

**To:** The Unicode Technical Committee  
**From:** Rev. Eijun Eidson (Shingon Buddhist International Institute and Koyasan Tenchiji Temple-Fresno, California), Rev. Shoken Harada-Eidson (Shingon Buddhist International Institute and Koyasan Tenchiji Temple-Nara, Japan) (via Deborah Anderson, Script Encoding Initiative, UC Berkeley)  
**Subject:** Comments of support for the adoption of "Proposal to Encode the Siddham Script in ISO/IEC 10646" (L2/12-234=N4294)  
**Date:** 25 July 2012

This will confirm our support for the current version of the Proposal to Encode the Siddham Script in ISO/IEC 10646 (L2/12-234=N4294).

The Shingon Buddhist International Institute is a California Non Profit Institute that is the formal structure for The Koyasan Shingon Tenchiji Temple, an official authorized Koyasan Temple, from Koyasan, Japan and a member of the North American Koyasan Shingon Mission.

In the last 18 years we have translated over 31,000 pages of Japanese Buddhist Text. Our consistent problem has been how we work around inserting Siddham text into the translations. Approximately 80% of all of the texts use Siddham to some degree.

Our first translated work (in 1994) was Kukai's writing on Siddham (Bonji Shittan) written about 814 AD. This text is fundamental to the understanding of our religion of the Shingon Sect (with an estimated 15 million members) and also of the Tendai Sect.

We have taught Siddham Meanings and Meditations for over 10 years and have about 400 Siddham students including 80 authorized Siddham meditation Teachers as a part of our program.

Over the years we have tried many forms to insert Siddham but none of them were workable. It requires a workable font.

We then began a process in 2007 working with Mr. Peter Lofting (Apple), Mr. Lee Collins (Apple) to create a comprehensive font that could be used throughout the Siddham user community. We were fortunate to connect with the Script Encoding Initiative (Deborah Anderson and Anshuman Pandey) through Apple for the technical aspects. We have over a thousand hours in the design, scanning and classification of the current Tenchiji Font.

The current proposal provides a foundation for developing solutions to the many problems we face daily by not having a standard encoding for Siddham

We urge you to adopt it.

With respect.

---

Rev. Eijun Bill Eidson is President of the Shingon Buddhist International Institute and Headmaster of Koyasan Shingon Tenchiji Temple- Fresno California. He is a Teaching Acharya (Denju Ajari) in the Koyasan Shingon Tradition and has taught the complete Lineage Teachings (Ichryu Denju Shogyo) for Koyasan Shingon-shu in a three year program for Koyasan Priests in English and Japanese.

Rev. Shoken Harada-Eidson is Secretary of the Shingon Buddhist International Institute and Headmaster of Koyasan Shingon Tenchiji Temple- Ikoma, Nara, Japan. She has completed the complete lineage teachings of koyasan Shingon, at Koyasan Japan. She has assisted in teaching the complete Lineage Teachings for Koyasan Shingon-shu in a three year program for Koyasan Priests in English and Japanese. She has Masters degrees in English Literature and Teaching. She taught in the Pacific Rim Graduate Studies Program at UCSD.

Works related directly to Siddham By Eidson and Harada-Eidson:

1994 Bonji Shittan jimo narabi ni shakugi (The Siddham Mother-Letters as well as meanings)

2001 Siddham: Vibrations That Create The Universe

2002 Siddham: Transforming States of Consciousness

2003 Siddham: Bridge of Reality

2004 Siddham: Teachers Course

2010 Siddham: Vibrations That Create The Universe Advanced Course

2011 Siddham: Transforming States of Consciousness Advanced Course

2012 Siddham: Bridge of Reality Advanced Course

2011 三密鈔 [Shittan Sanmitsushō] Wood block print with annotations 600 pages. by Jōgon. 1682.

2011-2013 Shin Anryu Translation project 21,000 pages with Teacher notes on Siddham Meanings for Bijas and Mantras.

2013 Forthcoming Book on Siddham, in Edit.