

**Type:** Working Group Document  
**Title:** Summary of discussions concerning Small Seal Script  
**Source:** Michel Suignard  
**References:** N5343R (Small Seal encoding proposal), N5355  
**Date:** 2026-03-16

## Summary

This document describes feedback concerning the Small Seal encoding proposal (n5343r) received by email from two parties on October 7<sup>th</sup> and the answer by experts from TCA and China on October 11<sup>th</sup> followed by a quick acknowledgement from Kushim Jiang on the same day.

Note: The term 'liding 隶定 form' used in this document is the practice of regularizing ancient Chinese character forms in clerical or regular script (the term literal meaning is 'clerical fixing'). Liding is often used in Chinese textual studies. See <https://www.wikiwand.com/en/articles/Liding> for more details. This is by contrast to the normalized or standard form which is typically based on the original publications of Shuowen Jiezi where the clerical characters appear in the explanation. Both forms may appear as 'modern' CJK for a given Small Seal character. More information about the normalized form is now provided in N5355.

### Original feedback from Kushim Jiang (姜兆勤) received October 7<sup>th</sup> 2025

I compared the latest data with my own and discovered over 1,700 differences in modern characters. I shall now list some potentially necessary modifications for the reference of China and TCA.

U+3D02C may be 𪛇  
U+3D0CA may be 𪛇  
U+3D32B should be 𪛇  
U+3D399 should be 簠  
U+3D8F0 should be 徽  
U+3DACE should be 鳩  
U+3DADE may be 難  
U+3DC5E may be 𪛇  
U+3E3D0 may be 亭  
U+3ECE8 should be 𪛇  
U+3EF90 should be 沿  
U+3F6BC may be 杵  
U+3F80A should be 𪛇

U+3FB97 should be 个

I do feel it is necessary to submit some UNC for certain modern characters, such as 𠄎 (U+3D901), 𠄎母口 (U+3D6AD), 𠄎歹羸 (U+3DB9E), and so forth.

### Original feedback from CheonHyeong Sim (沈天珩) also received October 7<sup>th</sup> 2025

I found an issue. The modern CJK value for U+3E9FC should be U+540E (后, meaning “queen”) instead of U+25416 (后, which is a variant of 石, meaning “stone”). Kushim also agrees that 后 would be correct.

### Answers received from Selena (魏林梅), TCA, October 11th

(by email)

China and TCA experts had a quick discussion about the issues Kushim Jiang and Shen Tianheng (CheonHyeong Sim) raised in their email ( 10/7 ). Selena (魏林梅) compiled experts' feedback and replied in the attached file [see below].

The principle we're going with is: When modern CJK characters and small seal script look the same, AND the pronunciation and meaning match, we'll use those first. If no matching form exists, we'll substitute with standard characters (正字).

As for whether we need to apply to IRG using UNC for characters that don't have corresponding small seal script forms - we can discuss that part later. Personally, I don't favor applying for encoding using "liding (隸定)" forms, unless the character actually appears in historical documents.

### Attached file

Reply to Kushim and Tianheng's Oct. 7 Email

China and TCA experts discussed the questions you raised. TCA also added a character that needs a Modern CJK entry modification. Selena compiled experts' feedback as below.

Our principle: When modern CJK characters and small seal script looks the same, AND the pronunciation and meaning match, we'll use those first. If no matching form exists, we'll substitute with standard characters (正字).

#### 1. Do not modify Modern CJK

No.	Kushim' opinion	the new source index	N5344R	China & TCA experts feedback
1.	U+3D02C may be 𠄎	TH-Y004		Don't change Modern CJK. It's incorrect to interpret the top-left part as "西". It shouldn't be replaced with "𠄎".

2.	U+3D399 should be 箬	TH-Y020	<p>3D399  <small>日 22  噉 566C</small>  <small>TH-Y020</small></p>  <p><small>D-00864</small></p>	<p>Don't change Modern CJK. There's no exact match in small seal script, so use the standard form instead.</p> 
3.	U+3D8F0 should be 徽	TH-02179	<p>3D8F0  <small>戠 87  殺 6BBA</small>  <small>TH-02179</small></p>  <p><small>C-02258 K-02185 D-02164</small></p>	<p>Don't change Modern CJK. There's no exact match in small seal script, so use the standard form instead.</p>
4.	U+3DADE may be 籬	TH-02654	<p>3DADE  <small>籬 119  鷓 2A140</small>  <small>TH-02654</small></p>  <p><small>C-02744</small></p>	<p>Don't change Modern CJK. There's no exact match in small seal script, so use the standard form instead.</p>
5.	U+3DC5E may be 勑	TH-03022	<p>3DC5E  <small>勑 135  朕 80B0</small>  <small>TH-03022</small></p>  <p><small>C-03118 K-03029 D-03009</small></p>	<p>Don't change Modern CJK. There's no exact match in small seal script, so use the standard form 正字 instead.</p>
6.	U+3E3D0 may be 肩	TH-04832	<p>3E3D0  <small>亨 251  克 514B</small>  <small>TH-04832</small></p>  <p><small>C-04991 K-04842 D-04819</small></p>	<p>Don't change Modern CJK. There's no exact match in small seal script, so use the standard form instead.</p> <p>小篆下方部件為「弓」形，非兩「尸」形疊加。</p>
7.	U+3EF90 should be 沿	TH-07647	<p>3EF90  <small>沿 410  沅 6C87</small>  <small>TH-07647</small></p>  <p><small>C-07934 K-07686</small></p>	<p>Don't change Modern CJK.</p> <p>This should be treated as a special case.</p> <p>3EF90 looks like "沿", but it's actually the archaic form of "沅" - this is to avoid confusion with the</p>

				small seal script form of "沿" 3EF90 形似「沿」，但為「沈」之古文，以避免與「沿」小篆形混淆使用。
8.	U+3F80A should be 𧈧	TH-09693	3F80A 𧈧 472 𧈧 867B TH-09693 C-10056 K-09708 D-09690	Don't change Modern CJK yet. Replace it with this form after WS 2024 encoding.

03418	142.0 虫	SAT-10653
	𧈧 虫	
	SC=9, FS=3, TS=15	

2. Agree to change Modern CJK. That makes sense.

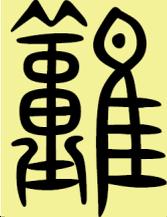
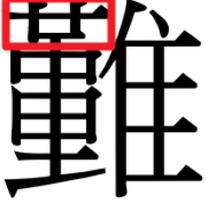
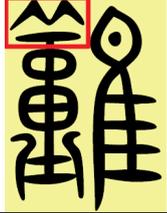
No.	Kushim' opinion	the new source index	N5344R	China & TCA experts feedback
1.	U+3D0CA may be 𧈧	TH-00189	3D0CA 王 6 璫 24A15 TH-00189 C-00193 K-00191 D-00188	Agree to change Modern CJK to "𧈧" U+24A19
2.	U+3DACE should be 鵠	TH-02639	3DACE 𧈧 119 𧈧 9D03 TH-02639 C-02729 K-02647 D-02624	Agree to change Modern CJK to "鵠" U+9D02
3.	U+3ECE8 should be 𧈧	TH-07006	3ECE8 𧈧 382 𧈧 70C8 TH-07006 C-07272 K-07017 D-06995	Agree to change Modern CJK to "𧈧" U+31ADD
4.	U+3F6BC may be 𧈧	TH-Y207	3F6BC 𧈧 467 𧈧 3B43 TH-Y207 C-09726 K-09394 D-09375	Agree to change Modern CJK to "𧈧" U+2DA61
5.	U+3D32B should be 𧈧	TH-00764	3D32B 𧈧 16 𧈧 5146 TH-00764 C-00795 K-00770 D-00759	Agree to change Modern CJK to "𧈧" U+20501 The small seal script looks like "兆", but pronunciation and meaning are different
6.	U+3FB97 should be 𧈧	TH-10549	3FB97 𧈧 516* 𧈧 4E2A TH-10549 C-10945 K-10566 D-10549	Change Modern CJK to "𧈧" U+4E01 "𧈧" doesn't quite match the seal script form, so use the standard character instead.

7.	TCA Addition	TH-01151	3D4BE 步 29* 壘 23957 	Change Modern CJK to "步 U+6B65" This seal script looks like "壘", but sound and meaning differ.
8.	天珩 Addition	TH-06321	3E9FC 后 335* 后 25416 	Change Modern CJK to "后 U+540E". This seal script looks like "后", but sound and meaning differ.

### 3. Research Notes: For Reference

modernCJK	小篆字型	比對結果
徽		
丩		不符合
 應作「U」型		不符合

modernCJK	小篆字型	比對結果
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		左上部件形不符合
		左下部件，CJK 缺少兩撇筆。

**Further feedback from Kushim Jiang (姜兆勤) received October 11<sup>th</sup> 2025**

I agree with the document (attached file above).

My previous reluctance to display modern characters on code charts stemmed primarily from the lack of a reliable source. However, after revising thousands of entries, the significance of these correspondences has become far clearer, and I now consider their inclusion on code charts to be entirely justified.

I wish to distinguish between ‘provided the liding 隶定 form’ and ‘provided the normalized form 正字 because the liding form was unavailable’, for instance by adding an asterisk after the character in the latter case.

**Michel’s note:** Not totally clear what the ‘normalized form 正字’ means in this context. TCA uses the term ‘standard characters (正字)’. A proper analysis of these determinations should probably be created and documented in the future. (See now n5355 which is an answer to that note).