

Voynich MS Super Transliteration Alphabet (STA)

First release version 1

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Introduction

The term “Super Transliteration Alphabet” is used to describe a transliteration alphabet for the Voynich MS that is a superset of all alphabets that have been published up to 2020. The most important of these are:

- “FSG” as used by Friedman’s Study groups
- “Currier” as defined by Prescott Currier
- “Eva”, either basic or extended
- “v101”

For more information about these alphabets, see: <http://www.voynich.nu/transcr.html>

In particular the extended Eva and v101 alphabets include a large number of rare or special characters, and the “STA” definition includes all of these.

The STA alphabet is subdivided into character “Families”. A STA code consists of:

- An upper-case character (A-Z) that represents the family, followed by:
- A digit or a lower-case character that identifies the family ‘member’

By convention, the number 0 is reserved, while 1-9 are used for the most common symbols. Rare symbols have a lower-case character to identify the family member.

The following table provides the definition of the various families.

STA Families table.

Family code	Description	Examples	Comment
A	“Circles”	o a 9	These are the most frequent characters. They are combined into one family because intermediate forms exist.
B	“Cross-overs”	8 x 8 9	This excludes the vertical bars that also tend to have a cross-over, and the 4-shape that is very distinct.
C	Inverted S-shapes	2 2	
D	4 – shape	4	

E	Single i	˘	
F	Double i	˘ ˘ ˘	
G	Triple i	˘ ˘ ˘	
H	Even more i's	˘˘˘	
J	Single c	˘	
K	Double c (without plume)	˘ ˘	May have a connecting bar at the top.
L	Double c (with plume)	˘˘	May have a connecting bar at the top.
M	Triple c	˘˘˘	May have a connecting bar at the top, but if so, this must connect all three. May have a plume.
N	Even more c's	˘˘˘˘	Without a connector at the top (these don't exist in the MS).
P	Single vertical bar	ꝑ ꝑ	
Q	Double vertical bar	Ꝓ Ꝓ	
R	Single vertical bar with pedestal (part 1 of 3)		Those that are shorter than the T family, as they miss a character on either side
S	Double vertical bar with pedestal (part 1 of 3)		Those that are shorter than the U family, as they miss a character on either side
T	Single vertical bar with pedestal (part 2 of 3)	ꝓ ꝓ	The traditional ones with one character on either side of the gallows
U	Double vertical bar with pedestal (part 2 of 3)	Ꝕ Ꝕ	The traditional ones with one character on either side of the gallows
V	Single vertical bar with pedestal (part 3 of 3)		Those that are longer than the T family
W	Double vertical bar with pedestal (part 3 of 3)		Those that are longer than the U family
X	Unclassifiable	˘ ˘	
Z	-	? ???	Used for unreadable characters