

**TO:** Unicode Technical Committee  
**FROM:** Michael Everson, Deborah Anderson, et al. (SEI/Universal Scripts Project, UC Berkeley)  
**SUBJECT:** Proposal to encode MEDIEVAL COMMA  
**DATE:** 1 August 2016

The following provides information for the MEDIEVAL COMMA, which was deemed eligible for encoding in the script ad hoc report in May 2016 ([L2/16-156](#)). A fuller list of other Medieval punctuation is found in: [L2/16-125](#) Revised Proposal to add Medievalist punctuation characters (WG2 N4726).

## MEDIEVAL COMMA

### History and function

Functionally, the comma is “a division of a colon... usually short and rhythmically incomplete, followed by a minor disjunction of the sense where it may be necessary to pause” (Parkes p. 302). The punctuation sign which came to bear the same name was employed to show a disjunction of sense, or a minor medial pause at the end of a comma. This was the MEDIEVAL COMMA proposed here. It was most commonly used by Italian scribes in the 14th century, and is the ancestor of our modern comma, whose modern form appeared in the first typefaces. See Figures below.

### Proposed glyph



### Code point

U+2E4C

### Suggested annotation

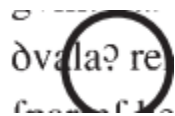
\* indicates a minor medial pause or disjunction of sense

### Figures:

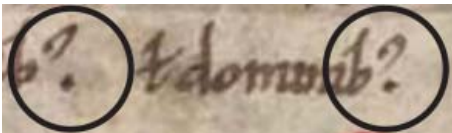
Núñez Contreras 1994:



Guðvarður Már Gunnlaugsson 2001:



MS Biblioteca Nacional de España, VITR/5/9, 1st half of the 13th century:



## Properties

2E4C; MEDIEVAL COMMA;Po;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;

Other properties should be modelled on U+2E34 RAISED COMMA.

## Bibliography

Guðvarður Már Gunnlaugsson, ed. 2001. Konungsbók Eddukvæða. Codex Regius. Stofnun Árna Magnússonar á Íslandi. Gl. Kgl. Sml. 2365 4to. (Íslensk miðaldahandrit, 3) Reykjavík: Lögberg. ISBN: 997932161-X.

Núñez Contreras, Luis. Manual de paleografía: fundamentos e historia de la escritura latina hasta el siglo VIII. Madrid: Cátedra. ISBN 84-376-1245-4.

Parkes, M. B. 1993. Pause and effect: an introduction to the history of punctuation in the West. Berkeley & Los Angeles: University of California Press. ISBN 0-520-07941-8.

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2  
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS  
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646<sup>1</sup>**

**Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.**

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html>.

See also <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html> for latest **Roadmaps**.

**A. Administrative**

1. **Title:** *Proposal to encode MEDIEVAL COMMA*
2. Requester's name: *Michael Everson, Debbie Anderson, et al.*
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): *Liaison member*
4. Submission date: *2016-08-03*
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):
6. Choose one of the following:  
This is a complete proposal:  *x*  
(or) More information will be provided later:

**B. Technical – General**

1. Choose one of the following:
  - a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):  
Proposed name of script: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:  *yes*  
Name of the existing block: *Supplemental Punctuation*
2. Number of characters in proposal: *1*
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):  
A-Contemporary  B.1-Specialized (small collection)  B.2-Specialized (large collection)   
C-Major extinct  D-Attested extinct  E-Minor extinct   
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic  G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?  
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?  *yes*  
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?  *yes*
5. Fonts related:  
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?  
*Michael Everson*  
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):  
*Michael Everson, Fontographer.*
6. References:  
a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?  *(see b)*  
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?  *yes*
7. Special encoding issues:  
Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?  *n.a.*

**8. Additional Information:**

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database ( <http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/> ) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

<sup>1</sup> Form number: N4502-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)

### C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES explain	<i>Contained in L2/16-125 (WG2 N4726)</i>	<i>yes</i>
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? If YES, with whom? If YES, available relevant documents:	<i>Medievalists, Latinists, and other scholars</i> <i>(see proposal)</i>	<i>yes</i>
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:		<i>no</i>
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:		<i>Rare (historic)</i>
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	<i>(historic texts and modern versions of such texts)</i>	<i>yes</i>
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? If YES, is a rationale provided? If YES, reference:		<i>n.a.</i>
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?		<i>n.a.</i>
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:		<i>no</i>
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:		<i>Not really</i>
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:		<i>no</i>
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? If YES, reference: Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:		<i>no</i>
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)		<i>no</i>
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified? If YES, reference:		<i>no</i>