## Evidence for Glyph Forms of U+17121 and U+17C51

(Supplement to WG2 N5237)

## **Andrew West**

## 28 June 2023

In the recently-published Tangut dictionary Xīxiàwén Cídiǎn (shìsú wénxiàn bùfēn) 西夏文词 典(世俗文献部分) (Beijing: Zhongguo Shehui kexue chubanshe, 2021), compiled by Hán Xiǎománg 韓小忙, U+17121 彦 kji² 'scorched' and U+17C51 荔 tśjiw² 'burnt' are written with what appears to be a defective form of Component 34  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  where the slanting stroke does not cross the zigzag stroke (this is Hán Xiǎománg's Radical RR14  $\frac{7}{2}$ ).

V 81 2. 61 kj i [ 仮] 左 厂 / 右 3 8 画 7122/20 K. 1889 L. 4529 S. 0291

[音] V81: 同音<sub>新</sub> 24B76。同音<sub>田</sub> 24A23 (V68)。

2.61 kji: 文海<sub>\*\*</sub>②43B6.8。

「伋]:来源于同音字旅的汉语对音。

[义]焦(形)。

Xīxiàwén Cídiăn vol. 1 p. 204



Ⅷ83 2.40 tśjiw [周] 左芈/右多

8 画 1742/24 K. 1748 L. 1253 S. 4977

[音] **Ⅲ83**: 同音<sub>新</sub> 38B13。同音<sub>Ⅱ</sub>大字残缺。

2.40 tśjiw: 文海<sub>技</sub>②40A5.11。

[周]:来源于同音字麟的对音,见掌中 珠<sub>II</sub> 18A32。

(文海刺①7A61a)。 霸 贫 荔 蕊 厚 蓊 灭、灰、 (热病 27.3)。

> 二焦。職獅紅蘿蔽發麗荔藏舜琴尾有火烧 焦痕 (类林⑨6A5)。

The differences in glyph forms between the Unicode 15.0 code charts (which are based on the font used for the 2008 edition of Lǐ Fànwén's Tangut-Chinese dictionary) and Hán Xiǎománg's 2021 Tangut dictionary are shown below.

	Unicode 15.0	Hán Xiǎománg
U+17121	房	房
U+17C51	荔	荔

The obvious first impression is that the glyph form used in Hán Xiǎománg's dictionary is based on a random or idiosyncratic glyph variant used in some primary source, and that there is no significant difference between  $\sqrt[7]{}$  and  $\sqrt[7]{}$ . However, further investigation shows that U+17121 and U+17C51 are consistently written with  $\sqrt[7]{}$  rather than  $\sqrt[7]{}$  in multiple sources, whereas other characters with the  $\sqrt[7]{}$  component are not normally written using  $\sqrt[7]{}$ . As U+17121 and U+17C51 are semantically related (glossed as 'scorched' and 'burnt' respectively in Lǐ Fànwén's Tangut-Chinese dictionary), this does not seem to be a random glyph variation, but a specific glyph component deliberately used in these two related characters.

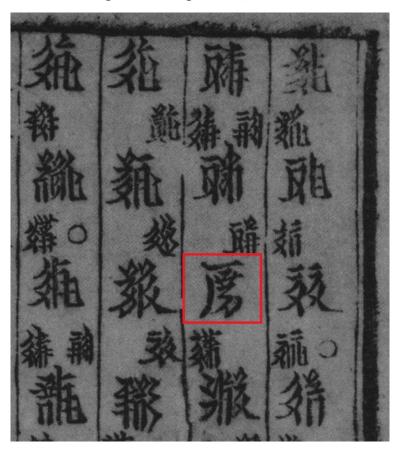
NB I have not yet had time to check the primary sources for all 547 Tangut ideographs with the  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  component, so it is possible that there may be other characters that are semantically or phonetically related to U+17121 or U+17C51 which should use the  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  component. Nevertheless, none of the characters that I spot-checked show the  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  component, and characters such as  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  which are similar to U+17C51 are clearly written with two  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  components in *Homophones* and *Sea of Writing*.

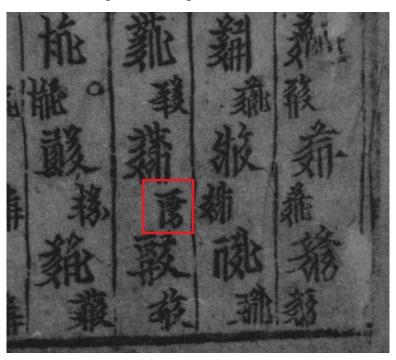
Both U+17121 and U+17C51 are rather rare characters, only occurring in a relatively few sources, but almost all the known sources are shown below (one source is inaccessible to me, and one other source is omitted because the hand-written character is entirely illegible). Thirteen out of the sixteen examples show the glyph forms for U+17121 and U+17C51 that are given by Hán Xiǎománg, and there are only three counterexamples:

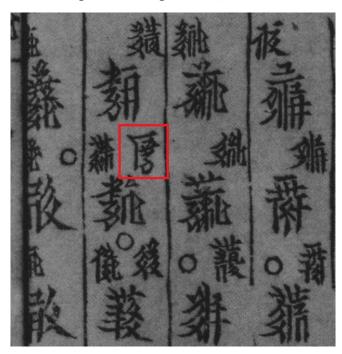
Example 6 writes U+17121 with a 3 component (  $\Box \Gamma \Box \rightarrow 3$ ).

Example 14 writes U+17C51 with two  $\frac{\pi}{3}$  components ( $\boxed{3}$   $\frac{\pi}{3}$ ).

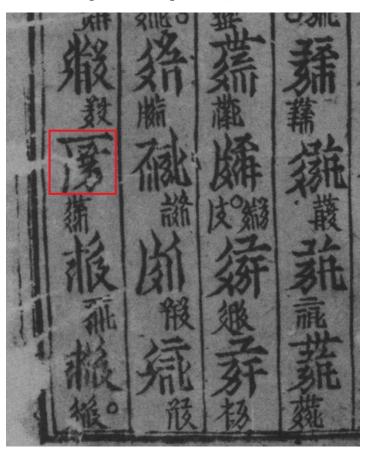
Example 15 swaps the positions of the  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  components in U+17C51 ( $\frac{\pi}{2}$ ).

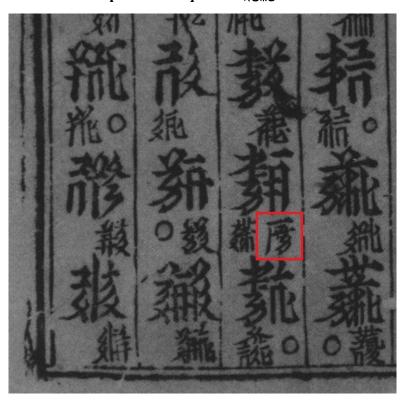




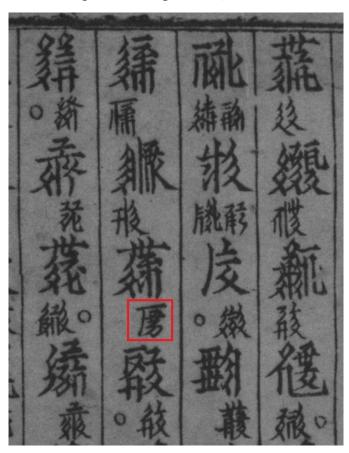




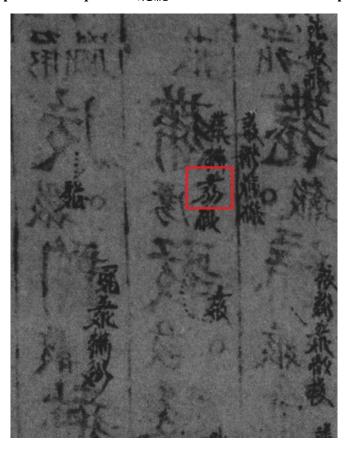




This example shows T = # 3

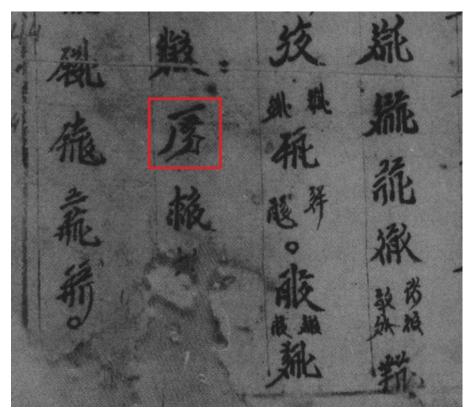


Example 8: Homophones 乖能 B 11A43 verso manuscript note

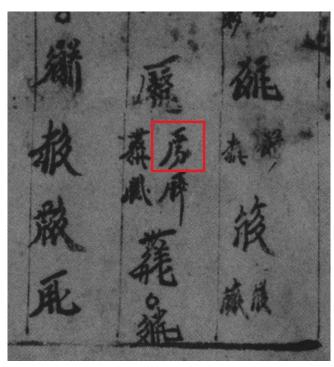




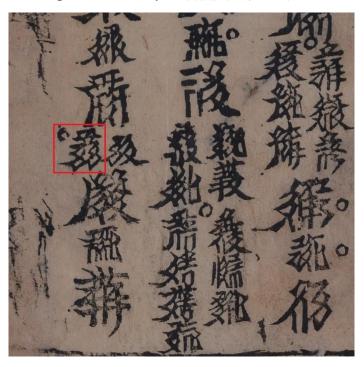




Example 12: Precious Rimes of the Sea of Writing 夜즊燚蕀 2:2B

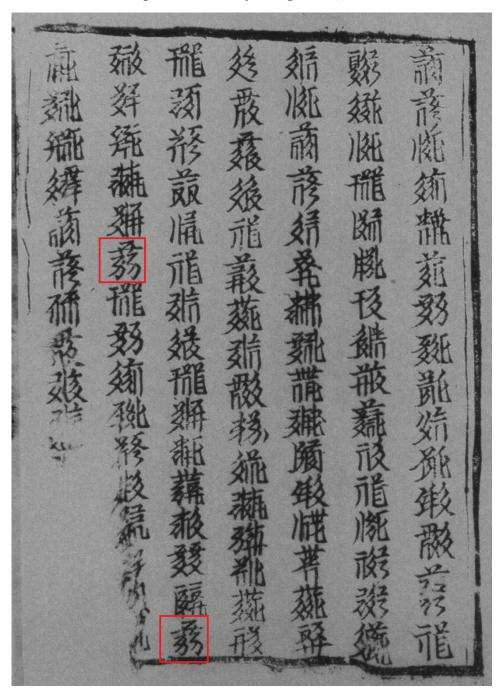


Example 14: Homonyms 双鬚擬酸颏離飊敝 13A



This example shows 🗎 🍎 🗒 🐧

Example 15: Forest of Categories 総核 9:6A



Example 16: Bǎodìng 保定 dhāraṇī pillar 石幢 A

