

Unicode request for Albanian Frashëri alphabet

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We request 9 Latin codepoints for the Frashëri alphabet, the dominant writing system of the Albanian language during the Albanian National Awakening of the late 19th and early 20th centuries that was made co-official with the modern alphabet in 1908. It is the last major Albanian orthography to require Unicode support.

The Frashëri alphabet was the most commonly used Albanian orthography from around 1886 to 1908 (Figure 2), and it continued in publication until at least 1916. This was the time of the *Rilindja* (Albanian National Awakening) during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Multiple publishing houses around the Balkans printed works in the script, including the longest books written in the Albanian language up to that point.

The Frashëri alphabet is also known as *Istanbul* (Elsie 2010), *Constantinople* (Skendi 1960) and *Stamboul* (Trix 1999), all of which translate its Albanian name *alfabeti i Stambollit*. For this proposal we prefer the name *Frashëri*, the name of its inventor, following Skendi 1960 and Rrota 1936, to avoid having to choose among these forms and because, aside from the initial works of 1879, only a few documents were even printed in the city of Istanbul. The vast majority were printed in Bucharest, Sofia, Thessaloniki, Bitola and Korçë, making *Stamboll* of little value as a geographic label.

Frashëri occasionally coexists in texts with the co-official Bashkimi orthography, which is the basis of the modern standard (Figure 4). Frashëri and modern orthography do not have a one-to-one correspondence. For example, the digraph *gj* in modern orthography conflates Frashëri <ɟ> /j/ and <gj> /gj/, and similarly modern *th* conflates Frashëri <ð> /θ/ and <th> /th/, as for example in Frashëri <vethë> ‘self’, reduced in modern pronunciation to *vete*. Frashëri orthography also occurs alongside Greek, as authors of the time often accompanied obscure terms and neologisms (coined for example to replace for Turkish loans) with Greek glosses (Figure 7). Greek letters are therefore not appropriate substitutes for the letters we propose.

Characters

Albanian Frashëri/Istanbul letters

đ	1DF9B LATIN SMALL LETTER D WITH LEFT HOOK.
ḑ	1DF9C LATIN SMALL LETTER D WITH LOOP STEM.
ɟ	1DF9D LATIN SMALL LETTER GJE.
ɲ	1DF9E LATIN SMALL LETTER OPEN P.
Ɛ	1DF9F LATIN CAPITAL LETTER E WITH CLOSED TOP.
Ɔ	1DFA0 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER OPEN SIGMA.
Ḡ	1DFA1 LATIN SMALL LETTER OPEN SIGMA.
Ɔ	1DFA2 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER XHE.
Ɔ	1DFA3 LATIN SMALL LETTER XHE.

Properties

1DF9B;LATIN SMALL LETTER D WITH LEFT HOOK;Ll;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1DF9C;LATIN SMALL LETTER D WITH LOOP STEM;Ll;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1DF9D;LATIN SMALL LETTER GJE;Ll;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1DF9E;LATIN SMALL LETTER OPEN P;Ll;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1DF9F;LATIN CAPITAL LETTER E WITH CLOSED TOP;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1DFA0;LATIN CAPITAL LETTER OPEN SIGMA;Lu;0;L;;;;N;;;1DFA1;
1DFA1;LATIN SMALL LETTER OPEN SIGMA;Ll;0;L;;;;N;;;1DFA0;;1DFA0
1DFA2;LATIN CAPITAL LETTER XHE;Lu;0;L;;;;N;;;1DFA3;
1DFA3;LATIN SMALL LETTER XHE;Ll;0;L;;;;N;;;1DFA2;;1DFA2

Annotations

2647 ꝺ PLUTO
→ 1DF9F ꝺ latin capital letter e with closed top
A783 ꝛ LATIN SMALL LETTER INSULAR R
→ 027C ꝛ latin small letter r with long leg
→ 1DF9E ꝛ latin small letter open p
1DF9E ꝛ LATIN SMALL LETTER OPEN P
→ A783 ꝛ latin small letter insular r
1DF9F ꝺ LATIN CAPITAL LETTER E WITH CLOSED TOP
→ 2647 ꝺ pluto

Confusables

U+2647 PLUTO is not an appropriate character for the Frashëri closed *E* because it is defined as a symbol, not a letter.

2647 PLUTO ↔ 1DF9F LATIN CAPITAL LETTER E WITH CLOSED TOP
A783 LATIN SMALL LETTER INSULAR R ↔ 1DF9E LATIN SMALL LETTER OPEN P

Chart

Latin Extended-G

1DF00

1DFFF

	1DF0	1DF1	1DF2	1DF3	1DF4	1DF5	1DF6	1DF7	1DF8	1DF9	1DFA	1DFB	1DFC	1DFD	1DFE	1DFF
0	ƒŋ	ɣ	ɔ̥	ɔ̥	Ǻ	ɶ	ω	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
1	ƒ	ɿ	ɔ̥	ɔ̥	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
2	ɔ̥	ɔ̥	ɔ̥	ɔ̥	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
3	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
4	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
5	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
6	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
7	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
8	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
9	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
A	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
B	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
C	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
D	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
E	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ
F	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	ɶ	Ǻ	ɶ	ɣ	ɿ	Ǻ	ɛ	Ɔ			ɣ	ɔ̥	ɿ

Modern references

Endri Keko (1962) *Me shpatë në dorë* “With a sword in hand.” Film.

Savro Skendi (1967) *The Albanian National Awakening 1878-1912*. Princeton UC.

Frances Trix (1999) The Stamboul alphabet of Shemseddin Sami Bey: precursor to Turkish script reform. In *Int. J. Middle East Stud.* 31.

Contemporary works

Anon. (1879) <Kanonizme e Zoqerise te Gtÿpuri Gkróna Sqip> *Kanonizmë e Shoqërisë të shtypur shkronja Shqip*. Istanbul: A. Zellich.

Anon. (1879) <Αλφαβηταρε ε Gluhese Σqip> *Alfabetare e Gluhësë Shqip*. Istanbul: A. Zellich.

Anon. (1912) <Abetare toskerigt> *Abetare toskërisht*, 6th edition. Sofia: Mbrothësia.

Gaspar Benusi (1890) <Abetare e gjuhës shqip> *Abetare e gjuhës shqip*. Bucharest: Dituria.

Muhamet Çami, Hajdar Gjirokastriti & Jani Vreto (1888) <Erveheja> *Erveheja*. Bucharest: Dituria.

Spiro Dine (1908) <Valet e detit> *Valët e detit*. Sofia: Mbrothësia.

Mithat (Mit'hat) Frashëri (1909–1929) *Diturija*. (The 1909 issues were typeset in Frashëri.)

Naim Frashëri (1886) <Baçeti e Bujqesia> *Baqëti e Bujqësija*. Bucharest: Drita.

——— (1886) <Vjërëa për mesonjëtorët të para> *Vjersha për mësonjëtorët të para*. Bucharest: Drita.
(poetry)

——— (1886) *〈Istori e përgjithëshme për mesonjëtorët të para〉 Istori e përgjithëshme për mësonjëtorët të para*. Bucharest: Drita. (history)

———— (1895) <Γίδεςija> *Gjithësija*. Bucharest: Dituria. (natural sciences)

Sami Frashëri (1886) <Abetare e përhese e qip> *Abetare e gjuhës shqip*. Bucharest: Drita. (primer)

———— (1886) <Çkronetore e puhese çqin> *Shkronjëtorë e gjuhës së shqip.* Bucharest: Drita. (grammar)

———— (1888) <Diturite per mesonjoret te para> *Dituritë për mësonjëtoreset të para*. Bucharest: Dituria.

———— (1888b) <Бѣжкроне> *Dheshkronjë*. Bucharest: Dituria. (geography)

———— (1899) <Çqiperia: Ç' ka qene, ç' ehte e ç' do te behete?> *Shqipëria: Ç'ka qenë, ç'është e ç'do të bëhetë?* Bucharest: Dituria.

Kalendari Kombiar (1897–1928) Sofia: Mbrothësia. (typeset in Frashëri through 1916 calendar.)

Kalendari Korça (1910–1931) Korçë. (typeset in Frashëri through 1913 calendar.)

Dhimitër Papakristo (1911) <Abetare për shkollë fillore meshkujve e femnash> *Abetare për shkollë fillore meshkujsh e femnash*. Manastir: Tregëtare Nërkombëtare.

Athanas Sina, ed. (1911) <Psalmtiri këdyere prej evraïtëse qqip nde te fole toskerigt> *Psalltiri kthyerë prej evraishtesë shqip ndë të folë toskërisht*. ('Psalms translated from Hebrew into Albanian in the Tosk dialect.') Manastir: Tregtare Nërkombëtare.

Simon Shuteriqi (1911) *Abetareja shqip rrieshtuarë në gjuhë të përbashkëme*. Manastir: Tregëtare
Nërkombëtare. (Bashkimi orthography)

Cile Vreto (1909) *Kalendari Afrëdita*. Manastir: Bashkimi i Kombit. (One issue, mostly in Frashëri.)

Jani Vreto (1886) <Mirevetija> *Mirëvetija*. Bucharest: Drita. (ethics)

———— (1886) <Numcratoreja> *Numeratoreja*. Bucharest: Drita. (maths)

Historical background

In the late 19th century, among the transformative cultural events that led to the foundation of the League of Prizren in 1878, the need for a unified Albanian orthography was a matter of great debate. In 1879 the Society for the Printing of Albanian Writings (*Shoqëria e të shtypurit shkronja shqip*) was constituted in Istanbul, and it adopted the alphabet proposed by [Sami Frashëri](#), one of the most influential figures of the Albanian National Awakening. The first Albanian-language publications of the society were the regulations of the Society (*Kanonizmë*) and an 1879 primer explaining the alphabet (*Alfabetare e Gluhësë Shqip*), commonly known as the “Istanbul primer” in modern scholarship, at the publishing house of Antonio Zellich. The society’s headquarters were shut down in 1881, year of the dissolution of the League of Prizren.



Figure 1. Pupils of the first Albanian-language secular school. The sign reads <MËSONJËTORE Q. Q. I. T. E NË KORÇE 1899> *Mësonjëtoreshqipe në Korçë 1899*.

Image source: General Directorate of Archives (DPA).

The orthography was resurrected in Bucharest in 1886, when the society reconstituted under the name *Drita* (‘the light’; later to be renamed *Diturija* ‘the knowledge’), and went on to publish many books by the Frashëri brothers and Jani Vreto for elementary education, including a primer and textbooks on grammar, maths, history, ethics, poetry, geography and in 1895 natural sciences. Dating from 1886 is also Naim Frashëri’s pastoral poem *Bagëti e Bujqësija* ‘Livestock and Agriculture,’ still

considered a milestone of Albanian literature. The first Albanian-language schools were founded, with instruction in the Frashëri orthography, which thus played a primary role in the development of literacy among the Albanian people.

In the following years the script becomes the dominant alphabet of the Albanian language, used by a number of different publishing houses across the Ottoman Empire. Several staple works of Albanian literature had their first edition in this orthography, including ones by such notable figures as [Jani Vreto](#), [Kristo Negovani](#), [Mihal Grameno](#), [Gjerasim Qiriazi](#), [Pashko Vasa](#), [Spiro Dine](#), [Thanas Floqi](#), [Mithat Frashëri](#) and [Kristo Dako](#). In particular we might mention Sami Frashëri's 1899 *Shqipëria: Ç'ka qënë, ç'është e ç'do të bëhetë?* "Albania: What was it, what is it, and what will it become?," which became the political manifesto of the Awakening, and Spiro Dine's 1908 *Valët e detit* "Waves of the Sea," a collection of poetry which at 856 pages was the longest book yet printed in Albanian. Faik Konitza, an opponent of the Frashëri orthography, wrote in 1898 that it was in use everywhere, especially among Muslims, and the reports of the Austrian Consuls in Albania show that by 1905 the Frashëri alphabet was used by the majority of the population, both Orthodox and Muslim. (Skendi 1967: 140).

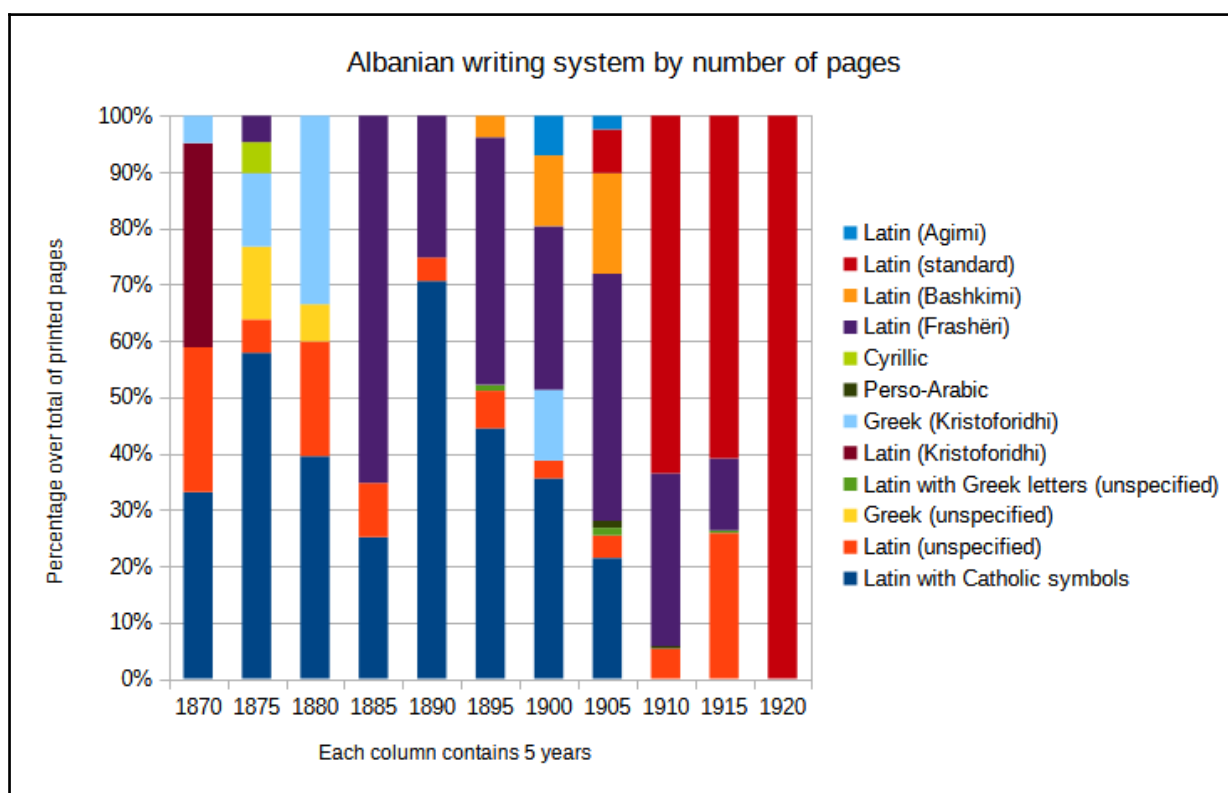


Figure 2. A graph of the number of printed and written pages in the collection of the BKSJ, color-coded by orthography, over the period of the Albanian National Awakening. Frashëri, starting in 1885, is indicated in **violet**. Note: Perso-Arabic is underrepresented due to difficult accessibility and lack of dating of many works in this script.

In 1895, the Catholic *Bashkimi* ('The Union') Society, following the Frashëri alphabet's example of a consistent phonemic orthography, did the same to the Catholic alphabet (see [L2/26-117 Unicode request for Catholic Albanian letter edhe](#)), and in addition purged it of its unique letters with the explicit

intention of making it typesettable with imported typewriters. In 1901 another Catholic, Ndre Mjeda, founded the Agimi ('The Dawn') Society and devised his own alphabet for its publications. In 1908 a congress was held in Manastir, modern-day Bitola, to decide which of these was to be the official orthography of the language. The final resolution was to accept both a modernized Frashëri and modernized Bashkimi orthography, establishing official digraphia for the language. Many books of the following years, especially educational texts, contained both scripts. The Frashëri orthography experienced a gradual demise, likely ascribable to the spread of imported typewriters, which did not support the unique letters of the Frashëri alphabet. The last work published in Frashëri that we are aware of dates to 1916.

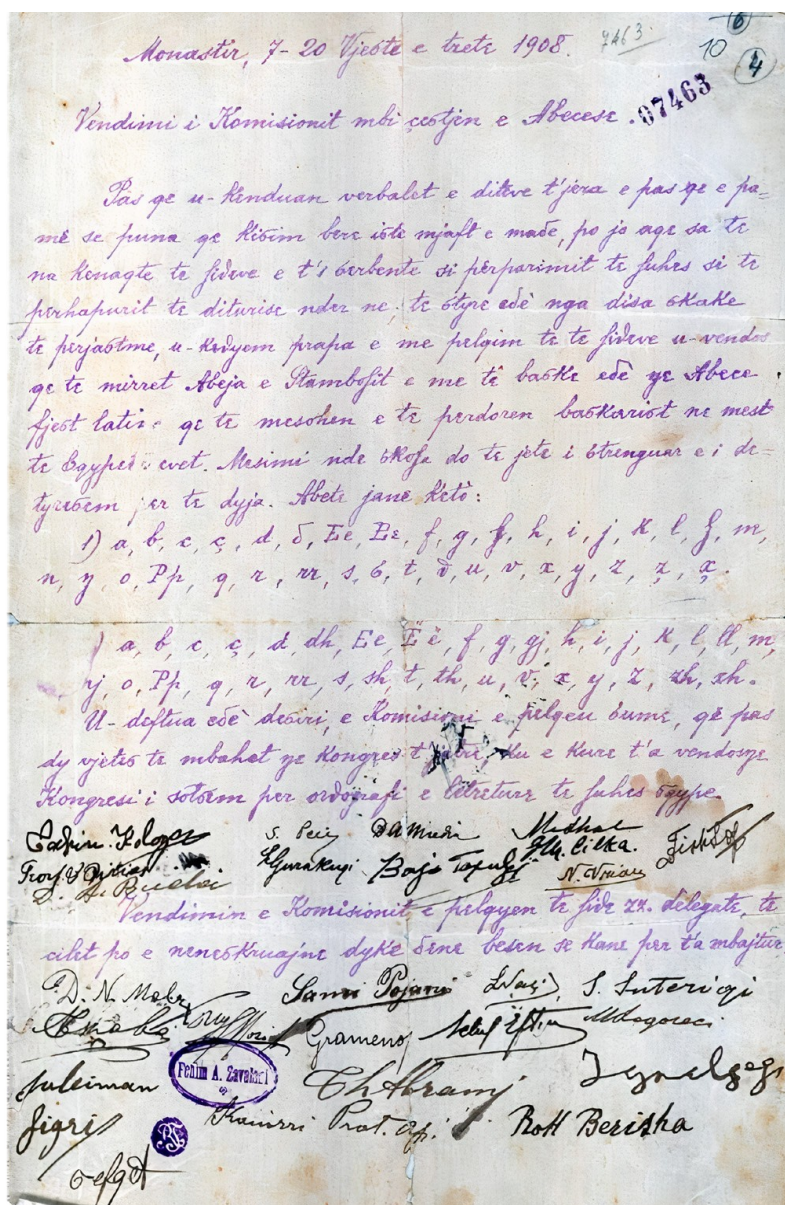


Figure 3. The final solution of the Congress of Manastir, 22 November 1908, still celebrated in Albanian-speaking regions as “Alphabet Day.” This made Frashëri an official alphabet of the Albanian language, alongside a reformed Bashkimi. The text itself is handwritten in Frashëri, while the signatures are either in Frashëri or Bashkimi depending on which the signatory had voted for. (Image source: Wikimedia Commons, from the DPA.)

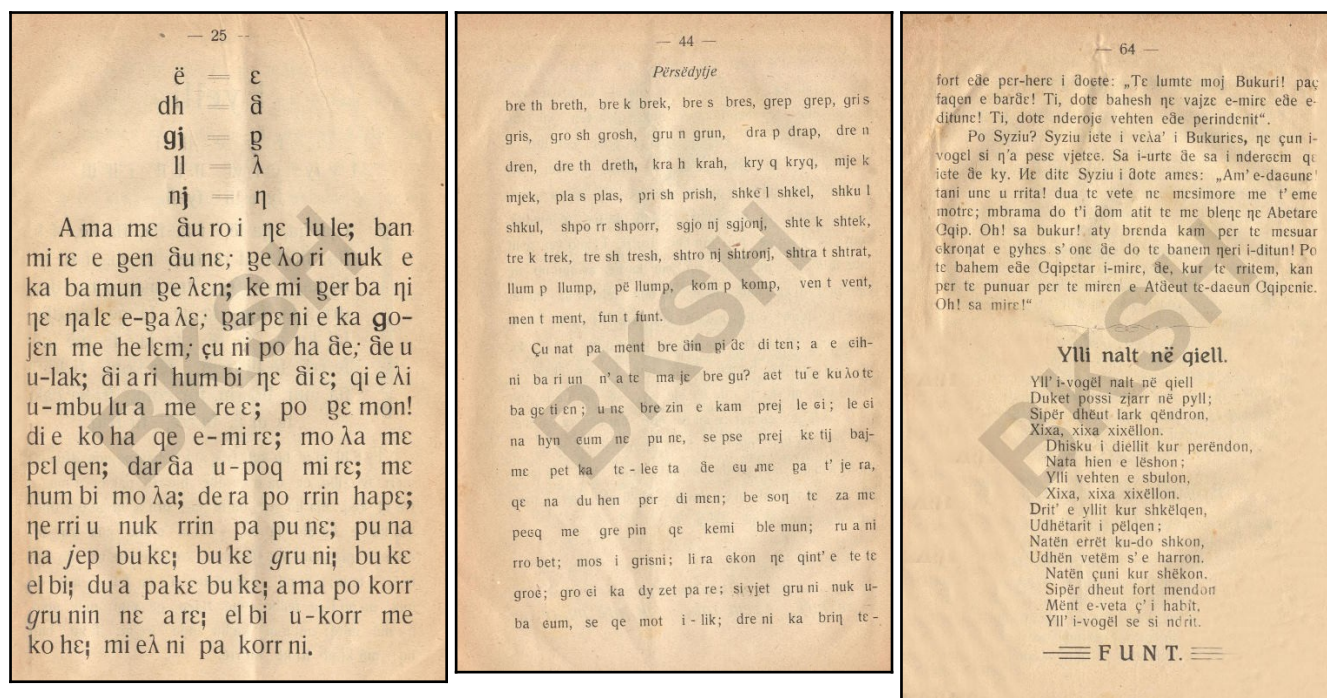


Figure 4. Shuteriqi (1911: 25, 44, 64). At top left, Bashkimi <ë dh gj ll nj> are equated with Frashëri <ε ð ɣ λ η>. This primer was designed to teach both alphabets at the same time. Page 25, the bottom half of p. 44 and the top half of p. 64 are in Frashëri.

Occasionally the author inserts Frashëri orthographic elements into Bashkimi running text, whether by editorial oversight or by intention. (Image source: BKSJ.)

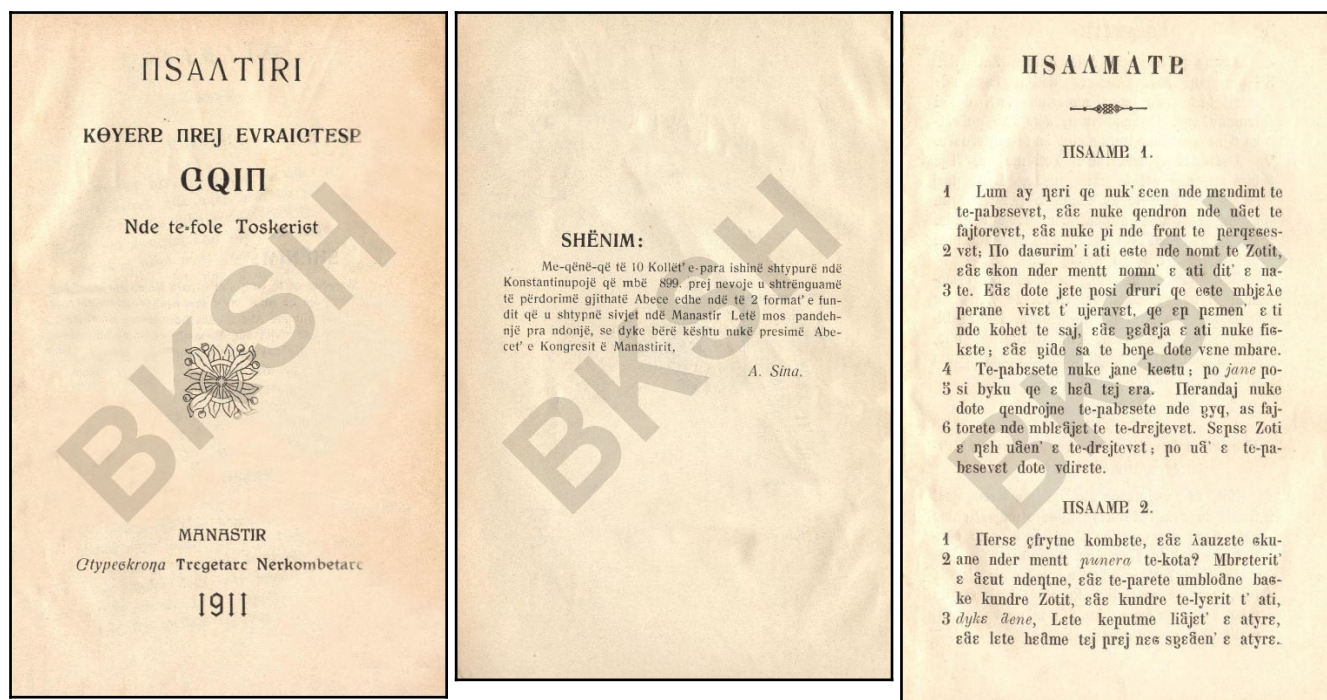


Figure 5. Sina (1911). A psalter printed three years after the Congress of Manastir but for technical reasons in the pre-Manastir Frashëri orthography. The first page (center) contains an apology for having done so, written in Bashkimi which by then had become predominant. ‘CQIP’ on the title page (left) is the name of the Albanian language. (Image source: BKSJ.)

Historical variation

The alphabet had three historical stages. In 1879 the Society for Albanian Printing was founded; they published the primer *Alfabetare e Gluhësë Shqip* with a prototype version of the alphabet. This was rather different from the classical forms that would be disseminated from 1886 on. The differences were in the use of the Greek capital letters <Δ> and <Σ> for *Dh* and *Sh*, a letter resembling <Γ> for lowercase *gj*, the looptail <g> for *g*, capital <Ε> for *E* to match lowercase <ε>, capital <Ε> for *Ë* to match lowercase <e>, and Cyrillic <З з> for *Zh zh*. It is shown in the tables below for completeness but should not be taken heavily into consideration – for example in the casing of classical <С с> *Sh sh*, as aside from the 1879 primer the only thing we could find written in proto-Frashëri was a 16-page pamphlet from the same year, *Kanonizmë e Shoqërisë të shtypur shkronja Shqip*, which announced the foundation of the Society.

Frashëri literature begins in 1886 with a somewhat more Latinate variant of the alphabet, with for example <Б С З> replacing <Δ Σ З>. After the 1908 Congress of Manastir, which established official digraphia by adopting both the Frashëri and Bashkimi alphabets for Albanian, the additional Greek-style letters <Π π> and <Ρ ρ> were ditched in favour of Latin *P p* and *R r*, and the lowercase glyphs <ε> and <e> for *e* and *ë* swapped roles, meaning that the requested capital letter <Ε> has inconsistent casing. Aside from these letters there are no glyph changes in works printed in the classical stage from 1886 to 1916.

Comparative charts

For ease of comparison, all alphabets below are sorted into the modern alphabetic order.

White: Letter matches modern Albanian orthography.

Green: Letter is not the modern standard but has Unicode support with casing.

Yellow: Letter is not the modern standard but has non-casing Unicode support.

Red: Letter is not supported by Unicode and is requested in this proposal.

Grey: IPA transcription, following modern alphabetic order.

For all stages of Frashëri, <И њ> (modern *Nj nj*) falls within the normal graphic range of *η η* or *η η* and so can be handled by the font. (Consider <и>, a small capital *η*.) For facsimile transcription, Cyrillic *И* might be used for the capital, but we do not feel that additional Unicode support is required.

Modern Albanian alphabet

The modern standard descends from the rival Bashkimi alphabet.

A	B	C	Ç	D	Dh	E	Ë	F	G	Gj	H	I	J	K	L	Ll	M	N	Nj	O	P	Q	R	Rr	S	Sh	T	Th	U	V	X	Xh	Y	Z	Zh
a	b	c	ç	d	dh	e	ë	f	g	gj	h	i	j	k	l	ll	m	n	nj	o	p	q	r	rr	s	sh	t	th	u	v	x	xh	y	z	zh
/a	b	ts	tʃ	d	ð	e	ə	f	g	ɟ	h	i	j	k	l	ɫ	m	n	ɲ	o	p	c	r	r	s	ʃ	t	θ	u	v	dz	dʒ	y	z	ʒ/

Proto-Frashëri (1879)

The first documents in Frashëri used several Greek capital letters not found later, but the lowercase letters already had Latin forms that contrasted with normal Greek letters in glosses.

A	B	C	Ç	D	Δ	Ε	E	F	G	Γ	H	I	J	K	L	Λ	M	N	И	O	Π	Q	R	P	S	Σ	T	Θ	U	V	X	Χ	Y	Z	З
a	b	c	ç	d	δ̃	ε	e	f	g	γ	h	i	j	k	l	λ	m	n	η	o	π	q	r	p	s	σ	t	θ̃	u	v	x	χ	y	z	з
/a	b	ts	tʃ	d	ð̃	e	ə	f	g	ɟ	h	i	j	k	l	ɫ	m	n	ɲ	o	p	c	r	r	s	ʃ	t	θ	u	v	dz	dʒ	y	z	ʒ/

Pre-Manastir Frashëri (1886–1908)

The sole Cyrillic letter, <З з>, is replaced, as are the Greek capitals <Δ Σ>, while the lowercase Latinized Greek letters continue to contrast with normal Greek (e.g. Figure 7).

A	B	C	Ç	D	Б	Е	Р	F	G	Γ	H	I	J	K	L	Λ	M	N	И	O	Π	Q	R	P	S	С	T	Θ	U	V	X	Χ	Y	Z	З
a	b	c	ç	d	б̃	ε	е	f	g	γ	h	i	j	k	l	λ	m	n	η	o	π	q	r	p	s	с̃	t	θ̃	u	v	x	χ	y	z	з̃
/a	b	ts	tʃ	d	ð̃	e	ə	f	g	ɟ	h	i	j	k	l	ɫ	m	n	ɲ	o	p	c	r	r	s	ʃ	t	θ	u	v	dz	dʒ	y	z	ʒ/

Post-Manastir Frashëri (1908–1916)

<Π π> and <Χ χ> are retired. No additional Unicode characters are required for this stage.

A	B	C	Ç	D	Б	Е	Р	F	G	Γ	H	I	J	K	L	Λ	M	N	И	O	P	Q	R	Rr	S	С	T	Θ	U	V	X	Χ	Y	Z	З
a	b	c	ç	d	б̃	ε	е	f	g	γ	h	i	j	k	l	λ	m	n	η	o	p	q	r	rr	s	с̃	t	θ̃	u	v	x	χ	y	z	з̃
/a	b	ts	tʃ	d	ð̃	e	ə	f	g	ɟ	h	i	j	k	l	ɫ	m	n	ɲ	o	p	c	r	r	s	ʃ	t	θ	u	v	dz	dʒ	y	z	ʒ/

Figures

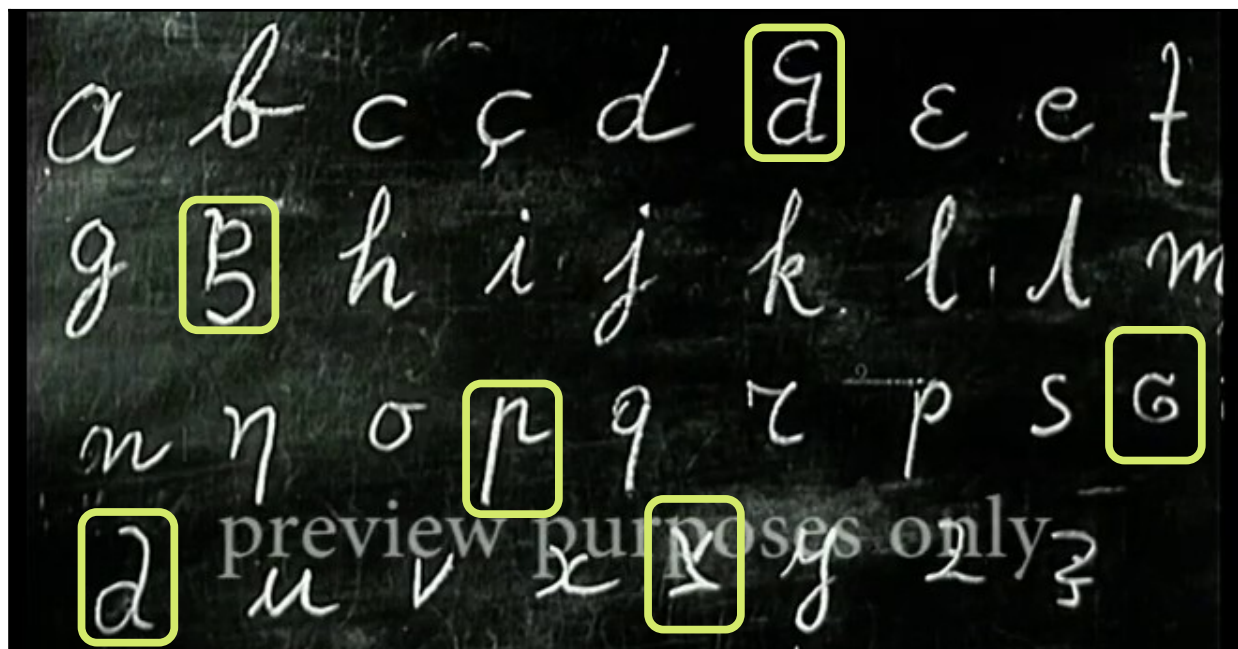


Figure 6. Keko (1962, screenshot). Handwritten letters of the pre-Manastir Frashëri alphabet. This documentary film covers the time period when the Frashëri alphabet was in use and the first public schools were instituted. Requested letters are highlighted. (Image source: Central State Film Archive [AQSHF]).

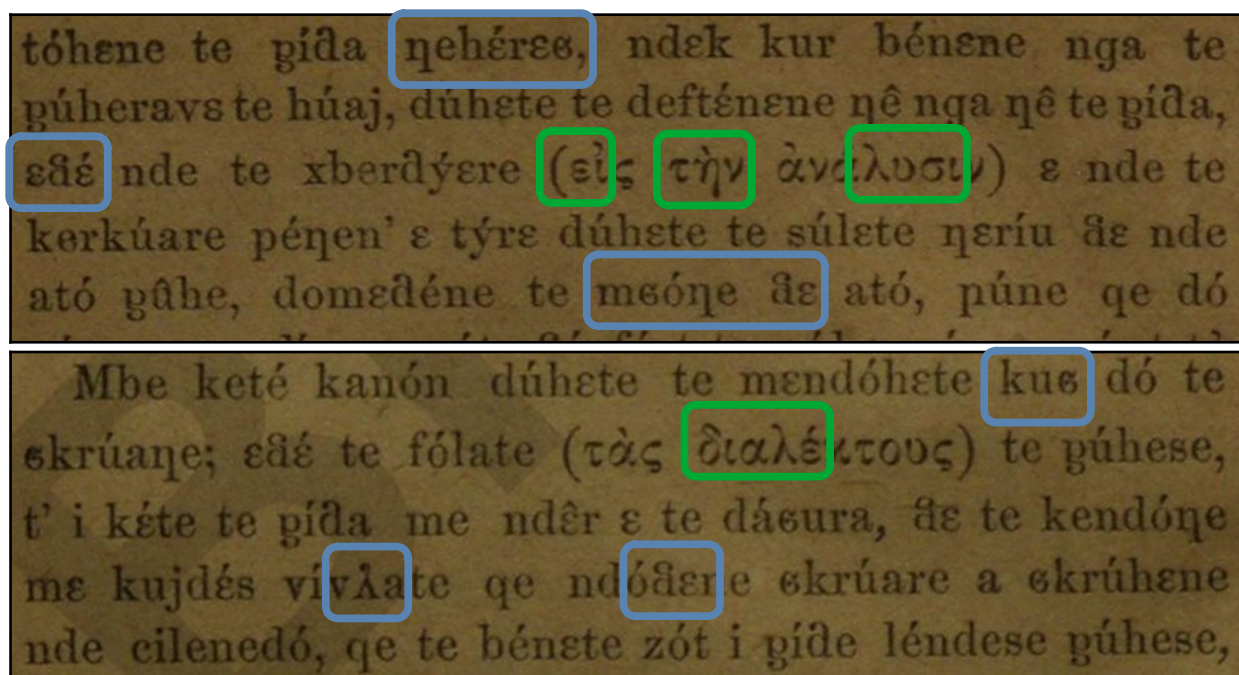


Figure 7. Çami, Gjirokastriti & Vreto (1888: viii). Greek glosses in a pre-Manastir Frashëri text, showing a contrast between Latin <ḁ ε λ η ɔ> (blue) and Greek <δ ε λ η σ> (green). Latin <p> vs Greek <ρ> for /r/ occurs later on the same page.

Individual letters

In the sample images for individual letters below, that for the proto-orthography on the left is taken from the Istanbul primer, *Alfabetare e Gluhësë shqip* (1879), those for the pre-Manastir orthography in the middle (the images with dark page backgrounds) are from Benusi (1890) and Vreto (1886), and that for the post-Manastir orthography on the right is from Papakristo (1911). Those are followed by cursive forms from Vreto (1886) and Papakristo (1911), and in lowercase by print italic forms from Frashëri (1888b).

Frashëri letter *Th th* <Θ ð>

Only the lowercase is requested, as the capital is covered by Greek Θ, or even Latin Θ.

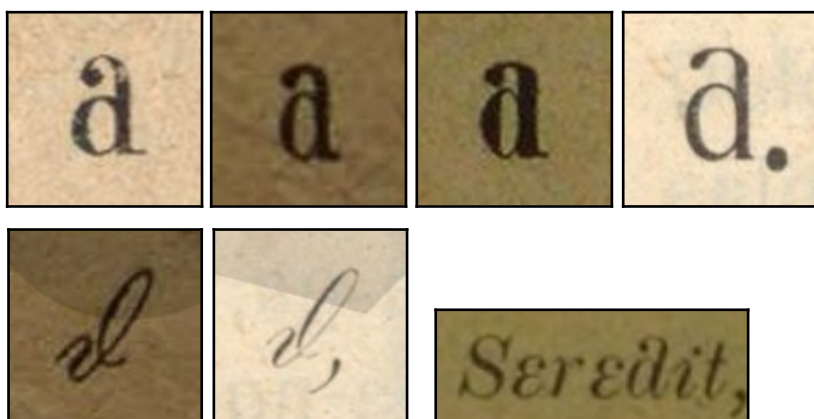


Figure 8. Print, cursive and italic forms of lowercase <ð> *th*.

Frashëri letter *Dh dh* <Ð ð>

Only the lowercase is requested, as the capital is covered by Latin *B* (though this is a bad semantic match).



Figure 9. Print, cursive and italic forms of lowercase <ð> *dh*.

eq. fren. tyrq. gerq. bulg. eembeł					
a	a	ā	α	a	ar
b	b	ب	μ.π	б	bar
c	tc	ت	τ	ц	cap
ç	tch	چ	τ	ч	çap
d	d	د	ν	д	daç
dh	dh	ذ	δ	Δ	dhê
e	e	ه	ε	e	eðe

Figure 10. Anon. (1912: 1). Although Frashëri <ð> (red) might be approximated by Cyrillic б, especially in its Serbian form <δ>, it contrasts with both Cyrillic б (green) and Greek δ (blue). (The column labels are: *Albanian, French [i.e. Western], Turkish, Greek, Bulgarian and example.*)

Frashëri letter Gj gj <Γ g>

Only the lowercase is requested, as the capital is covered by Greek Γ.



Figure 11. Print, cursive and italic forms of lowercase <f> → <g> gj. Graphically, both pre- and post-Manastir <g> is a rotated <ð> dh. Note that the cursive form did not change along with the print form. The italic example includes the capital.

g	g	g	g	gale
g	gh	g	g	garper

Figure 12. Anon. (1912: 1). Frashëri <g> (red) contrasts with Latin <g> (blue).

Frashëri letter *P p* <Π π>

Only the lowercase is requested, as the capital is covered by Greek Π.

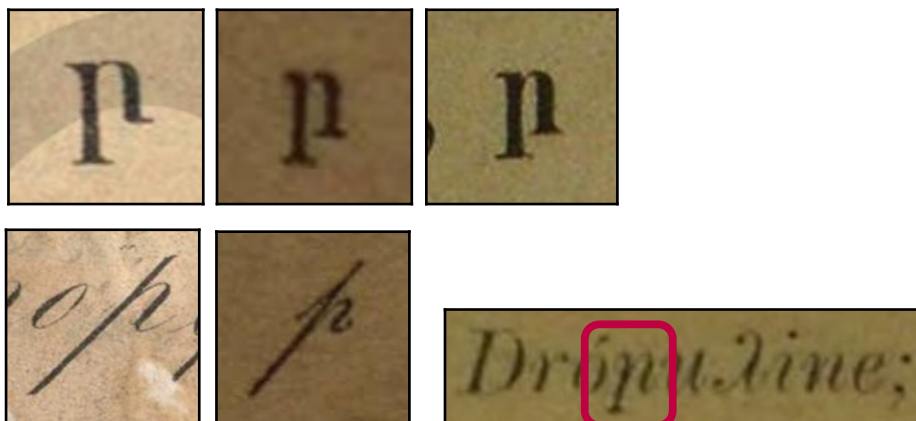


Figure 13. Print, italic and cursive forms of lowercase <π> *p*. The roman and print italic forms are an *n* with a long left leg; the cursive form has the ascender of a cursive *p*. The letter to the right of the print italic (circled in red) is a Latin lambda <λ>.

Frashëri letter *Ē ě* <P e ~ P ε>

Only the capital is requested, as the lowercase is inconsistent: Latin *e* before 1908 and *ε* after.

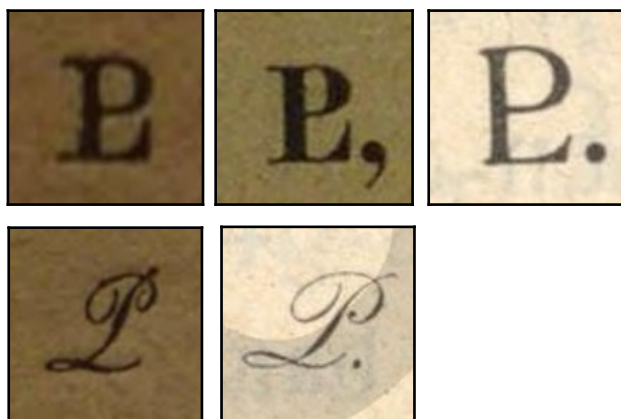


Figure 14. Print and cursive forms of capital <P> *Ē*. The roman form is the perfect inverse of *Dh*. As lowercase <e> is a closed <ε>, so its capital <P> is a closed <E>.

Frashëri letter *Sh sh* <C ɕ>

Both capital and lowercase are requested. Graphically the capital is an inverted *G* in most but not all documents. Although <C ɕ> may superficially resemble a Greek lunate sigma, that went out of use centuries earlier, so we believe that Frashëri *sh* is simply based on handwritten Greek, where lowercase *σ* typically has an open shape similar to <ɕ>, with the Frashëri capital as a large lowercase.

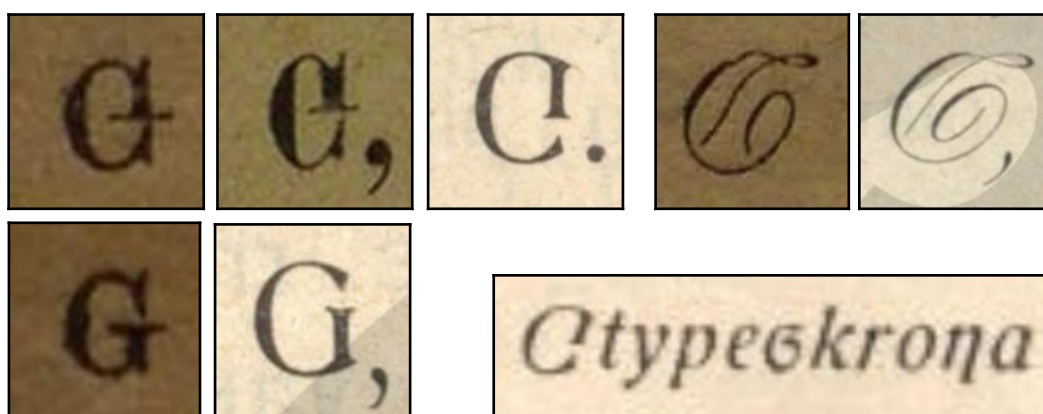


Figure 15. Print and cursive forms of capital <C> Sh. The print form is the perfect inverse of <G> G (bottom left). The cursive form, on the other hand, resembles a large cursive lowercase. (See next figure.) Bottom right: an italic form, a simple inclined C, from Figure 5, bottom left.

GKURTI				(Arb. Sefer. — Tyrqist Gubat.)	
Ar.	R.	V.	Dite	Emerate e ditëvet	
5	14	1	H.	Cen	Trifoni
6	15	2	M.	†	Ndenchasa e Iisu Kristit
7	16	3	M.	Cen	Simeoni
8	17	4	E.	Isidor	Pilusioti
9	18	5	P.	Agadi	dεgmorea
10	19	6	C.	Vukoli	Episk. i Smirnes

Figure 16. Vreto (1909: 6). Glyphic variation in capital <C> Sh. In the header, the Albanian and Turkish for 'February,' GKURTI and Gubat, have a glyph like a capital G with an extended serif, <G>. (Cf. capital G in the inset.) In the text the glyph is an inverted G, as in Figure 15, including <C.> as an abbreviation for *e shtunë* 'Saturday'. Because of this variation, *open sigma* is a more appropriate name for the Unicode character than a graphic description like *inverted G*.

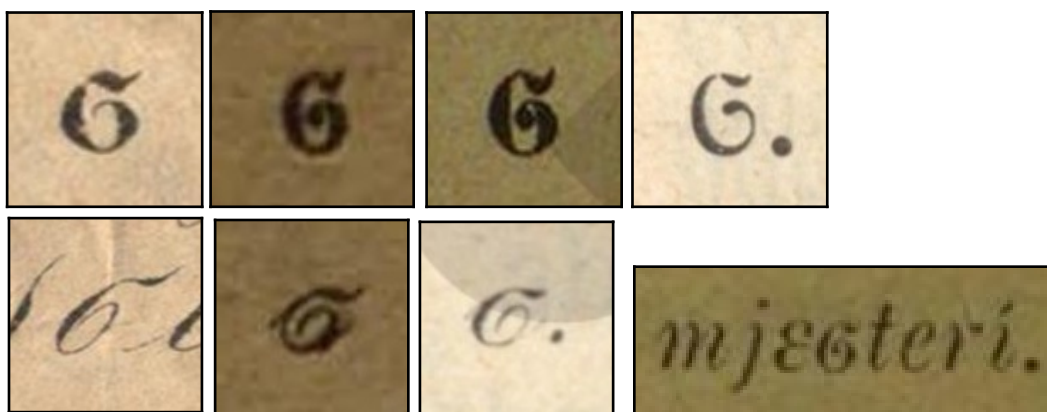


Figure 17. Print, cursive and italic forms of lowercase <ɐ> *sh*.

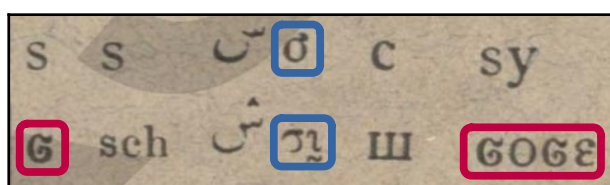


Figure 18. Anon. (1912: 1). The open lowercase Frashëri sigma <ɐ> (red) contrasts with the closed lowercase Greek sigma σ (blue) in the same text.

Frashëri letter *Xh xh* <ɣ ɣ>

No existing Unicode glyphs are close in form to this letter. Both capital and lowercase are requested.

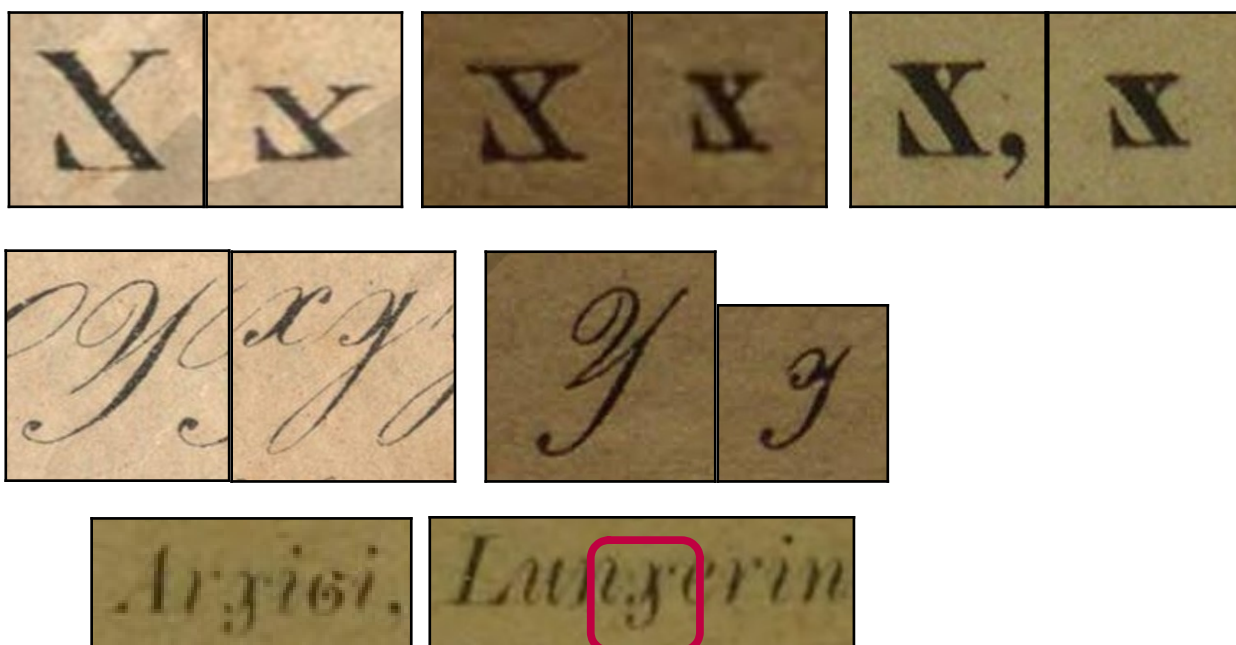


Figure 19. Print, cursive and italic forms of <ɣ ɣ> *Xh xh*. A graphic description of these forms is difficult, so we propose naming the characters *Latin letter xhe*.

**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 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 std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html.

See also std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html for latest Roadmaps.

A. Administrative

1. Title:	<u>Albanian Frashëri alphabet</u>		
2. Requester's name:	<u>Francesco Catoni, Kirk Miller</u>		
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):	<u>individual</u>		
4. Submission date:	<u>2026 June 12</u>		
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):			
6. Choose one of the following:			
This is a complete proposal:	<u>yes</u>		
(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):	<u>no</u>	
Proposed name of script:		
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:	<u>yes</u>	
Name of the existing block:	<u>Latin Extended-G</u>	
2. Number of characters in proposal:	<u>9</u>	
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 ☐	
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?	<u>yes</u>	
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document?	<u>yes</u>	
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?	<u>yes</u>	
5. Fonts related:		
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?	<u>Kirk Miller</u>	
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):	<u>SIL (Gentium Release)</u>	
6. References:		
a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?	<u>yes</u>	
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?	<u>yes</u>	
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)?	<u>no</u>	

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 www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database (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?	no
If YES explain	
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.)?	yes
If YES, with whom?	
Catoni is a member of the user community	
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:	
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)	orthography
Reference:	
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?	no
If YES, where? Reference:	
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?	no
If YES, is a rationale provided?	
If YES, reference:	
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?	no
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?	no
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
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?	no
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?	no
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?	no
If YES, reference:	
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?	no
If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters?	no
If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?	
If YES, reference:	

UnicodeData.txt

```
1 1DF9B;LATIN SMALL LETTER D WITH LEFT HOOK;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
2 1DF9C;LATIN SMALL LETTER D WITH LOOP STEM;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
3 1DF9D;LATIN SMALL LETTER GJE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
4 1DF9E;LATIN SMALL LETTER OPEN P;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
5 1DF9F;LATIN CAPITAL LETTER E WITH CLOSED TOP;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
6 1DFA0;LATIN CAPITAL LETTER OPEN SIGMA;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;;1DFA1;
7 1DFA1;LATIN SMALL LETTER OPEN SIGMA;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;;1DFA0;;1DFA0
8 1DFA2;LATIN CAPITAL LETTER XHE;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;;1DFA3;
9 1DFA3;LATIN SMALL LETTER XHE;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;;1DFA2;;1DFA2
```

+9