TO: The Unicode Technical Committee and JTC1/SC2 WG2
FROM: Nina Marie Evensen (Ludvig Holbergs skrifter) and Deborah Anderson (SEI, UC
    Berkeley)
RE: Proposal for one historic currency character, MARK SIGN
DATE: 24 July 2012

The Holberg project (http://holbergsskrifter.no), a Danish-Norwegian collaborative project, is developing a digital critical edition of the works of Ludvig Holberg (1684-1754)[1]. In the course of the project, a character was identified as being needed for the currency symbol for "mark". However, it is not in Unicode. (The character SCRIPT CAPITAL M, U+2133 $\mathcal{M}$, was the symbol used for the German Mark before WWII, but does not represent the Nordic currency symbol.)

This mark symbol was used by Ludvig Holberg in Denmark and Norway in the 17th and 18th centuries. Holberg was a prolific author, who holds a prominent place in both Danish and Norwegian literary history. The "mark" symbol also appears in other written materials (see example [2], below).

According to Wikipedia, the Danish currency system was set up in 1625, with 16 skilling = 1 mark, 6 mark = 1 rigsdaler, and 8 mark = 1 krone (Wikipedia entry for Danish rigdaler) , and continued into the late 18c.[2]

The symbol appears after the number (see Examples).

This proposal requests one character:

ℳ   MARK SIGN [3]

Character properties
20BB;MARK SIGN;Sc;0;ET;;;;;N;;;;;

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[1] See also: http://gandalf.uib.no:8003/xtf/view?docId=adm/aboutHolberg.xml
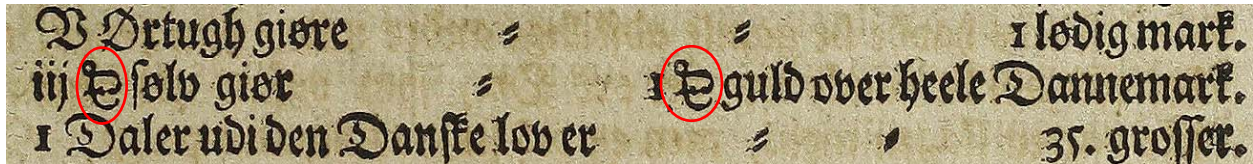
[2] Wikipedia entries for "Danish krone" and "Danish rigsdaler", accessed 19 July 2012.

[3] The glyph for this character comes from the Andron Scriptor Web v.3 font by Andreas Stötzner, and appears in the MUFI v.3.0 font recommendations at page 156 (F2F3 FLOURISHED SMALL LETTER M SIGN).

Examples

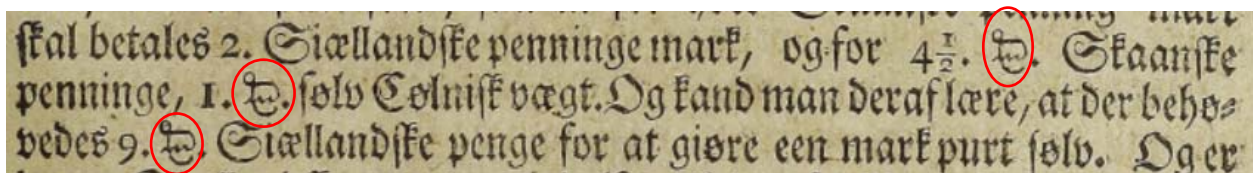(1) Examples from Holberg, dated to 18th century (1729 and 1732):

a.

"3 mark silver equals 1 mark gold in whole Denmark." Holberg 1729, *Dannemarks og Norges Beskrivelse*, p. 603

b.

Holberg 1729, *Dannemarks og Norges Beskrivelse*, p. 599

c.
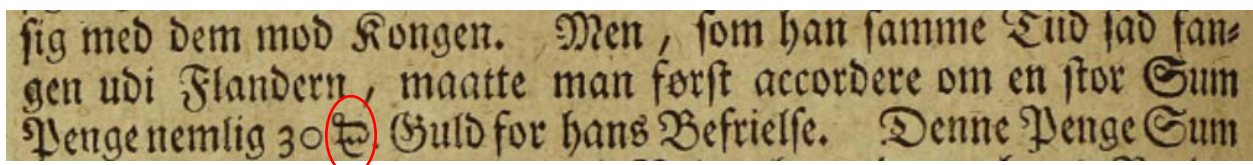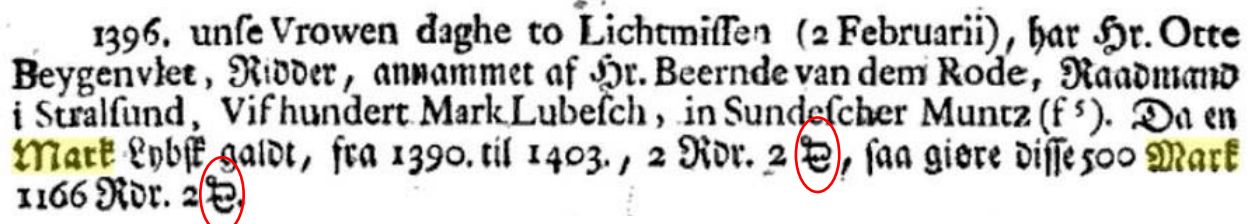
Holberg 1732, *Danmarks Riges Historie*, page 194.

(2) From *Skrifter som udi det Kiøbenhavnske Selskab af Lærdoms og Videnskabers Elskere ere fremlagte og oplæste* [Writings put forth and recited by the Copenhagen Society of Lovers of Learning and Science/Knowledge] (1765, p. 652), a compendium of scholarly articles.[4]

Note: In his handwritten materials, Holberg uses another symbol for "mark": ℳ[5]. Its exact relation to the above mark is being further investigated. An example of the symbol appears, for example, in a letter from Holberg dated 1721: "4 mark." The 1926 print edition of Holberg's work by Dahlerup is represented as : .

References

Holberg, Ludvig. 1729. *Dannemarks og Norges Beskrivelse*. [Denmark and Norways Description]

_____. 1732. *Danmarks Riges Historie* [The history of Denmark] Part 1.

Skrifter som udi det Kiøbenhavnske Selskab af Lærdoms og Videnskabers Elskere ere fremlagte og oplæste.
       [Writings put forth and recited by the Copenhagen Society of Lovers of Learning and
       Science/Knowledge] 1765. http://books.google.com/books?id=UCJKAAAAcAAJ
       Accessed 20 July 2012.

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[5] This symbol also appears in the MUFI v.3.0 font recommendations document as F2F1 OLD FLOURISH MARK SIGN and is represented here by the glyph from Andron Scriptor Web v.3.

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646[1]
Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.
Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html **for guidelines and details before filling this form.**
Please ensure you are using the latest Form from http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html**.**
See also http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html **for latest *Roadmaps*.**

A. Administrative

1. **Title:** *Proposal for one historic currency character, MARK SIGN*
2. Requester's name: *Nina Marie Evensen (Ludvig Holbergs skrifter) and Deborah Anderson (SEI, UC Berkeley)*
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): *Liaison*
4. Submission date: *23 July 2012*
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):
6. Choose one of the following:
    This is a complete proposal: *yes*
    (or) More information will be provided later:

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
    a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):
        Proposed name of script:
    b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: *yes*
        Name of the existing block: *Currency Symbols*
2. Number of characters in proposal: *1*
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):
    A-Contemporary   B.1-Specialized (small collection)   B.2-Specialized (large collection)
    C-Major extinct   D-Attested extinct   *x*   E-Minor extinct
    F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic   G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? *yes*
    a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines"
        in Annex L of P&P document? *yes*
    b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? *yes*
5. Fonts related:
    a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?
    Andreas Stötzner (via D. Anderson)
    b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):
    A. Stötzner
6. References:
    a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? *yes*
    b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources)
    of proposed characters attached? *yes*
7. Special encoding issues:
    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)?

8. Additional Information:

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. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database (http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

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[1] Form number: N4102-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? — *no*
　　If YES explain

2. 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*
　　　　If YES, with whom? — *Members of Norwegian-Danish project Ludvig Holbergs skrifter, Peter Leonard, and Tim Tangherlini*
　　　　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? — *Scholars and readers of Holberg's works*
　　Reference:

4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) — *rare*
　　Reference:

5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? — *no*
　　If YES, where? Reference:

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely
　　in the BMP?
　　　　If YES, is a rationale provided?
　　　　If YES, reference:

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

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing
　　character or character sequence? — *no*
　　　　If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
　　　　If YES, reference:

9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either
　　existing characters or other proposed characters? — *no*
　　　　If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
　　　　If YES, reference:

10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function)
　　to, or could be confused with, an existing character? — *not exactly, see comment on U+2133 in proposal*
　　　　If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
　　　　If YES, reference:

11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? — *no*
　　If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?
　　　　If YES, reference:
　　Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?
　　　　If YES, reference:

12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as
　　control function or similar semantics? — *no*
　　　　If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? — *no*
　　If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?
　　　　If YES, reference: