Proposal to Encode Coptic Letter Eie for Use in Textual Apparatus

Date: 2003-06-13

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A.   Administrative

1.	Title	Proposal to Encode Coptic Letter Eie for Use in Textual Apparatus
2.	Requester's name	SIL International (contact: Peter Constable)
3.	Requester type	Expert contribution
4.	Submission date	2003-06-13
5.	Requester's reference	
6a.	Completion	This is a complete proposal
6b.	More information to be provided?	Only as required for clarification.

B.   Technical—General

1a.	New Script? Name?	No
1b.	Addition of characters to existing block? Name?	Yes. Uncertain which block would be most appropriate. (Greek and Coptic? A new Coptic block? Letterlike Symbols block?)
2.	Number of characters in proposal	1
3.	Proposed category	A
4.	Proposed level of implementation and rationale	1 (no combining marks)
5a.	Character names included in proposal?	Yes
5b.	Character names in accordance with guidelines?	Yes
5c.	Character shapes reviewable?	Yes
6a.	Who will provide computerized font?	SIL International
6b.	Font currently available?	Yes
6c.	Font format?	TrueType
7a.	Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts, etc.) provided?	Yes

7b.	Are published examples (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of use of proposed characters attached?	Yes
8.	Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing?	No

C. Technical—Justification

1.	Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?	No
2a.	Has contact been made to members of the user community?	Yes
2b.	With whom?	Biblical Greek researchers, content providers of materials related to Biblical Greek
3.	Information on the user community for the proposed characters is included?	These characters would be used by scholars in the field of Biblical Greek studies.
4.	The context of use for the proposed characters	Corpora for Biblical Greek text research, software products providing Biblical Greek text content, scholarly publications (commentaries, journals, etc.). This is not widely used.
5.	Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?	Yes
6a.	Must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?	Preferably.
6b.	Rationale?	This should be kept with other characters used for Coptic.
7.	Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range?	n/a
8a.	Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?	No
8b.	Rationale for inclusion?	n/a
9a.	Can any of the proposed characters be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?	No
9b.	Rationale for inclusion?	n/a
10.	Does the proposal include the use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?	No
11.	Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties?	No

D. Proposed Characters

There is one proposed character:

Є	COPTIC LETTER EIE

E.   Other Information

This character is used by some New Testament scholars as a textual apparatus symbol denoting a family of Egyptian manuscripts of portions of the Greek New Testament. The use of this symbol is illustrated here:

INTRODUCTION

Where a consensus of the manuscripts representing the Egyptian texts exists, they are cited corporately under the siglum Coptic **Ⲉ**. But the composition of **Ⲉ** varies from book to book and can be learned from the information given just before the first apparatus on the initial page of each book. If a regularly cited manuscript reflects the Egyptian texts, but is extremely fragmentary, it is normally excluded from **Ⲉ** in the book in question. To do otherwise would have necessitated calling attention to its hiatus repeatedly. But if not included in **Ⲉ**, the reader can assume that its nonappearance in the apparatus indicates its testimony was not available.

A summary of the value of **Ⲉ** is:

Matthew, Mark	ℵBC
Luke	𝔭⁷⁵ℵBC
John	𝔭⁶⁶ ⁷⁵ℵBC
Acts	𝔭⁴⁵ℵBAC
Romans through 1 Thessalonians	𝔭⁴⁶ℵBAC
2 Thessalonians	ℵBA
1 Timothy through Philemon	ℵAC
Hebrews	𝔭⁴⁶ℵBAC
James	ℵBAC
1, 2 Peter	𝔭⁷²ℵBAC
1 John	ℵBAC
2 John	ℵBA
3 John	ℵBAC
Jude	𝔭⁷²ℵBAC
Revelation	ℵAC

In those books where **Ⲉ** represents just three manuscripts, this siglum is only used when all three agree. Where **Ⲉ** has four representatives, it is used where at least three agree. The reading of the other member is then given separately or cited in parentheses with a preceding **h**. (hiatus). Where there are five representatives of **Ⲉ** the siglum is only cited if four agree. The reading of the other witness is either given or a hiatus is indicated. If the reading of a manuscript at any point cannot be determined

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Figure 1. Coptic letter eie used for textual apparatus, Hodeges and Farstad, p. xvii.

Figure 2. Coptic letter eie used for textual apparatus, Hodeges and Farstad, p. 498.

F.   References

Hodges, Zane C., and Arthur L. Farstad, eds. 1982. *The Greek New Testament according to the majority text.* Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.