

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set  
International Organization for Standardization  
Organisation internationale de normalisation  
Международная организация по стандартизации

**Doc Type:** Working Group Document

**Title:** Proposal to add two mediaeval punctuation characters to the UCS

**Source:** Michael Everson

**Status:** Individual Contribution

**Action:** For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC

**Date:** 2020-10-05

**Replaces:** N4726 (L2/16-125) 2016-05-04

**1. Introduction.** This proposal for PUNCTUS INTERROGATIVUS MARK and PUNCTUS EXCLAMATIVUS MARK derives largely from the omnibus Medievalist punctuation character proposal, L2/16-125 “Revised Proposal to add Medievalist punctuation characters (WG2 N4726)” by Michael Everson et al. This proposal requests two punctuation characters be added for support of medieval European linguistic and literary research and publication. If this proposal is accepted, the following characters will be encoded:

!	2E53	PUNCTUS EXCLAMATIVUS MARK
?	2E54	PUNCTUS INTERROGATIVUS MARK

**2. *Punctus exclamativus.*** Yet another original indicator of *positura* is also known as *punctus admirativus*. This is the origin of the modern exclamation mark and reversed exclamation mark. A glyph variant ! stands upright; the character conventionally has two dots, unlike the modern EXCLAMATION MARK. One character, U+2E53 ! PUNCTUS EXCLAMATIVUS MARK has been proposed here for encoding. See Figures 1, 5, 6, 7, 11.

**3. *Punctus interrogativus.*** This originally indicated *positura* but came to indicate a question requiring an answer. This is the origin of the modern ? QUESTION MARK and ¿ INVERTED QUESTION MARK. The glyph for this character is sometimes angular with one to three hooks .? and is typically slanted toward the right; the vertical form we know today dates to the late 15th century. One character, U+2E56 ? PUNCTUS INTERROGATIVUS MARK has been proposed here for encoding. A related function, the *punctus percontativus*, indicated a rhetorical question and is represented by U+2E2E ? REVERSED QUESTION MARK. See Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13.

**4. Linebreaking.** Line-breaking properties for these are suggested as follows.

Like U+0021 ! EXCLAMATION MARK (EX (Exclamation)): 2E53..2E54

**5. Unicode Character Properties.** Character properties are proposed here.

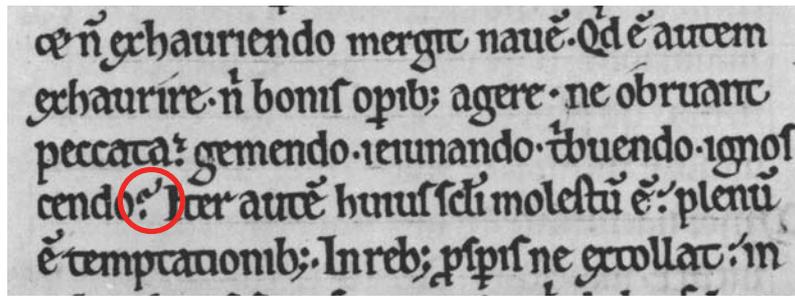
```
2E56;PUNCTUS EXCLAMATIVUS MARK;Po;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
2E57;PUNCTUS INTERROGATIVUS MARK;Po;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
```

**6. Bibliography.**

Denholm-Young, N. 1964. *Handwriting in England and Wales*. Second edition. Cardiff: University of Wales Press.

- Derolez, Albert. 2003. *The palaeography of Gothic manuscript books: From the Twelfth to the Early Sixteenth Century*. (Cambridge Studies in Palaeography and Codicology; 9) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-80315-1.
- Loew, E A. 1914. *The Beneventan Script. A history of the South Italian minuscule*. 1999 special edition. London: Clarendon Press. ISBN 0-19-924015-9.
- Núñez Contreras, Luis. *Manual de paleografía: fundamentos e historia de la escritura latina hasta el siglo VIII*. Madrid: Cátedra. ISBN 84-376-1245-4.
- Ouy, Gilbert. 1987. “Ortographe et ponctuation dans les manuscrits autographes des humanistes français des X<sup>IV</sup>e et X<sup>V</sup>e siècles”, in Alfonso Maierù (ed.) *Grafia e interpunzione del Latino nel medioevo, Seminario Internazionale (Roma, 27-29 settembre 1984)*. Roma: Edizioni dell’Ateneo. p. 167–206.
- Parkes, M. B. 1993. *Pause and effect: an introduction to the history of punctuation in the West*. Berkeley & Los Angeles: University of California Press. ISBN 0-520-07941-8.
- Tannenbaum, Samuel A. 1931. *The handwriting of the Renaissance: Being the Development and Characteristics of the Script of Shaksperes Time*. London: George Routledge & Sons; New York: Columbia University Press.
- Thompson, Edward Maunde. 1912. *An introduction to Greek and Latin palaeography*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. ISBN 0-19-925650-0.

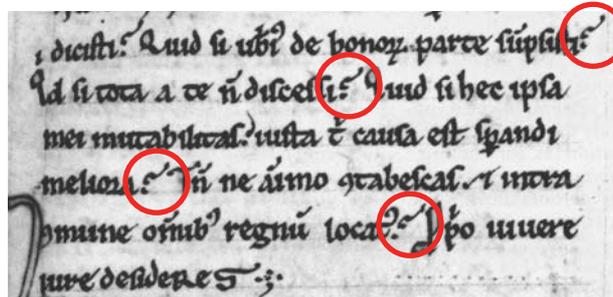




sed diu intrando | & non exhauriendo mergit nauem. Quid est autem | exhaurire . nisi bonis operibus agere . ne obruant | peccata . gemendo . ieiunando . tribuendo. ignos- | cendo. Hec autem huius seculi molestum est . plenum | est temptationibus. In rebus prosperis ne extollat

hold . but by seeping in for a long time and not draining away it sinks the ship . What is to drain . if not to do good works. lest sins overwhelm us . by sighing . fasting . giving . forgiving . The way of this world is irksome . it is filled with temptations . Let it not raise up in prosperous

**Figure 3.** Sample from Parkes 1993: showing the PUNCTUS INTERROGATIVUS MARK with an angular font glyph though the manuscript glyph is less angular.



Quid si uberius de bonorum parte sumpsisti. Quid si tota a te non discessisti. Quid si hec ipsa mei mutabilis est. iusta tibi causa est sperandi | melioris. Tamen ne animo conta-

bescas . et intra | commune omnibus regnum locatus. Proprio uiuere | iure desideres .;

What if it turns out that you had a more generous share of good things. What if it turns out that I have not wholly cut myself off from you. What if it turns out that this very mutability of mine . gives you just cause for better hope.

Notwithstanding you eat your heart out . and situated within a realm common to all . you should desire to live according to a law of your own .;

**Figure 4.** Sample from Parkes 1993:293, showing PUNCTUS INTERROGATIVUS MARK. In the Latin transcription the fourth one was left out after *locatus*.

Il nous faut maintenant compléter l'exposé de Barzizza en signalant ses principales omissions.

J'ai déjà noté l'absence du point d'exclamation (*punctus admirativus*); il était, il est vrai, d'introduction toute récente, puisque le plus ancien exemple actuellement connu figure dans un manuscrit copié peu avant sa mort (1406) par Coluccio Salutati qui en fut peut-être l'inventeur; ce signe se présentait ainsi: !

**Figure 5.** Sample from Ouy 1987, showing PUNCTUS EXCLAMATIVUS MARK with its glyph variant ! as opposed to the usual !.

!	&punctexclam;	F1E7	PUA-8	PUNCTUS EXCLAMATIVUS
Early form with two dots below each other and a diagonal stroke on top of them. Cf. Malcolm B. Parkes, <i>Pause and Effect</i> , Aldershot, 1992, p. 301.				
?	&punctinter;	F160	PUA-8	PUNCTUS INTERROGATIVUS

**Figure 6.** Listing of the PUNCTUS EXCLAMATIVUS MARK and the PUNCTUS INTERROGATIVUS MARK from the Medieval Unicode Font Initiative specification version 3.0 (2009-07-05).



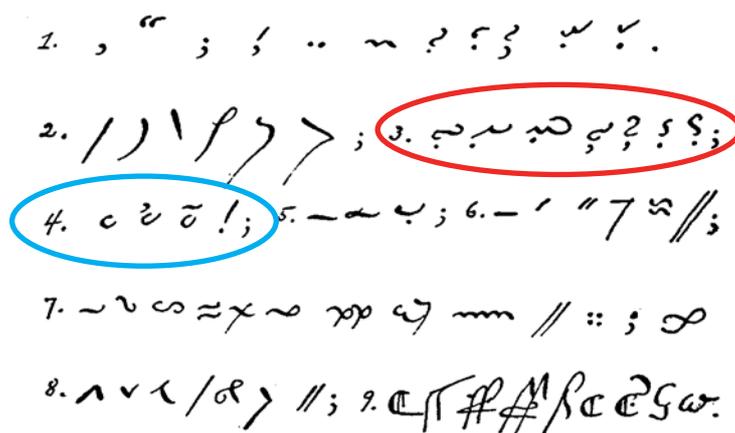
*Exclamation Marks*

There is no consistent and uniform method for marking an exclamation. In MSS. of the developed period we find an oblique hook (✓), or the mere oblique line, over *o*, but this is probably nothing more than the ordinary acute accent used over other stressed syllables and especially over monosyllabic words. The dot which is found in the middle of the *o* is not confined to exclamatory *o*. In glosses we find *o* with the acute accent placed over words in the vocative case, e. g.

Incipe parue puér risu cognoscere matrem.

The sign which is commonly used to mark interrogative sentences is occasionally placed over proper names in the vocative case to call attention to the intonation proper to direct address. But this sign is not a conventional exclamation mark like our own, but an inflexion sign indicating a certain rise and fall of the voice.<sup>2</sup>

**Figure 10.** Sample from Loew 1914:235, discussing the Beneventan exclamation marks, *o*, *ō*, and *ó*, which are different from the PUNCTUS EXCLAMATIVUS MARK proposed here.



The *question mark* was rather late in coming in; it found currency very slowly, probably because the order of the words sufficiently denoted the interrogatory character of the sentence. That is probably why most penmen were content to indicate the completion of the interrogative sentence with a comma, a period, a colon, or the virgule. The rather frequent use of the question mark in exclamatory sentences, both in manuscripts and in printed books, was probably due to the fact that so many questions partake of the character of exclamations. In shape the early question mark, often found within a sentence, was very much like an inverted semicolon, the dot being replaced

*Exclamation marks* seem to have found favor even later and more slowly than question marks. Their use was for a long time as lawless as that of the other new punctuation marks; though they seem never to have been used for other points, almost any other point could be used as a substitute for them. One of the most curious places for a colon was above the first word of an exclamation. Monsieur Chassant informs us, in his *Paléographie des chartes*, that in French documents from the eleventh century to the seventeenth the exclamation mark took any of the forms shown in No. 4.

by a comma; many penmen, especially in France, made it almost horizontal (No. 3). Even those penmen who were acquainted with and made use of the question mark often preferred to use the virgule.

**Figure 11.** Sample and discussion of Elizabethan punctuation marks Tannenbaum 1931:141, 143-144. Item 3 shows the PUNCTUS INTERROGATIVUS MARK, item 4 shows three Beneventan-style exclamation marks (see Figure 10 above) and then one PUNCTUS EXCLAMATIVUS MARK.

*Punctuation* is a complicated and much debated matter, connected as it is with such different subjects as grammar, prosody, rhetoric, liturgical practice and music, and because it is immediately concerned with the sense of the text.<sup>6</sup> Only its most elementary features can be dealt with here. Modern punctuation is of a syntactical nature, that is, it indicates the grammatical structure of the text. Medieval punctuation had partly the same function, but was to a great extent rhetorical, in other words it underscored the structure of the text (its rhetorical units) as it was read aloud. It not only marked the pauses the reader had to observe while pronouncing the written text and their length, but also the pitch. This is clearly visible in the question-mark (*punctus interrogativus*), of general use in the period studied in the present book, which has its origin in a neume or sign of musical notation, which indicated that the voice had to rise at the end of the sentence (11).

Ancient punctuation theory distinguished three signs for three different pauses: *comma*, for the short pause; *colon*, for the medial pause; and *periodus* for the final pause (which can be replaced by the question-mark). In the so-called Cistercian punctuation system a second sign for a medial pause was added, the *punctus flexus*, which has approximately the shape of figure 7 (12) and was used mainly in Bibles and liturgical books by the scribes of that order, by the Carthusians, Dominicans and the Augustinian Canons of the Windesheim Congregation (pls. 33, 45, 57, 95).

In the late Middle Ages the set of three (or four) punctuation signs recommended by the grammatical treatises is rarely found in Latin manuscripts. Most scribes kept to one or two signs in addition to the question-mark. The point on the baseline, or slightly above it (*punctus*), was frequently used as a sign for all pauses. More sophisticated punctuation normally provided two pauses: *punctus*, which was used for the final pause (where it is followed by a majuscule) and for a short pause; and the 'tick-and-point' (inverted semi-colon) or *punctus elevatus* (13), which likewise indicated a short pause. The final point often took the shape of a semicolon (*punctus versus*). In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the points were often replaced by slanting hair-line strokes (*virgulae suspensivae* (pls. 68, 71, 139)). The exclamation-mark (*punctus exclamativus*) appeared in the second half of the fourteenth century but was of extremely limited use.<sup>7</sup>

One finds in general a great deal of freedom and inconsistency in the punctuation of later medieval manuscripts especially. Although its importance for understanding the sense of a given text should not be underestimated, the reproduction of medieval punctuation in a modern transcription can render the reading of the text cumbersome and we would generally not



<sup>6</sup> Bischoff, *Palaeography*, pp. 169–71; more bibliography is given in Boyle, *Medieval Latin Palaeography*, pp. 265–6; P. Rafti, 'L'interpunzione nel libro manoscritto. Mezzo secolo di studi', *Scrittura e Civiltà*, 12 (1988), pp. 239–98. See also *Grafia e interpunzione del latino nel Medioevo. Seminario internazionale, Roma, 1984*, ed. A. Maierù, Rome 1987 (Lessico Intellettuale Europeo, 41) and especially the fundamental work by M. B. Parkes, *Pause and Effect: An Introduction to the History of Punctuation in the West*, Cambridge 1992.

<sup>7</sup> See examples in Parkes, *Pause and Effect* (see n. 6), pls. 30–9.

**Figure 12.** Discussion of punctuation in Derolez 2003:185. № 11 is the PUNCTUS INTERROGATIVUS MARK; № 12 is the *punctus flexus* (not yet encoded) and № 13 is the PUNCTUS ELEVATUS. Derolez' reference to the PUNCTUS EXCLAMATIVUS points in the footnote to Parkes 1993, and Figure 7 above shows the PUNCTUS EXCLAMATIVUS from Parkes' Plate 30.

Idolatrous  
sacrificers  
and Masse-  
mongers.

150

## The defense of the answere

have suffered punishment for their sinne, and haue receiued due rewarde for the wicked-  
nesse which they committed: what reuengement shall afterward hang ouer their soules, if  
they haue committed no other fault, if there is no other sinne, which may condemne them,  
but onely haue committed this fact, and for the same haue receiued the punishment due by  
the lawe. The Lord will not punish one thing twise, for they haue receiued the rewarde  
for their sinne, and the paine for their offence is finished. And for this cause is not this kind  
of commaundement cruell (as the heretikes affirme, accusing the lawe of God, and denying  
that there is any kinde of humanitie in it) but it is full of mercie: bycause hereby the peo-  
ple should rather be purged from their sinnes, than condemned. But nowe there is no pu-  
nishment layd vpon the body, nor any purging of sinne, through corporall punishment, but  
through repentance, which if a man doe worthily worke, so that he may seme worthe to  
haue the punishment withdrawne, he maye finde forgiuenesse. But howsoeuer this an-  
swere of Cyrill, may in some points minister occasion of quarrelling to suche as be dis-  
posed, yet this is euident, that the quantitie of sinne & the heynousnesse of it, is not to be  
estained according to the corporall and externall punishments, but according to the  
commaundement of God, to the which it is repugnant, and according to the threate-  
nings of God in the scriptures pronounced against the same, for we see that lesser faults  
are by man punished with greater torments, euen according to the state of euery coun-  
try. And this smelleth not one whitte of the Pharisees heretic, but the cleane contrarie.  
Neither doe I make this difference betwixt the seueritie of the lawe, and le-  
nitie of the Gospell, in any other respect, than of tempozall punishment appoynted  
in the lawe.

The true mea-  
ning of zachar-  
ie. 13.

The place of Zacharie doth not make for your purpose, except you will giue to the  
parents power of life and deathe ouer their sonnes and daughters, and giue libertie  
for one priuate man to kill another. The prophet in that place declareth what zeale  
shal be in the people against false prophets, & how much they shall preferre the true  
Religion of God befoze their owne naturall affection, and rather for sake their childre  
yea hate them, and kill them, than by their meanes, they should be withdrawne from  
God: this is the true meaning of that place. If you will referre it to the time of the  
Gospell. But if you will apply it to the Israelites to whom this prophet now prea-  
cheth & prophesieth, then doth he declare vnto them what zeale and seruencie God re-  
quireth in them, if they truly repent them of their former Idolatrie: euen that they  
shall not spare their owne children, but deale with them according to the lawe Deu. 13.

Luther.

ber. 6. re. M. Luther expounding this place and referring it to the time of the Gospell  
saith thus: *Et est hæc sententiæ summa. &c.* The sume hereof is, that Christians shal reteine, &  
defend true and pure doctrine, without respect of any person, whether it be his kinsman, or  
friend, for it is necessarie that there shoulde be false doctrine, and heresies, that the truth  
might be tryed, but yet they shall not haue the vpper hande, or preuaile. And interpreting  
these wordes his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he  
prophesieth he saith, *id est, non ferreis aut æreis armis & gladijs ipsam conficiet, sed verbo Dei,*  
*erit enim spirituale & suaue certamen, quale est parentum cum suis liberis, sicut & diuus Paulus*  
*Corinthios confodit, & ipsorum errores verbo Dei reprehendit.* That is to say, they shall destroy  
him not wyth Iron or brasen armour and weapons, but wyth the worde of God: for the  
strife shall be spirituall and pleasant, suche as is betweene parentes and their Children, lyke  
as Saynt Paule dothe pearce through the Corinthians, and reprehendeth their errors by  
the word of God.

The bloody  
assertion of  
C. C.

But would you in deede conclude of thys place, that those whynke haue taughte  
false doctrine muste of necessitie be put to deathe, though they repent? yea that their  
owne parentes and friendes muste kill them, or cause them to be hanged, and not ra-  
ther receive them willingly, if they will conuerte, and embrace them moste ioyful-  
ly? Doubtedly, the Prophete hathe no suche meaning: neyther haue you anye ex-  
ample of suche extremite committed by a true Christian towardes a repentant I-  
dolater, from the natiuite of Christe vnto thys houre: neyther is there anye  
thyng in the whole newe Testamente, whereby anye suche facte can be war-  
ranted. And howsoeuer thys place maye make, for the seuer punishment of stub-

Figure 13. Example from Parkes 1993 (Plate 37) showing the PUNCTUS INTERROGATIVUS MARK in Antiqua and Blackletter typefaces. The text is by John Whitgift, *The defense of the answere of the admonition against the reply by [Thomas] C[artwright]* (London, H. Bynneman for H. Toye, 1574).

## A. Administrative

1. Title

**Proposal to add two mediaeval punctuation characters to the UCS**

2. Requester's name

**Michael Everson**

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)

**Individual contribution.**

4. Submission date

**2020-10-05**

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

6. Choose one of the following:

6a. This is a complete proposal

**Yes.**

6b. More information will be provided later

**No.**

## B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

**No.**

1b. Proposed name of script

1c. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

**Yes**

1d. Name of the existing block

**Supplementary Punctuation**

2. Number of characters in proposal

**2.**

3. Proposed category (A-Contemporary; B.1-Specialized (small collection); B.2-Specialized (large collection); C-Major extinct; D-Attested extinct; E-Minor extinct; F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic; G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols)

**Category B.1.**

4a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

**Yes.**

4b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document?

**Yes.**

4c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

**Yes.**

5a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

**Michael Everson.**

5b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

**Michael Everson, Fontographer.**

6a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

**Yes.**

6b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

**Yes.**

7. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?

**Yes.**

8. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script.

**See above.**

## C. Technical – Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.

**Yes, some of the characters have. See N3193.**

2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?

**Yes.**

2b. If YES, with whom?

**The authors are members of the user community.**

2c. If YES, available relevant documents

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

**Medievalists, Latinists, and other scholars.**

4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

**Used historically and in modern editions.**

4b. Reference

5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

**Yes.**

5b. If YES, where?

**Scholarly publications.**

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

**Yes.**

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

**Yes.**

6c. If YES, reference

**Accordance with the Roadmap. Keep with other punctuation characters.**

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

**No.**

8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

**No.**

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

**No.**

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

**Yes.**

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

**Yes.**

10c. If YES, reference

**Some characters are ancestors of modern characters.**

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?

**No.**

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

11c. If YES, reference

11d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

**No.**

11e. If YES, reference

12a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

**No.**

12b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

**No.**

13b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?