

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set UCS

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The Old Hanzi Expert Group held a group meeting in Harbin, China on 13th -15th of September, 2007 in prior to IRG#29. And recapped the last report at IRG#28 meeting and discussed open issues in details.

This report is organized as follows:

- **Summary of discussion at this meeting**
 - **Revised work plan for the development of Old Hanzi inscriptions repertoire.**
1. **Review of the document N1325 (Old Hanzi Expert Group Report at the IRG #28 Meeting) (no change)**
 2. **Review of the document N1336 (Old Hanzi Principles and References Version 3).**
 3. **Summary of discussion in this meeting**

Agenda was set on the proposal (N1346) brought up by Japanese delegacy, and Shuowen radical 101-180 of Oracle Bone inscriptions that were submitted by China and Taiwan respectively, according to the work project decided at the IRG28 Meeting.

Japanese delegacy's proposal N1346 was discussed in the meeting. In the proposal it stated that the foundation of ordering should be established on Yin-hsu chia-ku ko-tzu lei-chuan 《殷墟甲骨刻辭類纂》, edited by Yao Hsiao-sui(姚孝遂), which was developed from Yin-hsu pu-tzu tsung-lei 《殷墟卜辭綜類》 edited by Shima Kunio(島邦男) in Japan. In fact, the ordering method applied by the above two books is called “Natural Classification”. It is invented by Tang Lan(唐蘭), a researcher of Chinese ancient characters (Shima Kunio mentioned this point in his book). Tang Lan did not push “Natural Classification” to a full length because he is aware that there are some drawbacks to use natural classification for radical classification of Oracle Bone inscriptions. Examples are listed below.

Example 1

“have” 「有」: 𠄎 甲骨文 1289、 𠄎 甲骨文《殷契粹編》一三、
𠄎 Jin-Wen 金文《孟鼎》、
𠄎 Warring Kingdoms inscriptions 戰國文字《石經》、
𠄎 Warring Kingdoms inscriptions 戰國文字-簡帛
《信陽楚簡》、
𠄎 Small Seal 小篆《說文》

Example 2

“morning” 「晨」: 𠄎 甲骨文《殷契粹編》二五一、
𠄎 Warring Kingdoms inscriptions 戰國文字-簡
帛《楚帛書》、

𠄎 Warring Kingdoms inscriptions 戰國文字《古
璽》、
𠄎、𠄎 Small Seal 小篆《說文》

Hanzi has had a history of over three thousand years since Oracle Bone inscriptions. No matter Oracle Bone inscriptions, Jin-Wen, Warring Kingdoms inscriptions, Big Seal (including Zhou-Wen), Small Seal, Li style or Kai style, there exists a link of inheritance and they can not be divided without consideration. If one has enough understanding on the development of Hanzi it would not be hard to find out from the above examples that if using “Natural Classification” characters with identical sound or meaning but different shape will be scattered and are rather difficult to be unified. Furthermore, applying “Natural Classification” is insufficient. For example, in Yin-hsu chia-ku ko-tzu lei-chuan 《殷墟甲骨刻辭類纂》 there are more than one hundred characters that can not be classified into any radicals.

After thorough discussion at the meeting and we think in the field of Oracle Bone inscriptions there are always two different methods of ordering, Natural Classification or Shuowen. Both methods hold advantages and disadvantages. Natural Classification is more convenient for glyph search of Oracle Bone inscriptions but it has the disadvantage of unable to group variant Chinese characters, and it also can not be applied by the same classification method like some of the ancient characters Jin-Wen, Warring Kingdoms inscriptions and Small Seal. If ordering is done according to Shuowen, it is easy to group variant Chinese characters and can be applied by the same classification method like some of the ancient characters Jin-Wen, Warring Kingdoms inscriptions and Small Seal. However there is a drawback, ordering for characters not included in Shuowen has to be handled in a special way. IRG’s job on the classification of Old Hanzi covers a complete

classification on Oracle Bone inscriptions, Jin-Wen, Warring Kingdoms inscription and Small Seal. It is better to choose identical ordering method, and such objective can be reached only by following Shuowen ordering. Thus, in the meeting agreement was reached unanimously to continue following IRG's confirmed ordering principle, which means to use Shuowen ordering method to process Old Hanzi ordering including Oracle Bone inscriptions.

In the meeting, discussion was completed on Shuowen radical 101-180 of Oracle Bone inscriptions that were submitted by China(IRGN 1344) and Taiwan(IRGN 1343) respectively. Thus, it was closed according to plan.

4. Work plan

- (1) Next work project was also discussed in the meeting, and decided to complete Shuowen radical 181-260 of Oracle Bone inscriptions in next IRG meeting.
- (2) By 28 March 2008, complete the Oracle Bone inscriptions of the 180-260 radicals in Shuowen by all interested parties and submit the results to Prof. Li Guoying.
- (3) By 10 April 2008, Wei Lin-Mei(Selena) finishes the consolidation of all the submissions provided by all interested parties and email to all members of the Old Hanzi Expert Group.
- (4) From 11 April to IRG#30 2008, examination of the Oracle Bone inscriptions character table.
- (5) Before IRG#30, submit the commented Oracle Bone inscriptions

character table to IRG Rapporteur.

Appendix: A combined character table of Oracle Bone Inscriptions

Members attended the meeting were Li Guoying, Zhao Cheng, Dong Lianchi, Zhou Xiaowen, Chen Shuangxin, Zhao Fu, Wei Lin-Mei(Selena), Jung Bor-Sheng(鍾柏生), Yuen Kwok-wa(袁國華), Wang Xiao, Cao Ying .

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29 次會議古漢字決議（中文稿）

2007 年 9 月 13 日至 9 月 15 日古漢字專家組在中國哈爾濱市預先召開了 IRG#29 會議的小組會議。

會議收到日本代表團提出的提案（N1346）、中國和臺灣按照 IRG28 會議的決議確定的工作計畫提交的《說文解字》部首 101-180 的甲骨文字形。

會議討論了日本代表團提出的提案（N1346）。提案提出，應該把在日本島邦男《殷墟卜辭綜類》的基礎上發展起來由姚孝遂主編的《殷墟甲骨刻辭類纂》作為排序的基礎。其實以上兩書採用的排序方法，叫做「自然分類法」，是由中國古文字學家唐蘭先生所發明（島邦男書中已言之），唐蘭先生鑑於以「自然分類法」將甲骨文分部，並非全無缺點，故此沒有大力提倡。舉例說明如下：

字例 1 「有」： 甲骨文 1289、 甲骨文《殷契粹編》一三、
 金文《孟鼎》、 戰國文字《石經》、
 戰國文字-簡帛《信陽楚簡》、
 小篆《說文》

字例 2 「晨」： 甲骨文《殷契粹編》二五一、
 戰國文字-簡帛《楚帛書》、
 戰國文字《古璽》、
 晨、 晨小篆《說文》

漢字自甲骨文以來，已有超過三千的歷史，無論甲骨文、金文、戰國文字、大篆（包括籀文）、小篆、隸書，以及楷書，都有一脈相承、承先啓後的關係，不宜任意切割。對於漢字發展有足夠了解的話，便不難從上舉字例發現，如果採用「自然分類法」，音、義相同而字形不同的字，便會散置多處，難以統合。更何況即使使用「自然分類法」亦存在不足之處，以《殷墟甲骨刻辭類纂》為例，至少有一百個以上的字還是無法排入任何部首的。

會議經過充分的討論認為，甲骨學界歷來存在自然分類和按《說文解字》排序兩種不同的排序方法，兩種方法各有優缺點。自然分類法便於甲骨文自身的據形檢索，缺點是異體字不能類聚在一起，同時不能和金文、戰國文字、小篆等古文字採用相同的分類方法。按《說文解字》排序便於異體字的類聚，且可以和金文、戰國文字、小篆等古文字採用相同的分類方法，缺點是有個別《說文解字》未收的字排序需要特殊處理。IRG 的古漢字整理工作是要對包括甲骨文、金文、戰國文字、小篆在內的古漢字全部處理，最好的選擇是採用相同的排序方法，只有按《說文解字》排序才能實現這個目標。會議一致同意，仍舊按 IRG 已經確定的排序原則，即按《說文解字》排序處理包括甲骨文在內的古漢字排序。

會議討論完成了由中國(IRGN 1344)和臺灣(IRGN 1343)分別提交的《說文解字》部首 101-180 的甲骨文字形，按計劃完成了收字工作。

會議討論確定了下一步的工作計畫，決定到下次 IRG 會議完成《說文解字》部首 181-260 的甲骨文字形。