

Epigraphical Greek Letters: Request for preliminary opinion.

I wish to advise the UTC that I have discovered evidence in publications on Greek epigraphy of the following distinct letters used in local ancient forms of the Greek alphabet, which would be candidates for inclusion in the UCS. I will be preparing a formal proposal in the next fortnight, containing the arguments for and against encoding them; there are considerable arguments against in all cases, but the characters should be considered now in order to finalise the Greek script alphabetic repertoire.

The characters in question, with scans of representative contemporary usage, are:

1. GREEK LETTER SMALL ARCHAIC SAMPI, GREEK LETTER CAPITAL ARCHAIC SAMPI; regionally restricted to Ionia (cities in South-Eastern Asia Minor), 5th century BC, tentatively identified with GREEK LETTER SAMPI. Possibly borrowed from Carian script.

Τάδε ὁ σύλλο[τ]ος ἐβόλεύσατο | ὁ Ἀλικαρνα^Τέ[ω]ν
καὶ Σαλμακι^Τέων καὶ Λύγδαμις ἐν τῇ ἱερῇ[ι] | ἀγορῇ
μηνὸς Ἑρμαιῶνος πέμ[π]τη ἱσταμένῳ ἐπὶ Λέοντος πρυ-^ς
ταν[εύον]τος τῷ Ὁα^Τά^Τιος κα[ι] Σα[ρυ^Τ]ώλλῳ τῷ
Θεικυίλῳ νε[ω]πι[οῖ]. Τ]ὸς μνήμονας μὴ παρα[διδόν]αι

2. GREEK LETTER SMALL TSAN, GREEK LETTER CAPITAL TSAN; restricted to a single inscription from Mantinea in Arcadia. Significant in Greek historical linguistics because it represents the evolution *k^w > ts / _{e,i}, a “missing link” in the standard evolution *k^w > ss, tt / _{e,i}. Usually not published as distinct letter, but as sigma with line underneath. May be conflated with GREEK LETTER SAN, although identification is tentative.

10 [F̄]φλέασι οἷδε ἰν Ἀλέαν· | [ll. 2-9 proper names] || Ἀδραν-
τος, | Ἀντιλαΐδας, | Βῆθις, | Ηέσκληρος, | Θέμανδρος. { ὁσέοι ἄν
15 χρ̄εστέριον κακρίνῃ || ἔ γνῶσίαι κακρίθῃ τῶν χρ̄εμάτων, | πὲ τοῖς
Φοικιάται(ς) τᾶς θεῶ ἔναι, καὶ Φοικίας δάσασσθαι τὰς ἄν ὁδ' ἐάσας. |
20 εἰ τοῖς F̄φλεῶσι ἐπὶ τοῖδ' ἐδικάσαμε[ν], | ἔ τε θεὸς καὶ οἱ δι-
κασσται, ἀπυσδομίν[ος] || τῶν χρ̄εμάτων τὸ λάχος, ἀπεχομίνος |
καὶ τῷρρέντερον γένος ἔναι | ἅματὰ πάντα ἀπὸ τοῦ ἱεροῦ, ἔλαον
ἔναι. | εἰ δ' ἄλλα σις ἔατοι καὶ τῶν[υ], ἰμενφὲς ἔναι. | εὐχὼλὰ
25 [δ'] ἄδε ἔ[σ]ετοι τοῦ ἄ[- - -]· || εἴ σις ἰν το(ῖ) ἱεροῦ τῶν τότε[ε
ἀπυθανόντων] | φονές ἐστι, εἴσ' αὐτός εἴσε [τῶν ἐσγόνων] | σις
καὶ τῷρρέντερον, εἴσε τ[ῶν ἀνδρῶν] εἴσε τᾶς φαρθένο, ἰμενφ[έ]ς
30 ἔναι καὶ | τὸ χρ̄εστέριον· εἰ δὲ μὲ, ἔλαο[ν ἔναι]; || εἰ (Θ)έμανδρος
φονές ἐσσ[ε]ι εἴσε | τῶν ἀνδρῶν εἴσε τᾶς φαρθένο | τῶν τότε
ἀπυθανόντων ἰν [τοῦ ἱεροῦ] | καὶ μὲ προσσθαγενῆς τῷ Φέρ[γ]ῳ |
35 τῷ τότε ἔο[ν]τος, ἰμονφον θε[οῦ ἔναι]. || εἰ δὲ προσσ(θ)αγενῆς
τῷ Φέρ[γ]ῳ, | καὶ μὲ φονές, ἔλαον ἔναι.

The voiceless aspirate /t^s/ existed as a phoneme in some dialects. Our evidence comes mainly from certain Arcadian and Central Cretan spellings. /t^s/ could be spelled in Arcadian with a special letter **W** as in **W**ς /t^sis/ 'who' (= τύς), **οW**ς /ot^seoι/ 'to whomever' (cf. Homeric ὅτεω), or with a digraph **TZ** (as in **τζετρωκατω** /t^setra-/ 'fourhundred'), **ZT** (as in **ζετραων**, probably cognate with **ζεωρα** 'upper garment'), or with **Z** as in **οZ**ς /ot^sis/ 'whoever' (cf. Homeric ὅτις). On the interpretation of Cretan **οZ**ς see p.117, n.

3. GREEK LETTER SMALL CORINTHIAN EI, GREEK LETTER CAPITAL CORINTHIAN EI; regionally restricted to Corinth, its colony Corcyra, and the area around Corinth. Corresponds to Standard Greek digraph ει; motivation for keeping it a single character would be epigraphical insistence on letter-to-letter correspondence between inscription and transcription, and this has not consistently been adhered to. Added problem is that glyph is identical to GREEK LETTER CAPITAL EPSILON.

3. a) Das korinthische Alphabet hat zwei Zeichen für den *e*-Laut: **Β** **Β** (oder auch **Ξ**) ist = *ε* und urgriech. *η*; **Ε** bezeichnet den echten Diphthongen *ει* und den aus Ersatzdehnung oder Kontraktion entstandenen *ē*-Laut (att. *ει*), z. B. **ἀνΒΘΒκε** = ἀνέθηκε, **μβΘέν** (IG 1607, Kleonae), aber **ΠοτΕδώνι** = Ποσειδώνι, **ἈργΕος** = Ἀργεῖος mit echtem *ει*, **Εμ**i = εἰμi mit Dehnungsvokal, **ΚλεΤόλας** mit Kontraktionsvokal (IG IV 415). Der Göttername 'Poseidon' ist auf den Aufschriften der Tonscherben IG IV 210—345 nach Bechtel II 214 31mal mit **Ε**, 5mal mit **Β**, aber nur 7mal mit **ΒΞ** und 1mal mit **ΕΞ** geschrieben. Auch beim Dehnungs-*ē* sind Ausnahmen selten, z. B. **[έσ]αγγΒΣλας** IG IV 212. Jedenfalls waren der echte Diphthong *ει* und das Dehnungs-*ē* in einen geschlossenen Vokal *ē* zusammengefallen; auf die nicht-diphthongische Aussprache des **Ε** (*ει*) weist auch die Schreibung **ἈθαναΕα** = Ἀθαναία neben **ΑΒΘών** = Αἰθων. Auf Korkyra wird zwar das Zeichen **Β** für *ε* und *η* verwendet (**ἀνΒΘΒκε** = ἀνέθηκε), aber das Dehnungs-*ē* und der Diphthong stets mit **Β** + *ι* geschrieben (**ΒΞμί** = εἰμί, ἐποίει; in Kleonae **Ειμεν**).² **Ε** für *ει* ist auch für die Kolonien Poteidaia (**ΠοτΕδα[ιάτας]** Syll.³ 152) und Leukas (**Φιλοκλεδας** Coll. 3179) bezeugt. Nach Annahme des Einheitsalphabets herrscht überall die Schreibung *ει* (εἶμεν, μετέχειν, ποιεῖν); die Schreibung **ἐνεκέχηρον** neben **ἐκεχειρίαν** (M) und **Εὐχηρίδα** (IG IV 460) ist daher nicht dialektisch.

ΔΦΕνία τόδε [σᾶμα], τὸν ὅλεσε πόντος ἀναι[δές].

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