

## ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2 *N3517*

TITLE: Comments on Old South Arabian Names in N4034

SOURCE: Script Encoding Initiative, UC Berkeley

STATUS: Liaison contribution

ACTION: For consideration by WG2

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In document N4034, ballot comments on ISO/IEC 10646: 2003/PDAM 6.2, the Irish NB recommended NW Semitic names be adopted for Old South Arabian instead of those in the current ballot.

Earlier character proposals for Old South Arabian had set forth a number of options for names: N3309 advocated Arabic-based names, and N3296R proposed Ethiopic or Hebrew-based names. The latest proposal, N3395, stated that Latin-based transliterations as well as Arabic and North-West Semitic names have been used.

Use of transcribed consonant signs was favored by Peter Stein, one of the leading experts on Old South Arabian, who wrote (2 October 2007):

- > Here again, I would argue in favour of a designation of the letters
- > only by the transcribed consonant sign, but not by any borrowed (but
- > not
- > proved) Arabic or Ethiopic proper name.

Note: Peter Stein uses the notation s1, s2, and s3, for the different s-sounds, as have other specialists in Old South Arabian before him.

Alessandra Avanzini, who heads on the Corpus of South Arabian Inscriptions, added (7 September 2007):

- > As there's no oral tradition, the precise pronunciation of the
- > graphemes is unknown. The scholars mostly use the Arabic names of the
- > letters. The Option A [sic] in the second draft [N3296] should be ok
- > as well. The names following the Ethiopic alphabet are rarely > used.

As Dr. Avanzini's response demonstrates there is no consensus amongst users on the preferred name.

Hence, we strongly agree with the view put forward by Peter Stein, and recommend the names be retained as in the current ballot. However, in order to accommodate those preferring Arabic or North-West Semitic names, explicit aliases should be added (as listed below), with the following notice prepended to the nameslist:

Old South Arabian letter names follow common transliteration practice. Aliases are also listed below, with the NW Semitic name for the letter first and the Arabic name for the letter second on each line.

- 10A60 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER H1  
= he, heh
- 10A61 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER L  
= lamedh, lam
- 10A62 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER H2  
= heth, hah
- 10A63 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER M  
= mem, meem
- 10A64 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER Q  
= qoph, qaf
- 10A65 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER W  
= waw, waw
- 10A66 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER S2  
= shin, sheen
- 10A67 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER R  
= resh, reh
- 10A68 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER B  
= beth, beh
- 10A69 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER T1  
= taw, teh
- 10A6A OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER S1  
= samekh, seen
- 10A6B OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER K  
= kaph, kaf
- 10A6C OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER N  
= nun, noon
- 10A6D OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER H3  
= kheth, khah
- 10A6E OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER S4  
= sadhe, sad
- 10A6F OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER S3  
= sin, samekh
- 10A70 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER F  
= fe, feh
- 10A71 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER ALEF  
= aleph, alef
- 10A72 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER AIN  
= ayn, ain
- 10A73 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER D3  
= dhadi, dad

- 10A74 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER G1  
= gimel, jeem
- 10A75 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER D1  
= daleth, dal
- 10A76 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER G2  
= ghayn, ghain
- 10A77 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER T3  
= teth, tah
- 10A78 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER Z1  
= zayn, zain
- 10A79 OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER D2  
= dhaleth, thal
- 10A7A OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER Y  
= yodh, yeh
- 10A7B OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER T2  
= thaw, theh
- 10A7C OLD SOUTH ARABIAN LETTER Z2  
= thet, zah

Note: In N4034, the name SIN appears in the codechart on p. 16 of the Irish NB comments for 10A6F, but the name on p. 3 of the ballot comments is SE. SIN is used in the list above, but its use should be verified. Similarly, there was a request to double-check the West-Semitic names for 10A7C and 10A6A.