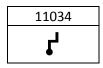
Proposal to change the glyph for Brahmi Letter Lla (U+11034)

Andrew Glass, Microsoft Corporation

July 31, 2012

As pointed out by Sharma (L2/12-106), the glyph used in the published code chart for Brahmi Letter Lla is incorrect. The error was also discussed by Ganesan (L2/12-165). Sharma and Ganesan have both proposed different corrected glyphs in their respective documents reflecting northern and southern innovations in representing this character. At the same time, both Sharma and Ganesan are aware of another glyph for this letter attested in the Aśokan pillar edicts, however, they stop short of recommending this glyph for the Brahmi code chart based on uncertainty over this reading. Having consulted experts in this field (Dr. Baums, Prof. Falk, Dr. Melzer), the relevant literature, and available images I am satisfied that the reading is correct and that the form of *[a]* attested in the Aśokan pillar edicts should be used as the basis for Brahmi letter Lla (U+11034) in the Brahmi code chart:



The following images in support of this glyph change come from Garrick's photographs of paper impressions of Lauriya-Ararāj pillar.



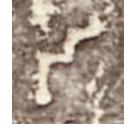


Figure 1 la

Figure 2 li

These forms with rounded foot contrast with the straight footed da



Figure 2 da

Sources

Bühler, Johann Georg. 1896. *Indische Palaeographie von circa 350 a. Chr.-circa 1300 p. Chr.* Grundriss der indo-arischen Philologie und Altertumskunde, I. Band, 11. Heft. Strassburg: Verlag von Karl J. Trübner.

"Further Inscriptions From Sânchi." Epigraphia Indica 2: 366-408.

Dani, A. H. 1963. *Indian Palaeography*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Falk, Harry. 1993. "The Art of Writing at the Time of the Pillar Edicts of Aśoka." *Berliner Indologische Studien* 7: 79–102.

Hultzsch, E. 1925. Inscriptions of Asoka. Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol. I. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Lüders, H. 1911. "The Lingual la in the Northern Brāhmī Script." *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (New Series)* 43: 1081-1089.

http://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015009185193

Salomon, Richard. 1998. Indian Paleography. New York: Oxford University Press.

Sircar, D. C. 1965. Select Inscriptions Bearing on Indian History and Civilization, Volume I: From the Sixth Century B.C. to the Sixth Century A.D. Calcutta: University of Calcutta.

Garrick, Henry. 1885. Photographic print of paper impression of Edicts V-VI, Asoka Edict Pillar, Lauriya Araraj, Champaran District.

http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/apac/photocoll/p/zoomify58403.html