Date: 2007-04-08

TITLE: Liaison report from UC Berkeley (Script Encoding Initiative)

SOURCE: Deborah Anderson, UC Berkeley (liaison member to SC2) and Project Leader of

Script Encoding Initiative

ACTION: For consideration by WG2

DISTRIBUTION: ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG 2

This document serves as a summary of the UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative's recent activities as they relate to WG2. The Script Encoding Initiative was established to help scholars and user communities get various unencoded characters and scripts proposed for inclusion in the UCS/Unicode, and to ensure that current proposals are reviewed by specialists. SEI focuses on unencoded modern minority scripts and historic scripts. (For information on unencoded minority scripts and an accompanying letter to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2 Chair, please see documents N3233 [minority script report] and N3232 [letter]).

Proposals on Lanna (N3207), additional Cyrillic (N3194), Meitei Mayek (N3206), Bamum (3209), Medieval and Avestan punctuation characters (N3193), Avestan (N3197) have been submitted to WG2. Proposals for Egyptian Hieroglyphs, Anatolian Hieroglyphs, Samaritan, and Vedic accents may also be submitted, as well a proposal on Tai Viet.

Ongoing Work

Pahlavi: Michael Everson and Roozbeh Pournader are working on a proposal, with the goal of completing it in 2007.

Kaithi, North Indian Accounting Signs: A graduate student from the University of Washington (/University of Michigan), Anshuman Pandey, is working on two proposals: one on the Kaithi script and a second one on North Indian Accounting Signs. These will be submitted to WG2 in the near future.

Tangut: Richard Cook is working on a proposal for Tangut, with a proposal likely to appear in 2007. A set of notes (with images) is available at: http://unicode.org/~rscook/Xixia/.

Naxi Pictographic and Syllabographic Scripts: Richard Cook has done preliminary research for the eventual encoding of Naxi. A brief report and images are available at: http://unicode.org/~rscook/Naxi/. Work is envisioned as continuing into 2007.

Greek Papyrological symbols: The Center for Tebtunis Papyri at UC Berkeley will be working on a proposal for those Greek symbols needed by papyrologists, but not yet in UCS/Unicode.

Alchemical symbols: "The Chymistry of Isaac Newton" project hosted by Indiana University Digital Library Program (http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/collections/newton) will be working on a proposal for missing alchemical symbols.

Future Activities

Deborah Anderson, who leads the Script Encoding Initiative project, has received funding from the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities for work on unencoded scripts for 2007 and 2008. In preparing the NEH proposal, experts and users for 15 unencoded scripts were contacted and have written that they are willing to participate in proposal creation and/or review.