Comment on "Request for f and g with loop" by Miller & Jared
(vs. Dec. 12, 2025)

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Forward to: SEWG, UTC

The proposal adresses the observation from historic European works, several lowercase letters having loop forms attached in order to create abbreviations for frequently needed expressions. One such character has been proposed by the Philiumm research group in the proposal about cossic signs, as LATIN SMALL LETTER C WITH RIGHT LOOP, which was given the preliminary codepoint 1DF91.

Miller & Jared propose another two such characters for encoding: **f** and **g**, and present some samples from the field of historic music notation. While these two are likely to be worthy candidates, the proposal (for some unknown reason named "request") still evokes a few questions.
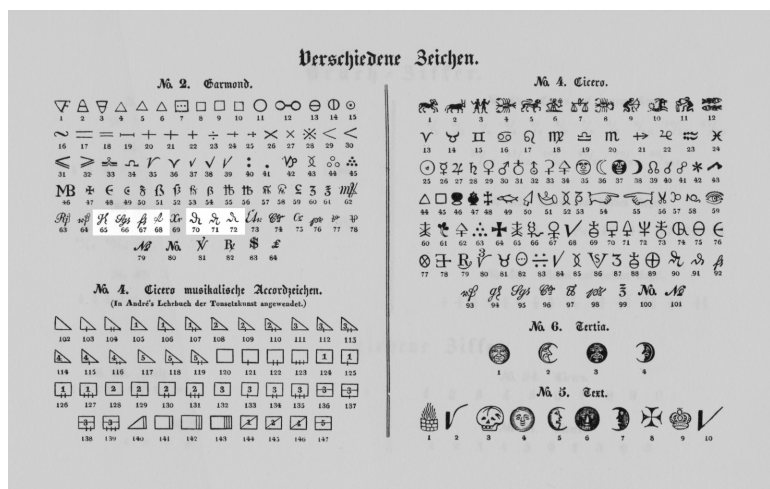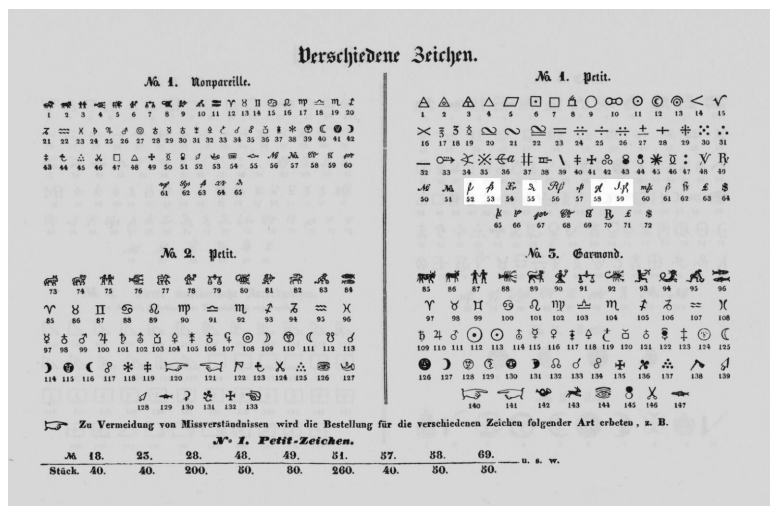
1. The issue of the distinction between the already encoded char. LATIN SMALL LETTER IS (A76D) and a more general loop-shaped abbreviation mark, which occurs frequently in many other sources, is not being reflected upon to a convincing conclusion.

2. The letters **f** and **g** with loops are known from many other sources as monetary characters, usually denoting the units *florin* and *groschen*. This important fact is not reflected in the proposal. Examples can be found e.g. in Pistorius 1721, Pflugbeil 1773, in Breitkopf & Härtel 1787 as well as in a type specimen book from Andreäische Schriftgießerei, 1834 (see images), and in a lot of other sources.

3. On reflection the question arises weather A76D and the 'general abbreviation loop' are one and the same or rather two different characters. In fact the original proposal which introduced A76C and A76D (N3027, 2006) presents rather weak evidence for "is", on p. 32 only one MS and one print sample is shown to support the lowercase *is*; the uppercase "letter *IS*" is not testified at all. Hence the definition of A76C/A76D as "letter *is*" on grounds of this sole example is questionable. The fact that f-loop and g-loop also exist as signs for *florin* and *groschen* shows, the loopy thing *can* stand for *-is*, but it can *also* stand for something else (like other abbreviation elements which can represent various letters or syllables). Further-more, such loopy terminals also occur with t and other characters.

4. The authors are right with the remark that the downward part of the loop may swing leftward or rightward or be straight, that variance not beeing of actual meaning.

5. The figures 2, 3, 4 feature a lot more special characters not encoded yet. The authors make no statement about the relevance of these. Focussing only on **f** and **g** with loop, they leave it

unanswered why from this special tabulatura notation *only two* characters are picked for a proposal. For a text representation of such sources one would need a complete set of the special characters. A broader and deeper consideration of the tabulatura notation system's character set as a whole is recommended, in order to achieve a well-founded picture about the requirements and specifics of that sort of notation.

6. The explanation to fig. 6 suggests the encoding of the abbreviated characters using A76D, but it is not made clear why the other examples may not get the same encoding.

7. Fig. 5 may get a proper source reference. In the first line (p. 1) the typo *Leibnitz* ought to get corrected (Leibniz).

8. Desirable is a more consistent justification, based on more source research and comparison. Both the 'horizontal' aspect (tabulatura notation in total) and the 'vertical' aspect (same characters in other fields) should be examined further.

Figures from: Proben aus der Schriftgiesserey der Andreäischen Buchhandlung in Frankfurt am Main 1834 [Reprint Darmstadt 1984]