

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
Organisation Internationale de Normalisation
Международная организация по стандартизации

Doc Type: Working Group Document

Title: Proposal to encode a pair of Ascia symbols for Roman epigraphy

Source: Andrew West and Michael Everson

Status: Individual Contribution

Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC

Date: 2019-03-25

1. Introduction

This is a proposal to encode a pair of symbols representing an *ascia* (a workman's tool, variously identified as a hoe, axe, or adze) that are used in Roman inscriptions, mostly from the Roman provinces of Gaul, particularly the area of the city of Lyon (Lugdunum) in modern France. The *ascia* symbol occurs in left-facing and right-facing forms, frequently on the same inscription, so we are proposing to encode two forms of the character.

We propose to encode the characters in the Ancient Symbols block at U+1019C and U+1019D with the names LEFT-FACING and RIGHT-FACING ASCIA SYMBOL.

Code Point	Glyph A	Glyph B	Glyph C	Glyph D	Character Name
1019C					LEFT-FACING ASCIA SYMBOL
1019D					RIGHT-FACING ASCIA SYMBOL

Several glyph forms are attested in the various sources, and we have designed four glyph forms for consideration. Glyph A is modelled on the shape used in the important epigraphical catalogues, *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* vols. XII (1888) and XIII (1899), and *Inscriptions antiques du musée de la ville de Lyon* (1888–1893). Glyphs B through D more closely reflect the actual shape of the *ascia* symbol in monumental inscriptions such as the one shown in Fig. 1 (five other examples of the *ascia* symbol on monumental inscriptions are shown in Fig. 2). We prefer Glyph B (cf. form used in Fig. 9), but leave it open to discussion as to which glyph form should be used in the code charts.

Fig. 1: Ascia symbol on a Roman tomb stone at the Musée Gallo-Romain in Lyon



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Fig. 2: Selection of *ascia* symbols on monuments at the Musée Gallo-Romain in Lyon



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2. Unicode Properties

Block: Ancient Symbols

Script: Common

UCD properties:

1019C;LEFT-FACING ASCIA SYMBOL;So;0;ON;;;;N;;;;

1019D;RIGHT-FACING ASCIA SYMBOL;So;0;ON;;;;N;;;;

Fig. 3: Roman funerary sculpture at the Musée de Châteauroux showing the deceased holding an *ascia*



3. Discussion

The *ascia* symbol occurs primarily in Roman funerary inscriptions from Gaul, especially the area around Lyon, dating from the mid 1st century to the early 4th century. Inscriptions engraved with the *ascia* symbol typically end with the formula *sub ascia dedicavit* ("dedicated under the axe") or some related formula. The meaning and significance of the *ascia* symbol and its associated verbal formula have been debated since the early 18th century, and it has even been suggested that it was a coded Christian symbol.

The *ascia* symbol most commonly occurs at the top of the inscription between the letters **D** and **M** (*Diis Manibus* = "for the Manes" or "for the ghost-gods"), sometimes in mirrored pairs. The *ascia* symbols may also occur on either side of an inscription, or other places on the inscription.

Over one hundred and fifty Roman inscriptions with one or more engraved *ascia* symbols are known from Lyon, as well as a smaller number from elsewhere in Gaul and other parts of the Roman empire. In the diplomatic transcriptions given in standard catalogues of Roman inscriptions such as *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* vols. XII (1888) and XIII (1899), and *Inscriptions antiques du musée de la ville de Lyon* 5 vols. (1888–1893), the *ascia* symbols are represented as typographic characters.

Figs. 3 through 23 show examples of left-facing and right-facing forms of the *ascia* symbol in diplomatic transcriptions and discussions of Roman inscriptions in various sources, listed in chronological order. Occasionally non-standard orientations of the *ascia* are found (see Fig. 20 for an example where a left-facing *ascia* is rotated 90° anticlockwise), but there is no need to encode these separately.

4. Examples

Fig. 4: Cagnat, *The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge* (1849) p. 102

D ☞ M
HOC. SUB. TUMULO TECTA SUNT OSSA
INCOMPARABILIS JUVENIS.
LUCII CUNCTI. MUCIENIS.
FILIO POSUERUNT PARENTIS.

Beneath this monument are interred the bones of Lucius Cunctus Muciens, an excellent young man : his parents erected this to their son.

This is a fragment of a slab found at Colchester, on the spot where the County Hospital now stands, in March, 1821, and was given to me by Mr. Drummond Hay, who was present when it was found.

He was afterward Consul at Tangiers, where he died.

I have attempted to restore the lost letters as well as I can, and give my authorities, as far as they go, for so doing.

☞ This I take to be an adze, used probably to dig the graves with : such are still used in the south of Europe to cultivate the land in vineyards.

Taking this adze as a centre, I have placed D at a distance to the left, corresponding with the M, and thence assume “ Diis Manibus.”

MVLO. I have filled up with “ Tumulo.” In Horsley’s *Brit. Romana*, (p. 262, xxxix. and Plate marked p. 192, No. 43,) the letters TVM. are taken for Tumulum !

Fig. 5: *Catalogue du Musée de Nîmes* (1853) p. 102

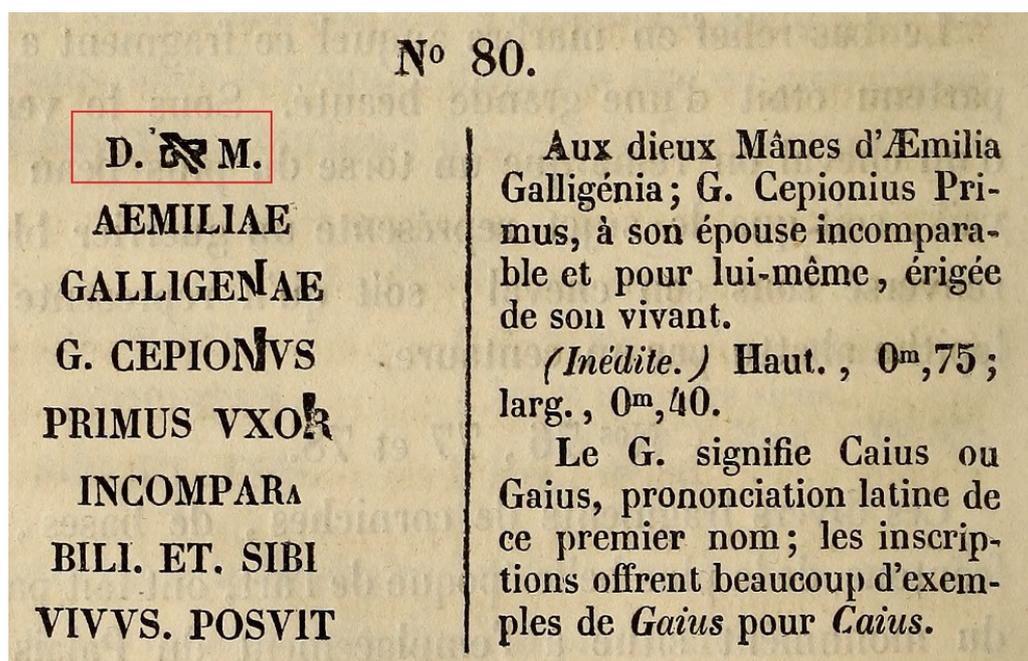


Fig. 6: *Catalogue du Musée de Nîmes* (1853) p. 174

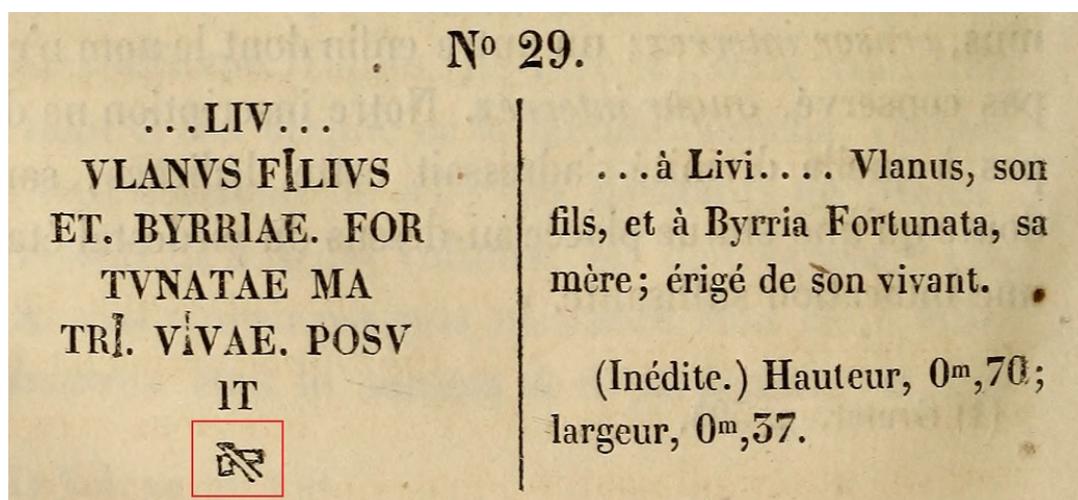


Fig. 7: Description du musée lapidaire de la ville de Lyon (1854) p. 135

N. 169.

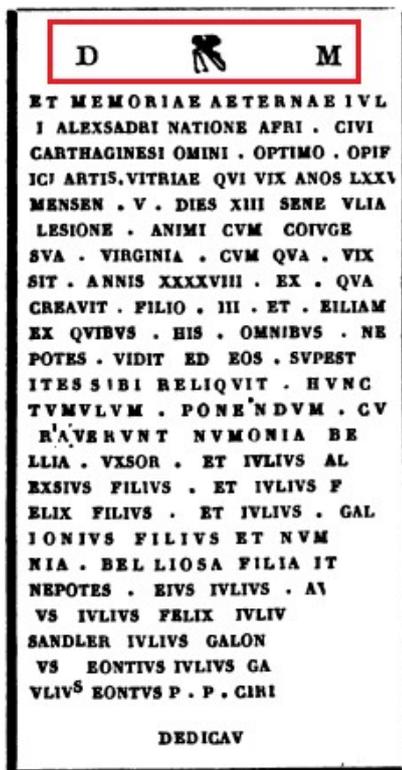


Aux Dieux Mânes (1)

et à la mémoire éternelle d'Adjutoria Perpetua, femme tendrement chérie, citoyenne de la Colonie Trajane, qui vécut 47 ans. Julius Vallio a pris soin d'élever ce monument pour son épouse si chère et pour lui, de son vivant, et l'a dédié *Sub ascia* (2).

Fig. 8: Description du musée lapidaire de la ville de Lyon (1854) p. 137

N. 171.



Aux Dieux Mânes (1)

et à la mémoire éternelle de Julius Alexander, africain d'origine, citoyen carthaginois, homme excellent, fabricant de verrerie, qui vécut 75 ans, 5 mois, 13 jours, dans la plus parfaite union avec sa femme, qu'il épousa vierge (2), avec laquelle il a vécu 48 ans, dont il a eu trois fils et une fille, qui tous lui ont donné des petits-fils qu'il a vus et laissé vivants. Numonia Bellia, son épouse; Julius Alexius, son fils; Julius Felix, son fils; Julius Galionius, son fils; Numonia Belliosa, sa fille, et ses petits-fils Julius Averius, Julius Felix, Julius Alexander, Julius Galonius, Julius Leontius, Julius Galonius, Julius Eontus, ont pris soin de lui élever ce monument, et l'ont dédié *Sub ascia* (3).

Fig. 9: *Inscriptions chrétiennes de la Gaule antérieures au VIIIe siècle* Vol. 1 (1856) p. 168

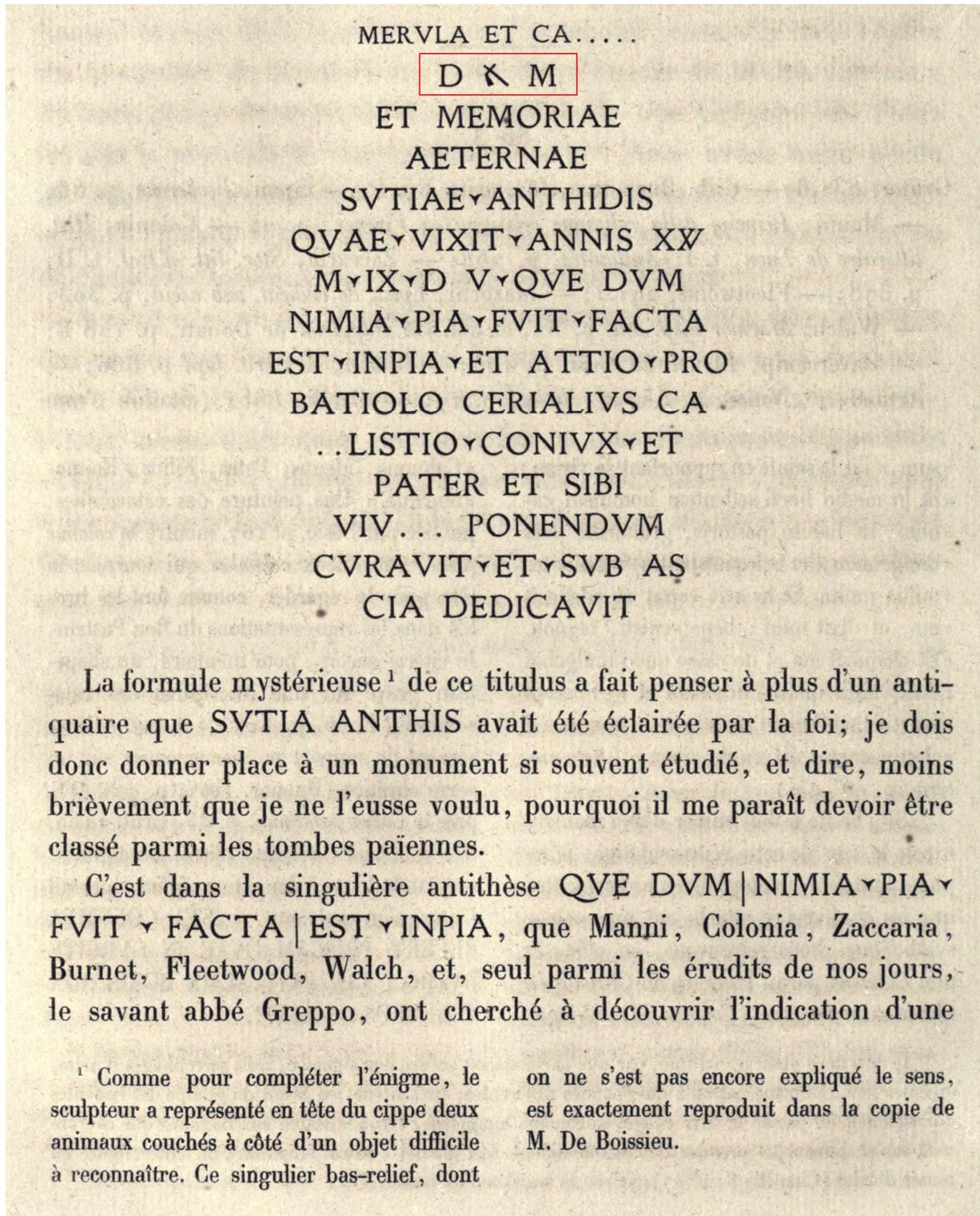


Fig. 10: Musée lapidaire de la ville de Lyon (1859) p. 5

93 (428)

NAE IVLIAE M·TVLLIO
ORA THERMIOLAE THERMIANO
TI FILIAE NEPOTI

95 (12)

AVGVSTAE AVG
DEAE D
VESTAE VOL

94 (292)

D  M
ET MEMORIAE
AETERNAE
SATRIAEVRSAE
FEMINEDVLCIS
SIMEVERECVN
DINSENLIS
VETLEGXXXV
CONIVGETSIBI
VIVVSPONEN
MCVRAVIT
ETSVBASCIA
DEDI

96 (276)

MERVLA ETCA.....
D  M
ET·MEMORIAE
AETERNAE
SVTIAE·ANTHIDIS
QVAE·VIXIT·ANNIS·XXV
M·IX·D·V·QVE·DVM
NIMIA·PIA·FVIT·FACTA
EST·INPIA·ET·ATTIO·PRO
BATIOLO·CERIALIVS·CA
LLISTIO·CONIVX ET
PATER ET SIBI
VIVOPONENDVM
CVRAVIT·ETSVBAS
CIA DEDICAVIT

97 (408)

D M
CMANSVETI
BRASII
CIV
TRE

PORTIQUE XII.

105 (365)

D M
HERACLIDAE
MARITIMI
HERMADIONIS
PVDENS ET
MATVRVS
CONSERVI

106 (117)

TIB·POMPEIO
POMPEI·IVSTI·FIL
PRISCO·CADVR
CO·OMNIBVS·HO
NORIB·APVD·SVOS
FVNCT·TRIB·LEG·V
MACEDONICAE
IVDICI·ARCAE
GALLIARVM·III
PROVINC·GALLIAE

107 (172)

D  M
C·TALLONIPERV
NCIVETERANILE
VIII·AVG·MISS·HON
ESTAMISSIONAEET
PACATAECONIVGI
VIVISIBIPOSVER
VNTETVRSAEFILI
AEEORVMDVLC
ISSIMAEQVAEVIXITAN
NISXXXIII·M·IID·X
ETSVBASCIA
DEDICAVERVNT

PORTIQUE XIII.

109 (388)

PMAGLIOPRISCIAN
SEGVSIAVO

PATRIPAMAEPRISCIAN

LIAE

111 (419)

VLIAE V
BILLAE
ILIAE
VSBALVSBITVRIX
EXS

112 (175)

D  M
ET MEMORIAE
AETERNAE
ACIDIPERVINCI
ETLEGXXIIET
TIBVRIAEABBVLA
PERVINCIAPLACID
NAFILIAPARENTIBVS
CARISSIMISPONENDVM
CVRAVITETSVBASC·DE
CAVIT

Fig. 11: *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* (1888) Vol. XII p. 8

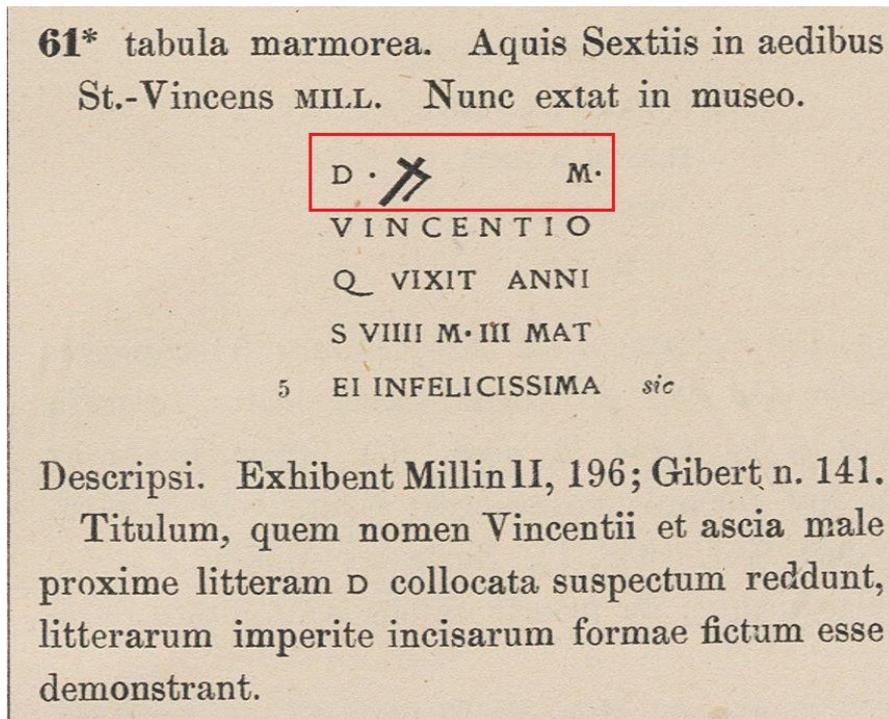


Fig. 12: *Inscriptions antiques de la Côte-d'Or* (1889) p. 222

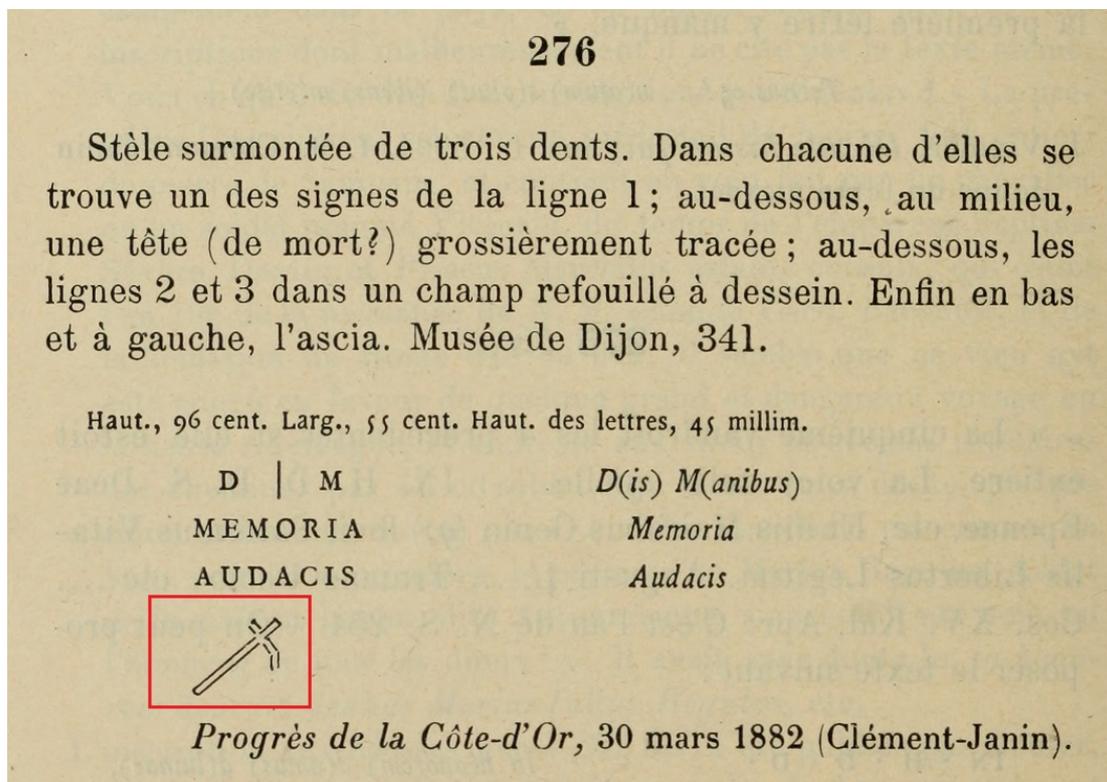


Fig. 13: *Inscriptions antiques du musée de la ville de Lyon vol. 2 (1889) p. 349*

Arcade XXVI. — Cippe avec base et couronnement; trouvé en septembre 1860 au quartier SAINT-GEORGES, près de l'entrée du tunnel de la QUARANTAINE, dans des réparations à une ancienne maison qui passe pour avoir été bâtie sur les dessins de l'architecte Palladio. Une *ascia* est gravée en creux à la première ligne entre les sigles D M. — Hauteur 1 m. 50, du dé 0 m. 90, largeur 0 m. 68.

· D · ✂ · M ·

ET · MEMORIAE · AETER ·
 / VALERI · VALLONIS
 FRATRI · MARINI ·
 5 QVONDAM · D · C · LVG ·
 IVLIVS · FIRMINVS ✂
 D · C · LVG · QVESTOR
 AMICO · INCOMPARAB
 ILI · DE · SE · BENE · MERENTI
 10 DE · SVO · PONENDVM
 CVRAVIT · ET · SVB · ASC
 IA · DEDIKAVIT

Fig. 14: *Inscriptions antiques du musée de la ville de Lyon vol. 2 (1889) p. 357*

D · ET · MEMORIAE · AETERNAE · M
 Q · ACCEPTI · VENVSTI · DEC · C · C · AVG · LVG · PVERI · DVLCISSIMI · QVEM
 OSTENSVM · NO^{II} · DATVM · INIQVITAS · FATI · PRAEMATVRA · MORTE · PARENTIB
 RAPVIT · VIXIT · ANNIS · XI · MENSIB · VI · DIEB · XXVI · QVO · TEMPORE · FLORVIT · AT · STV
 5 DIVM · LIBERALIVM · LITTERARVM · ET · BLANDA · PVERILI · ADFECTIO · INGENIO
 CVM · PIETATE · CONTENDIT · PROPTER · QVAE · OMNIBVS · KARVS · SPEM · DE · SE ✂
 FRVCTVS · GLORIOSI · BREVI · CVRSV · AETATIS · OSTENDIT · LONGI · TEMPORIS
 ✂ DOLOREM · PARENTIBVS · RELIQVIT · ET · Q · ACCEPTI *fir*MINI · QVI · VIXIT
 ANNV · MENSES · III · D · III · ET · SATRIAE · FIRMINAE · QVAE · Vixit · ANNV · M · II · D · XX · I
 10 AD · SOLACIUM · PRAE · EDENTIS · ORBITATS · NVTRIT · I · GRAVI · SVORM · DOLORE · DEFVNCTI
 Q · ACCEPTIVS · FIRMIVS · DEC · C · C · AVG · LVG · II · VIR · ET · SATRIA · VENVSTA · PAREN
 TES · INFELICISSIMI · FACIEND · CVRAVER · ET · SIBI · VIV · SVB · ASC · DEDICAVERVN

Fig. 15: *Inscriptions antiques du musée de la ville de Lyon* vol. 2 (1889) p. 505

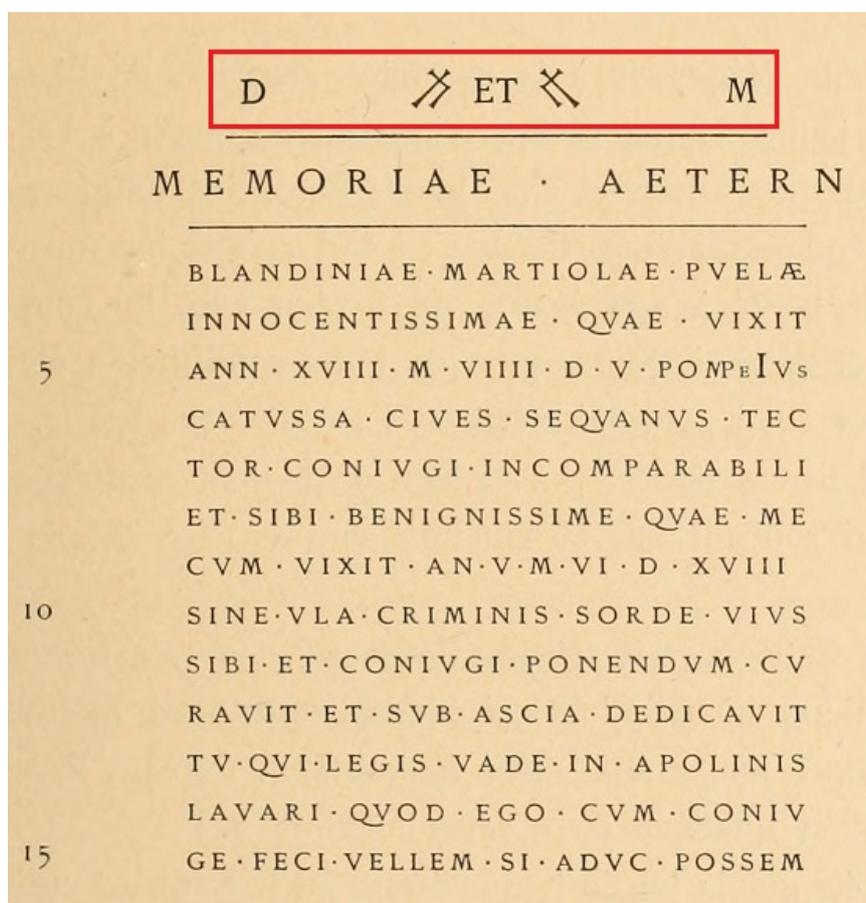


Fig. 16: *Inscriptions antiques du musée de la ville de Lyon* vol. 3 (1890) p. 153

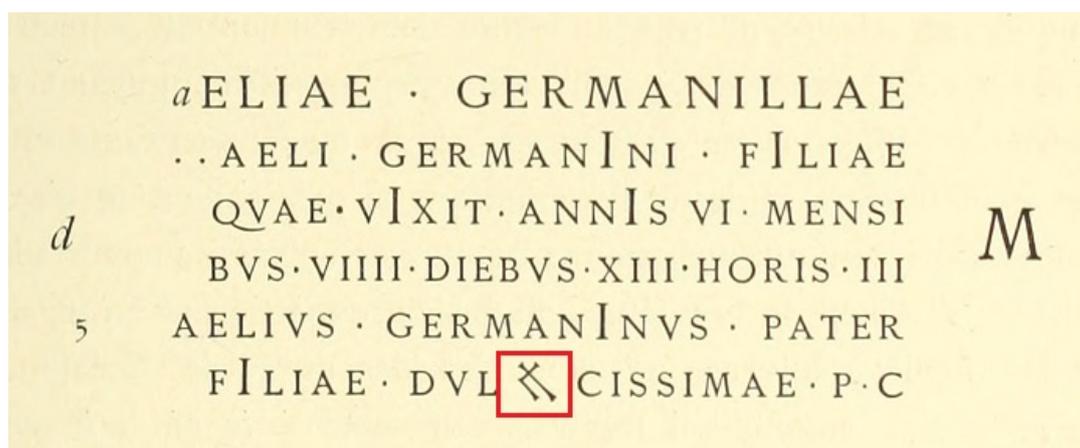


Fig. 17: *Inscriptions antiques du musée de la ville de Lyon* vol. 3 (1890) p. 189

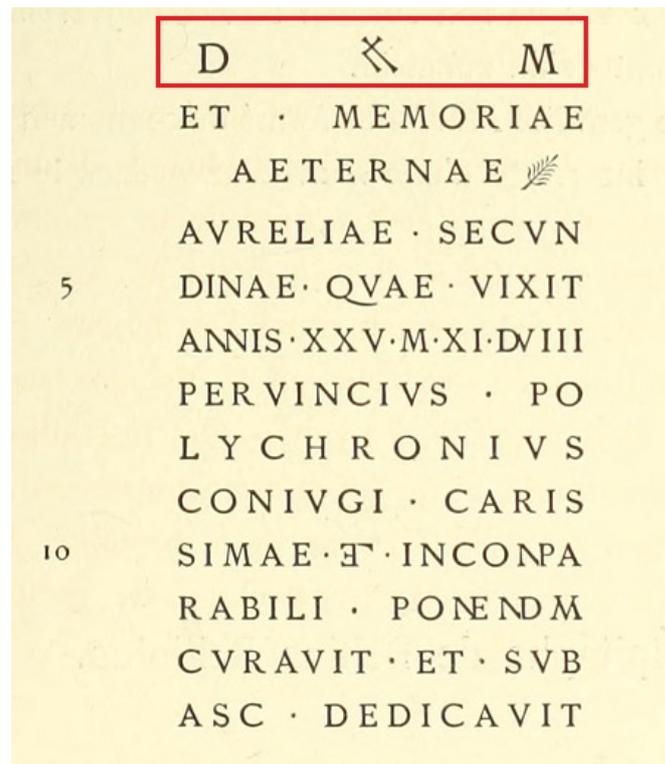


Fig. 18: *Inscriptions antiques du musée de la ville de Lyon* vol. 3 (1890) p. 296

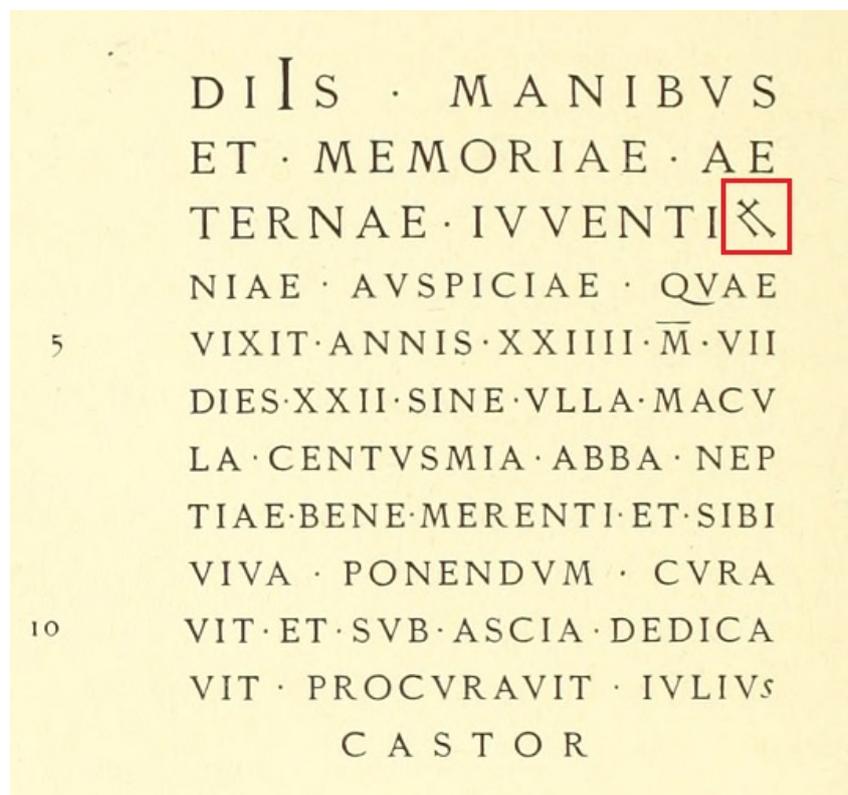


Fig. 19: *Inscriptions antiques du musée de la ville de Lyon vol. 3 (1890) p. 450*

450

INSCRIPTIONS FUNÉRAIRES

Épitaphe, non entrée au Musée, d'Aufidia Felicula. — « Cipe
« enfoui à l'angle d'un lavoir dans l'enclos de M. Marduel, à
« Champvert », quartier SAINT-JUST, « et dont on n'aperçoit
« plus hors de terre que le couronnement » (voy. De Boissieu,
p. 457) :

D ✕ *M* et memoriae aeternae Aufidiae Feliculae; Sex(tus) Aufi-
dius Marcus nutrici pientissimae ponendum curavit et sub ascia d(e)-
d(ica)vit.

Marcus cognomen, ordinairement un prénom.

Épitaphe, perdue, d'Aurelia Calliste. — Cipe (?), « autrefois
« sur la place SAINT-JUST, transporté de là au château d'Yvours »
(voy. De Boissieu, p. 503) :

D ✕ *M* et memoriae aeternae Aur(eliae) Callis(tae), quae
vixit ann(is) XXIII, m(ensibus) VIII, dieb(us) V, sine ullo iurgio;
Aurelia Libye matr[i] et Egnat(ius) Ireneus coniugi karissimae
posuer(unt) et s(ub) a(scia) d(edicaverunt). Sur une des faces
latérales: Εἴθυμει Καλλιστη, οὐδείς ἀθάνατος! « Console-toi, Callisté,
« nul n'est immortel ».

Ἀθάνατος, à corriger en ἀθάνατος.

Fig. 20: *Inscriptions antiques du musée de la ville de Lyon* vol. 3 (1890) p. 471

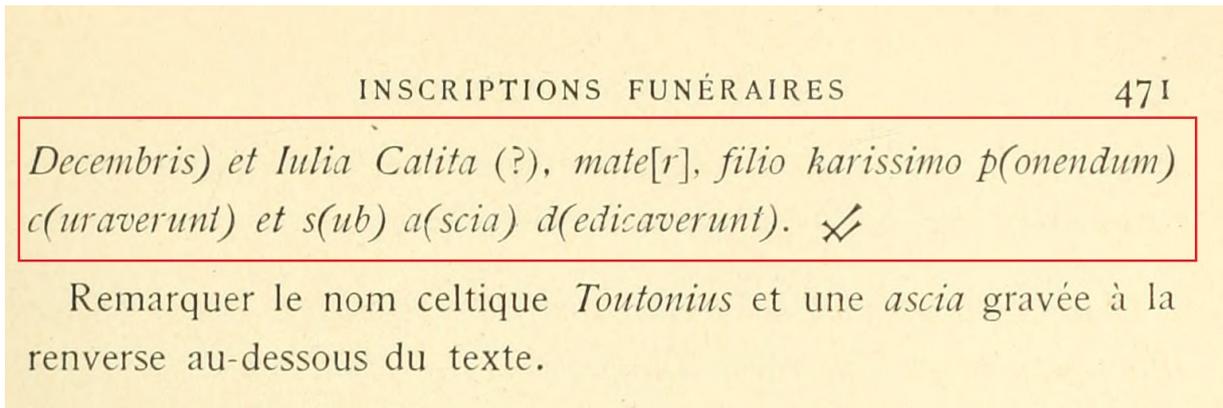


Fig. 21: *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* (1899) Vol. XIII p. 297

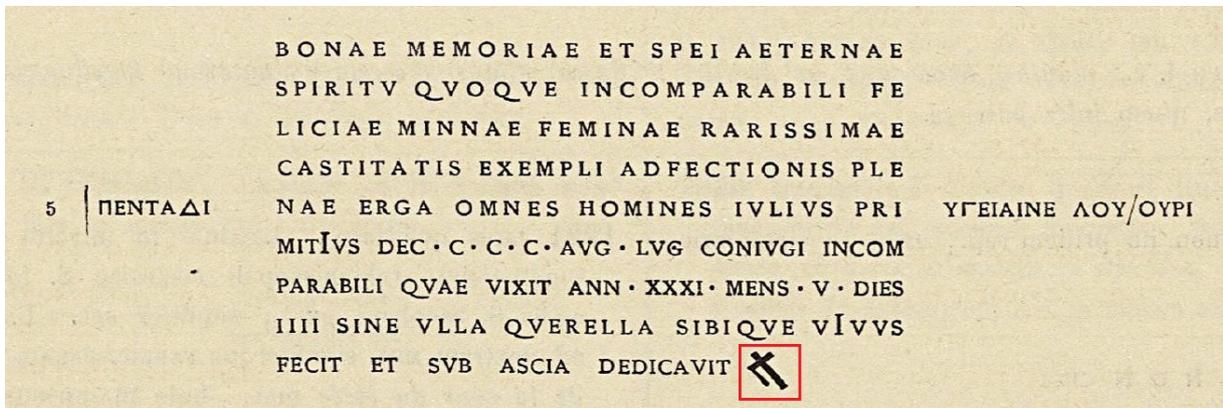


Fig. 22: *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* (1899) Vol. XIII p. 330

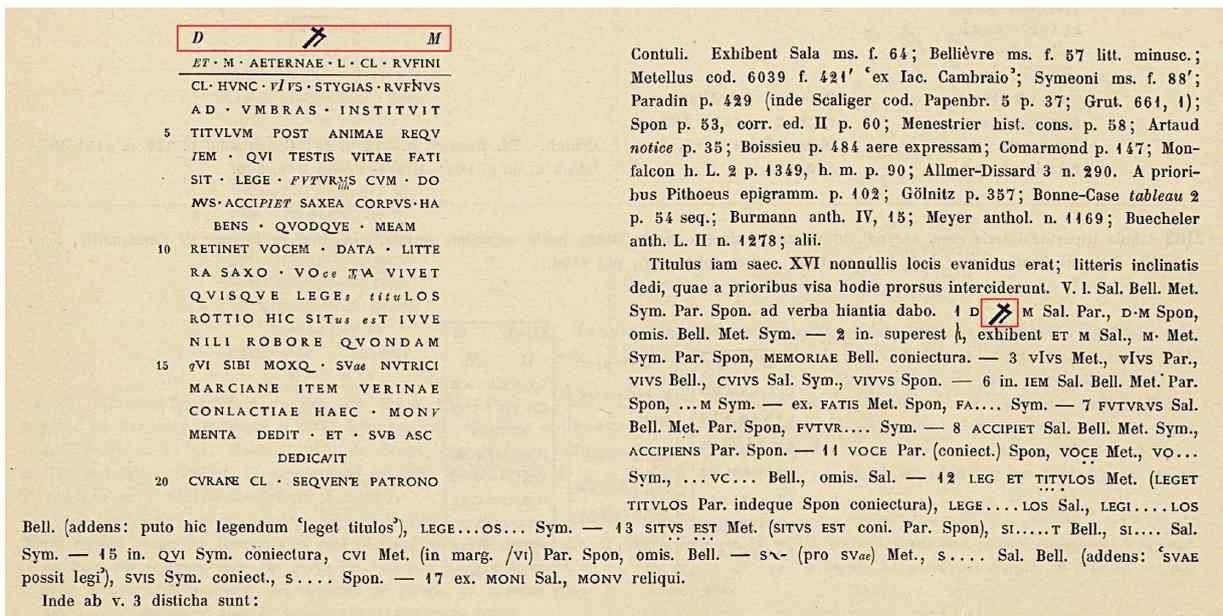


Fig. 23: *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* (1899) Vol. XIII p. 341

2182 cippus. Rep. (a. 1855 MONF., 1856 DAUSS.) St.-Irenée in coenobio
des Dames de St.-Michel MONF., iam in museo DAUSSIGNY (reg. n. 807),
ubi extat.

D ~~7~~ ~~8~~ ~~9~~ M

ET QUIETI · AETERNAE
IVLIAE · MAIANAE · FEMI
NÁE · SANCTISSIMAE · MANV
5 MARITI · CRÚDELISSIM · INTER
FECT · QVÁE · ANTE · OBIT · QVAM · FATM
DEDIT · CVM · QVO · VIX · ANN · XXVIII · EX
QVÓ · LIBER · PRÓCREAV · DVOS · PVERM
ANN · XVIII · PVELLAM · ANNOR · XVIII
10 O · FIDES · O · PIETAS · IVL · MAIOR · FRA
TER · SORÓR · DVLCISS · E · I · ENVINVS
IANVÁRIVS · FÍL · EIVS · P^c et s^s · B · A · D

5. Bibliography

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6. Proposal Summary Form

<p>SO/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://www.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://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html. See also http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html for latest Roadmaps.</p>

A. Administrative

1. Title:	<i>Proposal to encode a pair of Ascii symbols for Roman epigraphy</i>
2. Requester's name:	<i>Andrew West and Michael Everson</i>
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):	<i>Individual contribution</i>
4. Submission date:	<i>2019-03-25</i>
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):	
6. Choose one of the following:	
This is a complete proposal:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
(or) More information will be provided later:	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:		
a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Proposed name of script:		
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	
Name of the existing block:	<i>ANCIENT SYMBOLS</i>	
2. Number of characters in proposal:	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):		
A-Contemporary <input type="checkbox"/>	B.1-Specialized (small collection) <input type="checkbox"/>	B.2-Specialized (large collection) <input type="checkbox"/>
C-Major extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	D-Attested extinct <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E-Minor extinct <input type="checkbox"/>
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic <input type="checkbox"/>	G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	
5. Fonts related:		
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?	<i>Andrew West</i>	
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):	<i>Andrew West</i>	
6. References:		
a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?	<input type="checkbox"/> 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	

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: N4102-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? If YES, available relevant documents:	NO
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	NO
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	Rare
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	YES
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:	NO
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: Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:	NO
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