

To: WG2 / Unicode Technical Committee/ Script Encoding Working Group
From: Alfredo Rizza and Michaela Zinko (“Schrift und Sprache der Sideter” project team, Università di Verona, Universität Graz)
Date: April 13, 2025
RE: Update on Sidetic

This document provides a few updates, comments, and corrections to [L2/22-235](#) “Revised proposal to encode the Sidetic script in Unicode” by Anshuman Pandey, based on the latest research.

1. The character names should include a leading 0, hence SIDETIC LETTER N01, etc. The “N” is from Nollé 2001, the accepted reference for the characters.
2. Remove *27-*29 These were part of the extended repertoire, not part of the core repertoire. (This is why they were prefaced with a + sign in the Unicode proposal’s figure 13, from Rizza 2005:72.)
3. Regarding order of characters:
 The order of the characters was based on the publication on Side by Johannes Nollé and compiled in an overview (2001: 629). Nollé’s numbering today serves as a basis when working with Sidetic characters and has been accepted by scholars as the standard. Use of the numbers assigned by Nollé’s is the best and above all clearest work with, mainly because for some characters both transcription and phonetic identification are still difficult.

 Nollé’s list is organized according to phonological criteria. First vowels, then semivowels, then consonants following, for assured values, roughly the sequence of places of articulation from front to back. This implies that new characters will disrupt the phonological ratio in order to keep the numbering sequence fixed (i.e. a new vowel will appear after consonants and the like). Keeping a fixed relation character - main figure (shape) is more desirable than changing it in order to allow insertions or removals in phonological classes.
4. Corrections to Section 4 Character Inventory
 - a. N05: The phonetic value is uncertain; it is between a vowel or a semivowel
 - b. N09: Zinko and Rizza consider this deciphered, and believe it could be a dental fricative [ð] or the like. In transcription the Graz-Verona team use d₂ [d with subscript 2]
 - c. N12: The variant  should instead be a variant of #9
 - d. N14 and N15: For these two sibilants, there is no consensual transcription. The Graz-Verona group uses “s” for N14, and “s₂” for N15.

- e. N18: The phonetic value is uncertain. The preferred Latin transcription is an upwards arrow $\uparrow$. The two most probable values are /ts/ or /j/.
 - f. N22: The Graz-Verona group uses “V”, most probably a vowel.
 - g. N23: Change decipherment column from “No” to “Yes,” with the k as the Latin value
 - h. N24: The Graz-Verona group uses the transcription b but the value should more probably be fricative, perhaps [β]
5. Other corrections, comments or questions:
- a. Section 2 Background
 - p. 2 “The name ‘Side’ is borrowed from Greek”: Source for this statement?
 - p. 2 “Scholars believe that it developed from the Phoenician script in parallel with Greek”: Change to “Some scholars...”
 - b. Section 3 Attested Sources
 - S5 S II.1.1 “Palimpsest bronze altar table or voting tablet”: Source for “altar table”? Voting tablet is correct.
 - S8 S I.2.4 Inscription on stone Heraldes relief: correct to Herakles
 - S10 S III “5th century BC coins with around twenty different legends”: Source for 20?
 - S11 “Words possibly from Mnemon”: Perhaps symbols instead of words?
6. Other notes:

It is difficult to determine the exact sounds behind the Sidetic signs. With the help of historical, comparative and etymological linguistic studies, possible sounds can be assumed. The possible and assumed sounds are shown in Latin letters in this overview (Umschrift/transcription). If we assume that a character represents a similar phoneme or perhaps an allophone, this is expressed in the notation with the number 2. For example, number 15 is defined as “Sidetic letter S-2”. And if we cannot yet determine the phonetic value, then a transcription is chosen that is not intended to allow any predictions or preclassification (e.g. N18 as $\uparrow$).

References

Nollé, Johannes. 2001. *Side im Altertum: Geschichte und Zeugnisse*. Band II, Griechische und lateinische Inschriften (5-16)– Papyri-Inschriften in sidetischer Schrift und Sprache. Inschriften griechischer Städte aus Kleinasien, 44. Bonn: Rudolf Habelt Verlag.

Rizza, Alfredo. 2005. “A New Epigraphic Document With Sidetic(?) Signs”. *Kadmos*, vol. 44, pp. 60–74.

Forthcoming:

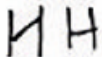
Rizza, Alfredo (together with Nollé, Johannes): Eine griechisch-sidetische Epidosis

(Neufund 2021 – S I.1.4)

Zinko, Michaela: Sidetische Personennamen im indogermanischen Kontext. Eine neu entdeckte Stele mit sidetischen Namen (Inschriftenfund 2023 – S I.2.9)

Rizza, Alfredo – Zinko, Michaela: Neue Inschriften aus Side – Überblick zu Neufunden zwischen 2020–2023.

#	Glyph	Variants	Proposed character names	Latin
01	𐎠		Sidetic letter N01	a
02	𐎡		Sidetic letter N02	e
03	𐎢	𐎣	Sidetic Letter N03	i
04	𐎤		Sidetic Letter N04	o
05	𐎥	𐎦	Sidetic Letter N05	u (/u?)
06	𐎧		Sidetic Letter N06	w
07	𐎨		Sidetic Letter N07	y
08	𐎩		Sidetic Letter N08	p
09	𐎪	𐎫	Sidetic Letter N09	d ₂
10	𐎬	𐎭	Sidetic Letter N10	m
11	𐎮		Sidetic Letter N11	t
12	𐎯		Sidetic Letter N12	d
13	𐎱		Sidetic Letter N13	θ
14	𐎲		Sidetic Letter N14	s
15	𐎴		Sidetic Letter N15	s ₂
16	𐎶		Sidetic Letter N16	n
17	𐎷	𐎸 𐎹	Sidetic Letter N17	l

18			Sidetic Letter N18	↑
19			Sidetic Letter N19	g
20			Sidetic Letter N20	χ
21			Sidetic Letter N21	r
22			Sidetic Letter N22	V (vocal?)
23			Sidetic Letter N23	k
24			Sidetic Letter N24	b
25			Sidetic Letter N25	n ₂
26			Sidetic Letter N26	z