

„Script D Symbol With Tail“ alias „German Penny Symbol"

by Elmar Dünßer, Am Tummelbach 7a D-86854 Amberg, Germany

E-mail: elmar.duensser@t-online.de

Hereby I apply for integration of  into the Letterlike Symbols group of Unicode.

Glyphic variants:

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| A) |  | typical printed and handwritten form together with Latin (non-Fraktur) fonts recommended for glyphic representation in Unicode |
| B) |  | variants of the above form |
| C) |  | typical printed form together with Fraktur fonts |
| D) |  | variants of the above form |
| E) |  | archaic handwritten forms (1426,1572) |
| F) |  | very archaic form (14xx) engraved in a wooden calculation table |

History:

Since the Middle Ages in Germany a special symbol, originally a letter „d with a tail, was used as abbreviation for the penny (in German ‚Pfennig‘, in Latin ‚denarius‘). Unlike in England where this ‚d‘ seems to have remained a normal letter, in Germany this ‚d evolved into a special symbol, an extra letter which was seen as a symbol of its own, and because of the peculiar shape its origin as "flowery d" became obscure to most Germans.

In the last 100 years two glyphic variants of that symbol were in use: an „angular one (A) and a „rounded“ one (C). From the evidence I found it seems that together with the "angular" Fraktur fonts usually the „round (0)-variant of the symbol was used, and together with the „round' Latin (non-Fraktur) fonts the „angular“ (A)-variant was used, probably to make it look special and utmost different from the „normal“ letters.

On old typewriters from the very beginnings in 1870 until around 1933 it appears as an extra key! In Nazi time the symbol was replaced on many typewriters by the flashy German SS Symbol (for non-monetary reasons) and after Word War II typically by the American dollar sign. In 1957 I still had to learn the German Penny Symbol as an extra business symbol in primary school. It was used in Germany mainly by merchants in printed matters until the late Fifties.

In handwritten form it was in use until the Seventies of this century. My (Japanese) wife who came to Germany in 1972, tells me that she saw it often in handwritten form in the first years of her stay in Germany, mainly in price lists for vegetables and in groceries.

It seems that the penny symbol never has been dropped officially - just only because of its current absence on typewriter and PC keyboards and because of the increase in most prices - away from the pennies into the marks - the usage of that symbol has dramatically decreased. And right now it is not any more taught in schools.

However, if commercial German texts from before 1960 are going to be encoded in UNICODE it is an indispensable symbol resp. letter!

Collected Evidence (what 1 found within the past two weeks)

Besides the „German Penny Symbol" in some of the texts also the „German Mark Symbol" (.Scnpt Capital Letter M" = U+2133) can be seen, and also the German Pound Symbol" (.Script L B Bar Symbol", for which 1 want to send you another application).

1. Very old appearance engraved on a wooden calculation table (from Basel/Switzerl and in the fifteenth century). The shape is a „D with tail".
2. Very old appearance in a handwritten document (from Straubing/Bavaria, 1426 A.D.) The difference of the normal D and the Penny Symbol is only the tail.
The text of the second paragraph is:

Item an sambstag vor Elisabeth sandt di lannd	(normal ending d)
schaft zu meinem gnedigen hren hertzog Emsten	
hen:zog Wilhalm und hertzog Heinrichen, lantg'v'e	
Johannsen Hannsen Haybeckn ₁ di zeit vwes und Hans	
Konig gem Freysingen von mercklicher des lanndes	
notdurft wegen. Di haben gehabt 32 Pfardt, sind	(normal ending d)
aussen gewesen 5 tag und haben vtzert aller sachn	
x lib vj ~ xviiiij d	(penny symbol with tail)

That is:10 pound, 6 shilling, and 19 pence.

3. Very old appearance in a handwritten document (from Reichenbach/Bavaria, 1572 A. D.).
The text ends with: 9199f 4~ 25¹/₂d (=25.5pence).
4. Appearance on the keyboard of the first type-segment writing machine „HALL" 1880, New York (version for German with umlauts a, o~, u~, and WITH the penny symbol, but WITHOUT the German „~" = „Latin Small Letter Sharp S" resp. U+00DF, which was written „sz" at that time).
5. Appearance on one of the first „full keyboard" typewriters: Smith Premier", around 1890.
6. Appearance in newspaper advertisements (1896) together with Fraktur font. The bold text in the lower left is: Fettes, junges Rindfleisch per Pfd. 60⁸. u. Schweinefleisch per Pfd. 554 (Greasy young beef per pound 60 pence and pork per pound 55 pence)
7. Appearance in newspaper advertisements (1896) together with Fraktur font. Identical to the sample before, more enlarged.
8. Appearance in newspaper advertisements (1896) together with Fraktur font. The text in the line with the penny symbol is: „Anfang 1/2 8 Uhr. Eintritt 25⁸ (Start 7:30 o'clock, Entry 25 pence)
9. Appearance in newspaper advertisements (1897) together with Fraktur font.
Several monetary information about the balance of a cooperative is given. Extensive use of the „German Mark Symbol" together with the „German Penny Symbol".
10. Appearance on a typewriter „The Chicago" (constructed 1898 in U.S.A). See photos*. The German Penny Symbol is located above the „X" in the lower row.
11. Appearance on a typewriter Perko" (constructed 1912 in Dresden/Germany). See photos*. The German Penny Symbol is located above the „N" in the lower row.
12. Appearance on a typewriter Triumph" (constructed 1918 in Nürnberg/Germany). See photos*. The

German Penny Symbol is located above the a" in the upper right corner.

13. Appearance on a typewriter „Adler" (constructed 1922 in Frankfurt/Germany). See photos*. The German Penny Symbol is located UNDER the „N' in the lower row.
Sorry, this photograph is not very good.
14. Appearance on a cigarette vending machine (constructed 1925 in Berlin/Germany) On the right side of every of the four glass windows the following text is written:
1,61 5 Stuck₁ EINWURF₁ 2 x 10~ (61 5 pieces, INSERTION SLOT, 2 x 10 pence)
15. Appearance on a typewriter „Underwood" (constructed 1926 in U.S.A.). See photos*. The German Penny Symbol is located above the „3/4" character in the upper row.
16. Appearance on a typewriter Mignon" (constructed 1930 in Berlin/Germany). See photos*. A similar type was built already since 1904. This machine prints extra big letters, but can be changed to small letters by exchanging the type cylinder that can be seen in the _{3rd} photo. The German Penny Symbol appears on the left side (in the same column as the German Mark Symbol" and the German Pound 5y~~~u)
17. Appearance on a jewelry vending machine (1936).
The inscription on the left of the vending machine is: [insert 2 x 10⁸ [coins]
18. Appearance in an advertisement of „Spaltu aspirins in a monthly magazine (1953). The text is:
1,10 Stck. 75 ⁸ "(10 pieces 75 pence).
19. Appearance in another advertisement of „Spalt" aspirins (1954).
20. Appearance in a book (printed 1958). The text contains the following phrase:
denanus as abbreviation for Pfennig, that we even today still do write as ~, as a flowery d."
21. Appearance in the German encyclopedia „Brockhaus" (1972) in the article about „Pfennig".

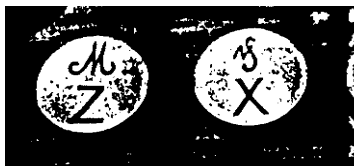
* These photos were taken by me last week in the „Deutsches Schreibmaschinenmuseum' (German typewriter museum) in Bayreuth/Germany with the kind permission of the museum.

Amberg im Unterallgau, 10-September - 1998 With best regards

[Because of the poor state of reproduction of the original paper submission, only an excerpt of these references has been appended for the WG2 paper. The full submission was evaluated by the Unicode Technical Committee]



Aber Elli, das ist doch keine Entschuldigung! Natürlich, ich weiß schon: Kopfdruck, Rückenschmerzen, deprimiert, keine Lust — mir geht's doch auch so in den bewußten Tagen. Doch deswegen Trübsal blasen? — Kommt gar nicht in Frage! — Weißt du denn nichts von „Spalt-Tabletten“? — Ja, gegen Kopfschmerzen, aber gegen solche Beschwerden erst recht. — Ein bis zwei „Spalt-Tabletten“ genommen und du bist wieder obenauf — wetten? — Natürlich, in jeder Apotheke für ganze 75 Pf. Aber jetzt gleich, ja? Paß mal auf: Aus dem „kritischen Tag“ wird ein vergnügter Abend. Na also, bis nachher! Zu haben in allen Apoth.



Bilanz

der unterzeichneten Genossenschaft pro 1896.

Die Einnahmen betragen 7988 M. 55 g.

Die Ausgaben betragen 7988 M. 55 g.

Verbleiben — M. — g.

Zahl der Mitglieder am Jahreschlusse 1895 229

Im Laufe dieses Jahres sind eingetreten 69

Summa 298

Ausgetreten sind 1

Verbleibt am Jahreschlusse 1896 eine Mitgliederzahl von 297

Consum-Verein Mindelan,

eingetragene Genossenschaft mit unbeschränkter Haftpflicht.

Xaver Preisinger.

Thomas Müller.

Ein tüchtiger erster Knecht

wird zum sofortigen Eintritt gegen hohen Lohn gesucht von

H. Ritterrieder, Gastwirth in Lauchdorf.

Eine neue Schuhmacher-Nähmaschine,

neuester Konstruktion,

ist wegen Mangels an Platz zu stannend billigem Preise zu verkaufen.

Wilhelm Seittler,

Veloziped- und Nähmaschinen-Depot.

Ein kräftiger Junge,

nicht unter 16 Jahren, kann in einer Brauerei als Lehrling eintreten. Zu erfragen in der Exp. d. Bl.

Der stehende Haber

von 2 Tagw. ist zu verkaufen. Zu erfr. in der Exp. d. Bl.

Bilanz

der unterzeichneten Genossenschaft pro 1896.

Die Einnahmen betragen 1065 M. 87 g.

Die Ausgaben betragen 1078 M. 17 g.

Verbleibt ein Passivrest von 12 M. 30 g.

Zahl der Mitglieder am Jahreschlusse 1895 175

Im Laufe des Jahres 1896 sind eingetreten 19

Summa 194

Von ausgetreten 2

Mitgliederzahl am Schlusse des Jahres 1896 192

Consum-Verein Siebnach,

eingetragene Genossenschaft mit unbeschränkter Haftpflicht.

Jakob Filser.

Josef Holzmänn.