

## Capital r with long leg

Denis Moyogo Jacquerye <moyogo@gmail.com>, 2024-08-09

A capital character for the case-pair of the letter `ɿ` U+027C LATIN SMALL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG was used from the 1930s until 1955 in the Xhosa [ISO 639-3: xho]. Adding the capital character to Unicode would be useful for historical and bibliographical purposes.

The 1930s Xhosa “New Orthography” was proposed by the Xhosa Sub-Committee of the Central Orthography Committee and adopted by the Education Department of the Cape of Good Hope. It became obligatory in 1937 and was used by some publishers. This orthography used 29 letters, including letters `b` with hook `< ʙ >` (common variant form of `B`), `< ʙ̣ >` for a voiced bilabial implosive [ɓ], `r` with long leg `< ɿ >`, `< ɿ̣ >` for a voiceless velar fricative [x] and esh `< Σ >`, `< ʃ >` for a voiceless postalveolar fricative [ʃ]. The letter `r` was not used in the orthography, except in foreign words. In 1955, the Xhosa “Standard Orthography” simplified and replaced those letters with the letter `< b >` and the digraphs `< rh >`, `< sh >`, and replaced the digraphs `< gṛ >` and `< kɿ̣ >` by `< gr >` and `< kr >`.

The capital most often had the shape of the capital Greek gamma `< Γ >` but can also be found with a shape similar to it but with a drop-terminal instead of a serif-terminal `< Γ̣ >` or a shape based on a scaled-up lowercase `< ɿ̣ >`. The letter is distinct from Latin gamma `< γ >` (or its variant forms `< γ̣ >`, `< γ̂ >`, `< Γ̂ >`), from Latin insular `s` `< ʃ̣ >`, `< ɿ̣ >` or from Greek gamma `< Γ >`, `< γ >`.

The letter was sorted after `Q` (and `R`), for example in Mncube 1939 and Westphal 1951, or after `H`, for example in McLaren 1955.

A similar casing pair was used in some articles in Isaac Pitman’s *Phonetic Journal* and may have been the origin of the Xhosa letter or casing pair.

The `r` with long leg was adopted as a symbol in the International Phonetic Alphabet in 1945 to represent a voiced alveolar fricative trill [ɾ] and was withdrawn in 1989.

## Character to be added

`ɿ` U+A7E2 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG

## Annotations and properties

### NamesLists.txt

The following annotations are recommended for NamesList.txt:

@ Addition for Xhosa

A7E2 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG

\* lowercase is 027C

x (latin capital letter gamma - 0194)

x (greek capital letter gamma - 0393)

x (latin capital letter insular s - A784)

The following annotations should be updated in NamesList.txt:

```
0194 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER GAMMA
    * African
    * lowercase is 0263
    x (latin capital letter r with long leg - A7E2)
027C LATIN SMALL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG
    * uppercase is A7E2
    x (latin small letter insular s - 027C)
A784 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER INSULAR S
    x (latin capital letter r with long leg - A7E2)
A785 LATIN SMALL LETTER INSULAR S
    x (latin small letter r with long leg - 027C)
```

### UnicodeData.txt

```
27C;LATIN SMALL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG;Ll;0;L;;;;N;;;A7E2;;A7E2
A7E2;LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG;Lu;0;L;;;;N;;;027C;
```

### allkeys.txt

```
027C ; [.22D6.0020.0002] # LATIN SMALL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG
A7DD ; # LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG
```

## Examples

phonetic orthography, with aspiration indicated with an *h* and each basic sound represented with its own symbol. This required the Roman alphabet to be expanded with six symbols. In the upper and lower case respectively the voiced bilabial implosive was represented with the symbols ɓ and ɗ, the voiced alveolar fricative with ɹ and ʀ, and the voiceless prepalatal fricative with ʃ and ʂ, as in *uɓuɓi* (evil), *kwaɓangindlala* (at Mount Arthur), *ɪɾamba* (pufadder), *uɾaɾaɓe* (Rharhabe), *uɓuɟuɟu* (heat) and *eʂeʂegu* (in Sheshegu). Longer vowels were indicated by duplication, as in *naantsi* (here it is) and *ukwaakha* (to build). Rather intricate rules in respect of word division were devised. Where deemed useful the relative tone level of words was indicated with a short line in front of a vowel, high for a high tone, e.g. <sup>ˈ</sup>*U*, and low for a low tone, e.g. <sub>ˌ</sub>*U*. Indicating a falling double tone was obviated by the use

Figure 1. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Oosthuysen 2016, p. 2.

# ITYALA LAMA-WELE.

NgamaZwembe-zwembe akwaGxuluwe.

IBALWE NGU

S. E. KRUNE MQHAYI,

*Umbali ka“ Samson,” no“ Don Jadu,”  
nemi“ Hobe ” nemi“ Bongo.”*

*Umbali wobom bomfi uJ. K. Bokhwe.  
Unguquli wo“ Limo,” no Agri um Afrika.*

(IMBONGI YESIZWE JIKELELE.)

Figure 2. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Mqhayi 1931, title page, with the name of S. E. Krune Mqhayi [S. E. Krune Mqhayi].

92

IFafu yamaKhanda.

emahlathini. UTulumente waPhefeya ukhe wathi ma  
kuthiwe xhaa akhe ayive lento, uthe akwenje njalo lanyikima  
lonke eli, baphuma noTulumente ngokukhalala.

Lithe ke iKomkhulu elo laPhefeya ngokugcina uxolo  
lafumana layekelela. Ladutyulwa ke okwenene ifumi  
elinambini leentsizwa zakwaZulu, ngomVulo womhla we2

Figure 3. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Mqhayi 1931, p. 92.

UmFanekiso wakhe

Uthe eFawutini wadiBana noGqipa, uC. T. Loram,  
owabala wamchaza-chaza esithi :

UGqITA uC. T. LORAM ubalela uGQITA UJESSE JONES.

“ 16, Tshaz'iimpuzi, 1921.

Figure 4. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Kingsley Williams, 1935, p. 57. Note lowercase and smallcap.

*banyeliswe ingabona baligcinileyo ilizwe.*  
*Inxenye yayisithi neligama*  
*lithi "Tanuga" asililo igama lesi Xhosa*  
*ligama nje lemboleko, ngakho abanakho*  
*ukubiza ilizwe labo ngento enjalo. Ukuthi*

Figure 5. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Mqhayi 1935 (manuscript), p. 20.

*uNdaβ' uZek' uBede—Inkosi enkulu yaba Thembu uNdaβa*  
*wazek' inkosazana intombi ka Tapaβe uBede; kwaza kwathi*  
*ngenxa yamaβango aseba Thenjini, wakhe wanethuβa ekweli*  
*laseβukhweni βakhe.*

*OkaLose—Rev B. J. Ross, owanikwa nguDr. W. B. Fuβusana*  
*igama lesi Xhosa lokuβa ngu Zam' ukulungisa.*

Figure 6. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Mqhayi 1937, p. 16 (cropped and assembled), with the name of W. B. Fubusana [Walter Benson Rubusana].

**(f) NTANZI.**

*AβakwaNtanzī ngabenzala kaΓadeβe.*  
*“NgabakwaGwilikana kaNtanzī.*  
*βakwaMhlahl' usengalweni.*  
*AβakwaNgalo zamatana*  
*Nina βakwaMkhonto—Mvelase.”*

**(g) NTΣALI—NTΣAYI.**

*AβakwaNtjayi beza ngomliβo kaΓadeβe.*

**(h) TAWULE.**

*AmaΓawule ayindlu enkulu kaMafwabada.*  
*“NgabakwaBucwa, ngabaseMvuleni.*  
*NgabakwaMazwabad' owazwabadela inkomo*  
*neempondo;*  
*Yathi yakufik' esiswini yadl' amalalala.*  
*NgabakwaMaf' amnyama.*  
*NgamaΓawu-Γaw' ancokazi kunye neenkomo*  
*zawo.*

Figure 7. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Masila Ndawo 1939, p. 28.

*-ququ, um-, husk, chaff.*  
*qwalasela, v., look steadfastly at.*  
*-qwelo, in-, n. 5, wagon.*

  
 Γ

*-řalarume, isi-, n. 4, fierce, wrathful*  
*person.*  
*-řamba, i-, n. 3, puffadder.*

Figure 8. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Mncube 1939, p. 152, sorted after Q.

Ma icace into yokuba iincwadi ezingentetho yethu zimbalwa kakhulu,—isizwe esingena zincwadi zaso ke asihambeli phambili nakuyiphi na into.

Ndingowenu nje ngokwemihla,  
S. E. KTUNE MQHAYI.

Nta6' ozuko,  
Berlin, C.P.  
1945.

Figure 9. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Hobson and Hobson 1945, p. 3.

# U-DON JADU

“ UkuHamba yimFundo.”

Imbali yokukhuthaza uManyano nenKqubela-Phambili

IBALWE NGU-

S. E. KTUNE MQHAYI

Figure 10. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Mqhayi 1951, title page.

*Ntak' ibubi bungaqhelekiyo !  
Gamncwa lizidlayo ngokubaba !  
Lisingisa e-Mbembesi kubi.*

The ugliest of the birds.  
You beast with pride obsessed,  
Fly towards Mbembesi,

Figure 11. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Tayedzerhwa and Mncube 1951, p. 127, with a shape slightly different with a drop-terminal from capital Greek gamma.

ukwenza isigqibo sokuya kule ntlanganiso. Phakathi kwamakhulu-khulu aabantu afaNtsundu na6emi a6aninzi a6amHlophe a6a6alulekileyo, neBunga lesiXeko neBunga lesiThili namagosa obuGulumente ndiluphalazile udafa olu6e lolwethemba nokuhlaziya inkuthalo ndaza ngokusuka emazantsi entliziyo yam ndazi6ulela zombini ezi ntlanga ngolu lwamkelo xa ndi6uyele kwisithili sokuzalwa kwam.

Figure 12. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Washington and Jolobe 1951, p. 162.

<i>qàla</i> , begin <i>qàfa</i> , choose <i>qèfa</i> , hire <i>qina</i> , be firm	<b>Q</b> <i>qaba</i> , paint <i>qhela</i> , be accustomed to <i>qonda</i> , understand <i>qhuba</i> , drive <i>qumba</i> , be cross <i>qwenga</i> , tear to pieces	have witch doctor qualities <i>thwèsa</i> , same as <i>thwa-</i> <i>lisa</i> <i>tyàla</i> , plant <i>tyèla</i> , tell <i>thwàla</i> , carry	<i>tyhafa</i> , be weak <i>tyhala</i> , push
	<b>R</b> <i>rola</i> , drag <i>rweba</i> , trade. <i>kṛwempa</i> , scratch <i>kṛwela</i> , draw a line	<i>vùka</i> , wake up <i>vùsa</i> , arouse <i>vùya</i> , be glad	<b>V</b> <i>vala</i> , shut <i>vela</i> , come from <i>vula</i> , open <i>vuma</i> , consent <i>vutha</i> , blaze up <i>vuza</i> , leak
<i>sèla</i> , drink	<b>S</b>		<b>W</b> <i>wela</i> , cross

Figure 13. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Westphal 1951, p. 112 with a scaled-up lowercase shape.

*Zaxokozel'iingxangxasi zeLigwa,*  
*Zahlokom'ezeGqili nezomFugwane,*  
*Zibikel'ezomEafe neNciba;*

The falls of the Vaal resound confused,  
And those of the Orange and Caledon re-echo,  
The messages cross country to the Bashee and the

Figure 14. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in Yali-Manisi 1953, p. 74 with some kind of drop-terminal.

(b) Consonant Sounds

The consonant sounds in Xhosa, which include ordinary consonants and clicks, are represented by the letters of the Roman alphabet, singly or combined, with the addition of three additional symbols, **B 6** (*ba*), **Γ ɾ** (*re*), and **Σ ʃ** (*ish*). They are as follows:—

Plain Consonants:

**P, B, T, D, K, G**, are pronounced without aspiration, as in French; *G* is always hard.

Figure 15. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG used in McLaren and Bennie 1955, p. ix.

**i-hoḡe**, *n. 3*, the ringdove.  
**isi-hogo**, *n. 4*, a deep pit,  
hell.

**I**  
**i-ṛamba**, *n. 3*, a puff-adder.  
**i-ṛamncwa**, *n. 3*, a wild  
beast.  
**ama-ṛe**, *n. 3 pl.* rumours.

Figure 16. LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG (turned by mistake) used in McLaren and Welsh 1955, p. 234, sorted after H.

**Ɑ** ɹ, the guttural or burred “r” is by a faulty pronunciation frequently substituted for “r” in England and France. In some other countries it is confounded with the continuant **ɹ** (section 3). It appears to be the proper equivalent of the Arabic **ر**, *rayin*, which is etymologically connected with the Hebrew **ר**, and commonly written *gh*.

Figure 17. C. B. Cayley, “General Phonetic Alphabet: Scheme for the extension of the Phonetic Alphabet to foreign languages”, *The Phonetic Journal*, 1858-10-30, 372-372, p. 377 showing LATIN CAPITAL R WITH LONG LEG as the capital of LATIN SMALL LETTER R WITH LONG LEG in Charles Cayley’s proposed General Phonetic Alphabet.