Proposal to Add Three UTC-Source Polysyllabic Ideographs to UAX #45

Individual Contribution

For consideration by UTC

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1. Characters

This document proposes the following characters for U-Source.

圕	▢冂書	13.10	圖書 'books'
合	▢冂合	13.6	*hétóng* 合同
敥	▢敕令	66.12	*chìlìng* 敕令

The evidence will be given below.

2. Evidence

These characters are discussed in the article by David Prager Branner, "Portmanteau characters in Chinese"; Journal of the American Oriental Society 131 no. 1 (2011): 73-8.

It is ordinarily accepted that the character U+5715 圕 for the word *túshūguǎn* 圖書館 'library' was proposed by the Chinese library science expert Du Dingyou in early 20ᵗʰ century and later caught on both in China and Japan (where it is read *toshokan*); see [Polysyllabic characters in Chinese writing](#) by Victor H. Mair. Nevertheless, it is a less common knowledge that in that article where 圕 is proposed (杜定友 [Du Dingyou] 1927. 圕 [Tushuguan]. *Tushuguanxue jikan* 2.1: 164-65) Du actually introduces two characters.

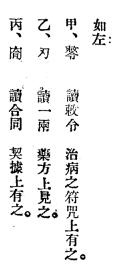This second character is ▢冂書, 圕 without bottom stroke, that should stand for *túshū* 'books' alone:

Du says: "If you wish to write 圖書 alone, remove its [圕's] last stroke, write ▢冂書; this symbolizes the absence of territorial restrictions."

This article is followed by a response written by Chen Boda (陈伯达) who defends Du's proposal by citing several polysyllabic characters he encounters frequently. Most of these are well-known Japanese coinages (such as the characters for SI units), but two are unencoded:

▨敕令 read *chìlìng* 'rescript'; used on healing talismans

▨冂合 read *hétóng* 'contract'; used on deeds

如左：

甲、嫠　讀敕令　治病之符咒上有之。

乙、刃　讀一兩　藥方上見之。

丙、閤　讀合同　契據上有之。

Excerpt from Chen's response

3. Acknowledgements