

New proposal to add LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W

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2026-09-10

The following character is proposed:

AB6F M LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W
• lowercase is 028D m

In [N5070 \(L2/19-213\) 2019-05-10](#) and [N5224 \(L2/23-134\) 2023-05-31](#), Michael Everson proposed the addition of the character LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W for use in works using casing for phonetic transcriptions derived from the International Phonetic Alphabet. This character was not added at the time, needing evidence of use from different sources (see [L2/23-164](#)).

In Italian, the capital turned W is used in graffiti, or in works imitating that style, as an abbreviation for *abbasso* ‘down with’; similarly the capital W is used as an abbreviation for *viva* or *evviva* ‘long live’. This has been documented and shown in dictionaries under the definition of *abbasso* or that of *W* such as Devoto & Oli (1967), Cusatelli (1980), Devoto & Oli (1995), Battaglia & Bàrberi Squarotti (2002) or the *Treccani Vocabolario*; or by description like in Zingarelli (2008).

The symbol can still be seen in period or current graffiti in Italy. It was particularly common in the early and mid-20th century, while the use of W is already attested in the 19th century.

Several book titles use the abbreviation for *abbasso* instead of the word, some library catalogues add a note indicating a turned W (*W capovolto* or *W rovesciata*) is used. For example, G. Padovan (1995) [*Abbasso*] *Sacchi* [*Viva*] *Sacchi* in with a turned W instead of *abbasso* and a W instead of *viva*, A. Fonzi & C. Fonzi (2012) [*Abbasso*] *i Bulli*, R. Piumini (2021) *Non fare la femminuccia!* [*Abbasso*] *gli stereotipi di genere* with a turned W instead of *abbasso*.

Fig. 1: Cusatelli (1980:3) showing LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W in the definition of *abbasso*.

abbasso, avv. in giù, di sotto, in basso luogo: *scenderemo* — ♦ *inter.* usata ellitticamente nelle intimazioni (meno bene di *giù*): — *le mani!*; espressione di odio e di rivolta: — *i tiranni!* (Nelle scritte murali spesso abbreviata con un W capovolto: M)

Fig. 2: Devoto & Oli (1968:3) showing LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W.

abbasso avv. **1.** Di sotto, giù: *vieni a., per favore*. **2.** Com., nelle intimazioni (*a. il cappello!*, ecc.) o quale invettiva o grido di protesta o rivolta (*a. il dittatore, a. la guerra!*). Nelle scritte murali viene indicato con la W rovesciata (M), che richiama la M di ‘morte’.

Fig. 3: ‘W, w’, *Vocabolario, Treccani* showing the LATIN SMALL LETTER TURNED w for lack of LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W.

Nell'uso comune, il segno della W maiuscola è simbolo dell'interiezione *viva*, *ewviva*, come grido di acclamazione e di esultanza (mentre lo stesso segno capovolto, M, che può anche rappresentare la M di *morte*, è simbolo di *abbasso*).

Fig. 4: Photography by G. Dall’Orto of a partially covered fascist mural inscription from 1943-1945 on a wall of 20 Piazza Giuseppe Garibaldi, Pallanza VB, Italy, showing the LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W for *abbasso* in *Abbasso Badoglio, Abbasso i traditori del PNF*.



Fig. 5: Covers of Padovan (1995), Fonzi & Fonzi (2012), Piumini (2021) showing LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W used for *abbasso*.



While digital documents currently make do with text formatting (rotating the capital W) or character substitution (using the lowercase ʍ, sometimes are a larger font size to mimic the uppercase), these solutions can be troublesome and prevent exchange.

Other similar epigraphic logographs, based on geometrically transformed letters, have already been encoded for Latin:

- Ɔ A7FB LATIN EPIGRAPHIC LETTER REVERSED F
= filia (daughter), femina (woman, female)
- Ɔ A7FC LATIN EPIGRAPHIC LETTER REVERSED P
= puella (girl)
- Ɔ A7FD LATIN EPIGRAPHIC LETTER INVERTED M
= mulier, matrona (married woman)

Historically there has been very little use of the LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W in orthographic or phonetic systems. Besides the few examples in Everson 2023 (N5070 and N5224) showing uses of it in a bicameral adaptation of IPA, there is an anecdotal example in two pamphlets from 1704 and 1710 by John Wild (Gon Wɪld) proposing a phonetic alphabet for English using several turned letters.

Fig. 6: Carroll 2023 from N5224 showing LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W in a non conventional bicameral IPA phonetic transcription.

mamd (zwɛlz ʃi: k, ʃð hət dei meɪd
ɪd), ʍðrð ʒr vmeɪkɪŋ a deɪzi-tʃem wɒ
pɪkɪð deɪzɪz, ʍ sɒnli a Ɔart Ræbɪt

Fig. 7: Eagle 2022 from N5224 showing LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W in a non conventional bicameral IPA phonetic transcription.

θum. Ɔan jɪns hɜr rɪŋ'b
ɑr 'feɪrle 'supəlt, ʃi: bɪts teɪ,
ʒəst. Ɔ kud 'wɒdʒər hɜr prɜ:
rɪ: wuks 'rəɪdɪn at 'feftɪ məɪl :
wɪʃ Kləɪd ən 'lʌθo:ɪn kud

Fig. 8: Wild 1703 showing LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W in an original phonetic orthography.

Viz. Ɔèp, Ɔod, Ɔi, Ɔi, Ɔaa, Ɔaa, Ɔlih;
also Ɔaun, Ɔum; and Ɔir, Ɔed, Ɔlejr. For

Fig. 9: Wild 1710 showing LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W in an original phonetic orthography.

if wɪl do Ɔis fevɪ ʃu: Ɔis rai wɪl m
Men wɪl Ɔav Freɪz & muni Ɔe woerld
nɪt lix up aol Ɔis Ɔuni : rest iz Ɔe oon
Wɪt plæzed wɪl aur Ɔiaɪa : Men Ɔe de

Character properties

028D;LATIN SMALL LETTER TURNED W;Ll;0;L;;;;N;;;AB6F;;AB6F
AB6F;LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W;Lu;0;L;;;;N;;;;028D;

Confusables

In some styles where the letter is based on a capital W shaped as two connected V letters (W) rather than two interlaced V letters (Ŵ), the character is confusable with M U+005D LATIN CAPITAL LETTER M.

References

Epigraphic logograph:

- S. Battaglia & G. Bàrberi Squarotti (2002) *Grande dizionario della lingua italiana*, vol. XXI. Torino : Unione tipografico-editrice torinese.
- G. Cusatelli (1980). *Dizionario Garzanti Della Lingua Italiana*. Milano: Aldo Garzanti.
- G. Devoto & G.C. Oli (1967). *Vocabolario illustrato della lingua italiana*. Vol. 1. Firenze: Le Monnier.
- G. Devoto & G.C. Oli (1995). *Il dizionario della lingua italiana*. Firenze: Le Monnier.
- ‘W, w’, *Vocabolario, Treccani*, <<https://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/w-w/>>.
- N. Zingarelli (2008). *Vocabolario della lingua italiana: Il nuovo Zingarelli minore*. 14th ed. Zanichelli.

Orthographic uppercase:

- Lewis Carroll (2014). *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland in the International Phonetic Alphabet: ‘Ælisiz Òd’ventfəz in ‘Wəndələænd*. Cathair na Mart: Evertime.
- Andy Eagle (2022). *Written Scots in Scotland and Ulster: A review of traditional spelling practice and recent recommendations for a regularized orthography*. “Corpus Textuum Scotiorum” 2, Dundee: Evertime.
- G.W. [John Wild] (1703). *Magazine, or, animadversions on the English spelling*.
- John Wild (1710). *Notiaam Printia perfected, Spelia Confmat, Gramr Complai, Gulı 31. 1710. For Gon Wıld ov Litlæc [= Nottingham Printing Perfected, Spelling Consumate, Grammar Complete, July 31, 1710. For John Wild of Littleleek]*.

Non exhaustive list of books with turned W for *abbasso* in their title:

- P. Albani & D. Longo (2011). *[Viva] o [abbasso]: Parole controverse*. Pistoia: Gli Ori.
- M. Carulli (2017). *[Abbasso] Lega Nord. Tùmass. Fumetto del Sud*. Tabula Fati.
- P. Crecchi (2011). *[Abbasso] l’Italia, [Viva] l’Italia*. Genova: De Ferrari.
- P. Dupasquier (1998). *[Abbasso] la tivù*. Trieste: EL.
- G. Ferri (2016). *[Abbasso] i muri!* Minedition.
- A. Fonzi & C. Fonzi (2012) *[Abbasso] i bulli*. Milano: Ponte alle Grazie.
- S. Lopez Nuñez (1999) *[Abbasso] il fassio : la satira politica nel ventennio*. Milano: Baldini & Castoldi.
- A. Maltes (1952). *[Abbasso] i preti*. Edizioni Paoline.
- L. Mangini (1977). *[Abbasso] tutti, [Viva] noi*. Luciano Pandolfi Alberici editore.
- A. Mazzi (2004) *[Abbasso] Pinocchio*. Mondadori.
- M. McHugh, C. Malerba (2006) *[Abbasso] la dieta! 365 ragioni per mangiare di tutto e di più!* Edicart.
- G. Padovan (1995) *[Abbasso] Sacchi [Viva] Sacchi*. Milano: Sperling & Kupfer.
- R. Piumini (2021) *Non fare la femminuccia! [Abbasso] gli stereotipi di genere*. Manni.
- G. Wolinski (2002). *[Abbasso] l’amore*. Mare Nero.

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646

A. Administrative

1. Title:	<i>New Proposal to add LATIN CAPITAL TURNED W</i>	
2. Requester's name:	<i>Denis Moyogo Jacquerye</i>	
3. Requester type:	<i>Individual contribution</i>	
4. Submission date:	<i>2026-07-15</i>	
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):		
6. Choose one of the following:		
This is a complete proposal:		<i>Yes</i>
(or) More information will be provided later:		

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:		
a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):		<i>No</i>
Proposed name of script:		
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:		<i>Yes</i>
Name of the existing block:		
2. Number of characters in proposal:		<i>1</i>
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):		
A-Contemporary ☒ B.1-Specialized (small collection) ☐ B.2-Specialized (large collection) ☐		
C-Major extinct ☐ D-Attested extinct ☐ E-Minor extinct ☐		
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic ☐ G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols ☐		
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?		<i>Yes</i>
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?		<i>Yes</i>
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?		<i>Yes</i>
5. Fonts related:		
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?		
	<i>Denis Moyogo Jacquerye</i>	
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):		
	<i>Denis Moyogo Jacquerye</i>	
6. References:		
a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?		<i>/</i>
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?		<i>Yes</i>
7. Special encoding issues:		
Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?		
	<i>/</i>	

C. Technical – Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?	Yes
If YES, explain: <i>This character has previously been proposed in N5070 (L2/19-213) 2019-05-10 and N5224 (L2/23-134) 2023-05-31.</i>	
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?	No
If YES, with whom?	
If YES, available relevant documents:	
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?	Yes
Reference:	
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)	Common
Reference:	
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?	Yes
If YES, where? Reference:	
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?	Yes
If YES, is a rationale provided?	No
If YES, reference:	
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	No
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?	No
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?	
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character?	Yes
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	Yes
If YES, reference:	
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?	No
If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?	
If YES, reference:	
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?	
If YES, reference:	
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?	No
If YES, describe in detail:	
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters?	No
If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?	
If YES, reference:	

UnicodeData.txt

654	028D;LATIN SMALL LETTER TURNED W;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1	028D;LATIN SMALL LETTER TURNED W;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;AB6F;;AB6F
2	AB6F;LATIN CAPITAL LETTER TURNED W;Lu;0;L;;;;;N;;;028D;
+2	-1