Comments on Western Cham proposal
Patrick Chew
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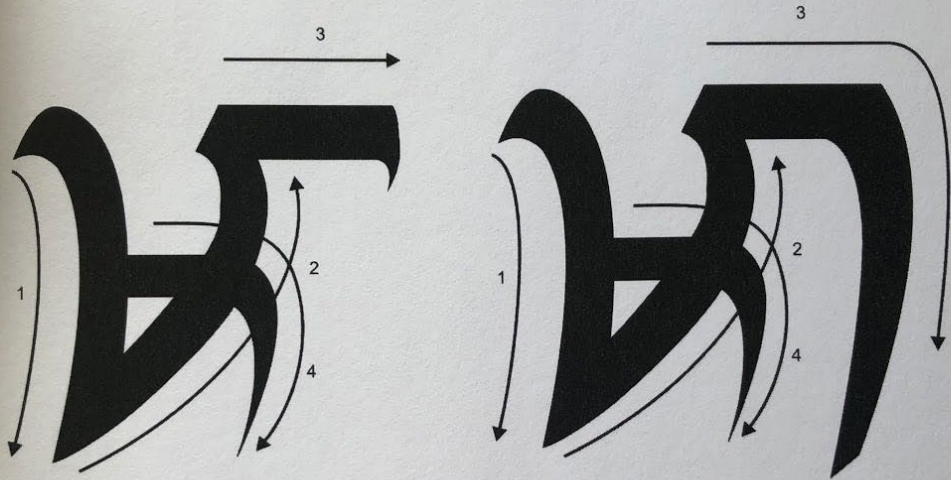## Sensitivity comments/concerns:

- Cham community claims:
  - *The proposal in N4734 has been closely reviewed by script experts and community leaders among the Western Cham in Cambodia and this proposal arises from their considerations.*
  - We know that Imam San is a prominent figure in the Cham community, but we also know that there are others that are active in the Cham language/font community that do not concur with Imam San's viewpoints on some things. While I would love to ensure that Western Cham moves forward, the lack of representation from both sides would seem to be a red flag.
- SHALOM:
  Use of <SHALOM>
  https://corp.unicode.org/~dwanders/sah/WCham_2005.pdf
  Page 3, Chart 2
  - `1E23C LIGATURE SHALOM`
  - I recognize that because the Western Cham form <sa laᵐ> does not mirror Arabic-based forms that distinguish the original short-a and long-a, ie Arabic سلام salām, Indonesian selam, etc. That said, however, I am wary of using a term that is expressly associable with Judaism and Hebrew, given the socio-cultural/-linguistic/-political contexts where this would be problematic, especially with geopolitical tensions in the region.
  Recommend using <SALAM>.
  - *[Martin Hosken 7:16 PM Apr 21] "Good point. I'll raise the name with the community"*

Concerns:

- **Literary vs "normal" variation**
  - I'd like to see something a bit more thorough on this, especially with context; I'm a bit unsure whether this is 'variation' only or if we might want to consider disunification if the community at large would prefer separation.

- **Finals**
  - This is at face value misleading to me.
  - The <MA> glyph and it's final are **not** expected, since what's shown in the table is a niggahit/anusvāra version of a FINAL M, which is seemingly distinct from the FINAL M that uses the productive final modification and is used by a sizable portion of the community, cf image below:

ព្យញ្ជនៈ ‹ ᨨ › អានដូចព្យញ្ជនៈ ‹ម› ក្នុងភាសាខ្មែរដែរៗ គួរកត់សម្គាល់ថា ពេលវាត្រូវប្រកប

ជាមួយស្រៈ ‹អ› ឬ អា ស្រៈទាំងនេះត្រូវប្ដូរទៅជាស្រៈៈអ៊ីវិញៗ

ចំណាំៈ ព្យញ្ជនៈប្រកប ‹ᨨ› នេះជាព្យញ្ជនៈថ្មីៗ កម្មវិធីផ្សព្វផ្សាយមរតកប្បធម៌ភាសាចាម្យ៉

បានសម្រេចនាំយកព្យញ្ជនៈនេះមកប្រើព្រោះ ដើម្បីសម្រួលដល់ការប្រកបសម្លេងពាក្យក្នុងពាក្យ

នានាដែលជនជាតិចាម្យ៉កំពុងប្រើជាចាំបាច់រាល់ថ្ងៃៗ

|					
[មី]	[មុក]	[មឹតាយ]	[កម]	[ប្រ៉េក]	[ច៖ហ្ពម]
ពុក	យាយ	ស្លាប់	អង្គាម	ម៉ៃ	ចង្កាម

Pérez, Alberto and Leb Ke. 2014. សៀវភៅរៀនអក្សរចាម្យ៉ដោយខ្លួនឯង (sievphau rien aksaar cham daoy khluan'aeng) = Cham Script Primer. Phnom Penh: Naga Editions. p.12

- **Final Consonants**
  - I'm a little wary of this being replete/comprehensive, given the lack of distinction between the anusvāra/niggahit-style FINAL M versus the version in my previous comment.

- **Punctuation**
  - 1E25E ☐ WESTERN CHAM PUNCTUATION DOUBLE DANDA
    1E25F ☐ WESTERN CHAM PUNCTUATION TRIPLE DANDA
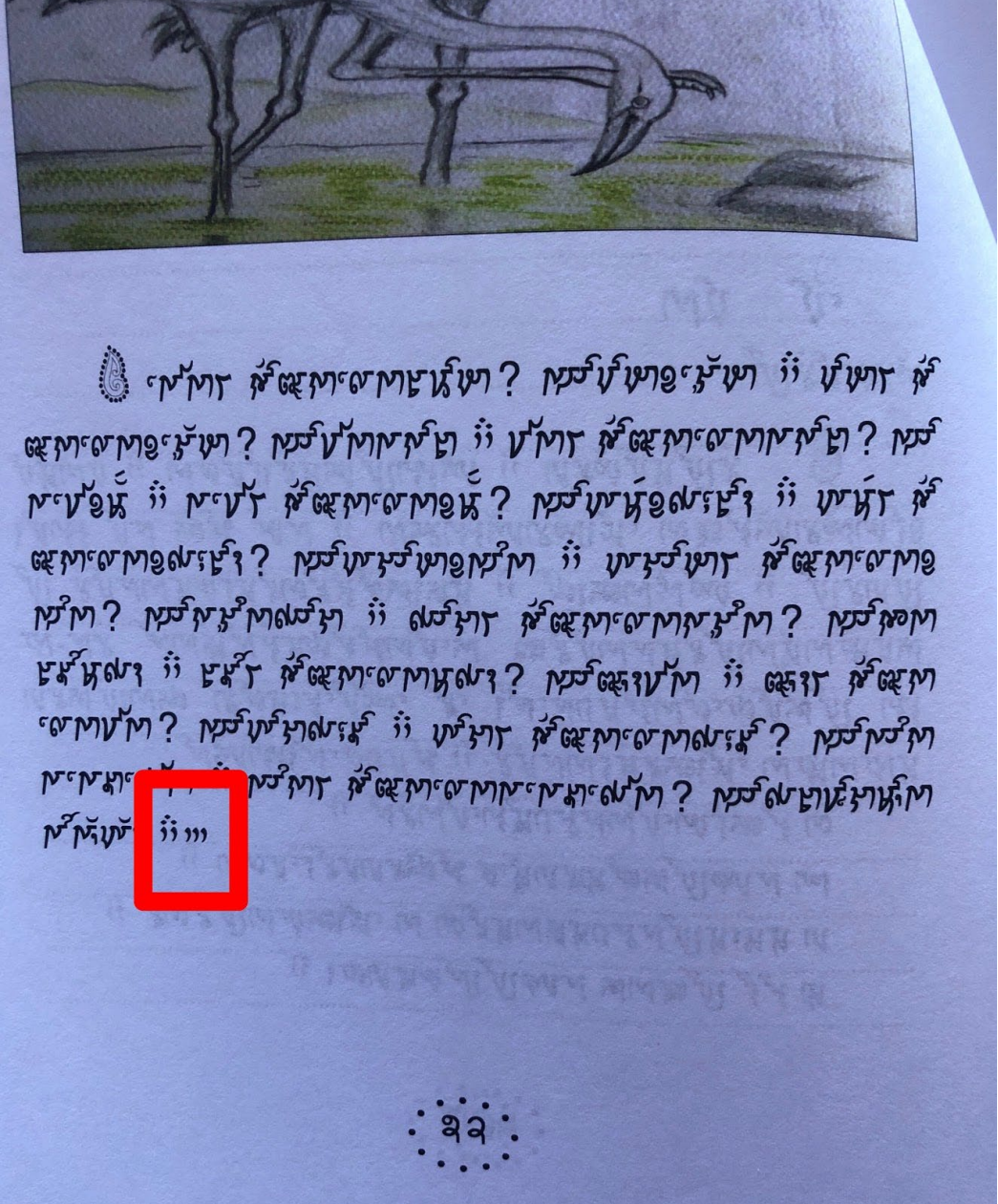
This might be another fontface distinction with the TRIPLE DANDA (?)