

Proposal to encode the Elymaic script in Unicode

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1 Introduction

This proposal is a revision and expansion of “Preliminary proposal to encode the Elymaic script in Unicode” (L2/17-055). It contains additional background details, an expansion of the character repertoire, notes on letters, and several new specimens. It also addresses comments provided provided in:

- L2/17-255: Recommendations to UTC #152 July-August 2017 on Script Proposals
- L2/17-384: Recommendations to UTC #153 November 2017 on Script Proposals

The ‘Elymaic’ script was allocated to the “Roadmap to the Supplementary Multilingual Plane” (v. 3.0) in 2001. It was identified as a suitable candidate for encoding by Michael Everson in “Roadmapping early Semitic scripts” (N2311). Although no proposal to encode the script has been submitted in the past sixteen years, there is current and active scholarly interest in the script and the associated history, culture, and language of Elymais.

2 Background

The proposed script was used in the ancient state of Elymais, located in the southwestern region of modern Iran at the head of the Persian Gulf (see figure 1). It flourished from the 2nd century BCE to the early 3rd century CE as a semi-independent polity that was intermittently under the control of the Parthian empire (247 BCE – 224 CE). The name ‘Elymais’ is a romanization of the Hellenic designation *Ἐλυμαίς* for the region known in Sumerian sources from the middle of the third millennium BCE as  (NIM) *elam*; in Akkadian as *elamū* and *elammatu*; and in the indigenous ancient Elamite language as *h̥altamti* or *h̥atamti* (Poebel 1931). Known in English as ‘Elam’, the region lies in the present-day Iranian province of Khuzestan, the name of which derives from  *hūjiya*, the Old Persian name for the area.

There is no attested native name for the script. It is referred to as ‘Elymaic’ and ‘Elymaean’ in English scholarly literature. It appears that ‘Elymaic’ is the more widespread name for the script today, cf. Naveh (1997), Häberl (2006), Gzella (2008); and ‘Elymaean’ was used earlier, cf. Henning (1952), Bivar and Shaked (1964). The term ‘Elymaic’ is also used in general works on writing systems, cf. Healy (1990), O’Connor (1996). Recent articles in the *Encyclopædia Iranica* offer a distinction between the two terms:

they refer to ‘Elymaic’ inscriptions (Humbach 2011), but ‘Elymaean’ people and coinage (Hansman 2011). Based upon the prevalence of ‘Elymaic’, it is proposed as the identifier for the script in Unicode.

Elymaic is a right-to-left, non-joining *abjad* derived from the Aramaic script used by the Achaemenid chancellery. Although there is no evidence that the Aramaic language was spoken in Elymais, the local administration developed a regional variety of the script for writing standard Achaemenid Aramaic (Gzella 2008: 127). The script is best attested on stone inscriptions produced by local ruling dynasties, from the 1st through 3rd centuries CE. Some important epigraphical records are:

- *Tang-e Sarvak* This “valley of the cypresses” in eastern Khuzestan is considered to be the most important archaeological site in Elymais. It is believed to be a sacred grove used for the coronation of Elymaean kings. The site contains four free-standing monuments, with rock reliefs consisting of thirteen panels (Haerinck 2005). The artefacts at the site are generally dated between the 1st century CE and the first quarter of the 3rd century. Six inscriptions are extant (see figures 7–13).
- *Tang-e Butan* There are five inscriptions on two large rock reliefs in the “valley of the idols” in the Shimbar valley in northeastern Khuzestan (see figures 14–18). The first relief depicts one individual and the second depicts twelve individuals (Bivar and Shaked 1964). The reliefs are dated between the 1st century BCE and the 3rd century CE.
- *Tang-e Chilau* A large triangular stone containing graffiti written in carbon ink. Bivar and Shaked note that “Elymaean script of the first and second centuries A.D., similar to that of the Tang-i Butān was especially prominent” here and that “[s]everal examples seemed to mark a stage transitional in the development from chancery Aramaic to Elymaean, and may be of the first century B.C. or even earlier” (1964: 283). In addition to the Elymaic graffiti (figures 19–21), there are also ink texts in the Parthian and Pahlavi scripts.
- *Hong-e Kamalwand* A relief at Hong-e Kamalwand in Susiana, east of Elymais, has one inscription in a script that closely resembles Elymaic (see figure 22). The inscription has been dated to 100 CE (Gzella 2008: 121).
- Short inscriptions have been identified at Bard-e Neshandeh, Masjed-e Soleyman, and Hong-e Yaralivand.

The script is also attested on coinage. There are several types of numismatic records from Elymais, bearing inscriptions in Greek, Parthian, and Elymaic. Coins with Elymaic legends were minted during the Arsacid period. The inscription from a tetradrachm of Kamnaskires Orodes is shown in figure 23. The script on this coin differs from that used on small copper coins struck by Orodes II and Kamnaskires, shown in figures 24–25. It appears that two scripts were used for coinage in Elymais: that of the tetradrachms resembles those of the stone inscriptions, while that of the small coppers has letters similar to Parthian forms (compare the letters, respectively, of the ‘*grand module*’ and ‘*petit module*’ coins in figure 26).

Elymaic is related to other Aramaic-based scripts of southern Mesopotamia, mostly closely to Parthian and Mandaic, and also to Characenean (see Coxon 1970, Häberl 2005, Naveh 1997, Rezakhani 2012). A comparison of these scripts is shown in table 1. There is some debate regarding the relationship of Elymaic and Mandaic. Some scholars are of the opinion that Elymaic is the ancestor or sibling of Mandaic, while others state that it is a descendant of the latter.

3 Approach to the Encoding

There is no standard form of Elymaic. For purposes of the encoding, the representative ‘Elymaic’ script is based upon that of the stone inscriptions. While there are differences in the shapes of some letters across the inscriptions, they may be considered stylistic or local variations. On the whole, the scripts on the inscriptions exhibit uniformity and convey the sense of a single writing system.

- *Repertoire* The proposed character repertoire is based upon the inscriptions at Tang-e Sarvak, in which all 22 letters of the Elymaic *abjad* are attested.
- *Ordering* The alphabetic order for Elymaic follows that of Aramaic.
- *Character names* Indigenous names for Elymaic letters are not attested. Therefore, this proposal adopts the Unicode naming convention for the ‘Imperial Aramaic’ block, which has also been used for Parthian and Pahlavi scripts. These names differ slightly from scholarly names for Aramaic letters. In this document, names in italics refer to names for graphemes while names in small capitals refer to proposed Unicode characters, eg. א is *aleph* and ELYMAIC LETTER ALEPH. For sake of brevity, the descriptor ‘ELYMAIC’ is dropped when referring to Elymaic characters, eg. ELYMAIC LETTER ALEPH is referred to as ALEPH. Characters of other scripts are designated by their full Unicode names. Latin transliteration of Elymaic letters follows scholarly convention.
- *Letterforms* The representative glyphs are normalizations of forms used at Tang-e Sarvak. With regard to the letterforms in the Tang-e Sarvak inscriptions, Henning notes: “The writing is simply the same as that found on the coins which the kings of Elymais issued in Parthian times” and may be “allocated to the first and second centuries” CE (Henning 1952: 163). With regard to the script of Tang-e Butan, Bivar and Shaked write, “the Shīmbār inscriptions are very close from the point of view of palaeography to the Elymaic script of Tang-i Sarvak” (1964: 271). Gzella writes: “The same script [as that of Tang-e Sarvak], with a few palaeographic differences which might be due to local variation, has also been used for five inscriptions accompanying rock sculptures from Tang-e Butan in the Shimbar Valley” (2008: 119). Similarly, the inscription at Hong-e Kamalwand, although outside of Elymais proper, has more archaic forms, but has a close resemblance to other Elymaic inscriptions (Gzella 2008: 121).

The proposed repertoire is certainly suitable for representing numismatic inscriptions, particularly those on tetradrachm coins. But, the script of some coins, particularly the small coppers, may be a separate script, perhaps Parthian or a form of it (see figure 27). For such coins, it may be practical to use the Inscriptional Parthian encoding.

The specific style of a particular inscriptions or coin is to be managed typographically through the selection of fonts designed specifically for each style.

4 Proposed repertoire

The proposed repertoire for Elymaic contains 23 characters: 22 letters and 1 ligature.

4.1 Letters

Glyph	Unicode character name	Variant	Aramaic	Latin
𐤀	ELYMAIC LETTER ALEPH	𐤁	<i>ālap</i>	ʾ
𐤂	ELYMAIC LETTER BETH		<i>bēth</i>	b
𐤃	ELYMAIC LETTER GIMEL	𐤄	<i>gāmal</i>	g
𐤅	ELYMAIC LETTER DALETH	𐤆	<i>dālath</i>	d
𐤇	ELYMAIC LETTER HE	𐤈 𐤉	<i>hē</i>	h
𐤊	ELYMAIC LETTER WAW		<i>waw</i>	w
𐤋	ELYMAIC LETTER ZAYIN	𐤌	<i>zain</i>	z
𐤍	ELYMAIC LETTER HETH		<i>hēth</i>	ḥ
𐤎	ELYMAIC LETTER TETH		<i>tēth</i>	ṭ
𐤏	ELYMAIC LETTER YODH	𐤐	<i>yodh</i>	y
𐤑	ELYMAIC LETTER KAPH		<i>kāp</i>	k
𐤒	ELYMAIC LETTER LAMEDH	𐤓	<i>lāmadh</i>	l
𐤔	ELYMAIC LETTER MEM	𐤕	<i>mem</i>	m
𐤖	ELYMAIC LETTER NUN	𐤗	<i>nun</i>	n
𐤘	ELYMAIC LETTER SAMEKH	𐤙	<i>semkath</i>	s
𐤚	ELYMAIC LETTER AYIN		<i>ē</i>	ʿ
𐤛	ELYMAIC LETTER PE	𐤜	<i>pē</i>	p
𐤝	ELYMAIC LETTER SADHE	𐤞	<i>ṣādhē</i>	ṣ
𐤟	ELYMAIC LETTER QOPH		<i>qop</i>	q
𐤠	ELYMAIC LETTER RESH		<i>rēsh</i>	r
𐤡	ELYMAIC LETTER SHIN	𐤢	<i>shin</i>	š
𐤣	ELYMAIC LETTER TAW	𐤤	<i>taw</i>	t

Notes on the letters:

- The letters **𐤊** *kaph* and **𐤏** *resh* have a similar structure, but they are distinguished by their terminals. The terminal of *kaph* is written with a long descender, which stretches below the baseline, while that of *resh* is shorter and does not cross the baseline. Even in texts where letters are wander from the baseline and letter heights are inconsistent, the *kaph* differs from *resh* on account of its elongated tail. Inscriptions #1 and #2 from Tang-e Sarvak show the letters distinctively in the word **𐤏𐤕𐤓𐤕** *kwrsy* (figures 8, 9). The difference is also clear in the word **𐤏𐤕𐤓𐤕** *šrwkw* in Tang-e Butan inscription #2 (figure 15), as well as in **𐤏𐤕𐤓𐤕** *kwmr* in the inscription at Hong-e Kamalwand (figure 22).
- The letters **𐤀** *ayin* and **𐤏** *resh* may appear similar, but they have distinctive shapes. The basic structure of both consists of one arc intersecting another. In *ayin*, the smaller left arc bisects the primary right arc; while in *resh*, the terminal of the left arc joins the origin of the right arc, or meets at a point close to the origin. Also, the terminal of the right stroke in *ayin* stops at the base line, while that of *resh* often curves at or along the baseline. The differences are apparent in Tang-e Butan inscription #4: compare the *ayin* in **𐤀𐤕𐤓𐤕** *tyd* with the *resh* in **𐤏𐤕** *br* and **𐤏𐤕𐤓𐤕** *yrsy* (figure 17). See also Tang-e Sarvak inscription #3, in which the *ayin* in **𐤀𐤕𐤓𐤕** *lyh* and **𐤀𐤕𐤓𐤕** *ybd* are clearly different from the *resh* in **𐤏𐤕** *br* and **𐤏𐤕𐤓𐤕** *wrwd* (figure 10). Here, the appearance of the letters is quite rigid, but there is a sense of a deliberate differentiation between the letters by inscribing *ayin* with a prominent angular stroke.
- The letters **𐤆** *zayin* and **𐤇** *lamedh* are similar, but the latter has a longer ascender. In some inscriptions, the ascender of *lamedh* has a slight curve or ripple at top, ie. **𐤇**, and *zayin* may have no curve, ie. **𐤆**.
- The letters **𐤇** *lamedh* and **𐤈** *nun* are also similar. The *nun* is written with an elongated descender and hook, while *lamedh* rests along the baseline.
- The letter *yodh* is represented in the majority of inscriptions using the dot form **𐤊**, but it occurs as an elongated stroke **𐤊** in Tang-e Sarvak #3 (see figure 10). The form **𐤊** occurs in coinage. It is treated as a glyphic variant.

4.2 Ligature

Glyph	Unicode character name	Variant	Aramaic	Latin
𐤆𐤊	ELYMAIC LIGATURE ZAYIN-YODH	𐤆𐤊	<i>zy</i>	<i>zy</i>

In several inscriptions the Aramaic particle **𐤆𐤊** *zy* is represented using the form **𐤆𐤊**, a ligature of **𐤆** *zayin* and **𐤊** *yodh*. As Elymaic is a non-joining script the *zy* ligature may be considered a special case. While it be may possible to represent the ligature using the control character **𐤆𐤊** U+200D ZERO WIDTH JOINER, it is practical to consider the ligature as an atomic character on account of the structure of Elymaic: the *zy* ligature appears to be consistently joined while other letters are not. The proposed character is named after the letters that compose the ligature. This LIGATURE ZAYIN-YODH may correspond to **𐤆𐤊** U+0856 MANDAIC LETTER DUSHENNA.

4.3 Other features

Punctuation There are no special signs for punctuation. Word boundaries are generally not indicated, but in some inscriptions it appears that spaces are used between words.

Digits Digits are not attested.

Line-breaking There are no formal rules for the breaking of words at end of line. In some inscriptions lines appear to be broken at phrase boundaries. In digital layouts line-breaks may occur after any character.

Cursive writing In the majority of inscriptions the letters are freestanding. In some sources, the strokes of adjacent letters of a word may connect or overlap, eg. Tang-i Butan #5 (see figure 18). But the script does not possess intrinsic conjoining or cursive behavior. The only evidence of deliberate cursive writing is the ligature ZY.

4.4 Collation

The sort order for Elymaic letters follows the encoded order:

𐤀 ALEPH < 𐤁 BETH < 𐤂 GIMEL < 𐤃 DALETH < 𐤄 HE < 𐤅 WAW < 𐤆 ZAYIN <
 𐤇 HETH < 𐤈 TETH < 𐤉 YODH < 𐤊 KAPH < 𐤋 LAMEDH < 𐤌 MEM < 𐤍 NUN <
 𐤎 SAMEKH < 𐤏 AYIN < 𐤐 PE < 𐤑 SADHE < 𐤒 QOPH < 𐤓 RESH < 𐤔 SHIN <
 𐤕 TAW

The LIGATURE ZAYIN-YODH should be collated after the sequence <𐤆 ZAYIN, 𐤉 YODH>, for example:

→	...	𐤆𐤈	<	𐤉	<	𐤈	<	𐤆𐤊	...	→
		zʔ		zy		zy		zk		
		ZAYIN, TETH		ZAYIN, YODH		ZAYIN-YODH		ZAYIN, KAPH		

5 Character Properties

5.1 UnicodeData.txt

```
10EC0;ELYMAIC LETTER ALEPH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC1;ELYMAIC LETTER BETH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC2;ELYMAIC LETTER GIMEL;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC3;ELYMAIC LETTER DALETH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC4;ELYMAIC LETTER HE;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC5;ELYMAIC LETTER WAW;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC6;ELYMAIC LETTER ZAYIN;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC7;ELYMAIC LETTER HETH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10EC8;ELYMAIC LETTER TETH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
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10EC9;ELYMAIC LETTER YODH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ECA;ELYMAIC LETTER KAPH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ECB;ELYMAIC LETTER LAMEDH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ECC;ELYMAIC LETTER MEM;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ECD;ELYMAIC LETTER NUN;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ECE;ELYMAIC LETTER SAMEKH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ECF;ELYMAIC LETTER AYIN;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED0;ELYMAIC LETTER PE;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED1;ELYMAIC LETTER SADHE;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED2;ELYMAIC LETTER QOPH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED3;ELYMAIC LETTER RESH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED4;ELYMAIC LETTER SHIN;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED5;ELYMAIC LETTER TAW;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
10ED6;ELYMAIC LIGATURE ZAYIN-YODH;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;

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5.2 LineBreak.txt

```

10EC0..10ED6;AL # Lo [23] ELYMAIC LETTER ALEPH..ELYMAIC LIGATURE ZAYIN-YODH

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6 References
























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

















7 Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Davide Salaris (Macquarie University) for providing information on the Elymaic script and history of Elymais. I express my gratitude to Charles Häberl for comments on this proposal as well as for sharing scholarly articles with me. I also thank members of the Unicode script ad hoc committee for providing feedback.


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	10EC	10ED
0	 10EC0	 10ED0
1	 10EC1	 10ED1
2	 10EC2	 10ED2
3	 10EC3	 10ED3
4	 10EC4	 10ED4
5	 10EC5	 10ED5
6	 10EC6	 10ED6
7	 10EC7	
8	 10EC8	
9	 10EC9	
A	 10ECA	
B	 10ECB	
C	 10ECC	
D	 10ECD	
E	 10ECE	
F	 10ECF	

Letters

10EC0		ELYMAIC LETTER ALEPH
10EC1		ELYMAIC LETTER BETH
10EC2		ELYMAIC LETTER GIMEL
10EC3		ELYMAIC LETTER DALETH
10EC4		ELYMAIC LETTER HE
10EC5		ELYMAIC LETTER WAW
10EC6		ELYMAIC LETTER ZAYIN
10EC7		ELYMAIC LETTER HETH
10EC8		ELYMAIC LETTER TETH
10EC9		ELYMAIC LETTER YODH
10ECA		ELYMAIC LETTER KAPH
10ECB		ELYMAIC LETTER LAMEDH
10ECC		ELYMAIC LETTER MEM
10ECD		ELYMAIC LETTER NUN
10ECE		ELYMAIC LETTER SAMEKH
10ECF		ELYMAIC LETTER AYIN
10ED0		ELYMAIC LETTER PE
10ED1		ELYMAIC LETTER SADHE
10ED2		ELYMAIC LETTER QOPH
10ED3		ELYMAIC LETTER RESH
10ED4		ELYMAIC LETTER SHIN
10ED5		ELYMAIC LETTER TAW

Ligature

10ED6		ELYMAIC LIGATURE ZAYIN-YODH
		• used for the Aramaic heterogram zy



<https://media1.britannica.com/eb-media/25/1725-004-630DAE31.jpg>

Figure 1: Map of the Parthian around the 1st century BCE showing the location of Elymais (near center). Source: *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

	Elymaic	Mandaic	Inscriptional Pahlavi	Inscriptional Parthian	Imperial Aramaic
<i>aleph</i>	𐤀	ܐ	𐭀	𐭁	א
<i>beth</i>	𐤁	ܒ	𐭁	𐭂	ב
<i>gimel</i>	𐤂	ܒ	𐭂	𐭃	ג
<i>daleth</i>	𐤃	ܒ	𐭃	𐭄	ד
<i>he</i>	𐤄	ܚ	𐭄	𐭅	ה
<i>waw</i>	𐤅	ܘ	𐭅	𐭆	ו
<i>zayin</i>	𐤆	ܙ	𐭆	𐭇	ז
<i>heth</i>	𐤇	ܚ	𐭇	𐭈	ח
<i>teth</i>	𐤈	ܛ	𐭈	𐭉	ט
<i>yodh</i>	𐤉	ܝ	𐭉	𐭊	י
<i>kaph</i>	𐤊	ܟ	𐭊	𐭋	כ
<i>lamedh</i>	𐤋	ܠ	𐭋	𐭌	ל
<i>mem</i>	𐤌	ܡ	𐭌	𐭍	מ
<i>nun</i>	𐤍	ܢ	𐭍	𐭎	נ
<i>samekh</i>	𐤎	ܣ	𐭎	𐭏	ס
<i>ayin</i>	𐤏	ܥ	(2)	𐭏	ע
<i>pe</i>	𐤐	ܦ	𐭐	𐭑	פ
<i>sadhe</i>	𐤑	ܨ	𐭑	𐭒	צ
<i>qoph</i>	𐤒	ܩ	(𐭑)	𐭒	ק
<i>resh</i>	𐤓	ܪ	(2)	𐭒	ר
<i>shin</i>	𐤔	ܫ	𐭓	𐭓	ש
<i>taw</i>	𐤕	ܬ	𐭓	𐭔	ת

Table 1: Comparison of Elymaic, Mandaic, Inscriptional Pahlavi, Inscriptional Parthian, and Aramaic. Mandaic letters have unique names that differ from Aramaic names. Parenthesis indicate that a letter has been unified with another in the respective encoding. In Inscriptional Pahlavi, *ayin* and *resh* are unified with *waw*, and *qoph* with *mem*.

	3rd c. B.C. Aśoka inscr.	Elymaic	Chara- cenian	Mandaic		Parallels	3rd c. B.C. (Egypt)	Nabataean		
				book- hand	cursive*			early	monu- mental	cursive
a	𐤀 𐤁	𐤀 𐤁	𐤀	𐤀 𐤁	𐤀 𐤁	𐤀 ¹ 𐤀 ² 𐤀 ³	𐤀	𐤀	𐤀	𐤀
b	𐤂 𐤃	𐤂 𐤃	𐤂 (1)	𐤂	𐤂		𐤂	𐤂	𐤂	𐤂
g	𐤄	𐤄	𐤄 (2)	𐤄	𐤄	𐤄 ⁴	𐤄	𐤄	𐤄	𐤄
d	𐤅 𐤆	𐤅 𐤆	𐤅 (3)	𐤅	𐤅		𐤅	𐤅	𐤅	𐤅
h	𐤇	𐤇		𐤇	𐤇		𐤇	𐤇	𐤇	𐤇
w	𐤈	𐤈		𐤈	𐤈		𐤈	𐤈	𐤈	𐤈
z	𐤉	𐤉		𐤉	𐤉		𐤉	𐤉	𐤉	𐤉
zy>d		𐤊 𐤋		𐤊 𐤋	𐤊 𐤋					
h	𐤌			𐤌	𐤌	𐤌 ^{4a}	𐤌	𐤌	𐤌	𐤌
t	𐤍		𐤍 (1)	𐤍	𐤍		𐤍	𐤍	𐤍	𐤍
y	𐤎	𐤎	𐤎 (1)	𐤎	𐤎		𐤎	𐤎	𐤎	𐤎
k	𐤏 𐤐	𐤏 𐤐	𐤏	𐤏	𐤏		𐤏	𐤏	𐤏	𐤏
l	𐤑 𐤒	𐤑 𐤒	𐤑	𐤑	𐤑		𐤑	𐤑	𐤑	𐤑
m	𐤓 𐤔	𐤓 𐤔	𐤓	𐤓	𐤓	𐤓 ⁴	𐤓	𐤓	𐤓	𐤓
n	𐤕 𐤖	𐤕 𐤖	𐤕	𐤕	𐤕		𐤕	𐤕	𐤕	𐤕
s	𐤗	𐤗	𐤗	𐤗	𐤗	𐤗 ⁴	𐤗	𐤗	𐤗	𐤗
e	𐤘	𐤘	𐤘 (1)	𐤘	𐤘		𐤘	𐤘	𐤘	𐤘
p	𐤙 𐤚	𐤙 𐤚		𐤙	𐤙		𐤙	𐤙	𐤙	𐤙
f	𐤛	𐤛		𐤛	𐤛		𐤛	𐤛	𐤛	𐤛
q	𐤜	𐤜	𐤜	𐤜	𐤜	𐤜 ⁴	𐤜	𐤜	𐤜	𐤜
r	𐤝 𐤞	𐤝 𐤞	𐤝 (1)	𐤝	𐤝		𐤝	𐤝	𐤝	𐤝
s	𐤟	𐤟	𐤟 (1)	𐤟	𐤟	𐤟 ^{4a} 𐤟 ⁴	𐤟	𐤟	𐤟	𐤟
t	𐤠	𐤠	𐤠	𐤠	𐤠		𐤠	𐤠	𐤠	𐤠

Fig. 119. Development of the South Mesopotamian scripts (in comparison with Nabataean). Key to the parallels: (1) a bulla from Babylonia; (2) the Nash papyrus; (3) Hatra; (4) the Birecik inscription, Syriac of 6 A.D.; (4a) Syriac inscription of 165 A.D. from Samatar Harabesi (A raised x marks final forms)

Figure 2: Comparison of Elymaic, Mandaic, Nabataean, and other scripts (from Naveh 1997: 137).

ARAMEIC <small>Palmyra Sabaean</small>	PARTHIAN <small>Hal</small>	COINS OF ELYMAIS		TANG - I SARVAK					
		<small>SMALL COPPER (PARTH)</small>	<small>TETRA- DRACHM (ARAB)</small>	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6
𐤀	𐭀	𐭀	𐭀	𐭀	𐭀	𐭀	𐭀	𐭀	
𐤁	𐭁	𐭁	𐭁	𐭁	𐭁	𐭁	𐭁		
𐤂	𐭂					𐭂			
𐤃	𐭃	𐭃	𐭃	𐭃	𐭃	𐭃			
𐤄	𐭄			𐭄		𐭄			𐭄
𐤅	𐭅	𐭅	𐭅	𐭅	𐭅	𐭅	𐭅		𐭅
𐤆	𐭆			𐭆	𐭆	𐭆			
𐤇	𐭇			𐭇	𐭇	𐭇			
𐤈	𐭈			𐭈	𐭈	𐭈			
𐤉	𐭉			𐭉	𐭉	𐭉			
𐤊	𐭊			𐭊	𐭊	𐭊			
𐤋	𐭋			𐭋	𐭋	𐭋			
𐤌	𐭌			𐭌	𐭌	𐭌			
𐤍	𐭍			𐭍	𐭍	𐭍			
𐤎	𐭎			𐭎	𐭎	𐭎			
𐤏	𐭏			𐭏	𐭏	𐭏			
𐤐	𐭐			𐭐	𐭐	𐭐			
𐤑	𐭑			𐭑	𐭑	𐭑			
𐤒	𐭒			𐭒	𐭒	𐭒			
𐤓	𐭓			𐭓	𐭓	𐭓			
𐤔	𐭔			𐭔	𐭔	𐭔			
𐤕	𐭕			𐭕	𐭕	𐭕			
𐤖	𐭖			𐭖	𐭖	𐭖			
𐤗	𐭗			𐭗	𐭗	𐭗			
𐤘	𐭘			𐭘	𐭘	𐭘			
𐤙	𐭙			𐭙	𐭙	𐭙			
𐤚	𐭚			𐭚	𐭚	𐭚			
𐤛	𐭛			𐭛	𐭛	𐭛			
𐤜	𐭜			𐭜	𐭜	𐭜			
𐤝	𐭝			𐭝	𐭝	𐭝			
𐤞	𐭞			𐭞	𐭞	𐭞			
𐤟	𐭟			𐭟	𐭟	𐭟			
𐤠	𐭠			𐭠	𐭠	𐭠			
𐤡	𐭡			𐭡	𐭡	𐭡			
𐤢	𐭢			𐭢	𐭢	𐭢			
𐤣	𐭣			𐭣	𐭣	𐭣			
𐤤	𐭤			𐭤	𐭤	𐭤			
𐤥	𐭥			𐭥	𐭥	𐭥			
𐤦	𐭦			𐭦	𐭦	𐭦			
𐤧	𐭧			𐭧	𐭧	𐭧			
𐤨	𐭨			𐭨	𐭨	𐭨			
𐤩	𐭩			𐭩	𐭩	𐭩			
𐤪	𐭪			𐭪	𐭪	𐭪			
𐤫	𐭫			𐭫	𐭫	𐭫			
𐤬	𐭬			𐭬	𐭬	𐭬			
𐤭	𐭭			𐭭	𐭭	𐭭			
𐤮	𐭮			𐭮	𐭮	𐭮			
𐤯	𐭯			𐭯	𐭯	𐭯			
𐤰	𐭰			𐭰	𐭰	𐭰			
𐤱	𐭱			𐭱	𐭱	𐭱			
𐤲	𐭲			𐭲	𐭲	𐭲			
𐤳	𐭳			𐭳	𐭳	𐭳			
𐤴	𐭴			𐭴	𐭴	𐭴			
𐤵	𐭵			𐭵	𐭵	𐭵			
𐤶	𐭶			𐭶	𐭶	𐭶			
𐤷	𐭷			𐭷	𐭷	𐭷			
𐤸	𐭸			𐭸	𐭸	𐭸			
𐤹	𐭹			𐭹	𐭹	𐭹			
𐤺	𐭺			𐭺	𐭺	𐭺			
𐤻	𐭻			𐭻	𐭻	𐭻			
𐤼	𐭼			𐭼	𐭼	𐭼			
𐤽	𐭽			𐭽	𐭽	𐭽			
𐤾	𐭾			𐭾	𐭾	𐭾			
𐤿	𐭿			𐭿	𐭿	𐭿			

The Elymaean Alphabet

Figure 3: Comparison of Aramaic and Parthian with Elymaic (from Henning 1952: 168).

	TANG-I SARVAK	SHĪMBĀR				
		No. I	No. II	No. III	No. IV	No. V
א	𐤀 𐤁	𐤀 𐤁	𐤀 𐤁	𐤀 𐤁	𐤀 𐤁	𐤀 𐤁
ב	𐤂 𐤃	𐤂 𐤃	𐤂 𐤃	𐤂 𐤃	𐤂 𐤃	𐤂 𐤃
ג	𐤄	𐤄				
ד	𐤅 𐤆				𐤅	𐤅
ה	𐤇 𐤈	𐤇	𐤇		𐤇	𐤇
ו	𐤉 𐤊	𐤉	𐤉	𐤉	𐤉	𐤉
ז	𐤋 𐤌 𐤍	𐤋	𐤋	𐤋	𐤋	𐤋
ח	𐤎					
ט	𐤏			𐤏		
י	𐤐	𐤐	𐤐	𐤐	𐤐	𐤐
כ	𐤑 𐤒	𐤑	𐤑	𐤑	𐤑	
ל	𐤓					
מ	𐤔 𐤕		𐤔 𐤕		𐤔 𐤕	
נ	𐤖 𐤗				𐤖	
ס	𐤘 𐤙				𐤘	
ע	𐤚 𐤛				𐤚	
פ	𐤜 𐤝			𐤜	𐤜	
צ	𐤞 𐤟	𐤞		𐤞	𐤞	
ק	𐤠					
ר	𐤡 𐤢	𐤡	𐤡 𐤢	𐤡	𐤡	𐤡
ש	𐤣 𐤤	𐤣	𐤣	𐤣	𐤣	𐤣
ת	𐤥 𐤦			𐤥	𐤥	𐤥

FIG. 1. The script of the Shīmbār inscriptions. The column showing the Tang-i Sarvak forms is based on W. B. Henning's table in *Asia Major*, NS, II, 2, 1952, 168.

Figure 4: Comparison of Elymaic letters in the inscriptions at Tang-e Sarvak and Tang-e Butan (from Bivar and Shaked 1964: 270).

	Tang-i Sarvak	Shimbar	Lead amulet	Magic bowls	Characene coin legends	Classical Mandaic	Syriac inscriptions	Syriac bowls	Palmyrene		Nabataean	
									lapidary	cursive	lapidary	cursive
א	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ב	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ג	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ד	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ה	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ו	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ז	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ח	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ט	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
י	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
כ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ל	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
מ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
נ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ס	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ע	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
פ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
צ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ק	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ר	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ש	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ת	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ

The columns showing the Tang-i Sarvak and Shimbar forms are based on Bivar and Shaked's table in *B.S.O.A.S.* xxvii (1964), 270; the Mandaic and Syriac bowl texts on Montgomery's table in *Aramaic Incantation Texts from Nippur* (1913), plates xxxix and xl, and the Syriac inscription of the second century A.D. on Segal's table in *B.S.O.A.S.* xvi (1954), 32.

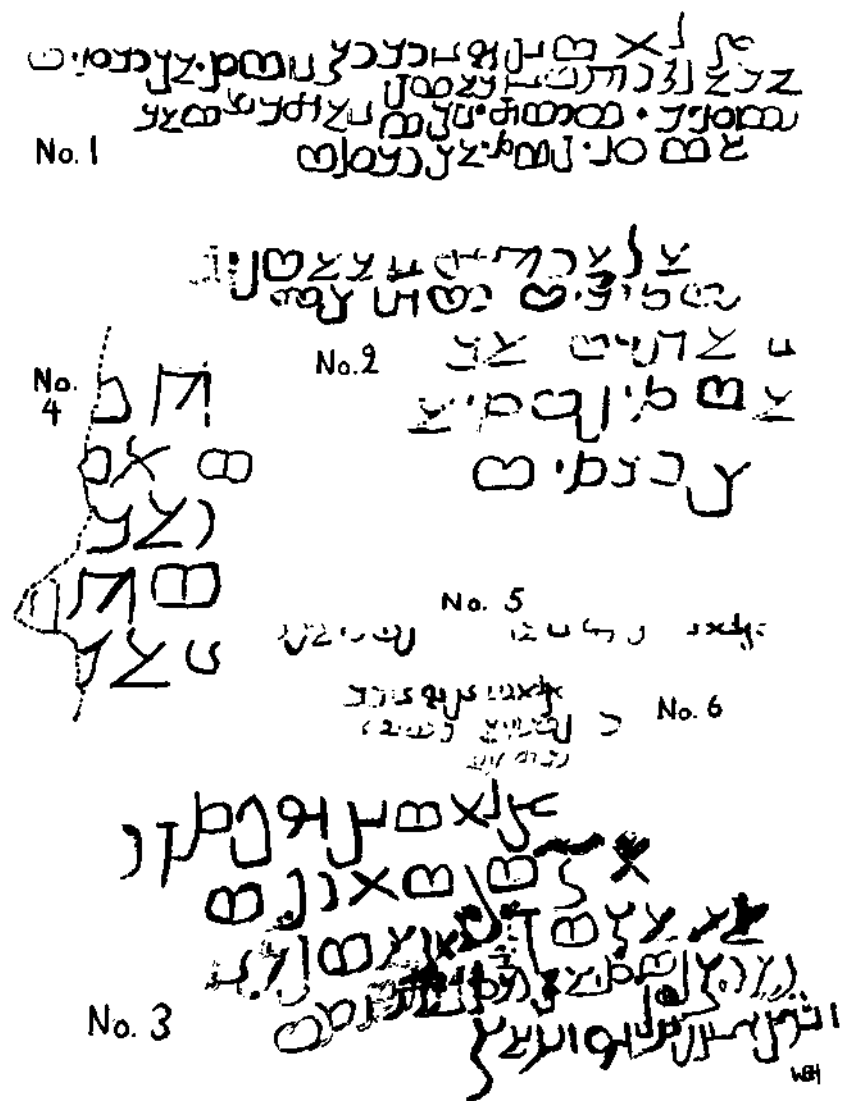
Figure 5: Comparison of Elymaic and other scripts (from Coxon 1970: 21).

TABLE 1. Comparison of Elymaic, Characenean, Parthian, and Mandaic Scripts

Hebrew	Aramaic Values	Elymaic (Tang-e Sarvak)	Elymaic (Shimbār)	Characene Coins	Other Forms	Iranian Values	Nisa Ostraca	Parthian Inscriptions	Mandaic Values	Book Hand	Lead Amulets	Incantation Bowls
א	ʾ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ ^a	a ā	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	a	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ב	b	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	b	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	b	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ג	g	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	g ḡ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	g	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ד	d	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	d ḏ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	d	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ה	h	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	h x	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	h	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ו	w	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	ō ū w	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	h	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ז	z	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	z ḏ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	z	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ח	ḥ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	h x	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	h	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ט	t	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	ē ī y	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	t	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
י	y	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	k g	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	i	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
כ	k	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	l	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	k	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ל	l	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	m	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	l	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
מ	m	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	n	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	m	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
נ	n	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	s	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	n	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ס	s	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	p ḥ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	p	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
פ	p	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	ḥ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	ṣ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
צ	ṣ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	r	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	r	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ק	q	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	š ḏ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	q	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ר	r	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	t d	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	t	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ש	š	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ		Ⲁ	Ⲁ	š	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
ת	t	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ		Ⲁ	Ⲁ	t	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ

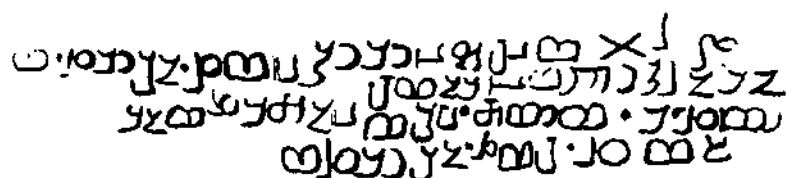
Sources: The Elymaic forms from Tang-e Sarvak and Shimbār forms have been adapted from Bivar and Shaked 1964: 270; the Characene coin legends are from Coxon 1970: 21; other Aramaic forms cited above are from Naveh 1997: 142 (a = Hatra, b = Armazi, c = Hartra, d = Hassan-Kef, e = Garni); the forms from the Nisa ostraca and the Parthian inscriptions are from Skarvø 1996: 518; the Mandaic book hand is based on Macuch and Drower 1963: xii; the forms from the lead amulets are based on Coxon 1970: 21, and the two sets of scripts from the incantation bowls are taken from bowl 079M (BM 117872) and 087M (BM 91779), respectively, in Segal and Hunter 2000: 237.

Figure 6: Comparison of Mandaic, Elymaic, and related scripts (Häberl 2006 : 57).



The Elymaean Inscriptions of Tang-i Sarvak

Figure 7: Renderings of Elymaic inscriptions at Tang-e Sarvak made by W. B. Henning (1952: 170). An analysis of inscriptions 1–3 is provided in the following figures.

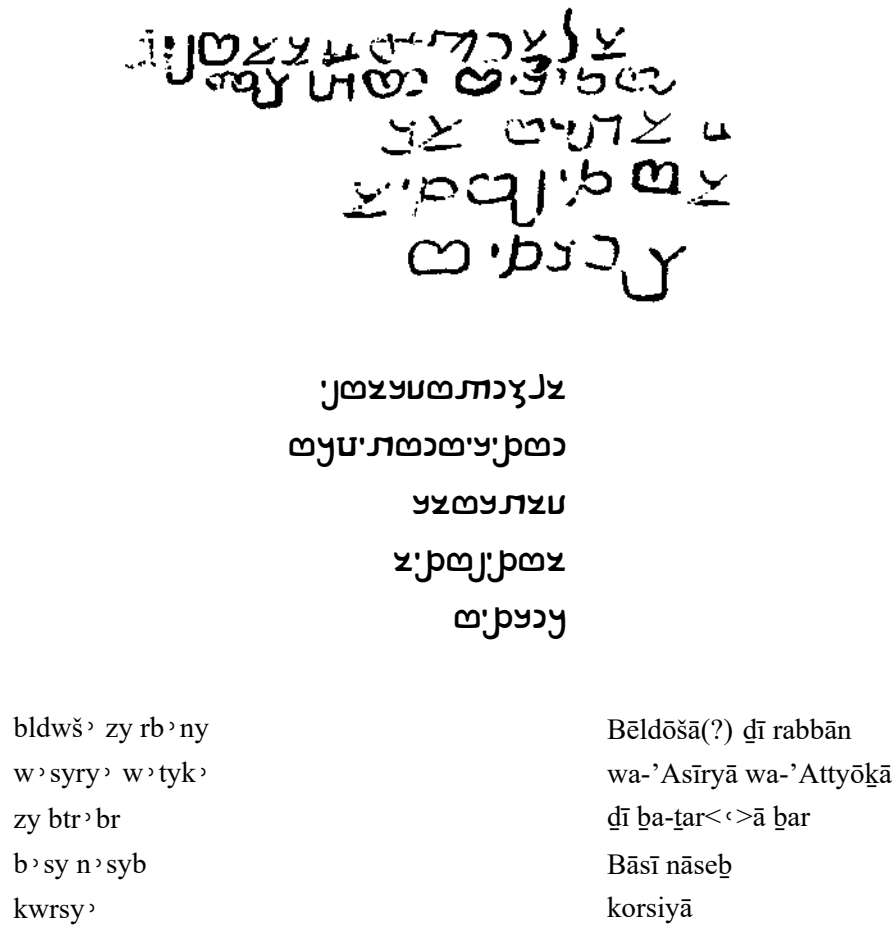
[illegible]

ślm' znh zy wrwd n'syb kwrsy'
 br bldwś' zy rb'ny
 w'syry' w'tytk' zy btr'br
 b'sy n'syb kwrs'

ṣalmā denā dī Worōd nāseḇ korsiya
 ḇar Bēldōšā(?) dī rabbān
 wa-ʾAsīryā wa-ʾAttyōkā dī ḇa-ṭar ʿā ḇar
 Bāsī nāseḇ kors<iy>ā

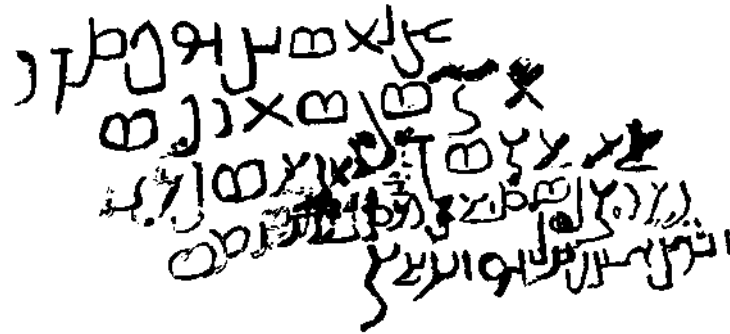
This image is the one of Worōd, holder of the throne, the son of Bēldōšā(?), who is (my) lord, and Ašīryā(?) and Antiochus, who is at the gate, the son of Bāsī, holder of the throne.

Figure 8: Tang-e Sarvak inscription #1. Facsimile from Henning (1952: 170); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 113).



Bēldōšā(?), who is (my) lord,
and Asīryā(?) and Antiochus,
who is at the gate, the son
of Bāsī, holder of the throne.

Figure 9: Tang-e Sarvak inscription #2. Facsimile from Henning (1952: 170); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 114).



𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥
 𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥
 𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥
 𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥
 𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥𐭥

šlm› znh psqw

md›n›m wp›

br bd›q mn b›n kz

wrwd n›syb kwrsy› š›ys›

yzwn għn ‘lyh y‘bd

šalmā denā p̄asaq

MD›N›M wa-Pā(?)

ḡar BD›Q men Bān ka-d[ī]

Worōd nāseḡ korsiyā Šēsā(?)

zayūn gāḡen ‘alēh(?) ye‘bed

This image have cut

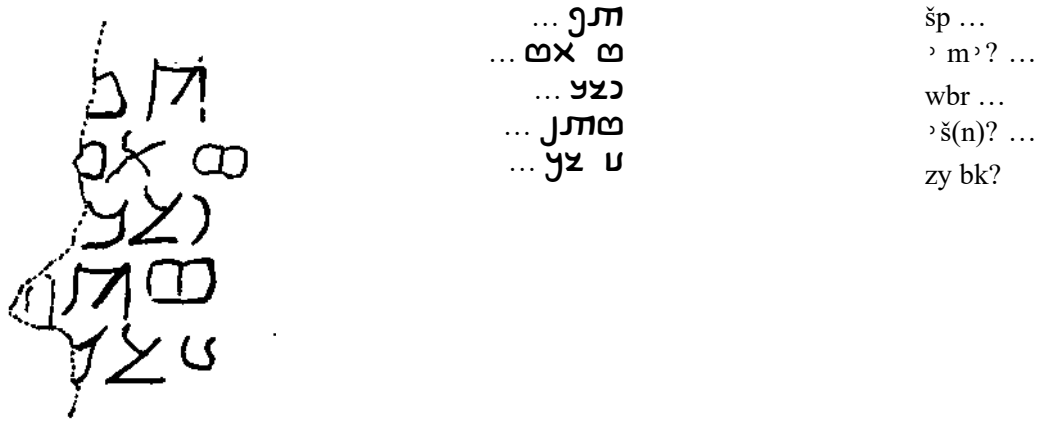
MD›N›M and Pā(?)

the son of BD›Q from Bān whe[n]

Worōd, holder of the throne

feeds Šēsā(?), bowing over him, performs (the ritual).

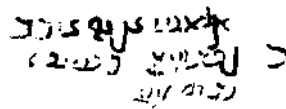
Figure 10: Tang-e Sarvak inscription #3. Facsimile from Henning (1952: 170); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 114).



پیشہ و ملک و ملت کے لئے

ʃlm(ʔ) znh zy (brʔ) ... nʔ[s]yb kw[rsyʔ]

Figure 12: Tang-e Sarvak inscription #5 (Henning 1952: 170).



ထ[ꣳꣳ]သ[ꣳ] ဣ[ꣳꣳ] (ဒ)သ

• •

“This is the image of Orodes assuming the throne.”

21



TANG-I BUTĀN, INSCRIPTION NO. I

𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥 ~ 𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥 . 𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥
𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥 𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥

𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥 ~ 𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥
𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥

ʾwky gšyšʾ (= qšyšʾ ?) zy bʾšybh
br šwl

ʾŌkē qaššīšā dī Ḥāšībā
ḥar Šōl

ʾŌkē the priest (or elder), who is *bʾšybh* (or: of Ḥāšībā?)
the son of Šōl.

Figure 14: Tang-e Butan inscription #1 (Facsimile from Bivar and Shaked (1964: 273 & plate III); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 119).



TANG-I BUTĀN, INSCRIPTION NO. II

אברהם יצחק

תצפית נ'

צטות'צ' צ צ תאנא

šrwkw zy

b'šybh br šmwm

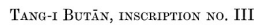
Šorūkū dī

Ḥāšībā bar Šemōn

Šorayku who is

bʾšybh (or: of Ḥāšīḥā?), son of Šemʿōn(?).

Figure 15: Tang-e Butan inscription #2 (Facsimile from Bivar and Shaked (1964: 273 & plate IV); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 119).



תחת אכזב נ'
צלמא צי' (') מני'

ŠPTW ŠTWR ' dī
bēl- 'ārō bar ' Ōkē

ŠPTW the šṭwr', who is
(keeper of) the altar of Bēl(?), the son of 'Ōkē.

24



TANG-I BUTĀN, INSCRIPTION NO. IV

𐭪𐭥𐭥𐭥
𐭪𐭥𐭥𐭥
𐭪𐭥𐭥𐭥
𐭪𐭥𐭥𐭥

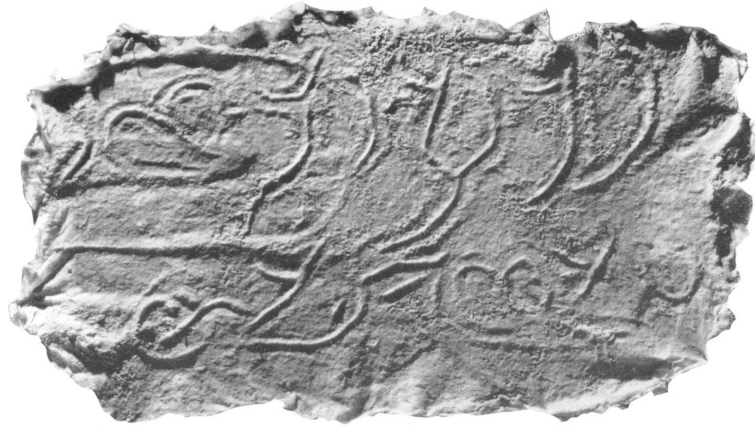
𐭪𐭥𐭥𐭥
𐭪𐭥𐭥𐭥
𐭪𐭥𐭥𐭥
𐭪𐭥𐭥𐭥
𐭪𐭥𐭥𐭥

šlmy
ᵛlh zy ᵛtyd
šptw br
šᵛš mn
ᵛyrsy

šalmayyā
ᵛellē dī ᵛatted
ŠPTW ḥar Šāš men
ᵛĪrsē

These images
are the ones which has prepared
ŠPTW the son of Šāš from
ᵛĪrsē(?).

Figure 17: Tang-e Butan inscription #4 (Facsimile from Bivar and Shaked (1964: 275 & plate VI); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 120).



TANG-I BUTĀN, INSCRIPTION NO. V

𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥
𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥

𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥

𐭠𐭣𐭥𐭥𐭥

wrwd rbʾ

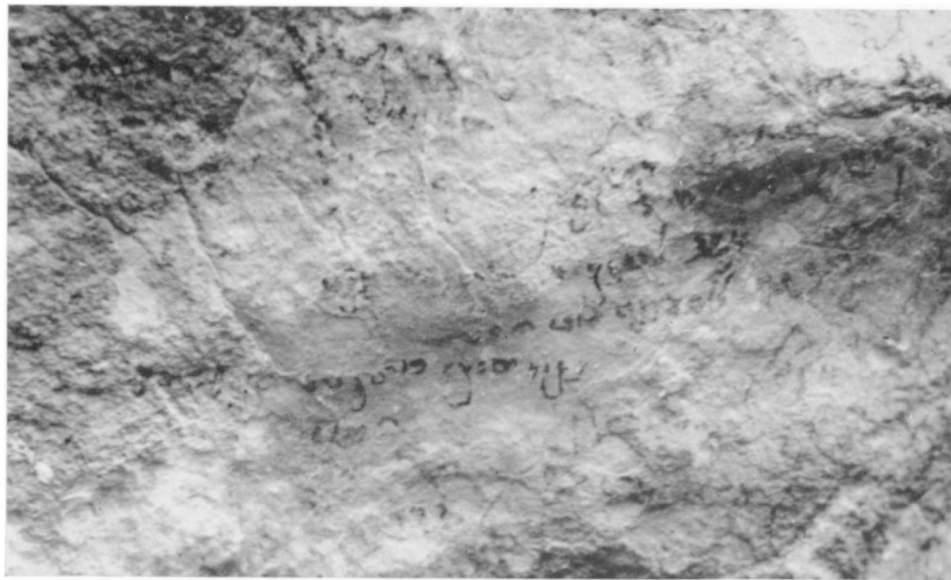
zy bʾšybh

Worōd rabbā

ḏī Bāšībā

Worōd the great,
who is *bʾšybh* (or: of Bāšībā).

Figure 18: Tang-e Butan inscription #5 (Facsimile from Bivar and Shaked (1964: 276 & plate VII); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 120).



ELYMAEAN GRAFFITO AT TANG-I CHILAU

Figure 19: Tang-e Chilau carbon ink graffiti #1 (Bivar and Shaked 1964: plate XI).



ELYMAEAN GRAFFITO AT TANG-I CHILAU

Figure 20: Tang-e Chilau carbon ink graffiti #2 (Bivar and Shaked 1964: plate XII).



ELYMAEAN GRAFFITO AT TANG-I CHILAU

Figure 21: Tang-e Chilau carbon ink graffiti #3 (Bivar and Shaked 1964: XIII).



ኃ. ግንኙነት ሃገር ወደግብይ ይደርስ

לחם יבאצט צו עזנה'יג

[?]at kwmr' br kbnšyr

[?]at komrā bar Kabnaškīr

[Phra]at(es), the priest, son of Kabnaškīr.

Figure 22: Hong-e Kamalwand stone inscription. Facsimile from Hinz (1963); transliteration, transcription, and translation from Gzella (2008: 121).



wrwd MLK' BRY wrwd
King Orodes, Son of Orodes

Figure 24: Copper alloy coin of Orodes II, early 2nd to mid 2nd century CE. 16mm, 3.89g. British Museum. Registration number: 1900,0405.94. Department of Coins and Medals catalogue number: GC28p262.17.



knmkyr wrwd MLK'
King Kamnaskires Orodes

Figure 25: Copper alloy coin of Kamnaskires Orodes, early 2nd to mid 2nd century CE. 16mm, 3.73g. British Museum. Registration number: 1909,0205.114. Department of Coins and Medals catalogue number: GC28p267.64.

VALEUR	MONNAIES DE L'ÉLYMAÏDE			HADJI-ABAD		PAPYRUS ARAMÉENS	ARAMÉEN (époque perse)	MONNAIES PERSÉPOLITAINES	DRACHMES ARSACIDES	MANDÉEN	ESTRANGHELO*
	ORODE I ET ORODE II (petit module) CHALDÉO-PHELVI	ORODE I ET ORODE II (grand module) et monnaies postérieures MIXTES	BARBARES	CHALDÉO-PHELVI	PHELVI-SASSANIDE						
Α a	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Β b	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Γ γ				Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ		Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Δ d	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Η h		Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ		Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ		Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Ι u	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Ζ z		Ⲁ		Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ			Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Η h				Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Θ θ						Ⲁ	Ⲁ			Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Ι i	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ		Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Κ k	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Λ l	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Μ m	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Ν n		Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ		Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ			Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Ξ ξ				Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ			Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Ο ο				Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ			Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Π p		Ⲁ Ⲁ		Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Ρ ρ				Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ			Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Σ σ				Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ			Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Τ τ	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ		Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ		Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Υ υ	Ⲁ Ⲁ Ⲁ	Ⲁ		Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Φ φ				Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ			Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Χ χ				Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ			Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Ψ ψ				Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ			Ⲁ	Ⲁ
Ω ω				Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ	Ⲁ			Ⲁ	Ⲁ

Figure 26: Comparison of scripts on Elymaic coins with other scripts (from Allotte de la Fuye 1905: 53). The ‘grand module’ letters (column 2) resemble Elymaic forms, while the ‘petit module’ letters (column 1) resemble Parthian (see figure 27 for specimens of the latter).

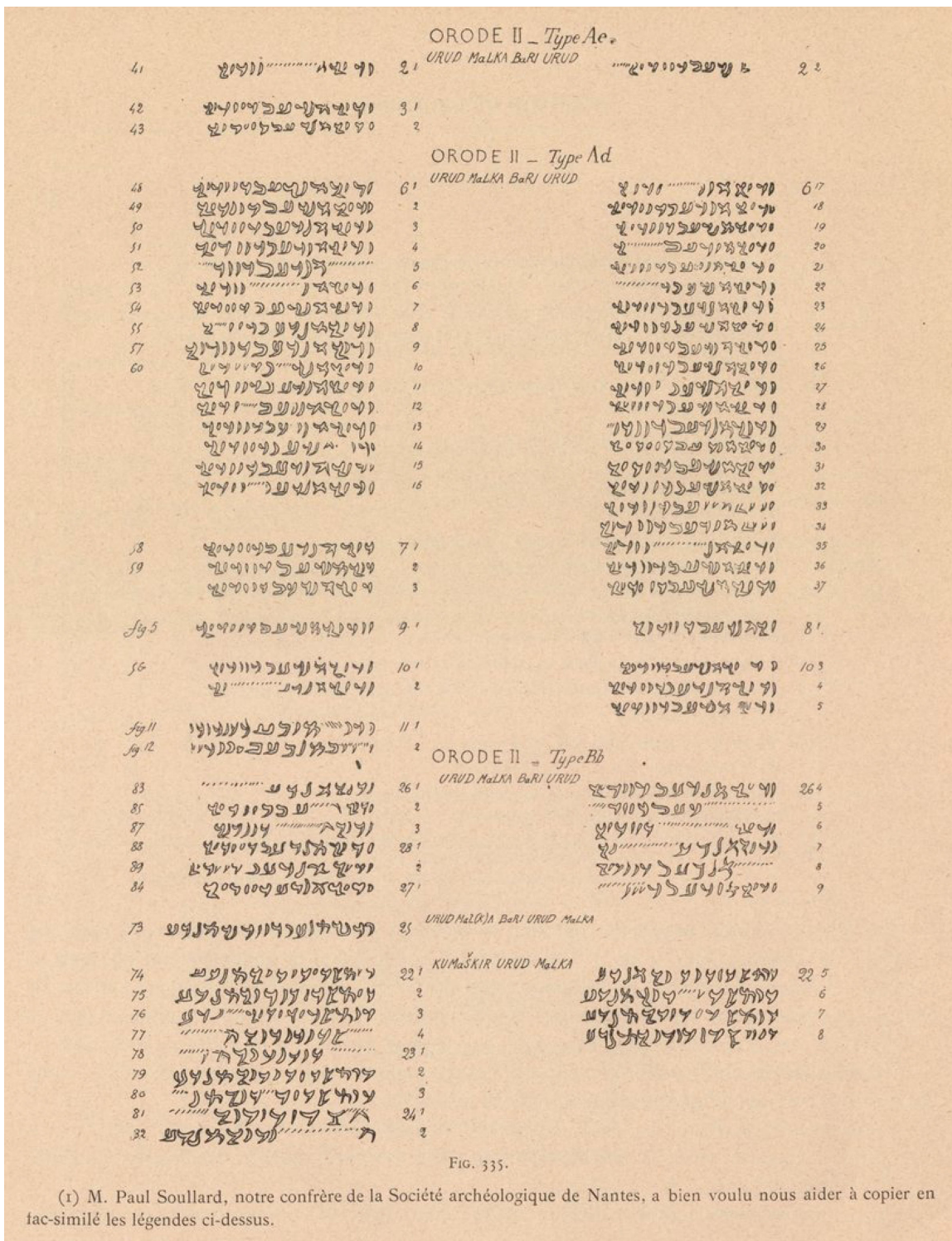


Figure 27: Legends on Elymaean copper coins (from Allotte de la Fuye 1905: 72). These resemble the Parthian script.

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646¹**

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 the Elymaic script in Unicode	
2. Requester's name:	<i>Anshuman Pandey <pandey@umich.edu></i>	
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):	<i>Expert contribution</i>	
4. Submission date:	<i>2017-10-23</i>	
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):		
6. Choose one of the following:		
This is a complete proposal:	<i>Yes</i>	
(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):		<i>Yes</i>
Proposed name of script:	<i>Elymaic</i>	
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:		
Name of the existing block:		
2. Number of characters in proposal:		<i>23</i>
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	<i>X</i>
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?		<i>Yes</i>
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?		<i>Yes</i>
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?		<i>Yes</i>
5. Fonts related:		
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?	<i>Anshuman Pandey</i>	
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):	<i>Anshuman Pandey</i>	
6. References:		
a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?		<i>Yes</i>
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?		<i>Yes</i>
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)?		<i>Yes</i>

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.

¹ 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	No
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?	Yes
	Charles Häberl <haberl@rutgers.edu> Davide Salaris <davide.salaris@hdr.mq.edu.au>
If YES, available relevant documents:	
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	Yes See text of proposal
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	Rare See text of proposal
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	Yes; Currently used by scholars of Eymais and Aramaic studies
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:	N/A
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	Yes
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:	No
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:	No
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:	No
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:	No
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:	
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)	No
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified? If YES, reference:	No