

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
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Международная организация по стандартизации

Doc Type: Working Group Document
Title: Roadmapping early Semitic scripts
Source: Michael Everson
Status: Expert Contribution
Date: 2001-01-08

John F. Healy's *Early Alphabet* and M. O'Connor's "Epigraphic Semitic Scripts" (ch. 5 in Daniels & Bright's *Writing Systems of the World*) help us to determine how to encode early Semitic scripts. Tables in this document are taken from O'Connor. The UCS already encodes four of the six Semitic scripts in modern use. Of these, one is a Southern Linear script:

1 Ethiopic

Three are Northern Linear scripts:

- 2 Hebrew** (square (see table 5.5) and modern)
- 3 Arabic**
- 4 Syriac**, which encompasses *Estrangelo*, *Serto*, *Nestorian* (Eastern Syriac), *Jacobite* (Western Syriac), and *Manichaean*, *Christian Sogdian*.

The two scripts in modern use which are not yet encoded are also Northern Linear scripts:

- 5 Samaritan**
- 6 Mandaic**

The remaining historical Semitic scripts can be divided into three groups.

Southern Linear scripts (see table 5.7):

- 7 Old South Arabian**, which encompasses:
Epigraphic South Arabian
Later South Arabian
Thamudic Ethiopic
Consonantal Ethiopic

TABLE 5.7: Monumental Scripts of Yemen and Ethiopia (Garbini 1979, fig. 10)^f

	XXVII	XXVIII	XXIX	XXX
a	𐩇	𐩇	𐩇 𐩇 𐩇	𐩇 𐩇
b	𐩈	𐩈 𐩈	𐩈 𐩈	𐩈
g	𐩉 (9)	𐩉	𐩉	𐩉 𐩉
d	𐩊	𐩊	𐩊 𐩊	𐩊 𐩊
h	𐩋 (Y)	𐩋	𐩋 𐩋	𐩋
w	𐩌	𐩌	𐩌 𐩌	𐩌 𐩌
z	𐩍	𐩍	𐩍	𐩍
h	𐩎 (Y)	𐩎	𐩎 𐩎	𐩎 𐩎
b	𐩏 (K)	𐩏	𐩏	𐩏
t	𐩐	𐩐	𐩐 𐩐	𐩐
z	𐩑	𐩑	𐩑	𐩑 𐩑 𐩑
y	𐩒	𐩒	𐩒 𐩒	𐩒 𐩒 𐩒
k	𐩓	𐩓	𐩓 𐩓	𐩓 𐩓
l	𐩔	𐩔	𐩔 𐩔	𐩔 𐩔
m	𐩕	𐩕	𐩕 𐩕	𐩕 𐩕
n	𐩖	𐩖	𐩖 𐩖	𐩖 𐩖
s ¹	𐩗	𐩗	𐩗 𐩗	𐩗 𐩗
c	𐩘	𐩘	𐩘	𐩘 𐩘
g	𐩙	𐩙 𐩙	𐩙	𐩙 𐩙
p	𐩚	𐩚	𐩚	𐩚 𐩚
s	𐩛 (R)	𐩛	𐩛 𐩛	𐩛
d	𐩜	𐩜	𐩜	𐩜 𐩜
q	𐩝	𐩝	𐩝	𐩝 𐩝
r	𐩞	𐩞	𐩞	𐩞 𐩞
s ²	𐩟	𐩟	𐩟	𐩟
s ³	𐩠	𐩠	𐩠	𐩠
t	𐩡 (X)	𐩡	𐩡 𐩡	𐩡 𐩡
l	𐩢	𐩢	𐩢	𐩢

a. Col. XXVII, Epigraphic South Arabian script (forms in parentheses are of the North Arabic type, found in some older inscriptions); col. XXVIII, Later South Arabian script; col. XXIX, "Thamudic" type of Ethiopic script; col. XXX, Ethiopic consonantal script. The order of letters in this table is artificially based on the North Semitic order; for the ancient South Semitic order, see SECTION 68.



Phoenician encompasses:

- Proto-Sinaitic/Proto-Canaanite
- Punic
- Neo-Punic
- Phoenician proper
- Late Phoenician cursive
- Phoenician papyrus
- Siloam Hebrew
- Hebrew seals
- Ammonite
- Moabite
- Palaeo-Hebrew

Note that Jony Rosenne once suggested that we should not encode Phoenician because it is a glyph variant of Hebrew. This is not true, despite the one-to-one correspondence of character entities. In the Dead Sea Scrolls, for instance, where the Tetragrammaton is written with Palaeo-Hebrew letters, it is (in UCS encoding terms) the Phoenician script in which the Name is written.

In the chart on the next page, note that Linear Hebrew and Palaeo-Hebrew derive from Phoenician, while Square Hebrew (see table 5.5) and the modern script derive from Aramaic.

TABLE 5.1: The Earliest Linear Scripts (Garbini 1979, fig. 1)^a

	I	II	III	IV	V
·	κ κ		κκ	κ κ	κ
b	β β	β	ββ	β β	β
g	γ		γ		
d	Δ		Δ Δ	Δ Δ	Δ
h			Η Η		
w			Υ Υ		Υ Υ
z	Ζ		Ζ	Ζ	Ζ
h	Η Η	Η	Η Η	Η Η	Η Η
t			Θ		
y	Υ Υ		Υ Υ		Υ Υ
k	κ κ		κ		κ
l	λ	λ	λ λ	λ λ λ	λ λ
m		μ	μ μ		μ
u	υ υ	υ	υ υ		υ υ
s			Ϝ		Ϝ
.	ο ο ο	ο	ο	ο	ο
p			π π π		π
e	Ε Η Ε			Ε Ε	Ε Η
q	Ϟ		Ϟ Ϟ Ϟ		Ϟ Ϟ
r			Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ
s			Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ
t			Ϝ Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ

a. Col. I, Arrowheads from Lésanou; col. II, Byblos 7/65; col. III, Abiram inscription; col. IV, Inscriptions from Palastine; col. V, Genes calendar.

TABLE 5.3: Northern Linear Cursive Scripts (Garbini 1979, fig. 4)^a

	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI
·	κ κ		κ κ	κ κ κ	κ	κ
b	β	β	β	β β	β	β
g	γ	γ	γ	γ	γ	γ
d	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ Δ	Δ	Δ
h	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η
w	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ Υ	Υ	Υ
z	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ Ζ	Ζ	Ζ
h	Η	Η	Η	Η Η	Η	Η
t				Θ	Θ	Θ
y	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ Υ	Υ	Υ
k	κ	κ	κ	κ κ	κ	κ
l	λ	λ	λ	λ λ	λ	λ
m	μ	μ	μ	μ μ	μ	μ
n	ν	ν	ν	ν ν	ν	ν
s				Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ
.	ο	ο ο ο	ο	ο ο	ο	ο ο ο
p				π π	π	π
s				Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ
q	Ϟ Ϟ			Ϟ Ϟ Ϟ	Ϟ	Ϟ
r	Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ
s	Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ
t	Ϝ Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ

a. Col. VI, Mozia, 6th c. B.C.E., stela, Punic; col. VII, Malta, 3rd-2nd c. C.E., ostraca, Late Phoenician cursive; col. VIII, Sidon, 5th c. B.C.E., Phoenician; col. IX, Phoenician papyrus, 4th-3rd c. B.C.E.; col. X, Samaria, mid 8th c. B.C.E., ostraca, Hebrew cursive; col. XI, Aramaic papyrus, 465 B.C.E.

TABLE 5.4: Northern Linear Monumental Scripts (Garbini 1979, fig. 5)^a

	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI
·	κ κ	κ κ κ κ	κ	κ	κ κ κ
b	β	β β	β	β β	β
g	γ	γ	γ	γ γ	γ γ γ
d	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ Δ	Δ Δ Δ
h	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η Η Η
w	Υ	Υ Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ Υ Χ
z	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ Ζ
h	Η	Η Η	Η	Η Η	Η
t		Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ
y	Υ	Υ Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ Υ
k	κ	κ	κ	κ	κ
l	λ	λ λ	λ	λ λ	λ
m	μ	μ μ μ μ	μ	μ μ	μ μ
n	ν	ν ν ν ν	ν	ν	ν ν
s		Ϝ Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ
.	ο	ο	ο	ο ο	ο ο ο
p		π π	π	π	π π
s		Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ
q	Ϟ Ϟ	Ϟ Ϟ Ϟ	Ϟ	Ϟ	Ϟ Ϟ Ϟ
r	Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ
s	Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ
t	Ϝ Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ	Ϝ Ϝ

a. Col. XII, Siloam inscription, Hebrew; col. XIII, Hebrew seals; col. XIV, Meshu inscription, Moabite; col. XV, Ammonite script; col. XVI, Hasmonean coins and Abba inscription, 2nd-1st c. B.C.E., "Paleo-Hebrew" script.

