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Proposal to add the Cypriot Syllabary to Unicode/ISO-IEC 10646

The Cypriot syllabary was used to write the Cypriot dialect of Greek from about 800 to 200 B.C. It's related to Linear B and Cypro-Minoan. Interpretation has been aided by the fact that, as it died out, inscriptions were carved using both the Greek alphabet and the Cypriot syllabary.

Unlike Linear B and Cypro-Minoan, the Cypriot syllabary was usually written right-to-left. Word breaks were not indicated. Although both Linear B and the Cypriot syllabary were used to write Greek dialects, Linear B provides for a more highly abbreviated spelling.

Structurally, the syllabary consists of combinations of up to thirteen initial consonants (and a null consonant) and five different vowels. Long and short vowels are not distinguished. The Cypriot syllabary distinguishes among a different set of initials than Linear B; e.g., Linear B uses the same characters for syllables beginning with L or R, but Cypriot does not. Not all of the 70 possible consonant-vowel combinations are represented.

As with Linear B, the Cypriot syllabary is well-understood and documented.

The Cypriot syllabary is currently targeted for encoding in Plane 1.

Issues

The main issue associated with the Cypriot syllabary is whether or not it should be laid out on the same phonetic grid as Linear B. A secondary issue is whether or not it should be unified with any of the other Aegean scripts, such as Cypro-Minoan or Linear B.

Inasmuch as ZO and GA are the only characters of their initial series, they've been put as a block of two characters after all the other syllables. This saves a column.

This proposal does not cover Cypriot numerals.

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References

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Chadwick, John. (1987). *Linear B and Related Scripts* Berkeley: University of California Press.

Ventris, Michael, and Chadwick, John. (1959). *Documents in Mycenaean Greek*. Cambridge: University Press.

Name Chart

0001 xx00 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE A
0001 xx01 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE E
0001 xx02 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE I
0001 xx03 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE O
0001 xx04 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE U
0001 xx05 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE JA
0001 xx06 (This position shall not be used)
0001 xx07 (This position shall not be used)
0001 xx08 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE JO
0001 xx09 (This position shall not be used)
0001 xx0A CYPRIOT SYLLABLE KA
0001 xx0B CYPRIOT SYLLABLE KE
0001 xx0C CYPRIOT SYLLABLE KI
0001 xx0D CYPRIOT SYLLABLE KO
0001 xx0E CYPRIOT SYLLABLE KU
0001 xx0F CYPRIOT SYLLABLE LA

0001 xx10 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE LE
0001 xx11 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE LI
0001 xx12 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE LO
0001 xx13 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE LU
0001 xx14 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE MA
0001 xx15 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE ME
0001 xx16 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE MI
0001 xx17 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE MO
0001 xx18 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE MU
0001 xx19 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE NA

0001 xx1A CYPRIOT SYLLABLE NE
0001 xx1B CYPRIOT SYLLABLE NI
0001 xx1C CYPRIOT SYLLABLE NO
0001 xx1D CYPRIOT SYLLABLE NU
0001 xx1E CYPRIOT SYLLABLE PA
0001 xx1F CYPRIOT SYLLABLE PE

0001 xx20 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE PI
0001 xx21 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE PO
0001 xx22 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE PU
0001 xx23 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE RA
0001 xx24 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE RE
0001 xx25 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE RI
0001 xx26 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE RO
0001 xx27 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE RU
0001 xx28 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE SA
0001 xx29 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE SE
0001 xx2A CYPRIOT SYLLABLE SI
0001 xx2B CYPRIOT SYLLABLE SO
0001 xx2C CYPRIOT SYLLABLE SU
0001 xx2D CYPRIOT SYLLABLE TA
0001 xx2E CYPRIOT SYLLABLE TE
0001 xx2F CYPRIOT SYLLABLE TI

0001 xx30 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE TO
0001 xx31 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE TU
0001 xx32 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE WA
0001 xx33 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE WE
0001 xx34 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE WI
0001 xx35 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE WO
0001 xx36 (This position shall not be used)
0001 xx37 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE XA
0001 xx38 CYPRIOT SYLLABLE XE
0001 xx39 (This position shall not be used)
0001 xx3A (This position shall not be used)
0001 xx3B (This position shall not be used)
0001 xx3C CYPRIOT SYLLABLE ZO
0001 xx3D CYPRIOT SYLLABLE GA
0001 xx3E (This position shall not be used)

0001 xx3F (This position shall not be used)

Code chart

	0	1	2	3
0	✱	8	∇	Ƒ
1	✱	≤	ƒ	Ƒ
2	✱	+	±	λ\
3	≈	Ω	Ω	I
4	Υ	Υ	∩	Υ
5	∅	×	∫	∫
6		∇	∞	
7		⊙	)	)
8	∇	×	∇	(
9		Ƒ	Ƒ	
A	↑	∫	∫	
B	×	±	≈	
C	Υ	∫	∫	∫
D	∫	∫	∫	∫
E	✱	†	±	
F	∇	∫	↑	