Proposal to Encode Syriac Letters for Garshuni Malayalam

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1 Introduction

This is a proposal to encode the following eleven Syriac letters used for writing Suriyani Malayalam, which is also known as Garshuni (Karshoni) and Syriac Malayalam:

Glyph	Code point	Character name
ગ	U+0860	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NGA
තී	U+0861	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM JA
٩	U+0862	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NYA
5	U+0863	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM TTA
ବ୍ର	U+0864	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NNA
3	U+0865	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NNNA
B	U+0866	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM BHA
ر	U+0867	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM RA
مك	U+0868	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM LLA
ېد	U+0869	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM LLLA
لک	U+086A	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM SSA

This document provides a brief description of the characters and examples of usage, as well as a code chart, names list, and character properties. It replaces "Preliminary Proposal to Encode Syriac Letters for Garshuni Malayalam" (L2/15-088). This new version specifies the code points to which the characters have been assigned.

The characters are proposed for inclusion in the 'Syriac Supplement' (U+0860..U+0867) block of the Basic Multilingual Plane (BMP). The names of characters are based upon Unicode names assigned to the corresponding letters in the Malayalam script block. These names differ from the transliteration of Garshuni Malayalam letters given in Perczel (2014), but they facilitate identification of the correspondences between the Syriac and Malayalam blocks. The encoded order of the letters follows the pattern of letters in the Malayalam block. The representative glyphs are based upon forms attested in written and printed sources.

2 Description of Proposed Characters

The proposed characters occur in several manuscripts and are known to the scholarly community (see Perczel 2014). The characters have the following shapes when they occur in isolation and within words:

	joining	final	medial	initial	isolated
SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NGA	dual	સ	3	ମ	3
SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM JA	non			_	ති
SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NYA	dual	्रि	જે	ڰ	ලි
SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM TTA	dual	\sim	く	\sim	5
SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NNA	dual	વ	જ	ବ୍ୟ	ବ୍ର
SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NNNA	dual	3	З	3	3
SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM BHA	non		—	—	З
SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM RA	right	بر	بر	ر	ر
SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM LLA	dual	لمه	la	Lo	لم
SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM LLLA	right	مرر	مرد	ېد	ب ر
SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM SSA	right	<u>لا</u>	ধ্য	প্র	2

3 SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NGA This letter represents 63 na, the velar nasal /ŋ/. It is a dual-joining character. It corresponds to U+0D19 MALAYALAM LETTER NGA.

 \mathfrak{L} SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM JA This letter represents \mathfrak{L} *ja*, the palatal unaspirated stop $/d\mathfrak{J}/.$ It is a nonjoining character. It's shape is derived directly from \mathfrak{L} U+0D1C MALAYALAM LETTER JA. Although it may be possible to use U+0D1C within a Syriac environment, a separate encoding is needed for \mathfrak{L} so that Syriac vowel marks can be combined with the letter. Furthermore the differing directionalities of the Malayalam and Syriac scripts may cause problems for introducing a Malayalam character directly in Syriac sequences.

SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NYA This letter represents for $\tilde{n}a$, the palatal nasal /p/. It is a dual-joining character. It corresponds to U+0D1E MALAYALAM LETTER NYA.

SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM TTA This letter represents S *ta*, the unvoiced retroflex stop /t/, and $\bigcirc da$, the voiced retroflex stop /d/. It is a dual-joining character. It corresponds to U+0D1F MALAYALAM LETTER TTA and U+0D21 MALAYALAM LETTER DDA.

3 SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NNA This letter represents 600 na, the retroflex nasal /n/. It is a dual-joining character. It corresponds to U+0D23 MALAYALAM LETTER NNA.

3 SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NNNA This letter represents 60 $\underline{n}a$, the alveolar nasal /n/. It is a dual-joining character. It corresponds to U+0D29 MALAYALAM LETTER NNNA.

3 SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM BHA This letter represents \mathfrak{S} *bha*, the labial aspirated stop /b^h/. It is a nonjoining character. It's shape is derived directly from \mathfrak{S} U+0D2D MALAYALAM LETTER BHA. Although it may be possible to use U+0D2D within a Syriac environment, a separate encoding is needed for \mathfrak{s} so that Syriac vowel marks can be combined with the letter. Furthermore the differing directionalities of the Malayalam and Syriac scripts may cause problems for introducing a Malayalam character directly in Syriac sequences.

SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM RA This letter represents \circ *ra*, the alveolar trill /r/. It is a right-joining character. It corresponds to U+0D30 MALAYALAM LETTER RA

C SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM LLA This letter represents $\underline{\mathcal{G}}$ *la*, the retroflex lateral approximant /l/. It is a dual-joining character. It corresponds to U+0D33 MALAYALAM LETTER LLA.

SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM LLLA This letter represents $\mathfrak{G} \underline{l}a$, the retroflex central approximant / \underline{l} /. It is a right-joining character. It corresponds to U+0D34 MALAYALAM LETTER LLLA.

SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM SSA This letter represents $\mathfrak{A} \mathfrak{s} \mathfrak{a}$, the retroflex sibilant / \mathfrak{s} /. It is a right-joining character. It corresponds to U+0D37 MALAYALAM LETTER SSA.

3 Characters Not Proposed

Solution The consonant ligature *nta* The consonant ligature **Solution** Provided a structure **Consonant ligature nta**. The conjunct consists of GM U+0D23 MALAYALAM LETTER NNA and **S** U+0D1F MALAYALAM LETTER TTA. The Syriac representation of *nta* is a combination of the proposed **Solution** Syriac LETTER MALAYALAM NNA and **Solution** Syriac LETTER MALAYALAM TTA, with the **Solution** U+0748 Syriac OBLIQUE LINE BELOW rendered as a horizonal stroke. The presence of the horizontal stroke, or *mbatlana*, beneath the Syriac combination suggests that the ligature is not considered an independent letter. It is recommended that the Syriac sequence mentioned above be used for representing *nta* in encoded text. If additional research indicates that **Solution** Should be encoded as an atomic character, then it may be added later.

The syllable jñī Figure 13 shows the syllable $\mathfrak{S}_{\mathfrak{M}}$ /jñī/. This letter is the Malayalam syllable $\mathfrak{S}_{\mathfrak{M}}$ /jñī/ adapted directly into Syriac. It is a conjunct ligature formed from \mathfrak{B} U+0D1E MALAYALAM LETTER NYA and \mathfrak{M} U+0D1E MALAYALAM LETTER NYA, and the \mathfrak{I} U+0D40 MALAYALAM VOWEL SIGN II. The form $\mathfrak{S}_{\mathfrak{M}}$ occurs in two instances in a single manuscript. Additional research is required for determining the actual extent of its usage.

4 Character Data

Character Properties Properties in the format of UnicodeData.txt:

```
0860; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NGA; Lo; 0; AL;;;;; N;;;;
0861; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM JA; Lo; 0; AL;;;; N;;;;
0862; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NYA; Lo; 0; AL;;;; N;;;;
0863; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM TTA; Lo; 0; AL;;;; N;;;;
0864; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NNA; Lo; 0; AL;;;; N;;;;
0866; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NNA; Lo; 0; AL;;;; N;;;;
0866; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM BHA; Lo; 0; AL;;;; N;;;;
0866; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM BHA; Lo; 0; AL;;;; N;;;;
0866; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM RA; Lo; 0; AL;;;; N;;;;
0866; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM RA; Lo; 0; AL;;;; N;;;;
0868; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM LLA; Lo; 0; AL;;;; N;;;;
0869; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM LLA; Lo; 0; AL;;;; N;;;;
0864; SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM SSA; Lo; 0; AL;;;; N;;;;
```

Linebreaking Linebreaking properties in the format of LineBreak.txt:

0860..086A;AL # Lo [11] SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NGA..SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM SSA

Arabic Shaping Joining properties in the format of ArabicShaping.txt:

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# Syriac Characters
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0860; MALAYALAM NGA; D; MALAYALAM NGA 0861; MALAYALAM JA; U; MALAYALAM JA 0862; MALAYALAM NYA; D; MALAYALAM NYA 0863; MALAYALAM TTA; D; MALAYALAM TTA 0864; MALAYALAM TTA; D; MALAYALAM NNA 0865; MALAYALAM NNA; D; MALAYALAM NNA 0866; MALAYALAM BHA; U; MALAYALAM BHA 0867; MALAYALAM RA; R; MALAYALAM RRA 0868; MALAYALAM LLA; D; MALAYALAM LLA 0869; MALAYALAM LLA; R; MALAYALAM LLA 0864; MALAYALAM SSA; R; MALAYALAM SSA

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6 Acknowledgments

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Syriac Supplement

	086
0	9 0860
1	ව 0861
2) 0862
3	නු 0863
4	9
5	> 0865
6	3 0866
7	ک 0867
8	e 0868
9	ک ے 0869
A	L8 086A
В	
С	
D	
Е	
F	

Malayalam letters

0860	3	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NGA
0861	ಖ್	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM JA
0862	ھ	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NYA
0863	වු	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM TTA
0864	3	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NNA
0865	~	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM NNNA
0866	3	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM BHA
0867	ر	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM RA
0868	e.	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM LLA
0869	ழ	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM LLLA
086A	2	SYRIAC LETTER MALAYALAM SSA

0

Figure 1: A hand-written chart of Syriac letters used for transcribing Malayalam (from Āţtel 2010: 35). Rows 1–9 show Garshuni Syriac letters that correspond to the Malayalam letters: $\mathfrak{A} = \mathfrak{M}$; $\mathfrak{B} = \mathfrak{M}$; $\mathfrak{A} = \mathfrak{M}$; $\mathfrak{M} = \mathfrak{M}$;

-

			MAI	LABA	RIS	CH-SY	YRI	SCH.			
Zeichen	Wert	Zeichen	Wert	Zeichen	Wert	Zeichen	Wert	Zeichen	Wert	Zeichen	Wer
٢	a	9	w	د	k	2	3	Y	š	\sim	t
コ	b	5	z	2	1	ठ	ph		t	feo	ļi
7	g	ι ώ	x	2	m	7	s	3	ņ	2	r
÷	d	4	Ţ	2	n	п	q	3	ń	&	Ś
σ	h	-	y	ھ	S	ב	. r	33	'n	>	ŕ

Durch die Missionäre der Nestorianer gelangte die syrische Schrift auch nach Malabar, wo die christlichen Nachkommen der von diesen Bekehrten den Namen der St. Thomaschristen führen. Durch diese wurde die syrische Schrift auch auf die dravidischen Sprachen angewendet und durch mehrere dem Mayalam entlehnte Zeichen vermehrt. Die Schrift hat noch den alterthümlichen Zug der syrischen Schrift des 8. Jahrhunderts.

Zeichen			Wert		Zeic	hen	Wert	7	Work		
Ende	Mitte	Anfang	Isolirt	wert	Ende	Milte	Anfang	Isolirt	wert	Zeichen	wert
ł			1	'a	~	2	 	•	1	Ligate	ıren.
g	a	۵	9	b, v	2	म्ब	مد	8	m ·	p p	l'a
7	7	×	*	8.7	~	1	L	l e	n	×	ľa
Ţ		-	?	d, ð	-	m	IJ		s	22	'al
			a	h	~	2	5	8	3	11 11	11
e.			0	w, u	بع	٩	9	و ا	p, f	11 11	gg
ŀ	ĺ	{	1	z	3			3	ş		
	*	-		X.	ف	۵	م	ف	4		
Å	\$	-2	7	<u>t</u>	ŕ			; ;	r		ĺ
-	-	•	4	у	-	•		•	š		ļ
+	4	م	Ŧ	k, χ	2			2	t, 9		
			Vok	alzeicł	nen:			Inte	rpunkt	ionen:	
	. <u> </u>	, i	ē, <u> </u>	-ĕ, ч	• <u>−</u> ī, -	° 0, G	≛ u.	:	• •	II +	
ist der niten u	n westl nd Jak	ichen S obiten,	öyrern, oder vi	to gena den M elmehr i im Geg	aro- den	sie Estr	ist eir	ne seh wie	r curs dies	schen , ive Forr namentl'	n de
			-					•			

SYRISCH.

Figure 2: Specimen of metal type fonts for some Garshuni Malayalam letters ('Malabarisch-Syrisch') that were cut in Europe in the 19th century (from Faulmann 1880: 87).

B. The additional Malayalam consonants of the Garshuni Malayalam alphabet

1. Malayalam Na



"Malayalam Na'' = Modern Malayalam \mathfrak{m} , \mathfrak{n} , transcription, for the present purpose, Na (nun being the "Malayalam na"), pronounced like the *n*'s in banana, but more a kind of an alveolar nasal. It connects in both directions.

a. Medial position:



This is the word *malaNāTTil*, "in the mountainous region," with a medial Na in the middle. The fourth letter is Malayalam Ta, reduplicated by the *mbatlānā* in the medial position (see below, no. 5.a.). The auxiliary signs are: $pt\bar{a}h\bar{a}$ on the *mem* (Malayalam *ma*),

Figure 3: Description and example of NNNA (from Perczel 2014: 311).

indicating the short vowel a, $zq\bar{a}p\bar{a}$ in the upper compartiment of the Na, indicating the long vowel \bar{a} , $mbatl\bar{a}n\bar{a}$ under the Ta, indicating reduplication, $hv\bar{a}s\bar{a}$ under the $y\bar{o}d$, indicating the vowel i. The lack of a vowel sign on the first *lāmad* indicates a short a, which is the basic vocalisation.

b. *Initial position*, including the one within the word, after a letter that does not connect to the left.



This is the word *ayirbuNNu* "had been." *Na* is here in the penultimate position, before the *waw*, connecting only to the left. The fourth letter is a Malayalam *rha* connected to the right (see below, no. 7.a.). The beginning *alap*, having no vowel sign, is bearing the basic vowel *a*. It is followed by two $y\bar{a}ds$, the first having the value of the Malayalam consonant *ya* and the second, with the *hvāsā* underneath, indicating the vowel *i*. *Esāsā allāsā* under the two *waw*'s indicates the vowel *u*, the *mbatlānā* line under the *Na* indicates reduplication.

c. Final position, connected to the right.



This is a final Na in the word vaNNu ("having gone"). One may see that $b\bar{e}th$ is used for the phoneme v, the $pt\bar{a}h\bar{a}$ is used for the vowel a and the underlining (*mbatlānā*) means the reduplication of the phoneme. The final u is, in fact, a *shva*.

d. Final, stand alone position.



This is the grapheme for nNNu at the end of a word. This is a stand-alone Na, with an elongated tail at the end. The line under the grapheme (*mbatlānā*) indicates reduplication. Here is the entire word:

Figure 4: Description and example of NNNA (from Perczel 2014: 312).



This is the word $m\bar{u}NNu$, "three." Here again, the final u is, in fact, a *shva*.

2. Malayalam Nha



Malayalam Malayalam m, m "Malayalam Nba," a retroflex nasal. It connects in both directions.

a. Medial position:



This is the word *malaNhkarakku*, "to Malankara," with a medial *Nha* at the fourth position, in the letter combination *Nhka*. The letter combination is indicated by the *mbatlānā* under the *Nha*, which, here, does not indicate reduplication. Another interesting feature is that the order of the two combining phonemes is reversed: first the *ka* (Syriac *kāp*) is written and second the *Nha*, while the pronunciation is *aNhka*. The letter in the penultimate position is a Malayalam *rha* connected to the right (see below, no. 7.a.) and the final *ka* (Syriac *kāp*) is reduplicated by the *mbatlānā*. In the same manuscript we also find the spelling *Malangkara*, see below, 3.a.2.

b. *Initial position*, including the one within the word, after a letter that does not connect to the left.



This is the word *rhaNhDam*, "two," with an initial *Nha* at the second position. The first letter is Malayalam *rha* in a stand-alone position (see below, no. 7.b.), the third letter is Malayalam Ta (see

Figure 5: Description and example of NNA (from Perczel 2014: 313).

below, no. 5.a.) in medial position. There are no vowel signs, indicating that the appropriate consonants—*rha* and *Ta*—bear the basic vowel a.

c. Final position, connected to the right.



This is a final *Nha* in the word *vaNha* ("shape"?).

3. Malayalam nga



EXAMPLE The main set of the

a. Medial position:



This is the word *koDhanggallurh*, standing for the town of Kodunggallur/Cranganore, followed by *metr* $<\bar{apolita}>$. At the third position is a Malayalam *Ta* (see below, no. 5.a.), the last letter is a Malayalam *rha*, standing alone (see below, no. 7.b.).



This is the word *malangkarhil*, "in Malankara," with a medial *nga* at the fourth position, in the letter combination *ngk*. The letter combination is indicated by the *mbatlānā* under the *nga*, which, here, does not indicate reduplication. Another interesting feature is that the order of the two combining phonemes is reversed: first the *ka* (Syriac $k\bar{a}p$) is written and second the *nga*, while the pronunciation is *angka*. The third letter from the end is a Malayalam *rha* connected

Figure 6: Description and example of NGA (from Perczel 2014: 314).

to the right (see below, no. 7.a.). In the same manuscript we also find the spelling *MalaNhkara*, see above, 2.a.

b. *Initial position*, including the one within the word, after a letter that does not connect to the left.



This is the word *vazhanggakā*, "being in obedience," with an initial *nga* in the third position, reduplicated by the *mbatlānā*. The first letter is Malayalam *va*, indicated by a *bēth*, the second is Malayalam *zha* in a final position (see below, no. 8.b.).

4. Malayalam nya



= Modern Malayalam \mathfrak{m} , pronunciation $\tilde{n}a$ (*nya*), a palatal nasal. It connects in both directions.

5. Malayalam Ta, Da



Malayalam Ta = Modern Malayalam s, transcription Ta, pronounced as a retroflex plain stop, which is voiced if it stands single (Da) and is voiceless when it is reduplicated (TTa). The main body of the letter is situated below the bottom line. This is the version connected both ways, that is, to the right and to the left. From the right it is connected by a horizontal line, while the left branch goes up and comes down. However, it is to be distinguished from the Syriac *teth* (transcription: T, see below, 5c.), which is similarly written, but with a longer left branch. In the second image, the line underneath indicates reduplication.

b. diverse connections of the letter Ta to the subsequent letter:

Figure 7: Description and example of NYA and TTA (from Perczel 2014: 315).

b1.

Here Ta is connected to a final $\bar{a}lap$ in the syllable $D\bar{e}$. It is to be distinguished from the way the $t\bar{e}th$ is being connected to the following $\bar{a}lap$. See below, 5.c.



Here Ta is connected to a kap in the syllabic combination Daka.



Here Ta is connected to a waw in the syllable TTu.



Here a reduplicated *Ta* is connected to a *Na* on the right and to a *yod* on the left. The pronunciation is *NaTTil* from the word *malaNaTTil*, "in the mountainous region," see above, 1.a.



This is the final Ta. The *mbatlānā* indicates reduplication. Pronounciation: TTu.



This is the syllabic combination NiTTu from *meshihā piraNiTTu* ("according to the year of Christ"). Here the final Ta is written differently from the one shown above in b5. The *mbatlānā* indicates reduplication.



Figure 8: Description and example of TTA (from Perczel 2014: 316).

This is the word rhaNbDam (second), where one can see that the Ta is written underneath the Nha. This reproduces the composite letter NhDa (**SSS**) in Modern Malayalam.



This is how the Syriac $t\bar{e}th$ (t) is written in Garshuni Malayalam. This letter is only added here as a comparison to the Ta. Perhaps, its shape was influenced by the grapheme of the Ta. The $t\bar{e}th$ is only used in Syriac and European loanwords. On these two images it is connected to an $\bar{a}lap$. On the first image, this is the final syllable from the word karmelitā (Carmelite), on the second, from the word metropolītā

6. Malayalam lha



Modern Malayalam \underline{o} , or final \mathcal{O} , transcribed as *lha*, a retroflex lateral approximant; normally it only connects to the right and not to the left. However, in some manuscripts, represented by picture 3, *lha* is connected in both directions. On this picture it is followed by a *waw*.

7. Malayalam rha



= Modern Malayalam \mathfrak{o} , transcribed as *rha*, an alveolar trill, while the Syriac *rēsh* is used to express the consonant \mathfrak{o} , a retroflex trill, such as the *r* of the Italians. The letter *rha* connects only to the right, never to the left and its body is under the line; it can be written like the final *nun*, but with an additional curve at the end, or as an Arabic *r*, pointing leftward.

Figure 9: Description and example of LLA and RA (from Perczel 2014: 317).



This is how the *rha* looks like when it is not connected in either direction. On the third picture one sees the place name *Sampaulhurh* (the city of Saint Paul) with a *rha* at the end. The *lha* (third letter from the left) stands alone, as it follows a *waw*. Noteworthy is also the diphthong *au* in the syllable *pau*, which reproduces an earlier pronunciation of a Portuguese loanword (São Paulo), close to the Portuguese pronunciation, which later changed to *Sampallhurh* (with reduplicated *llha*).

8. Malayalam zha, Sha, ja



This letter stands for three different Modern Malayalam letters and sounds. Either for \mathcal{P} , transcription *zha*: a retroflex central approximant, pronounced as a sound between l, r, and ž; or for \mathcal{A} , transcription *Sha*, pronounced as a retroflex sibilant fricative (\mathfrak{S}), or for \mathfrak{A} , transcription *ja*, a palatal voiced stop used mostly in Sanskrit loanwords, such as *rāja* ("king"). However, in some later manuscripts *ja* is indicated by the Modern Malayalam letter \mathfrak{A} (see below, §C.1.). This letter only connects to the right and never to the left.

9. Malayalam Sha, ja



= Modern Malayalam \mathfrak{A} , *Sha*, pronounced as a retroflex sibilant fricative (§), or Modern Malayalam \mathfrak{B} , *ja*. In some manuscripts, such as Mannanam MS Syr 74, this grapheme is used in Sanskrit loanwords, such as *mānuShan* (man), or *puruShan* (man, soul, god). In the same MS other occurrences of the phoneme *Sha* are written

Figure 10: Description and example of LLLA and SSA (from Perczel 2014: 318).

kSha (\mathfrak{GM}) is written as a ligature of ka and zha (\mathfrak{C} + \mathfrak{S} = \mathfrak{SM}) Yet, in other, quite old, manuscripts, such as Bangalore

Dharmaram College Syr 32, is treated as a normal element of the Garshuni alphabet, which indicates both the *Sha* and *ja* sounds and connects to the right. In this MS the letter combination *kSha*

(\mathfrak{deg}) is written as a ligature of ka + Sha ($\mathfrak{e} + \mathfrak{les} = \mathfrak{less}$). This letter, which is sometimes inserted in the ductus of the script and sometimes is not, which is taken from the *Arya ezhutthu* script and not the old Malayalam, brings the number of the originally added Malayalam characters to nine and forms a transition toward the Modern Malayalam additions to the alphabet.



a.

b.

This is how the word *mānuSharuDē*, "of men," is written in in Mannanam MS Syr 74, fol. 2r.



This is how the word *puruShenē*, "a man" (accusative), is written in in Mannanam MS Syr 74, fol. 2v.



This is how the word *padhinajam* (according to present-day pronunciation: *padhinanjam*), "fifteen" is written in Bangalore Dharmaram College MS Syr 32, fol. 2r.

Figure 11: Description and example of ssA (from Perczel 2014: 319).

C. Additional Modern Malayalam characters or combinations, incidentally occurring in Garshuni Malayalam

In later manuscripts, incidentally, some letters of the Modern Malayalam alphabet have also been incorporated, in order to express Malayalam sounds that were not part of the old Malayalam alphabet, nor are expressible through standard Syriac characters, that is, Sanskrit sounds. Such are the letters **2**: *ja* **and 6**: *bha*, found in a letter on foll. 515r-516r, in Ernakulam Major Archbishop's House MS Syr 7.



= Modern Malayalam \mathfrak{B} , *ja*, whose form it almost perfectly reproduces. It is pronounced as a palatal plain voiced stop, corresponding to the English *j*. The first image is from the word *jenam* (people) and the second, from the word *ejamānanmāraru* ("the leaders, lords: that is, pagan kings"). It is conspicuous that this letter, as a later borrowing from Modern Malayalam, stands as a foreign body in the script. It does not connect to any side either on the right, or the left.



This is how the word ejamānanmāraru is written in the manuscript. Note that the *ja* does not connect to any side and, also, the two allongated *rha*'s at the end of the word, interfering with the next line.



= Modern Malayalam @, *bha*, whose form it reproduces. The letter indicates a labial aspirate voiced stop. This is a unique occurrence, even in the present manuscript. The right part of the letter is cut. It

Figure 12: Description and example of JA and BHA (from Perczel 2014: 320).

stands at the beginning of the word combination *bhāgamettil kuTTi* ("with the side").



Here is the expression *bhāgamettil kuTTi*. Note that the *bha* is not connected to the left—and that, certainly, it would not be connected to the right either—and also that the $k\bar{a}p$ serves both for expressing the Malayalam letters ka (ϖ : unaspirated voiceless velar stop in *kuTTi*) and *ga* (ϖ : unaspirated voiced velar stop in *bhāgam*), unless here the Garshuni text reproduces an earlier or dialectal pronunciation.

3. Mannanam Syr 49, fol. 31r-32r contains a text, where the word rhajnyi - 0.2800 "Queen," occurs several times. For this, the scribe has adopted Garshuni Malayalam *rha* as a stand-alone character (see above, 7.b.) with the zgapa indicating the vocalisation of the first syllable with the long vowel \bar{a} , plus the single complex grapheme **2000** used in Modern Malayalam (or, rather, its predecessor, the *Arya ezhutthu*) for *jnyi*:



This is *rhājnyī* (02900) on fol. 31r; it is noteworthy that, in the combination, the *nya* is not written in its Garshuni Malayalam form

as 4, but the modern Malayalam form 60 is being used. Also, instead of the Garshuni way of using a $y\bar{o}d$ with a $bv\bar{a}s\bar{a}$ for writing the vowel \bar{i} , it uses the connected form of the Modern Malayalam 90 (60).



This is VeNadu rhājnyi, "the Queen of Venad" on fol. 32r.

Figure 13: Description of the Malayalam conjunct syllable jñī (from Perczel 2014: 321).

delihing pracu Maile the has mule tite of a sugar and the tite Mark the land Mich the para and the like will rates aferra تَدَوْد: تَجْهِ مَعْدِهُ تَحْوَالْمُ تَحْوَدُ مَعْدِهُ مَعْدَهُمُ مَعْدِهُمُ عَدَهُمُ مَعْدَةُ مُعْد المومة المومونية المومولا. تومو: مومومة الموموم X 94: : 24: 294: : 0964: hogodi . Kogodi : 2004 Kiskils 10 : 0995 . hoggi . Kraggi : 2995 . hogs تو): دوس معروهم خوالا دو محققا دوملا دوم .. de de seit الله مع ... الله الله ... معادة عالم مقالم ... دلا مع الل .. ugg= 299= .. kukile no .. han . han .. has de la boare po ... woh boh figilia ... Kieles hieles multo ... she kiles Micho .. alles . Lites .. Life .. alles hartes Julia

Figure 14: Excerpt from a Syriac grammar (Dharmaram Syr. Ms. 53, folio 63a). Garshuni Malayalam is written more cursively in lighter ink.

.. trate an .. artis .. interior .. an which .. aches: Hales. die alie Hiles. dre Ales the ho why was sille as .. alle he was site alle ho .. ville ho still ho Wulls he . salle ho : oralle ho Renjard 69093 10000 40004 agody 1003 0093 019045 4010000 004 019093 aroni le con in ori dog' Ni ling 20000 904 in port ling roorgogi 909 de is hear aly

Figure 15: Excerpt from a Syriac grammar (Dharmaram Syr. Ms. 53, folio 63b). Garshuni Malayalam is written more cursively in lighter ink.

ഗ്രന്ഥം - മുലരുപം 189 بد بعد تد مر من المواجد 2 دوده يصية ذبع يد يد الم مر اللبنة م وه المع الدر مرك بين و الله مول الله و الدر وزر لا عامد وروم معديد المحصور لروائن و له يدد مد الدمو دولي خد مد ال محمد معمر تور بالحصر تور بالله معد المريد بالمن مع وي بد مع في ومد في معد مع بصلة فبعسيتم بعدوفي بتديد فويل لرفيدم مفعى لي مسمم لي عدا و في فر بي موجدم ديدهمان ديدهم يديد بد ون لا يدمنه ديمه فاذ خد ممرم دم، يدد عديم معمد معمد عد المعد المعامد لمعامد لموج مع المعامة لايم لرويربوج بالنبد فص حوالم دفص بغد فم عدلد لايم لروي جرمح فروية ليرومه فلدة مع معالم في تدري المتعدد و مع الجرسم، يتلذر في المنبي لي ا مربيه يعديد المجمع معيليد امم عرفي عمره مربع فروم مربع معمد غِنبه منصله مر محمد معمد معمد معمد معمد معمد معمد مع موتد مع معمد مع معمد مع معمد معمد مع معمد مع معمد مع فيوه فتمح الم كينية فلا فلا عبدم بعرمم دمود لا يرمم مم فلا عبالم معنه عمين المعتد مع معد المعد المعد المعد مع المعد مع المعالية مع المعالية مع المعالية مع المعالية مع المعالية المع المج مرج بالجدمج معاقدم الأفك بمحمد المراجع بدلمه فبالم فرد لم ود سعا بدوهمدم يعمم .. ٢. بنج بعظمة د بعميد ٢ بدم معربده حب معلمدا بعضر لمعدد في من المستف معد وبه معتد ومذ مريد مرد المريد مع المريد م لاخمت المحد مع معديد المراج المراج المراجم مع المحد المحمد المحد الم يد تجمع بموضح في محمد هم الم فجو فراف مه في كَنْ وَجُدُوه مَ إِنَّ حِمْ عَلَى حِمْ الْمَعْتَى مَنْ اللَّهُ عَلَى اللَّهُ عَلَى مَ عَلَى مَ عَلَى مُ

Figure 16: A specimen of Garshuni Malayalam (from Āttel 2010: 189).