

Title	Comments on: N3012 - Proposal to encode three archaic Tibetan characters
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1) TIBETAN MARK NYIS TSHEG

There should be little controversy on the need to encode this character. Numerous examples of this character may also be found in contemporary Tibetan language publications from China on old Tibetan texts. (For example in *bod kyi brda rnying yig cha bdams bsgribs*, 1995 [ISBN 7-81001-943-0]).

2) TIBETAN MARK INITIAL BRDA RNYING YIG MGO MDUN MA & TIBETAN MARK CLOSING BRDA RNYING YIG MGO SGAB MA

It is not clear from the proposal (N3012) whether or not the two proposed characters are more than simple, less ornate, glyph variants of the existing U+0F04 and U+0F05. Simple one line head marks can also be found in cotemporary hand written Tibetan & Bhutanese documents used in place of the more ornate double line head marks. The printed version of a document may use an ornate double line form where a manuscript version of the same document may use a simpler form. Usage of these less ornate forms is also not confined to *brda-nying* or archaic writings. There are also Tibetan documents where much more elaborate head marks are found – e.g. ornamented with marks which look somewhat similar to U+0F82. Csoma de Korös' *Grammar* illustrates *Yig mGo* with lotus flower marks (?? U+0FC6) written below.

An example from a single document where both the ornate and simple forms of *Yig mGo* occur would perhaps provide more compelling evidence of the need to separately encode these characters. It should be noted that simpler and more ornate versions of U+0F06, U+0F08 and U+0F12 are also found in some texts. In the case of U+0F12 (used to mark new sections) and U+0F08 (used to mark new topics within a section) ornate and less ornate forms are sometimes used within a single document to indicate a nested hierarchical arrangement: sections and sub-sections; topics and sub-topics etc. This usage is analogous to the use of different levels of heading and outline numbering in modern word-processed documents. In these cases the form of the character (simple, normal or elaborate) is used to convey the level of a section or topic within the hierarchical structure of the document. It is likely that there are examples of documents where ornate and less ornate forms of *Yig mGo* are used in a similar way.

ལྷུལ་ འབངས་ གཡུང་རྩི་ འཕལ་ དང་ ཞང་ལོན་དང་དམངས་
 གྱི་ བཅ་ ལྷུལ་མ་གཉིགས་པ་དང་སྣ་བལ་གྱི་བཅོན་ ཡན་ ཅད་གཡུང་
 རྩི་ འཕལ་དང་འདི་ཆམས་ གཆིག་ ལ་ ། གཙང་ཆེན་མན་ཅད་ཆོད་རྩི་
 འཕལ་དང་སྣ་བལ་མཉམ་བ་ཞིག་ གིས། རི་དགས་ ལས་སྣུགས་པ་

རྒྱལ་འབངས་གཡུང་རི་འཆལ་དང་ཞང་ལོན་དང་དམངས་ཁྱི་
 བཞན་རྒྱལ་མ་གཏོགས་པ་གཡུང་དང་སྟོ་བལ་ཁྱི་བཙོན་མན་ཆད་འདི་
 རྣམས། རི་དགས་ལ་མདའ་རྩལ་བས་པོག་པ་ལ། སྟང་མཉམ། སྟང་
 མཉམ་བ་འདི་རྣམས། བད་རི་དགས་ལ་མདའ་རྩལ་བ་ལས།

༡༡ | བད་ཀྱི་བཟང་སྤྱོད་ཡིག་ཆ་བདམས་བསྐྱེད་ས།

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