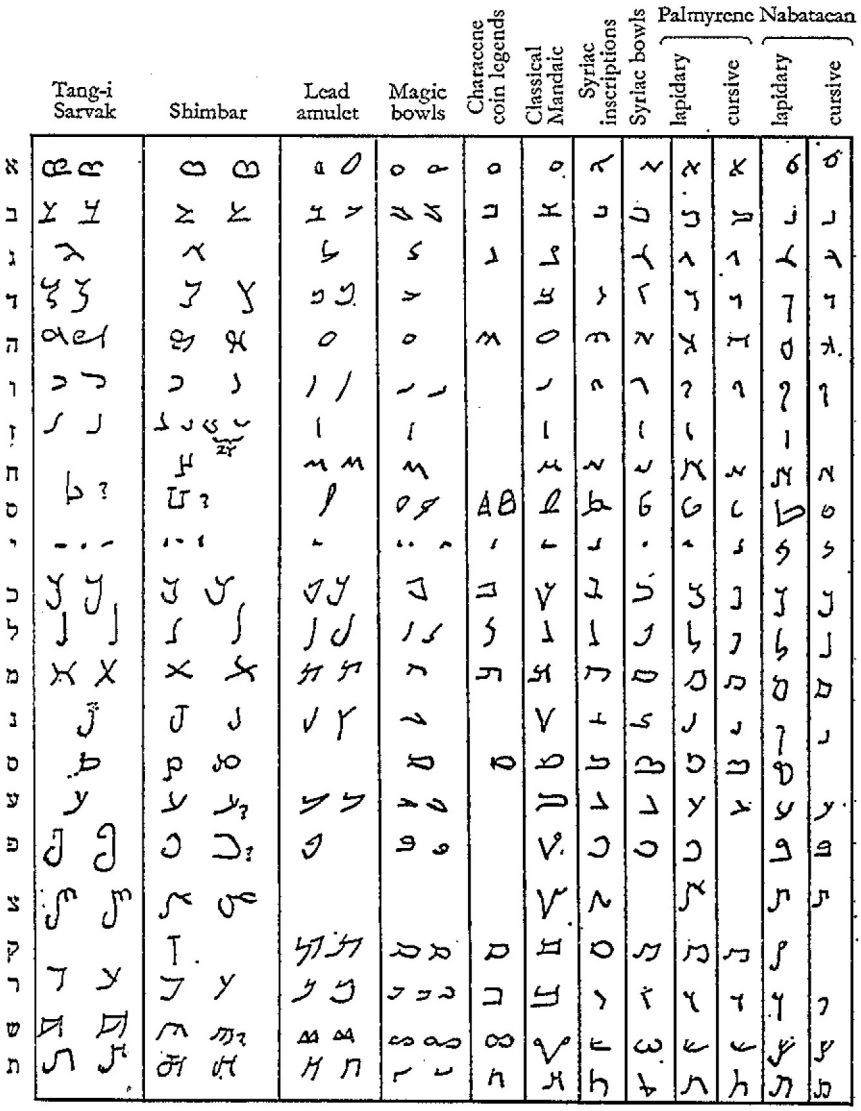


FIG. 1. The script of the Shīmbār inscriptions. The column showing the Tang-i Sarvak forms is based on W. B. Henning's table in *Asia Major*, NS, II, 2, 1952, 168.

Figure 4: Comparison of Elymaic letters in the inscriptions at Tang-e Sarvak and Tang-e Butan (from Bivar and Shaked 1964: 270).



The columns showing the Tang-i Sarvak and Shimbar forms are based on Bivar and Shaked's table in *B.S.O.A.S.* XXVII (1964), 270; the Mandaic and Syriac bowl texts on Montgomery's table in *Aramaic Incantation Texts from Nippur* (1913), plates XXXIX and XL, and the Syriac inscription of the second century A.D. on Segal's table in *B.S.O.A.S.* XVI (1954), 32.

Figure 5: Comparison of Elymaic and other scripts (from Coxon 1970: 21).

TABLE 1. Comparison of Elymaic, Characenean, Parthian, and Mandaic Scripts

Hebrew	*Aramaic Values*	*Elymaic (Tang-e Sarvak)*	*Elymaic (Shimbār)*	*Characene Coins*	*Other Forms*	*Iranian Values*	*Nisa Ostraca*	*Parthian Inscriptions*	*Mandaic Values*	*Book Hand*	*Lead Amulets*	*Incantation Bowls*
א	ʾ				a	a ā			a			
ב	b					b			b			
ג	g					g ǧ			g			
ד	d					d ḏ			d			
ה	h				b				ḥ			
ו	w					ō ū w			u			
ז	z					z ž			z			
ח	ḥ					h x			h			
ט	ṭ								ṭ			
י	y					ē ī y			i			
כ	k					k g			k			
ל	l					l			l			
מ	m					m			m			
נ	n					n			n			
ס	s					s			s			
ע	ʿ								ʿ			
פ	p					p			p			
צ	ṣ					č			ṣ			
ק	q								q			
ר	r				c	r			r			
ש	š					š ž			š			
ת	t				d e	t d			t			

Sources: The Elymaic forms from Tang-e Sarvak and Shimbār forms have been adapted from Bivar and Shaked 1964: 270; the Characene coin legends are from Coxon 1970: 21; other Aramaic forms cited above are from Naveh 1997: 142 (a = Hatra, b = Armazi, c = Hartra, d = Hassan-Kef, e = Garni); the forms from the Nisa ostraca and the Parthian inscriptions are from Skærvø 1996: 518; the Mandaic book hand is based on Macuch and Drower 1963: xii; the forms from the lead amulets are based on Coxon 1970: 21, and the two sets of scripts from the incanation bowls are taken from bowl 079M (BM 117872) and 087M (BM 91779), respectively, in Segal and Hunter 2000: 237.

Figure 6: Comparison of Mandaic, Elymaic, and related scripts (Häberl 2006 : 57).

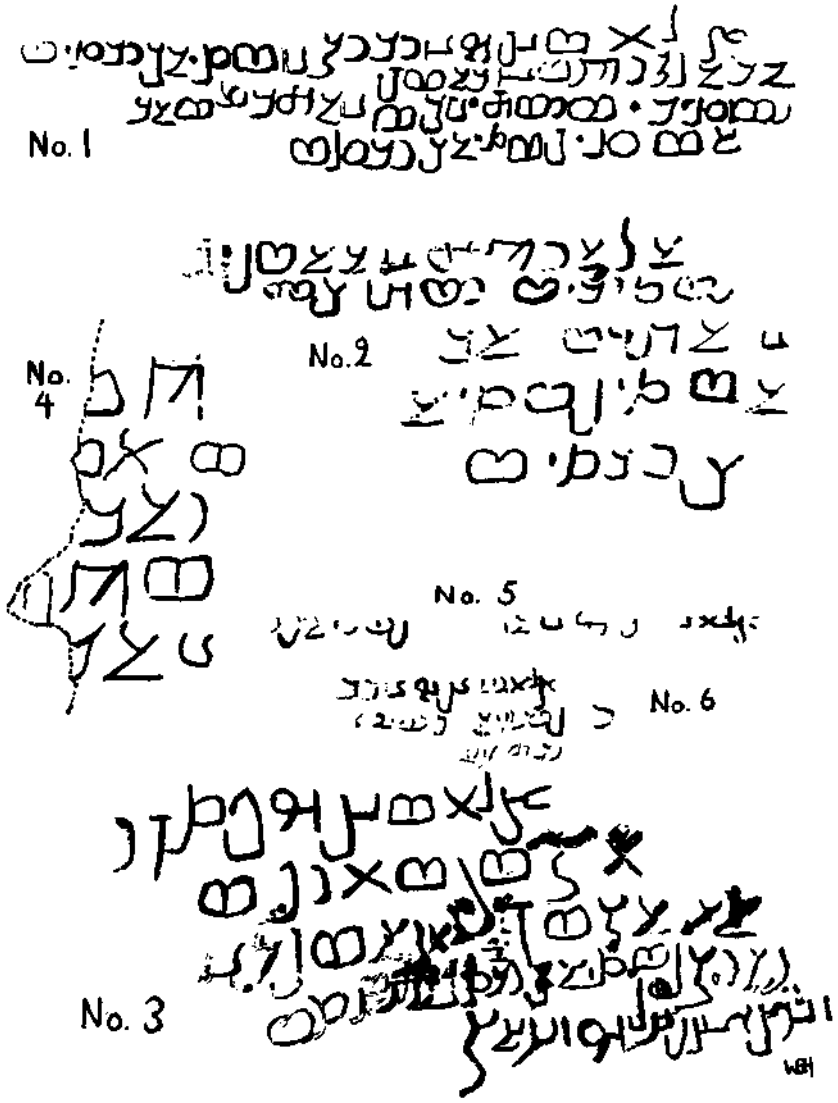
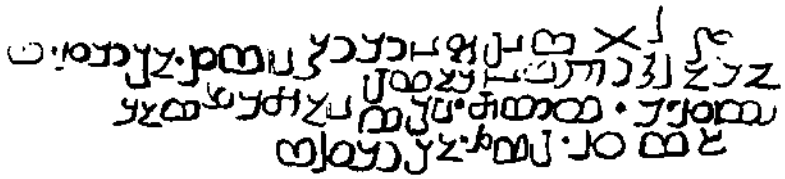


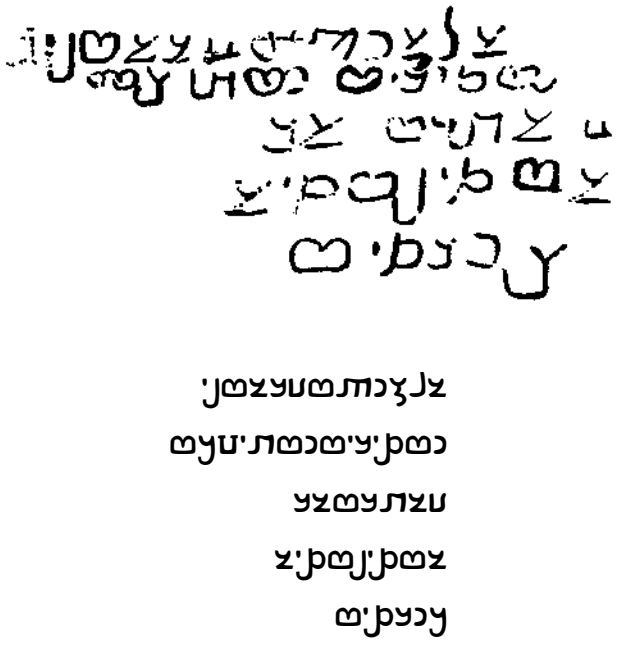
Figure 7: Renderings of Elymaic inscriptions at Tang-e Sarvak made by W. B. Henning (1952: 170). An analysis of inscriptions 1–3 is provided in the following figures.



ṣlmʾ znh zy wrwd nʾsyb kwrsyʾ	ṣalmā ḏenā ḏī Worōḏ nāseḇ korsiyā
br bldwšʾ zy rbʾny	ḇar Bēldōšā(?) ḏī rabbān
wʾsryʾ wʾtyṯkʾ zy btrʿʾbr	wa-’Asīryā wa-’Attyōḵā ḏī ḇa-ṯarʿā ḇar
bʾsy nʾsyb kwrsʾ	Bāsī nāseḇ kors<iy>ā

This image is the one of Worōd, holder of the throne,
the son of Bēldōšā(?), who is (my) lord,
and Asīryā(?) and Antiochus, who is at the gate, the
son of Bāsī, holder of the throne.

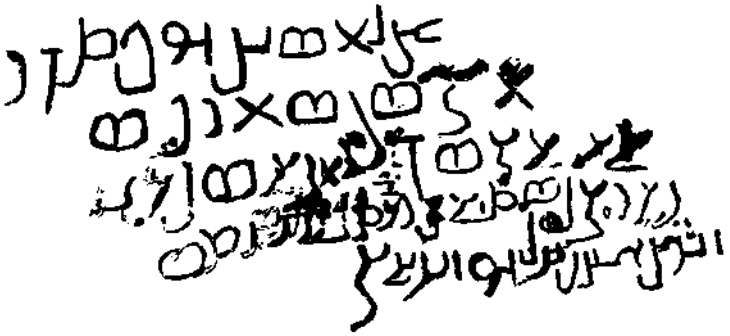
Figure 8: Tang-e Sarvak inscription #1. Facsimile from Henning (1952: 170); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 113).

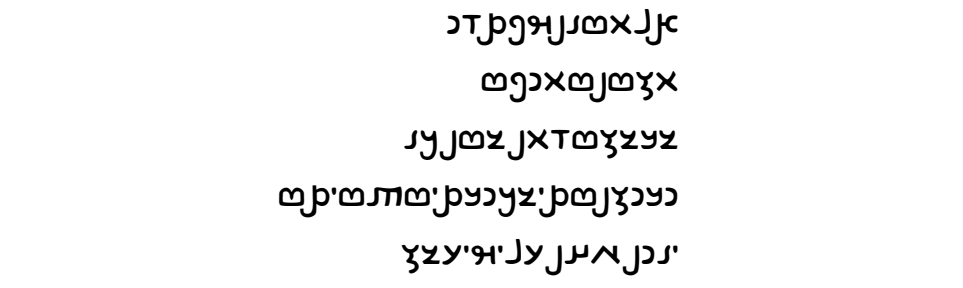


bldwšʾ zy rbʾny	Bēldōšā(?) ḏī rabbān
wʾsyryʾ wʾtykʾ	wa-’Asīryā wa-’Attyōḵā
zy btrʾbr	ḏī ḇa-ṯar<ʿ>ā ḇar
bʾsy nʾsyb	Bāsī nāseḇ
kwrsyʾ	korsiyā

Bēldōšā(?), who is (my) lord,
and Asīryā(?) and Antiochus,
who is at the gate, the son
of Bāsī, holder of the throne.

Figure 9: Tang-e Sarvak inscription #2. Facsimile from Henning (1952: 170); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 114).



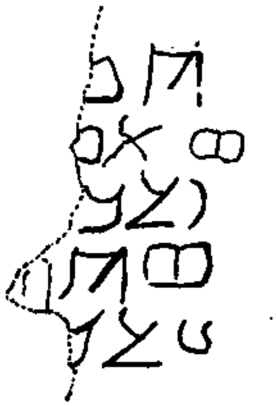


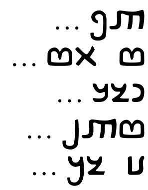
ṣlmʾ znh psqw
mdʾnʾm wpʾ
br bdʾq mn bʾn kz
wrwd nʾsyb kwrsyʾ šʾysʾ
yzwn gḫn ʿlyh yʿbd

ṣalmā ḏenā pasaq
MDʾNʾM wa-Pā(?)
ḇar BDʾQ men Bān ka-ḏ[ī]
Worōḏ nāseḇ korsiyā Šēsā(?)
zayūn gāḥen ʿalēh(?) yeʿbeḏ

This image have cut
MDʾNʾM and Pā(?)
the son of BDʾQ from Bān whe[n]
Worōd, holder of the throne
feeds Šēsā(?), bowing over him, performs (the ritual).

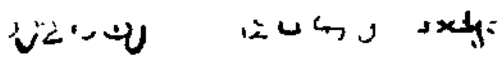
Figure 10: Tang-e Sarvak inscription #3. Facsimile from Henning (1952: 170); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 114).

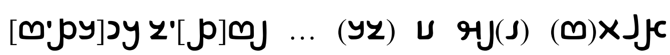




šp …
› m›? …
wbr …
›š(n)? …
zy bk?

Figure 11: Tang-e Sarvak inscription #4 (Henning 1952: 170).

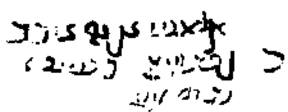


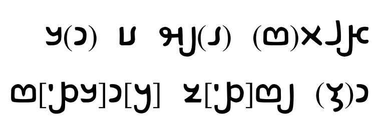


ṣlm(›) znh zy (br?) … n›[s]yb kw[rsy›]

“This is the image of … assuming the throne.”

Figure 12: Tang-e Sarvak inscription #5 (Henning 1952: 170).



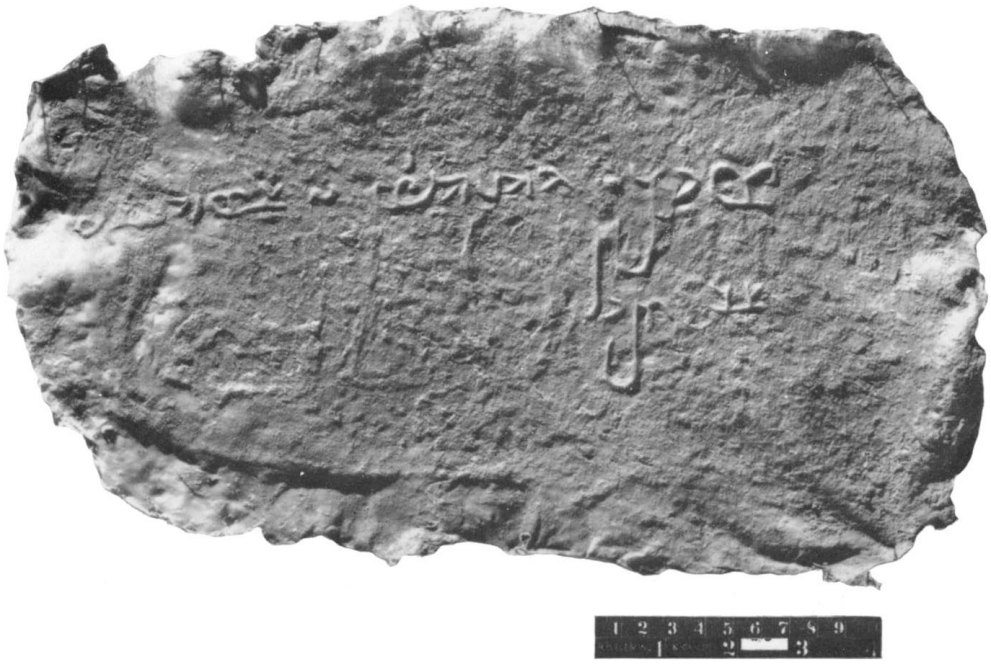


…

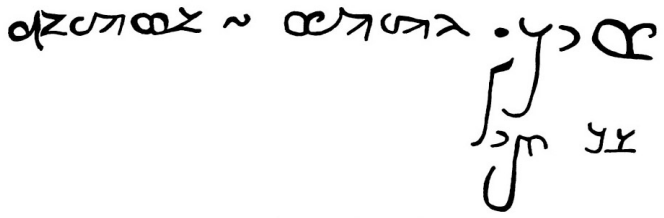
ṣlm(›) znh zy (br?) … n›[s]yb kw[rsy›] …

“This is the image of Orodes assuming the throne.”

Figure 13: Tang-e Sarvak inscription #6 (Henning 1952: 170).



Tang-i Butān, inscription no. I



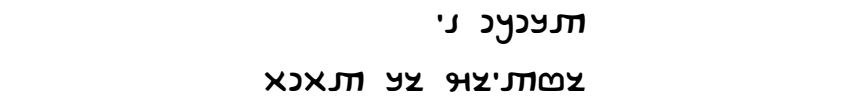
ʾwky gšyšʾ (= qšyšʾ ?) zy bʾšybh
br ṣwl

ʾŌḵē qaššīšā ḏī B̂ãšīḇã
ḇar Ṣōl

ʾŌkē the priest (or elder), who is *bʾšybh* (or: of B̂ãšīḇã?)
the son of Ṣōl.

Figure 14: Tang-e Butan inscription #1 (Facsimile from Bivar and Shaked (1964: 273 & plate III); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 119).

Tang-i Butān, inscription no. II

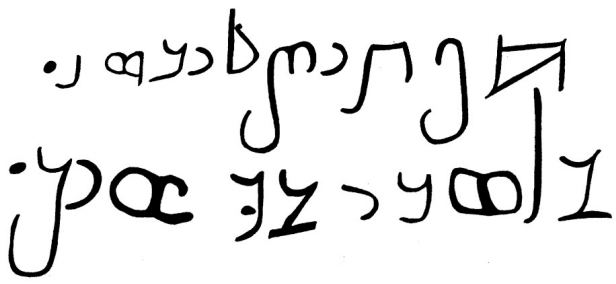


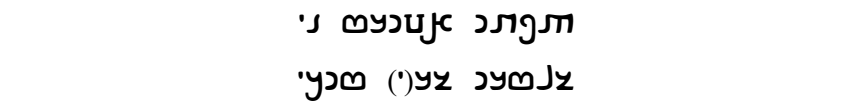
šrwkw zy	Šorūḵū ḏī
bʾšybh br šmwm	B̂ãšīḇã ḇar Šemōn

Šorayku who is
bʾšybh (or: of B̂ãšīḇã?), son of Šemʿōn(?).

Figure 15: Tang-e Butan inscription #2 (Facsimile from Bivar and Shaked (1964: 273 & plate IV); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 119).

Tang-i Butān, inscription no. III





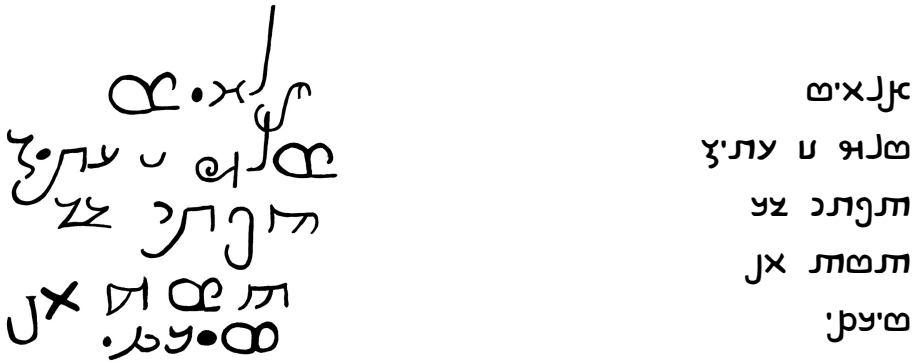
šptw ṣṭwrʾ zy
blʾrw br(y)? ʾwky

ŠPTW ṢṬWRʾ ḏī
b̲ēl-ʾārō b̲ar ʾŌk̲ē

ŠPTW the ṣṭwrʾ, who is
(keeper of) the altar of Bēl(?), the son of ʾŌkē.

Figure 16: Tang-e Butan inscription #3 (Facsimile from Bivar and Shaked (1964: 274 & plate V); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 120).

Tang-i Butān, inscription no. IV



ṣlmy›
›lh zy ‹tyd
šptw br
š›š mn
›yrsy

ṣalmayyā
›ellē ḏī ‹atteḏ
ŠPTW ḇar Šāš men
›Īrsē

These images
are the ones which has prepared
ŠPTW the son of Šāš from
›Īrsē(?).

Figure 17: Tang-e Butan inscription #4 (Facsimile from Bivar and Shaked (1964: 275 & plate VI); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 120).

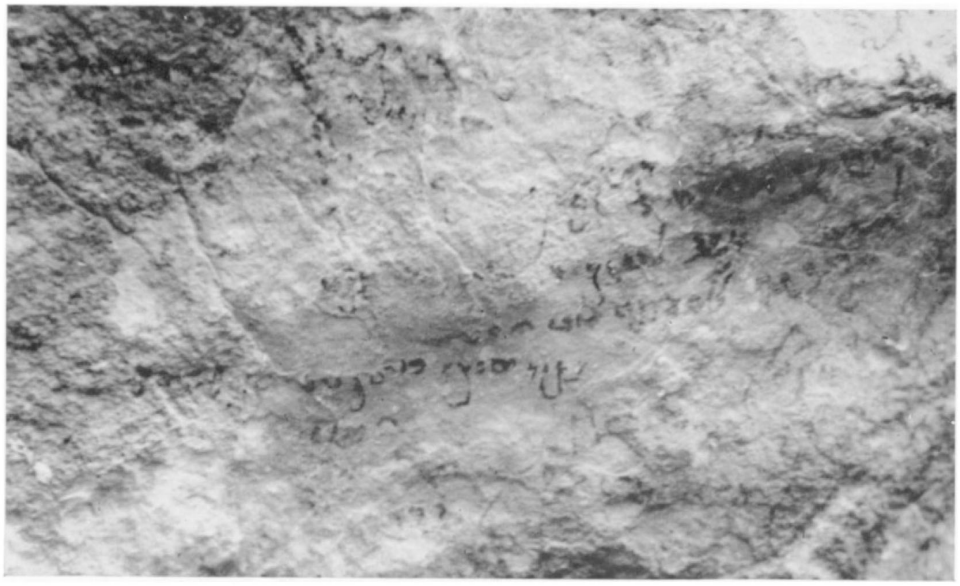
Tang-i Butān, inscription no. V

wrwd rb›
zy b›šybh

Worōḏ rabbā
ḏī B̲ãšīb̲ã

Worōd the great,
who is *b›šybh* (or: of B̲ãšīb̲ã).

Figure 18: Tang-e Butan inscription #5 (Facsimile from Bivar and Shaked (1964: 276 & plate VII); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 120).

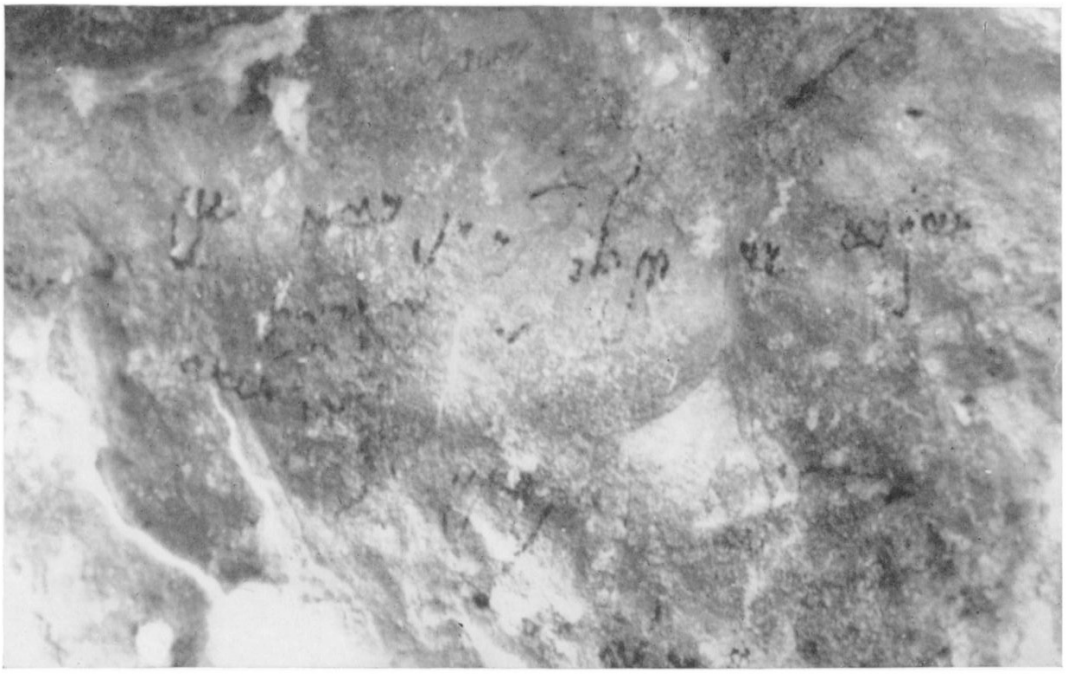


ELYMAEAN *GRAFFITO* AT TANG-I CHILAU

Figure 19: Tang-e Chilau carbon ink graffiti #1 (Bivar and Shaked 1964: plate XI).

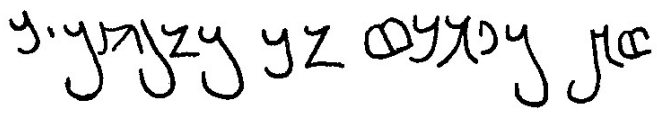
ELYMAEAN *GRAFFITO* AT TANG-I CHILAU

Figure 20: Tang-e Chilau carbon ink graffiti #2 (Bivar and Shaked 1964: plate XII).



ELYMAEAN *GRAFFITO* AT TANG-I CHILAU

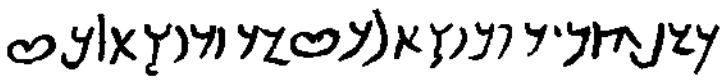
Figure 21: Tang-e Chilau carbon ink graffiti #3 (Bivar and Shaked 1964: XIII).

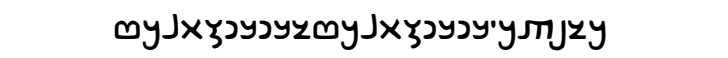


[?]at kwmrʾ br kbnšyr [?]at komrā b̲ar Kab̲naškīr

[Phra]at(es), the priest, son of Kabnaškīr.

Figure 22: Hong-e Kamalwand inscription. Facsimile from Hinz (1963); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 121).





kbnškyr wrwd MLKˀ BR wrwd MLKˀ

"King Kamnaskires Orodes, son of King Orodes"

Figure 23: Elymaic legend on the tetradrachm of Kamnaskires Orodes (from Henning 1952: 164). The script differs from that on the small coppers shown in figures 24 and 25. It is of the type '*grand module*' in figure 26.

wrwd MLKʾ BRY wrwd
King Orodes, Son of Orodes

Figure 24: Copper alloy coin of Orodes II, early 2nd to mid 2nd century CE. 16mm, 3.89g. British Museum. Registration number: 1900,0405.94. Department of Coins and Medals catalogue number: GC28p262.17.

knmkyr wrwd MLKʾ
King Kamnaskires Orodes

Figure 25: Copper alloy coin of Kamnaskires Orodes, early 2nd to mid 2nd century CE. 16mm, 3.73g. British Museum. Registration number: 1909,0205.114. Department of Coins and Medals catalogue number: GC28p267.64.

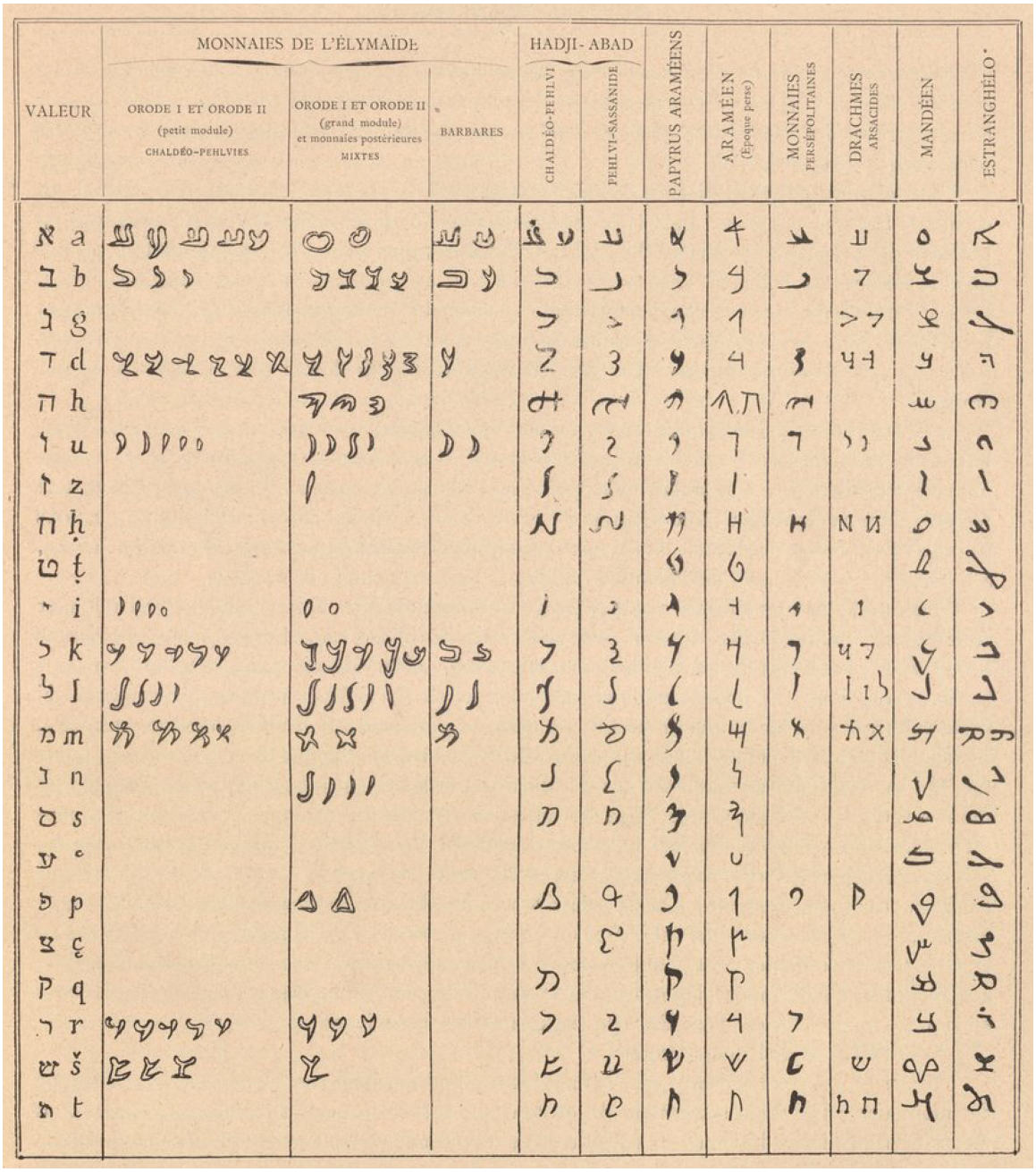


Figure 26: Comparison of scripts on Elymaic coins with other scripts (from Allotte de la Fuye 1905: 53). The '*grand module*' letters (column 2) resemble Elymaic forms, while the '*petit module*' letters (column 1) resemble Parthian (see figure 27 for specimens of the latter).

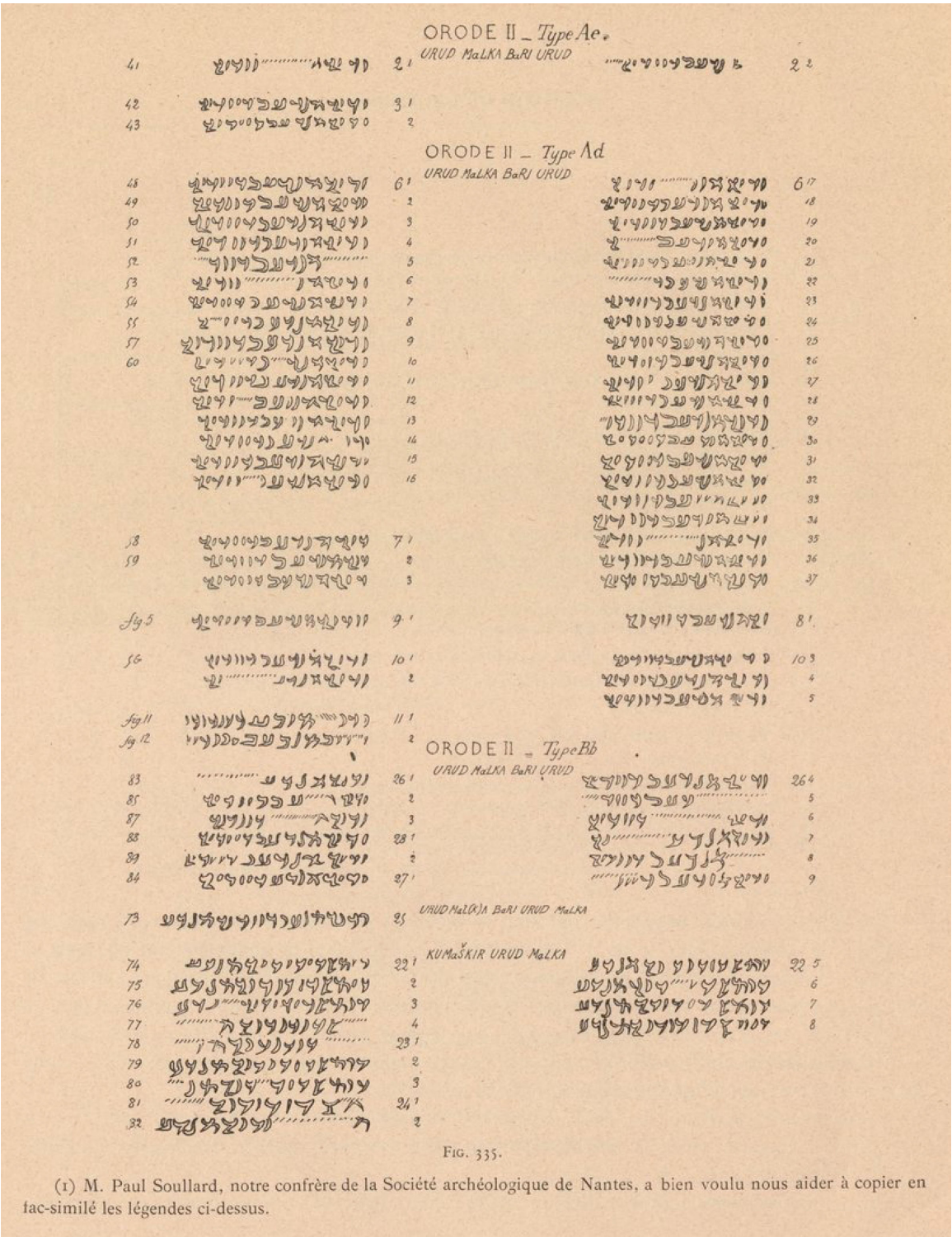


FIG. 335.

(1) M. Paul Soullard, notre confrère de la Société archéologique de Nantes, a bien voulu nous aider à copier en fac-similé les légendes ci-dessus.

Figure 27: Legends on Elymaean copper coins (from Allotte de la Fuye 1905: 72). These resemble the Parthian script.