

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 for encoding the Vithkuqi script in the SMP of the UCS****Source: UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative (Universal Scripts Project)****Authors: Michael Everson****Status: Liaison Contribution****Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC****Date: 2020-10-01****Replaces: N4854 (L2/17-316)**

**1. Introduction.** A number of 18th-and 19th-century orthographies exist for Albanian; one of the most interesting from a typographic point of view is called Vithkuqi ([viθkucçi]), from the town it was devised in. It is also sometimes called after its inventor, Naum P. Veqilharxhi ([vecçilhardzi]), and has been known by various spellings of the town, Būthakukye or Beitha Kukju. The script was devised between 1824 and 1845, and was broadly phonemic, though it lacked specific letters for four of the modern Albanian phonemes. Recently some revivalist effort has been made for artistic and cultural purposes, in which modern equivalents for these gaps have been proposed. This proposal includes characters for this purpose as well as the characters attested from the mid-19th century.

The script first appeared in Veqilharxhi's Albanian spelling book in 1844, which was published in an expanded version in the following year. A copy of the expanded work was discovered in Athens in the Gennadius Library, and was reprinted in 1983. According to Robert Elsie, Vithkuqi "was also the first and only one of the original Albanian alphabets of the period to have been printed in book form." The script was known to Albanian folklorist Spiro Dine, who learned it as a child, and was mentioned by the Austrian consul in Janina, Georg von Hahn in his three-volume work, *Albanesische Studien*.

I worked with the late Robert Elsie preparing the previous version of this proposal, which never benefitted from his review due to his untimely death. He had written on the Vithkuqi script in Elsie 2017, and I will repeat the introductory material here:

Naum Veqilharxhi (1797-1846), was one of the first nationalist figures to formulate the ideals and objectives of the Albanian nationalist movement in its budding stages. He also devoted himself to the creation of an original Albanian alphabet. Veqilharxhi stemmed of a family from the village of Bredh near Vithkuq in the Korça region. His father emigrated to the island of Ithaca in Greece where Naum was born in December 1797. The Ionian isles were taken over by Britain in 1811 and Naum Veqilharxhi and his two brothers seem to have acquired British citizenship there. A few years later, he and his brothers moved to Romania, which was the most popular destination for young Albanians in search of work and a better life. In 1821, he seems to have taken part in a Wallachian uprising against the Turks, and spent the rest of his life as a lawyer, as far as is known, in the port of Brăila on the Danube. He died in Constantinople around 1846. Albanian nationalist tradition has it that he was poisoned at the hands of Greek Orthodox fanatics linked to the patriarch of Constantinople, but there does not seem to be any concrete proof of this allegation. It is, however, known that the patriarchate was very much at odds with all expressions of non-Greek nationalism in the Balkans.

In a letter that Naum Veqilharxhi circulated in Greek, he pointed to the backwardness and misery of the Albanians as a result of centuries of Turkish rule, and stressed the need for a new Albanian alphabet as a means of overcoming this stagnation and of uniting the country. Moral and political decay arose in particular from “neglect in the cultivation of our national language and its replacement by foreign languages.” But how was the Albanian language to be cultivated without an alphabet acceptable to all religious communities, i.e. to Muslim, Orthodox and Catholic Albanians?

Around 1824 or 1825, Veqilharxhi began working on a 33-letter alphabet of his own invention. The idea of an Albanian spelling book, using this alphabet, was probably inspired by the spelling book of the Bulgarian educator Petar Beron (1799-1871), with whom Veqilharxhi was in contact in Romania. The Bulgarian spelling book, known as the *Riben Bukvar* [Fish Primer] because of the fish illustration on the back cover, was published in Kronstadt (Braşov) in 1824 and, as the first non-religious publication in Bulgarian literature, it was of great influence.

Veqilharxhi printed the first eight-page version of his Albanian spelling book, in his new script, in 1844. This tiny booklet, entitled *Fort i shkurtër e i përdorshim ëvetar shqip, për çdo sicillë qëdo të mpsonjë të kënduarit e të shkruarit bukur shqip* (Very Small and Useful Albanian Spelling Book for Everyone Who Wishes to Learn to Read and Write Albanian Well), was distributed throughout southern Albania, from Korça to Berat, and was received, as it seems, with a good deal of enthusiasm. At the end of the following year, the booklet was augmented to a 48-page edition, entitled *Fare i ri ëvetar shqip për djelm nismëtorë nxjerë e dhënë mbë dritë tani herën e parë, për djem të vegjël me një të zgjedhur nga disa gjë të mirash e të fitimëshme* (Very New Albanian Spelling Book for Elementary Schoolboys Published Now for the First Time for Young Boys with a Selection of Some Good and Profitable Things). A copy of this rare edition, long thought lost, was discovered in the Gennadius Library in Athens and was reprinted in 1983.

The significance of Veqilharxhi’s alphabet, which reminds one at first glance of a type of cursive Armenian, lies in the fact that it was not connected to the traditions of any particular religious community (as are Greek and Arabic script). As a politically neutral creation, it might have found acceptance among all Albanians, had it survived the test of time. It was also the first and only one of the original Albanian alphabets of the period to have been printed in book form.

The Albanian folklorist Spiro Dine (1844-1922) reported that he learnt Veqilharxhi’s alphabet as a child in the Vithkuq region. It was also known to the Austrian consul in Janina, Johann Georg von Hahn (1811-1869), who referred to it in his three-volume *Albanesische Studien* (Albanian Studies), Jena 1854, saying: “... an attempt at composing [an Albanian alphabet] was actually made a few years ago by an Albanian called Būthakukje [i.e. Vithkuq] who seems to have had no idea of the existence of the present [i.e. Todhri] alphabet. He invented a number of random letters for the sounds in his language and had his work printed. It was included in Auer’s comparative tables.”

However, the resonance of this original alphabet was in fact limited, due primarily to the author’s premature death one year after the second edition of his spelling book, but also perhaps to financial and technical considerations. In the mid-nineteenth century, when publishing was making great strides even in the Balkans, a new script required a new font for printing which would have resulted in added costs for any prospective publisher. As such, although reasonably phonetic and denominationally neutral, Veqilharxhi’s alphabet never took hold.

Despite the fact that Latin won the day in Albanian orthography, and in connection with the last sentence above, it is worth citing a note from a private correspondence between Robert Elsie and Deborah Anderson, in which he described the importance of the Vithkuqi and Todhri scripts.

Both of these scripts are known to educated Albanians and are mentioned briefly in school education in Albanian literature courses. However, there is little information about them beyond this. They are both of great cultural significance to Albanians and should not be forgotten. The Veqilharxhi script is better known because there was a 19th century book publication in it. The Todhri script was used in handwritten letters and communications in central Albania. I have recently found an indication that it was still being used by an old woman, Dona Xhuvani, in Elbasan who died about 1930.

**2. Processing.** Vithkuqi is a simple, casing alphabetic script written from left to right horizontally. There is no ligation. Several characters make use of non-productive diacritics and have been encoded atomically for simplicity and to reflect their phonemic status.

**3. Script and character names.** Faulmann (who was followed by Taylor and Diringer) erroneously considered “Büthakukye” to be a form of Veqilharxhi’s name, though it refers to the place-name Vithkuqi (now Vithkuq). The names used for the characters here are based on those written in Vithkuqi and Greek script in Veqilharxhi 1844, with *ḃ* written as BH, *ç* as CH, *e* as E, *ë* as EH, and *ḥ* as HH. See Figure 3.

**4. Numerals and punctuation.** European digits and punctuation are used with Vithkuqi.

**5. Traditional repertoire.** Examination of the 19th-century texts shows three anomalies vis à vis modern Albanian orthography.

**5.1. Two letters B.** There are two letters B in Vithkuqi, ḥḥ *Bḃ* BBE and ʙʙ *Bb* BE. Upper-case ḥ BBE is attested in the text available: ḥḥḥḥ *Bukur* ‘beautifully’, ḥḥḥḥḥḥ *Bëntorit* ‘maker, creator’, ḥḥḥḥ *Bredhi* (a place-name), and ḥḥḥḥḥḥ *Bredhasi* (a person from Bredhi). Upper-case ʙ BE appears in the word ʙḥḥḥḥ *Bythkuqi* (the place-name Vithkuqi). This place-name means ‘red butt’, where ḥḥḥḥ *kuqi* (['kucçi]) is ‘red’ and where ʙḥḥḥ *bythë* ‘butt’ has dialect forms *vithë* ['viθə] and *bythë* ['byθə]. Whether the phoneme was /β/ and then split into /v/ and /b/ or whether the letter was devised as polyvalent is a matter for historians of Albanian phonology. Whatever the reason, there exist two letters B in Veqilharxhi’s alphabet. Lower-case forms for both BBE and BE have been found: in Figure 5 the word *mbë* is written both ḥḥḥ *mḃë* and ḥḥḥ *mbë*. It appears that BBE is used less often than BE is, which is why the spelling with H has been used for it. (Perhaps this is why lowercase BBE does not appear in all of the example alphabets.) See Figures 1–5.

**5.2. Two letters H.** In general the letter ḥḥ *Hh* is used, but in three instances another letter, ḥḥḥ *Hḥ*, is found. This is found in ḥḥḥḥḥḥ *Veqilharçi* (for *Veqilharxhi*, where the second element is a Turkish loan from *harç* ‘mortar’), in the Turkish loanword ḥḥḥḥ *baḥt* ‘fate’, and in the name of Noah’s son ḥḥḥ *Ḥam*. In this proposal the name given to this letter is HHA. See Figure 10.

**5.3. Semi-consonant Ī.** The Albanian phoneme *gj* [jɟ] is not written with a single letter in the 19th-century materials, but as a digraph with a special form of *i*: ḥḥ *gĩ*. In this proposal the name given to this letter is ĪE. This letter follows both ḥ *g* and ḥ *j*; see both ḥḥ *gĩ* and ḥḥ *jĩ* in the Tenth Commandment in Figure 9.

**6. Modern repertoire.** Modern interest in the older Albanian scripts naturally attracts innovation related to modern orthography. (We have seen similar concerns from modern users of Old Hungarian script.) One artist from Kosovo, Edon Muhaxheri, began his research on the Vithkuqi script with the tables found in Faulmann’s 1880 *Das Buch der Schrift* (see Figure 1). Unfortunately some errors in Faulmann’s analysis led Muhaxheri to make a few errors but he made use of one of the four diacritical marks used in Vithkuqi to extend his alphabet. Details about the previous version of his alphabet are given in N4854.



**6.1. Missing letter *gj*.** The Albanian phoneme *gj* [ʃj] contrasts with the phoneme *g* [g]. In the 19th-century materials, this phoneme is represented by ⑈ GA followed by ⑉ IJE as noted in 5.3 above. Edon Muhaxheri altered ⑈ GA to ⑊ GJA on the same basis as the traditional pair ⑆ KA and ⑇ QA.

**6.2. Missing letter *rr*.** The Albanian phoneme *rr* [r] contrasts with the phoneme *r* [r]. In the 19th-century materials, this phoneme is not represented with a dedicated Vithkuqi letter. It may have been represented by a sequence \*⑈ *rr*, but no word with this phoneme is represented in the texts we have seen. Edon Muhaxheri altered ⑈ RE to ⑊ RRE on the same basis as the traditional pair ⑈ LA and ⑉ LLA. The shape ⑊ was chosen because of the similarity that would result between ⑈ RE ⑉ RRE and ⑈ SE ⑉ SHE.

**6.3. Missing letter *xh*.** The Albanian phoneme *xh* [dʒ] contrasts with the phoneme *ç* [tʃ]. In the 19th-century materials, these two phonemes are represented with the same Vithkuqi letter, ⑆ ç (38 times for ç, 3 times for *xh*). Edon Muhaxheri altered ⑆ CHE to ⑊ XHE on the same basis as the traditional pair ⑈ LA and ⑉ LLA.

**6.4. Missing letter *zh*.** The Albanian phoneme *zh* [ʒ] contrasts with the phoneme *sh* [ʃ]. This phoneme is not written with a single letter in the 19th-century materials, but as a digraph of ⑈ *sh* plus ⑆ *z*, ⑈ *shz*. Edon Muhaxheri altered ⑈ ZE to ⑊ ZHE on the same basis as the traditional pair ⑈ SE and ⑉ SHE.

**6.5. Discussion.** Here are some examples of modern tattoos which make use of fonts supplied by Edon Muhaxheri:



Here we have ⑈⑉⑆⑇⑆ FIONA and ⑈⑉⑆⑇⑆ TESA, two girls' names.



Here we have ⑈⑉⑆⑇⑆ ASAR, a girl's name.



Here we have ŠENAJ, JARA, and JAAN, naming a girl, a boy, and a girl. Note that SHENAJ is the normal spelling in Modern Albanian but that in Vithkuqi the letters represent the phoneme /ʃ/. The name could have been written SHENAJ, but ŠENAJ was preferred.

Some discussion with the script ad-hoc suggested that we not encode the letters GJA, RRE, XHE, or ZHE until we have examples of them in use, and instead leave blanks for them until their usage has been attested. The Vithkuqi script is being revived. Both SC2 and the UTC have been apprised of this since 2017-09-08 that this had been going on already for some time and that Edon Muhaxheri had devised new letters for these four phonemes. Neither committee objected to the principle that letters be devised for these phonemes. At that time it was pointed out that the shapes of RRE and XHE were incorrect and needed to be changed. Between 2017 and 2020 that was accomplished. Now we see some popular use of the script in personal tattooing. It does not seem sensible to have to wait until by chance people who have children with the following names go to the trouble of getting tattoos or for us to be lucky enough to be able to learn of them and photograph them. Here are some lists of personal names beginning with these letters.

**6.5.1. Male names:** Gjallim, Gjallor, Gjanosh, Gjator, Gjekë, Gjelbërim, Gjelbëror, Gjelosh, Gjelush, Gjema, Gjemail, Gjergj, Gjergji, Gjerush, Gjethor, Gjik, Gjikë, Gjini, Gjinish, Gjokë, Gjon, Gjovani; Rrap, Rrapi, Rrapo, Rrapush, Rrënjak, Rrezag, Rrezagim, Rrezan, Rrezar, Rrezargjend, Rrezart, Rrezekuq, Rrezelind, Rrezor, Rritan, Rritush, Rron, Rrok; Xhemal, Xhevat; Zhaklin, Zhani

**6.5.2. Female names:** Gjallime, Gjallore, Gjelbërime, Gjelbërore, Gjelina, Gjeraqina, Gjethina, Gjethore, Gjina, Gjinushe, Gjystja; Rrape, Rrapushe, Rrezage, Rrezagime, Rrezake, Rrezane, Rrezare, Rrezargjenda, Rrezarina, Rrezarta, Rreze, Rrezedita, Rrezekuqe, Rrezepare, Rrezore, Rrona, Rronja; Xheneta; Zhuljeta.

**6.5.3. Plea.** Note the potential disadvantage to people whose names begin with Xh- and Zh-. And that's just tattoos. I published *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* in a Hungarian translation by Anikó Szilágy. Subsequently I published that same translation in Old Hungarian script. I don't happen to have an Albanian *Alice*, so I can't do the same thing just to prove that Š, Ÿ, Š̄, and Š̄̄ have been used, but I really think that an overabundance of caution here makes little sense. We know what the phonemes are. The extensions are formed analogously to other extensions which existed when the script was devised. No delay in accepting the whole set is warranted.

**7. Ordering.** Ordering is as in the code chart, and follows modern Latin Albanian alphabetic order. Case pairs should be distinguished at the tertiary weight level, as for other bicameral scripts.

## 8. Unicode Character Properties

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10570;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER A;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;;10597;
10571;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER BBE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;;10598;
10572;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER BE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;;10599;
10573;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER CE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;;1059A;
10574;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER CHE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;;1059B;
10575;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER DE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;;1059C;
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10576;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER DHE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;1059D;  
 10577;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER E;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;1059E;  
 10578;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER EH;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;1059F;  
 10579;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER FE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105A0;  
 1057A;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER GA;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105A1;  
 1057B;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER GJA;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105A2;  
 1057C;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER HA;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105A3;  
 1057D;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER HHA;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105A4;  
 1057E;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER I;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105A5;  
 1057F;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER IJE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105A6;  
 10580;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER JE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105A7;  
 10581;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER KA;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105A8;  
 10582;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER LA;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105A9;  
 10583;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER LLA;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105AA;  
 10584;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER ME;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105AB;  
 10585;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER NE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105AC;  
 10586;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER NJE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105AD;  
 10587;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER O;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105AE;  
 10588;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER PE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105AF;  
 10589;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER QA;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105B0;  
 1058A;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER RE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105B1;  
 1058B;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER RRE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105B2;  
 1058C;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER SE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105B3;  
 1058D;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER SHE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105B4;  
 1058E;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER TE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105B5;  
 1058F;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER THE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105B6;  
 10590;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER U;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105B7;  
 10591;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER VE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105B8;  
 10592;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER XE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105B9;  
 10593;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER XHE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105BA;  
 10594;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER Y;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105BB;  
 10595;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER ZE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105BC;  
 10596;VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER ZHE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;105BD;  
 10597;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER A;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10570;;10570  
 10598;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER BBE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10571;;10571  
 10599;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER BE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10572;;10572  
 1059A;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER CE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10573;;10573  
 1059B;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER CHE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10574;;10574  
 1059C;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER DE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10575;;10575  
 1059D;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER DHE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10576;;10576  
 1059E;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER E;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10577;;10577  
 1059F;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER EH;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10578;;10578  
 105A0;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER FE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10579;;10579  
 105A1;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER GA;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;1057A;;1057A  
 105A2;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER GJA;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;1057B;;1057B  
 105A3;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER HA;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;1057C;;1057C  
 105A4;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER HHA;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;1057D;;1057D  
 105A5;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER I;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;1057E;;1057E  
 105A6;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER IJE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;1057F;;1057F  
 105A7;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER JE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10580;;10580  
 105A8;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER KA;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10581;;10581  
 105A9;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER LA;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10582;;10582  
 105AA;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER LLA;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10583;;10583  
 105AB;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER ME;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10584;;10584  
 105AC;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER NE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10585;;10585  
 105AD;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER NJE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10586;;10586  
 105AE;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER O;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10587;;10587  
 105AF;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER PE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10588;;10588  
 105B0;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER QA;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10589;;10589  
 105B1;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER RE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;1058A;;1058A  
 105B2;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER RRE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;1058B;;1058B  
 105B3;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER SE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;1058C;;1058C  
 105B4;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER SHE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;1058D;;1058D  
 105B5;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER TE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;1058E;;1058E  
 105B6;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER THE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;1058F;;1058F  
 105B7;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER U;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10590;;10590  
 105B8;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER VE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10591;;10591  
 105B9;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER XE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10592;;10592  
 105BA;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER XHE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10593;;10593  
 105BB;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER Y;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10594;;10594  
 105BC;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER ZE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10595;;10595  
 105BD;VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER ZHE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;10596;;10596

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Figures.

SCHRIFT BÜTHAKUKYE'S.

Zeichen	Wert	Zeichen	Wert	Zeichen	Wert	Zeichen	Wert	Zeichen	Wert	Zeichen	Wert
Ɑ Ɱ	a a	Ɱ Ɐ	w v	Ɱ Ɱ	θ th	Ɱ Ɱ	n n	Ɱ Ɱ	t t	Ɱ Ɱ	ts x
Ɱ Ɱ	e ë, e	Ɱ Ɱ	b b, b	Ɱ Ɱ	dz z	Ɱ Ɱ	n nj	Ɱ Ɱ	f f		
Ɱ Ɱ	i i	Ɱ Ɱ	g g	Ɱ Ɱ	k k	Ɱ Ɱ	p p	Ɱ Ɱ	χ h		
Ɱ Ɱ	o o	Ɱ Ɱ	y j	Ɱ Ɱ	k' q	Ɱ Ɱ	r r	Ɱ Ɱ	ks h		
Ɱ Ɱ	ı u	Ɱ Ɱ	ð dh	Ɱ Ɱ	l ll	Ɱ Ɱ	z s	Ɱ Ɱ	ts c		
Ɱ Ɱ	ü y	Ɱ Ɱ	d d	Ɱ Ɱ	m m	Ɱ Ɱ	s' sh	Ɱ Ɱ	ts' ç		

Figure 1. Faulmann's 1880 chart of Vithkuqi. Correct modern letter values are given in red.

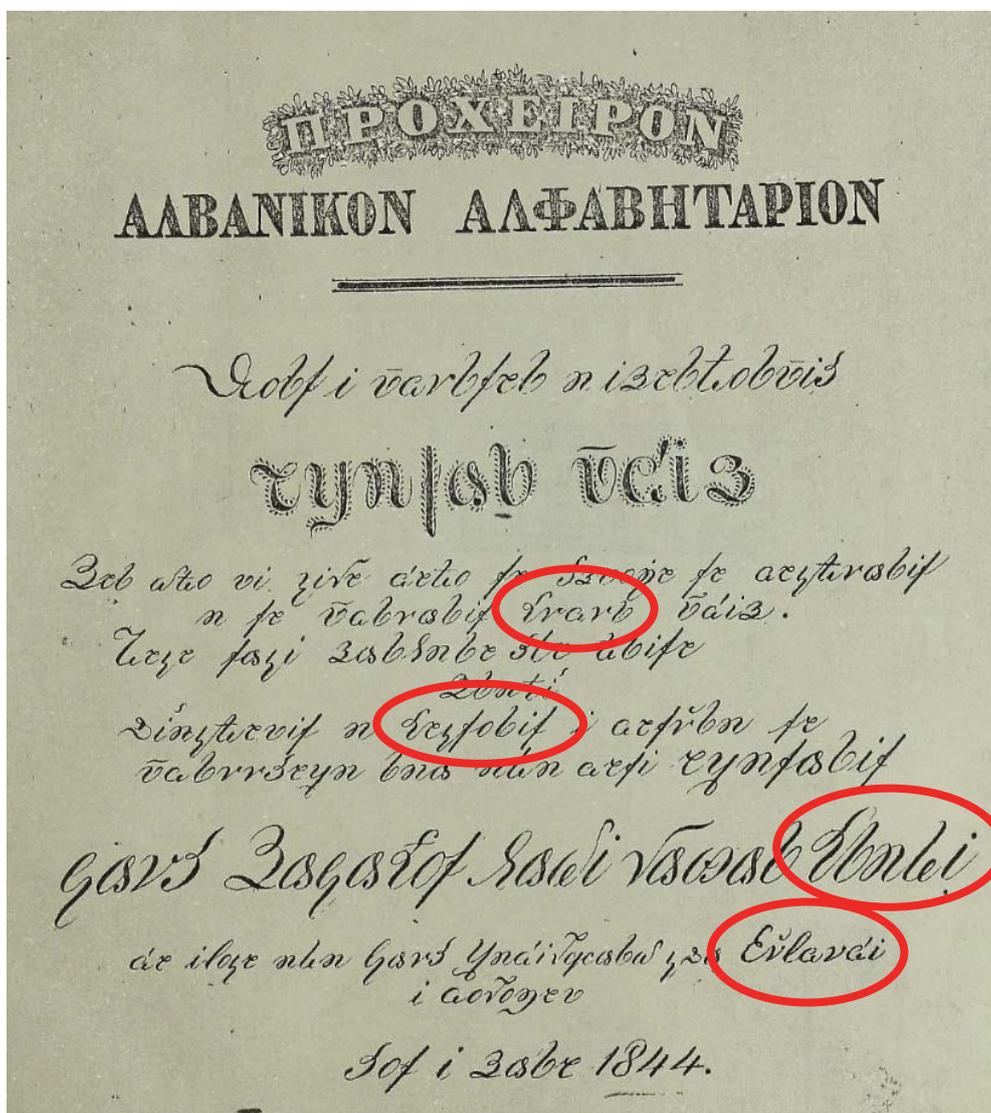


Figure 2. Title page of the .1844 edition of Veqilharxhi's primer.

Circled in red are the words *hvarb* Bukur, *hshfobif* Bëntorit, *hbnli* Bredhi, and *h'larai* Bythkuqi



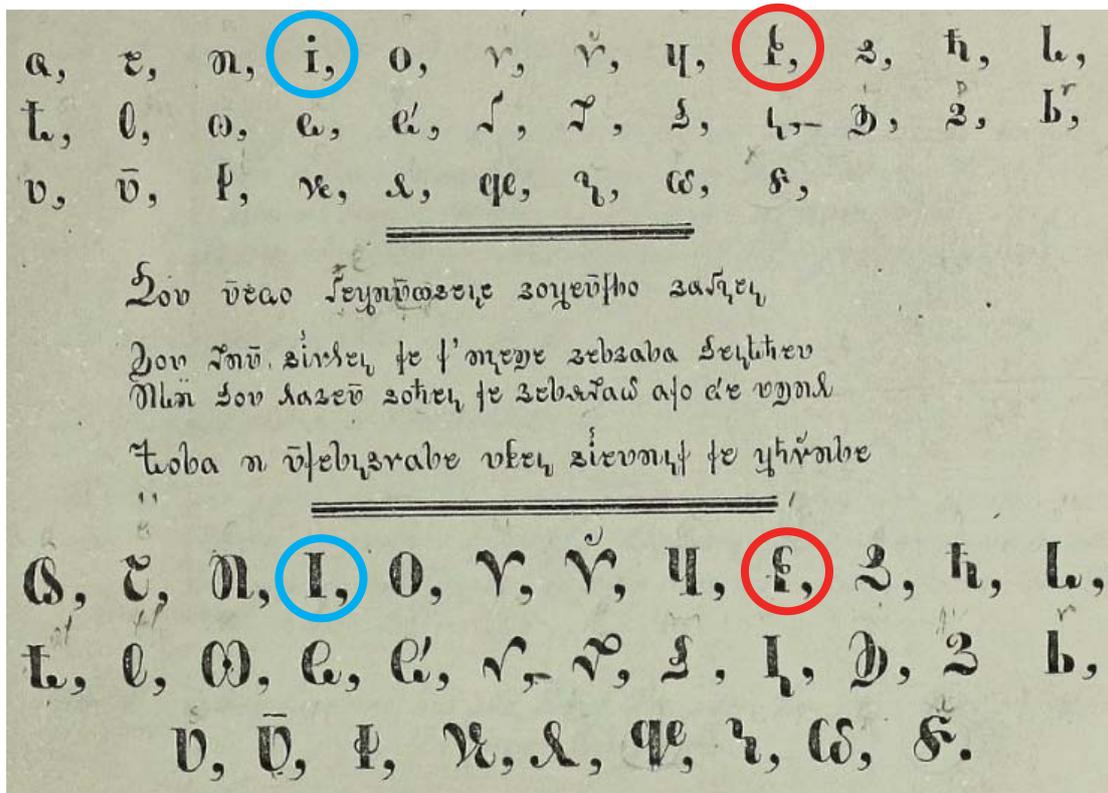


Figure 4. Alphabet from the 1844 edition of Veqilharxhi's primer, showing a Bodoni-style font. Note the dot on *i* and lack of dot on its capital *I*.

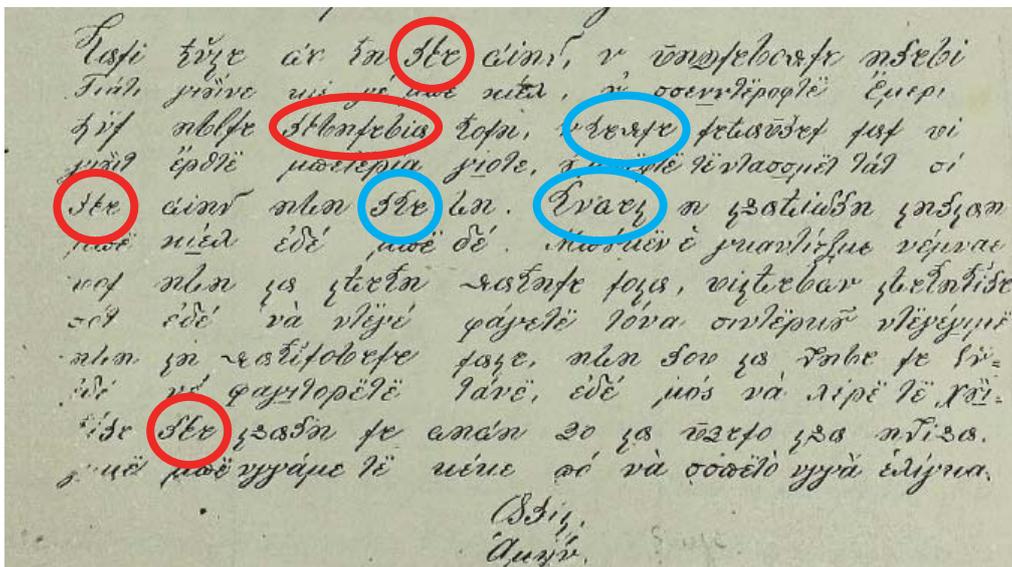
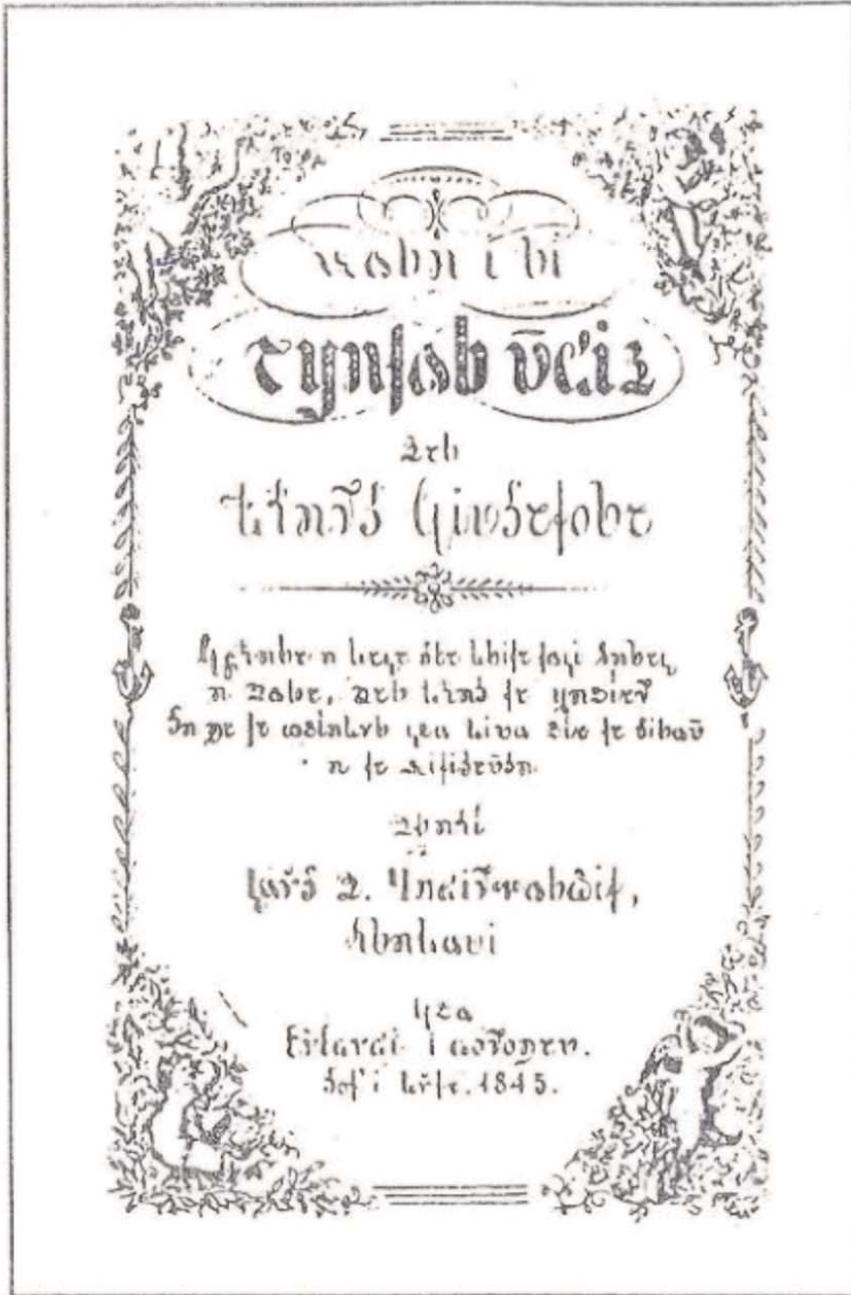


Figure 5. Reading exercise with Greek transliteration from the 1844 edition of Veqilharxhi's primer. The text is the Lord's Prayer, and the Latin transliteration is given below. Here we have evidence for lowercase **BE** (in red) as well as uppercase and lowercase **BBE** (in cyan).

Jati jynë që je mbë qiell, u shenjtëroftë emëri  
 jyt erhtë mbretëria jote, u bëftë tëdashmët tat si  
 mbë qiell edhe mbë dhe. Bukën e ngadiçme nemnae  
 sot edhe na ndëje fajetë tona, sindërku ndëjejimë  
 edhe ne fajtorëtë tanë, edhe mos na larë të hy-  
 jemë mbë ngame të keqe po na shpëto nga eliga.  
 Amin.



FARE I RI  
 ÈVETAR SHQIP  
 për  
 djelm nismëtorë  
 Nxjerë e dhënë mbë dritë tani herën  
 e parë, për djem të vegjël  
 me një të zgjedhur nga disa gjë të mirash  
 e të fitimëshme  
 prej  
 NAUM P. VEQILHARXHIT,  
 Bredhasi  
 nga  
 Bythkuqi i Kolonjes.  
 Mot' i dytë. 1845

Figure 6. Title page from a reprint of the primer by Naum Veqilharxhi, with transliteration as given in the reprint (Veqilharxhi 1845:269). The text transcribed into a modern font is given below.

Note the uses of BE, HA, HHA, and BBE.

Մանկան Կրթ

ձեռնարկ

Մանկան Կրթութեան

Կարգը Ն. Վեզիլարխի,  
 Կոնստանդուպոլիս

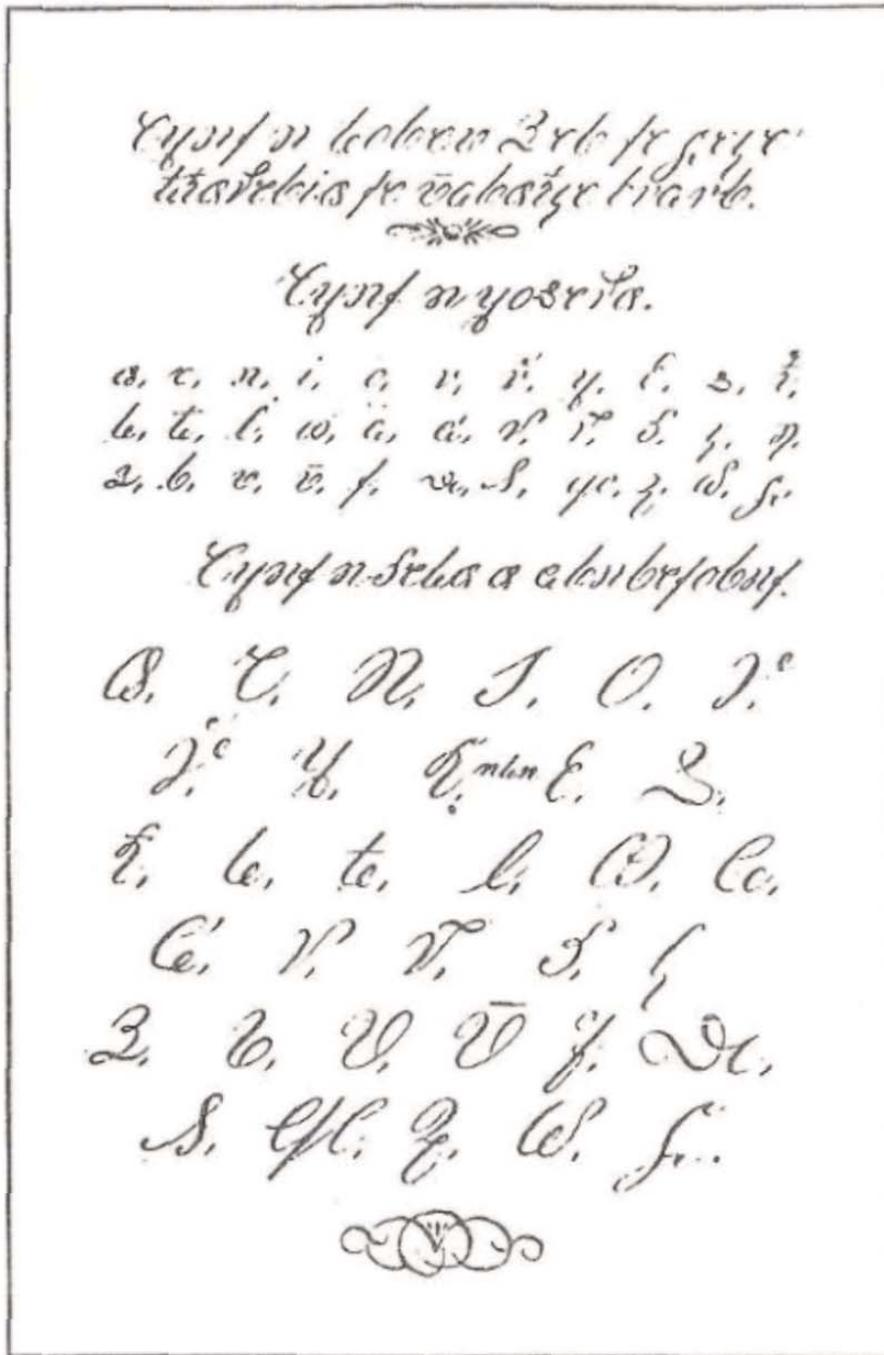
և

Մանկան Կրթութեան

Կարգը

Կրթութեան և կրթութեան տեղի քանի որ  
 և ձեռք, ձեռք տեղի քանի որ  
 ևն որ քանի որ կրթութեան ևն քանի որ  
 և քանի որ քանի որ

Կրթութեան և կրթութեան  
 ևն քանի որ, 1845

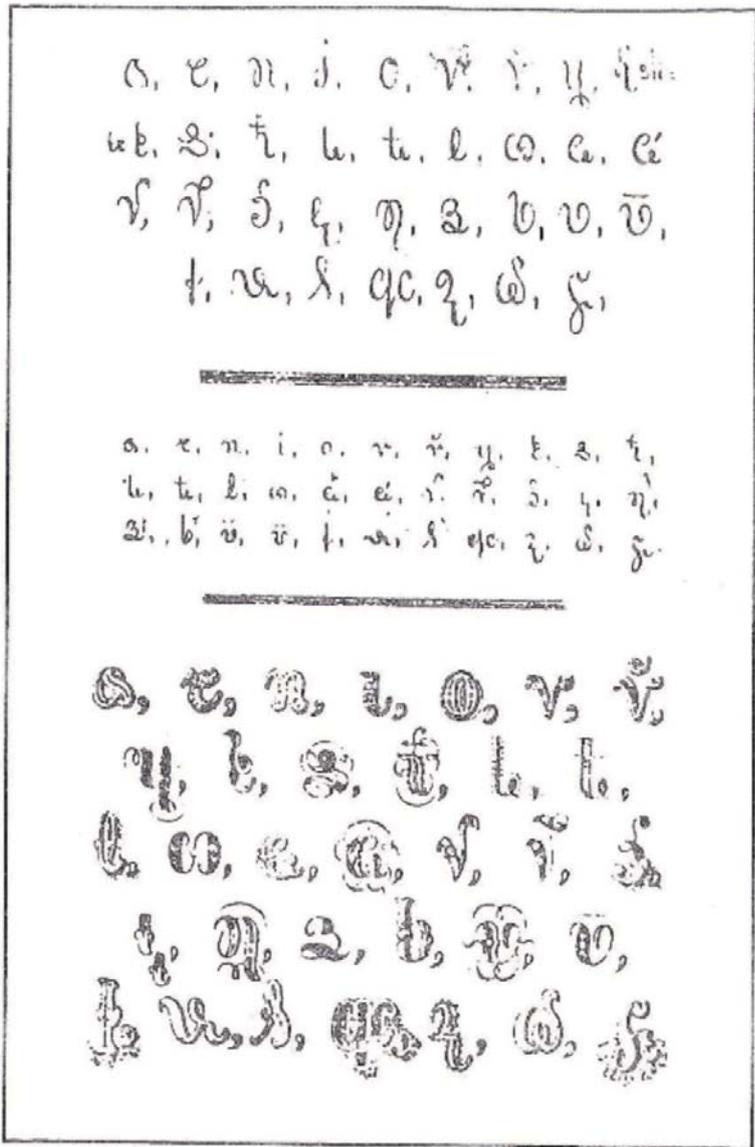


**Figure 7.** Alphabet from the 1845 edition of Veqilharxhi's primer.  
The alphabet is given below with transliteration.

ʘ a, ʘ ě, ʘ e, ʘ i, ʘ o, ʘ u, ʘ y, ʘ v, ʘ b, ʘ g, ʘ j, ʘ dh, ʘ d, ʘ th, ʘ z, ʘ k, ʘ q,  
 ʘ ll, ʘ l, ʘ m, ʘ n, ʘ nj, ʘ p, ʘ r, ʘ s, ʘ sh, ʘ t, ʘ f, ʘ h', ʘ h², ʘ c, ʘ ç, ʘ x.

ʘ A, ʘ Ē, ʘ E, ʘ I, ʘ O, ʘ U, ʘ Y, ʘ V, ʘ edhe ʘ B and B, ʘ G,  
 ʘ J, ʘ Dh, ʘ D, ʘ Th, ʘ Z, ʘ K, ʘ Q, ʘ Ll, ʘ L, ʘ M, ʘ N,  
 ʘ P, ʘ R, ʘ S, ʘ Sh, ʘ T, ʘ F, ʘ H, ʘ H², ʘ C, ʘ Ç, ʘ X.

Not shown are lowercase ʘ ħ and ʘ ĩ, and the modern additions ʘ \*γkiá gkiá, ʘ \*ppé rré, ʘ \*vtçá ntçé,  
 ʘ \*ççié zzié, and uppercase ʘ Ĩ and ʘ Nj and the modern additions ʘ GJ, ʘ RR, ʘ XH, ʘ ZH.



A, Ē, E, I, O, U, Y, V, B<sup>1</sup> gji =  
 thē B<sup>2</sup>, G, J, Dh, D, Th, Z, K, Q,  
 Ll, L, M, N, Nj, P, R, S, Sh,  
 T, F, H<sup>1</sup>, H<sup>2</sup>, C, Ç, X

a, ē, e, i, o, u, y, v, b<sup>1</sup>, g, j,  
 dh, d, th, z, k, q, ll, l, m, n, nj,  
 p, r, s, sh, t, f, h<sup>1</sup>, h<sup>2</sup>, c, ç, x.

A, Ē, E, I, O, U, Y,  
 V, B<sup>1</sup>, G, J, DH, D,  
 TH, Z, K, Q, LL, L, M,  
 N, NJ, P, R, S, SH,  
 T, F, H<sup>1</sup>, H<sup>2</sup>, C, Ç, X.

**Figure 8.** Alphabet from a reprint of the 1845 edition of Veqilharxhi's primer. Here the editors have written the B's as B<sup>1</sup>, B<sup>2</sup>, b<sup>1</sup> (recte b<sup>2</sup>), B<sup>1</sup> (recte B<sup>2</sup>), H<sup>1</sup>, and H<sup>2</sup> in the transcription for what I write as B, B, b, B, H, and H.

Ա, Ե, Ո, Ս, Օ, Վ, Մ, Դ ճի- A, Ē, E, I, O, U, Y, V, <b>B</b> all	ա, Ե, Ո, Ս, Օ, Վ, Մ, Դ, ճ, Դ, a, ē, e, i, o, u, y, v, <b>b</b> , g, j,	Ա, Ե, Ո, Ս, Օ, Վ, Մ, A, Ē, E, I, O, U, Y,
Ե, Զ, Դ, Լ, Խ, Լ, Թ, Ա, Ա, <b>B</b> , G, J, DH, D, TH, Z, K, Q,	Ե, Զ, Դ, Լ, Խ, Լ, Թ, Վ, Մ, Զ, Լ, Ն, dh, d, th, z, k, q, ll, l, m, n, nj,	Մ, Զ, Դ, Լ, Խ, V, <b>B</b> , G, J, DH, D,
Վ, Մ, Զ, Լ, Ն, Ձ, Ն, Ն, LL, L, M, N, NJ, P, R, S, SH,	Ձ, Ն, Ն, Ն, Բ, Վ, Կ, Կ, Ձ, Զ, p, r, s, sh, t, f, h, h, c, ç, x	Լ, Թ, Ա, Ա, Վ, Մ, Զ, TH, Z, K, Q, LL, L, M,
Բ, Վ, Կ, Կ, Ձ, Զ, T, F, H, H, C, Ç, X		Լ, Ն, Ձ, Ն, Ն, N, NJ, P, R, S, SH,
		Բ, Վ, Կ, Կ, Ձ, Զ, T, F, H, H, C, Ç, X

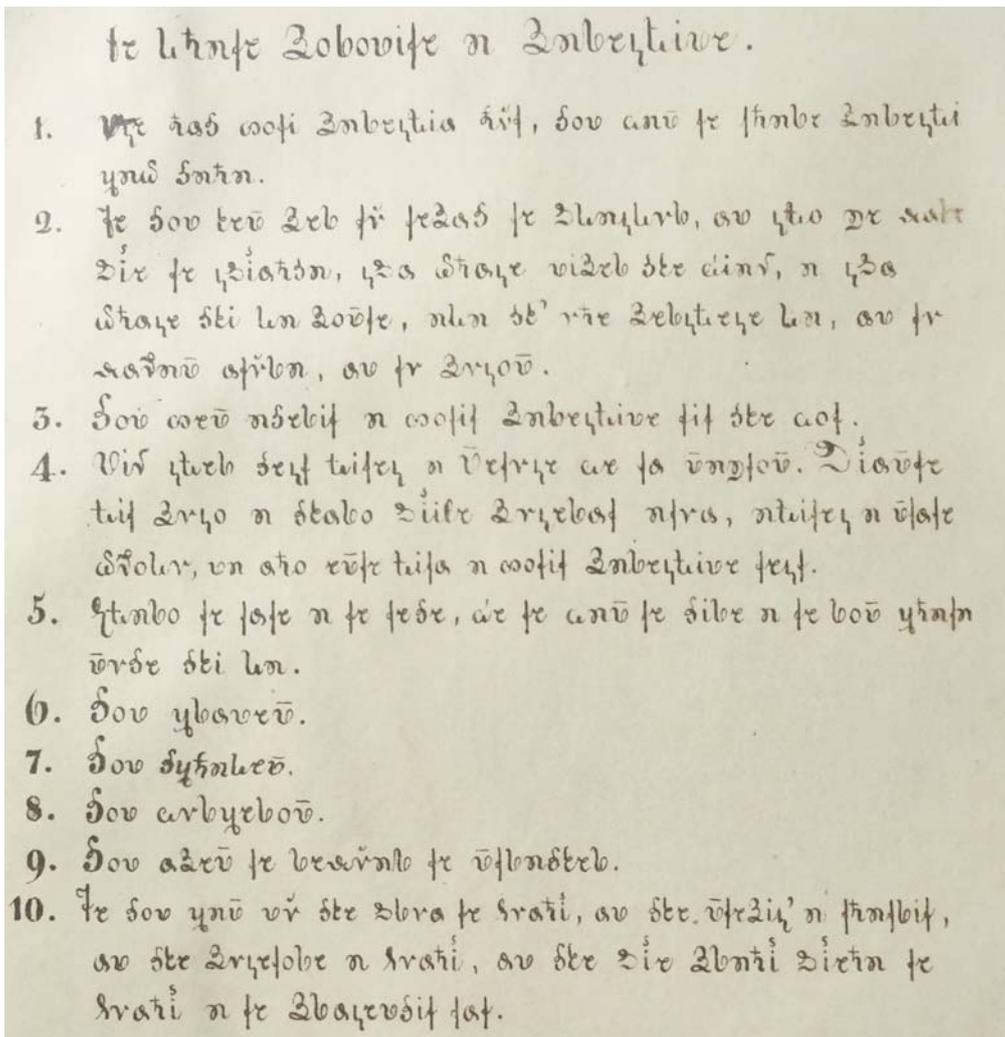


Figure 9. The Ten Commandments from the 1844 edition of Veqilharxhi's primer. The text reads:

### Të dhjetë porositë e perëndisë

1. SUnë jam zoti perëndia jyt, mos kesh të tjerë perëndi veç meje.
2. Të mos bësh për ty tëpam të gdhendur, as ndo një farë gjë të ngjajmë, nga çjanë sipër mbë qiell, e nga çjanë mbi dhe poshtë edhe mb' ujë përndënë dhe, as tu falesh atyre, as tu punosh.
3. Mos zësh emërit e zotit perëndisë tit mbë kot.
4. Sill ndër mënt ditën e shëtunë kë ta shenjtosh. Gjashtë dit puno e mbaro gjithë punërat etua, editën e shtatë çlodhu, se ajo dita e zotit perëndisë tënt.
5. Ndero të tatë e të tëmë, që të kesh të mirë e të rosh vjete shumë mbi dhe.
6. Mos vrasësh.
7. Mos mvjedhësh.
8. Mos kurvërosh.
9. Mos apësh të rëfyer të shtrembër.
10. Të mos vesh sy mbë grua të huaji, as mbë shtëpin' e tjetrit, as mbë punëtorë e huaji, as mbë gjë prejji gjëje të huaji e të pranësmit tat.







	1057	1058	1059	105A	105B
0	𐌆 10570	𐌇 10580	𐌈 10590	𐌉 105A0	𐌊 105B0
1	𐌋 10571	𐌌 10581	𐌍 10591	𐌎 105A1	𐌏 105B1
2	𐌐 10572	𐌑 10582	𐌒 10592	𐌓 105A2	𐌔 105B2
3	𐌕 10573	𐌖 10583	𐌗 10593	𐌘 105A3	𐌙 105B3
4	𐌛 10574	𐌜 10584	𐌝 10594	𐌞 105A4	𐌟 105B4
5	𐌡 10575	𐌢 10585	𐌣 10595	𐌤 105A5	𐌥 105B5
6	𐌦 10576	𐌧 10586	𐌨 10596	𐌩 105A6	𐌪 105B6
7	𐌮 10577	𐌯 10587	𐌰 10597	𐌱 105A7	𐌲 105B7
8	𐌳 10578	𐌴 10588	𐌵 10598	𐌶 105A8	𐌷 105B8
9	𐌹 10579	𐌺 10589	𐌻 10599	𐌼 105A9	𐌽 105B9
A	𐌾 1057A	𐌿 1058A	𐍀 1059A	𐍁 105AA	𐍂 105BA
B	𐍃 1057B	𐍄 1058B	𐍅 1059B	𐍆 105AB	𐍇 105BB
C	𐍈 1057C	𐍉 1058C	𐍊 1059C	𐍋 105AC	𐍌 105BC
D	𐍎 1057D	𐍏 1058D	𐍐 1059D	𐍑 105AD	𐍒 105BD
E	𐍔 1057E	𐍕 1058E	𐍖 1059E	𐍗 105AE	
F	𐍘 1057F	𐍙 1058F	𐍚 1059F	𐍛 105AF	

**Capital letters**

10570	ᄁ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER A
10571	ᄂ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER BBE
10572	ᄃ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER BE
10573	ᄄ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER CE
10574	ᄅ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER CHE
10575	ᄆ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER DE
10576	ᄇ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER DHE
10577	ᄈ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER E
10578	ᄉ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER EH
10579	ᄊ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER FE
1057A	ᄋ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER GA
1057B	ᄌ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER GJA • innovation for modern use
1057C	ᄍ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER HA
1057D	ᄎ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER HHA • used in 19th-century orthography
1057E	ᄏ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER I
1057F	ᄐ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER IJE • used in 19th-century orthography
10580	ᄑ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER JE
10581	ᄒ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER KA
10582	ᄓ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER LA
10583	ᄔ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER LLA
10584	ᄕ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER ME
10585	ᄖ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER NE
10586	ᄗ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER NJE
10587	ᄘ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER O
10588	ᄙ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER PE
10589	ᄚ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER QA
1058A	ᄛ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER RE
1058B	ᄜ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER RRE • innovation for modern use
1058C	ᄝ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER SE
1058D	ᄞ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER SHE
1058E	ᄟ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER TE
1058F	ᄠ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER THE
10590	ᄡ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER U
10591	ᄢ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER VE
10592	ᄣ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER XE
10593	ᄤ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER XHE • innovation for modern use
10594	ᄥ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER Y
10595	ᄦ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER ZE
10596	ᄧ	VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER ZHE • innovation for modern use

**Small letters**

10597	ᄁ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER A
10598	ᄂ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER BBE
10599	ᄃ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER BE
1059A	ᄄ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER CE
1059B	ᄅ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER CHE
1059C	ᄆ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER DE
1059D	ᄇ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER DHE
1059E	ᄈ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER E
1059F	ᄉ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER EH
105A0	ᄊ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER FE
105A1	ᄋ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER GA
105A2	ᄌ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER GJA • innovation for modern use
105A3	ᄍ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER HA
105A4	ᄎ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER HHA • used in 19th-century orthography
105A5	ᄏ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER I
105A6	ᄐ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER IJE • used in 19th-century orthography
105A7	ᄑ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER JE

105A8	ᄒ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER KA
105A9	ᄓ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER LA
105AA	ᄔ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER LLA
105AB	ᄕ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER ME
105AC	ᄖ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER NE
105AD	ᄗ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER NJE
105AE	ᄘ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER O
105AF	ᄙ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER PE
105B0	ᄚ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER QA
105B1	ᄛ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER RE
105B2	ᄜ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER RRE • innovation for modern use
105B3	ᄝ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER SE
105B4	ᄞ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER SHE
105B5	ᄟ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER TE
105B6	ᄠ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER THE
105B7	ᄡ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER U
105B8	ᄢ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER VE
105B9	ᄣ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER XE
105BA	ᄤ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER XHE • innovation for modern use
105BB	ᄥ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER Y
105BC	ᄦ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER ZE
105BD	ᄧ	VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER ZHE • innovation for modern use

## A. Administrative

1. Title

**Proposal for encoding the Vithkuqi script in the SMP of the UCS**

2. Requester's name

**UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative (Universal Scripts Project)**

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)

**Liaison contribution.**

4. Submission date

**2020-10-01**

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

6. Choose one of the following:

6a. This is a complete proposal

**No.**

6b. More information will be provided later

**Yes.**

## B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

**Yes.**

1b. Proposed name of script

**Vithkuqi.**

1c. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

**No.**

1d. Name of the existing block

2. Number of characters in proposal

**78.**

3. Proposed category (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)

**Category E.**

4a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

**Yes.**

4b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?

**Yes.**

4c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

**Yes.**

5a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

**Jaon Glavy via Michael Everson.**

5b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

**Michael Everson, FontLab.**

6a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

**Yes.**

6b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

**Yes.**

7. 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)?

**Yes.**

8. 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/Public/UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

**See above.**

## C. Technical – Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.

**No.**

2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?

**Yes, in L2/09-328.**

2b. If YES, with whom?

**Robert Elsie, Stiven Llupa, Edon Muhaxheri.**

2c. 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?

**See above.**

4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

**To write the Albanian language.**

4b. Reference

5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

**Yes.**

5b. If YES, where?

**In scholarly publications.**

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

**No.**

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

6c. If YES, reference

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

**Yes.**

8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

**No.**

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

**No.**

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

**No.**

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

10c. If YES, reference

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?

**No.**

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

11c. If YES, reference

11d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

**No.**

11e. If YES, reference

12a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

**No.**

12b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

**No.**

13b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?