

Title: Comment on N5313R
Source: suzuki toshiya
Date: 2025-06-21
Reference: N5306, N5312, N5313R
Type: Individual Contribution

TCA made detailed review on N5306 and proposed many separate encodings of the glyphs taken from QJZ text (K-glyph of the late print of Qi Junzhao reproduction of XiaoXu = Xu Kai text) and DYC text (D-glyph of the Duan Yucai annotated text).

1. Propose to keep C and K entries for pre-official Small Seal glyphs with subtle stylistic difference

On Appendix 1, TCA proposed to drop a C-glyph (Chen Changzhi reproduction of Xu Xuan text) from U+383C5, with a claim that the glyph at U+383C5 (C-00965) is a duplicate of the glyph at U+398AA (C-06305). The relationship between U+383C5 and U+398AA is the difference of pre-Small-Seal variant (Zhouwen) versus official Small Seal (Zhengzhuan). TCA’s claim is reasonable if they are really duplicated, but looking both C-glyphs carefully, their calligraphic styles have subtle difference. I suggest keeping C-00965.






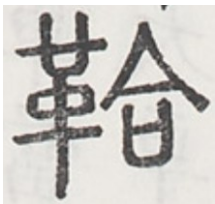
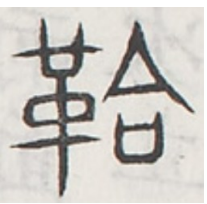

The original print (preserved in Institute of Research in Humanities, Kyoto University).

Official Small Seal	Similar Pre-Small Seal
	

Similar comments are given to several K-glyphs: U+3857E (K-01356), U+38DDA (K-03441), U+3A82A (K-93303), and U+38DC8 (K-03423).



As I commented for C-glyphs, the images of the source material (the images are published by the Institute of for Research in Humanities in Kyoto University) show the stylistic difference (stick-like end of strokes, versus, needle-like end of strokes). If their stylistic differences are unacceptably too subtle, I propose to modify the fonts. If the modification is unacceptable either, using Wang Qishu glyphs for these entries might be another considerable option.

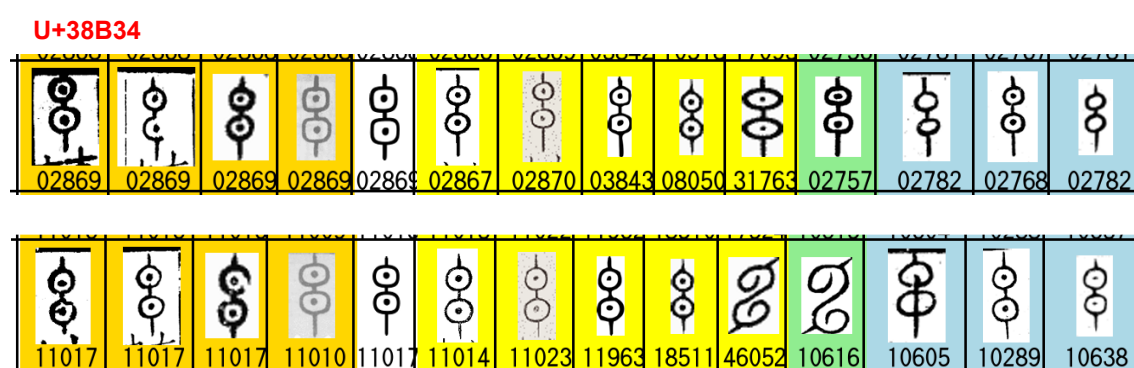
Official Small Seal	Similar Pre-Small Seal	N5211 述古堂本(SGT)・汪啓淑本(WQS)・祁寯藻本(QJZ)
		 <p>The right side stroke at middle component in WQS is more loosely drawn, it looks “less-official”.</p>
		 <p>WQS shows DaXu glyph.</p>

The original Sung print did not differentiate them by such difference. Rather, the center vertical stroke is curved or not. Anyway, such visual differences cannot be justified by any etymological analysis. The center component of Jiguge-influenced glyph for U+3961C is shaped like “子”. On the other hand, the center component of Jiguge-influenced glyph for U+3AB02 is slightly different from “子”. But U+3AB02 is classified under “子”. There might be 3 options.

- ① Keep C and K glyph as they are in N5306. It would be the best interpretation of CCZ and QJZ reproductions.
- ② Change C and K glyphs for U+3AB02 to be (more) distinguishable from U+3961C.
 - A) For K glyph, Shugutang transcription or Wang Qishu reproduction may work.
 - B) For C glyph, there is no original CCZ revisions whose glyphs have more visible difference. Thus, possibility of the artificial change might be considerable option. Further discussion is needed about what kind of the difference should be applied (hook or circle?).
- ③ Remove C glyph from U+3AB02.
 This might be the second-best option. However, the contrast (why TH glyph is shown by no C glyph) should be documented in the standard.

3. Discussion on U+38B34

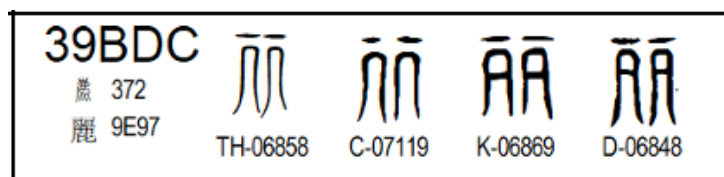
TCA proposed separated encoding of DaXu/DYC glyphs and K-glyph at U+38B24 (“串”, pre-SmallSeal version of “申”), although they noted that THX, CCZ and DYC glyphs are quite similar to different character (“串”, pre-SmallSeal version of “玄”).



Considering the proposal to drop C and K glyphs from U+3AB02 (the policy looks like “even if they are non-cognate, the glyphs with too-subtle difference should be coded separately”), for these entries, two TH glyphs cannot be encoded separately?

4. U+39BDC should be disunified?

TCA suggested to disunify K and D glyphs from U+39BDC, because of two additional strokes in the lower component. This entry is pre-Small Seal variant of “麗”, without no description of the glyph shape, there is no etymological justification of these differences. If they should be disunified, future submissions of the extension would introduce cognate-but-slightly different glyphs (like 幸 vs 牵).



5. Concern on separate encoding of same components but different structures

There are many structural differences between DaXu (Xu Xuan) text and XiaoXu (Xu Kai) text, and N5133R proposes to encode them separately. It is a considerable option, because of following reasons.

- ① No so many, but there are some non-cognate pairs of entries whose components are same but differently structured, like, “妃” versus “改”. Disunifications regardless with their semantics is the easiest options for users.
- ② Shuowen Seal has been used as the archetypes to design the official glyph in Kaishu era. In the Kaishu era, the structurally different glyphs are, even if they are non-cognate, stably regarded as different characters. Thus, it is natural to assume the structural difference in Shuowen Seal as different characters.
- ③ Today, modern users cannot memorize or identify Shuowen Seal characters without mapping to the modern characters, by substituting their components to modernized shape, so, leaving the structural differences as “implementation dependent” level may induce the difficulty for users to decide “this character is coded already” or “this Seal character is not coded yet”.

But this is specific to Shuowen Seal. Applying this strategy to Old Hanzi encoding generally, it would introduce too many variants of cognate characters. It should be noted how the separate encoding of the structural difference are applied to Shuowen Seal, in the Annex of the standard.

In fact, Qi Junzhao’s earlier print has more structural differences, as Guo Lixuan (郭立暄) and Dong Jingchen (董靖宸) had already studied. Also, XiaoXu text in Siku Quanshu has same issue. They would be proposed in future extension. If they should not be acceptable, like, “the most authorized reprints are exceptionally accepted, but other differently-structured glyphs in non-

popular resources would not be coded separately”, it should be recorded. Below is an extract of the study by Guo. From the left to right, QJZ early 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and late 1st, 2nd, and 3rd print. These glyphs should be coded separately?

十四	二	二						
二十三	十二	六						
二十四	七	後四						
二十四	十六	後六						
二十四	十六	後六	臣錯曰： 					
二十四	二十	後三						
二十七	八	後三						

(end of document)