

L2/06-271

TO: Unicode Technical Committee

FROM: Deborah Anderson

DATE: 1 August 2006

RE: Liaison report, Script Encoding Initiative, UC Berkeley Dept. of Linguistics

Ongoing Work:

Egyptian Hieroglyphs: A meeting of the IAE Computer Group (*Informatique et Egyptologie*) is being held at Oxford from 7-10 August. Michael Everson and Bob Richmond will give a presentation on encoding a basic set of the Egyptian hieroglyphs, and elicit feedback on a number of questions regarding the scope of the "Gardiner set," how to handle variants, numbers, etc. Two documents -- a draft of a proposal and sources -- are available at <http://www.evertype.com/informal.html>. (The tentative program and abstracts are accessible at: <http://www.newton.cam.ac.uk/egypt/ie2006/index.html>.)

Hieroglyphic Luwian: A preliminary proposal by Michael Everson has been written and is being reviewed by experts in the field.

Maithili: A graduate student from the University of Washington is working on a proposal for this script, hoping to complete it in 2006.

Tangut: Richard Cook traveled to Taiwan in June to work with experts at Academia Sinica on a Tangut proposal, which encompasses 5,805 new characters. Font and mapping data are ready for final proofing. A set of notes (with images) is available at: <http://unicode.org/~rscook/Xixia/>.

Naxi Pictographic and Syllabographic Scripts: Richard Cook also visited the Harvard-Yenching library on 31 May to view the Naxi texts and manuscripts there and to do preliminary research for the eventual encoding of Naxi. A brief report and images are available at: <http://unicode.org/~rscook/Naxi/>.

Bamum: Chuck Riley is travelling to Cameroon in August (2006) to do field research on the Bamum script, with the eventual goal of developing a script proposal. This work will be conducted in tandem with a project sponsored by the Endangered Archives program.

Meitei: We have received preliminary feedback from the user community on this proposal and will continue to get the remaining questions answered so this proposal can be completed.

Medieval (European) texts: A second proposal on punctuation needed for work by medievalists will be forthcoming.

Greek Papyrological symbols: The Center for Tebtunis Papyri at UC Berkeley will be working on a proposal for those symbols needed by papyrologists.

Alchemical symbols: “The Chymistry of Isaac Newton” project hosted by Indiana University Digital Library Program (<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/collections/newton>) will be working on a proposal for missing alchemical symbols.

Byzantine Epigraphic symbols: Maria Pantelia from UC Irvine's Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (TLG) will review the Byzantine symbols in their materials, and has agreed to work with Joel Kalvesmaki at Dumbarton Oaks in preparing a proposal on Byzantine epigraphic symbols.

Future Activities

Debbie Anderson will give a presentation on Unicode at the Linguistic Society of America annual conference in January 2007 in Anaheim, CA, and at the LSA summer institute, the latter of which will be held at Stanford in the summer of 2007.

Debbie has also submitted a funding proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities for work on unencoded scripts for work to take place during 2007–08. In preparing the NEH proposal, experts and users in 15 selected unencoded scripts have been contacted and have written that they are willing to participate in proposal creation and/or review.