# The Thot Sign List (TSL) & hieroglyphic encoding

St. Polis & S. Rosmorduc

## A bit of history

- 1984-1988: the *manuel de codage* 
  - both for printing and databases: there is a strict distinction made between grapheme and graphic variant
- Evolution and uses: mainly printing (hieroglyphica)
- Basis: Wb. archive, but also existing fonts
- No published documentation

Hommes debout associés à un signe:

A168 📆 📆

A169

A170



### Problems for font designers

What should I draw?

• Example: at some point, various interpretations of the sign. Monkey, Hippo? (in fact, panther from a sign drawn by Chassinat)

Lack of description A239





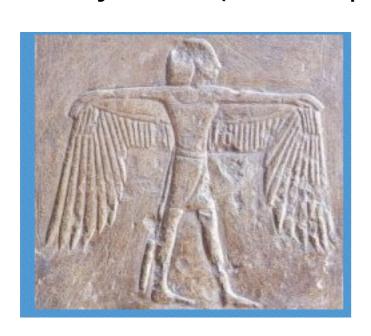
basically: god ihy playing sistrum child lock, naked or clothed?

### Is this really my sign?



### EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPH HG-A0340

 without description: is it the same as this sign from Abydos (word pšš, extend (arms)):



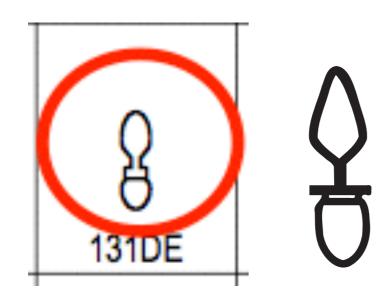


### 196

Original MdC
Hieroglyphica

Value = jnd, so the snake is probably a cobra after all

# Which graphical features are important?

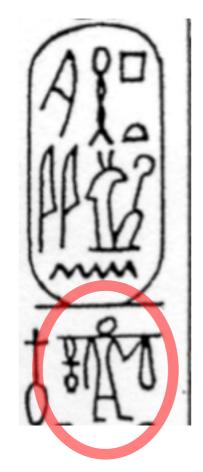


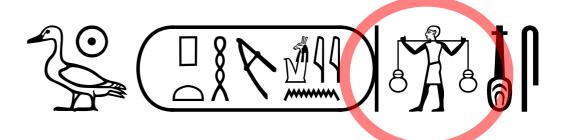
looses the sign idea: tree growing out of a pot.

### Problems for encoders

# Choosing the right sign, or drawing a new one?





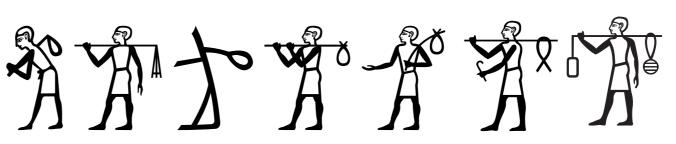


Porteur d'eau A344



Codage « normalisé »

Variantes du berger : A33, A33A... et A383



### Dilemma

• Is the same as A419

## A very rich catalogue

- The šsp sign (O 42)
- many Mdc variants

Are they good enough?

## A structured catalogue?

### The šsp sign (O 42)

P. Chester Beatty 1, pl. XXII, I. 2



## Chiefs and prisoners

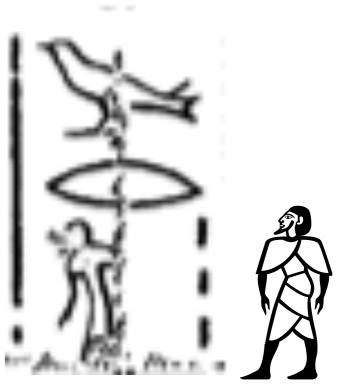






Medinet Habou I, 28,47

What are the significant features?

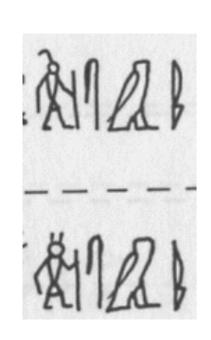




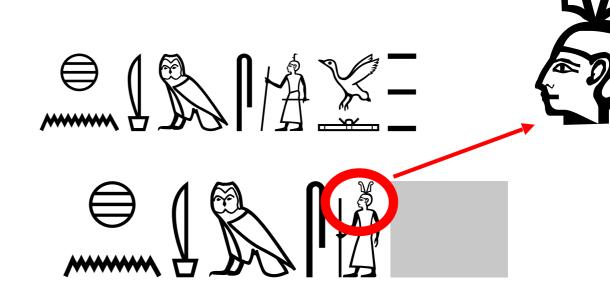
## Encoding hieratic?

• *hnms* 'friend'





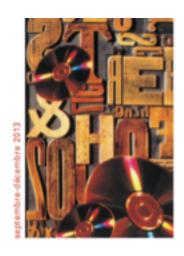
In the Ramsès corpus:



### Interim conclusions

- We need a description
- We need more **structure**: separate essential points from trifles
- We need to specify more precisely what a variant is

# Towards the Thot Sign-List (TSL)



## Document numérique

RSTI série DN · Volume 16 - nº 3/2013

### Gestion informatisée des écritures anciennes

sous la direction de

Christine Bénévent Rémi Jimenes Guillaume Sarah

2013

### Réviser le codage de l'égyptien ancien

### Vers un répertoire partagé des signes hiéroglyphiques

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RÉSUMÉ. Nous proposons de réviser le codage de l'égyptien ancien qui repose sur un standard nommé « manuel de codage » (1988) ne répondant pas aux besoins actuels dans la création de corpus hiéroglyphiques. Une analyse des 60 000 graphies du corpus Ramsès nous permet de faire deux propositions concrètes concernant, d'une part, les principes présidant à l'encodage des graphies hiéroglyphiques dans les corpus annotés et, d'autre part, la nécessaire refonte du répertoire des signes hiéroglyphiques.

ABSTRACT. Based on an analysis of the 60 000 spellings found in the Ramses corpus, we show that the encoding scheme that is used for hieroglyphic texts, known as the Manuel de Codage (1988), is problematic for the development of text corpora in general. We consequently (1) argue in favour of basic principles that should be followed when encoding hieroglyphic texts in the framework of corpus projects, and (2) suggest guidelines for a new encoding scheme, especially with respect to the structure of the sign-list.

MOTS-CLÉS: hiéroglyphes, encodage, Unicode, liste de signe, égyptien ancien.

KEYWORDS: hieroglyphs, encoding, Unicode, sign-list, Ancient Egyptian.

# Towards the Thot Sign-List (TSL)

- PhD fellowship of 4 years (Anneliese Maier Jean Winand)
- Collaboration between the TLA team(s) and Ramses
- Outcome: a structured hieroglyphic sign-list for annotated corpora

# Towards the Thot Sign-List (TSL) (TSL) (12/16-079

Date:2016-04-11

Title: Preliminary draft for the encoding of an extended Egyptian Hieroglyphs repertoire

### Source: Michel Suignard

#### Database design

Along with this document, a new database is being created to associate each hieroglyph with ancillary data. The goal is to offer an online tool similar to the Unihan database already available on the Unicode web site. Each Egyptian Hieroglyph will have an entry with a number of fields listed in two groups:

- 1) Catalog Information with the following fields:
  - Primary catalog number This is the reference used in the character names in the extended blocks in the HG-zzzzz
  - IFAO in the form of page number, number in page
  - Cauville in the form of page number, order in page
  - · Gardiner original Gardiner catalog identifier
  - Kurth in the form of group number, page number, number in group,
  - Val Phon -
  - Hieroglyphica catalog identifier
  - Hieroglyphica extended catalog identifier
  - Unikemet catalog identifier
  - Douros catalog identifier
- Other Data
  - Description free form description of the glyph
  - Components list of all glyph components
  - Determinative typically indicates end of word and meaning
  - Logograph (or logogram) indicates word
  - Phoneme (or phonogram) indicates one or more sound
  - Variants similar entries

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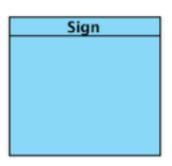
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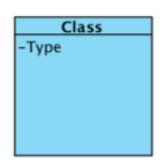
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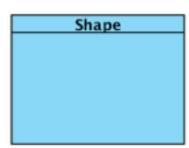
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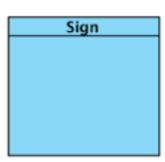
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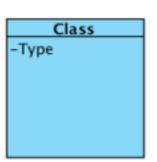
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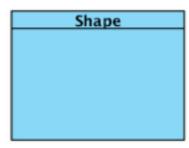


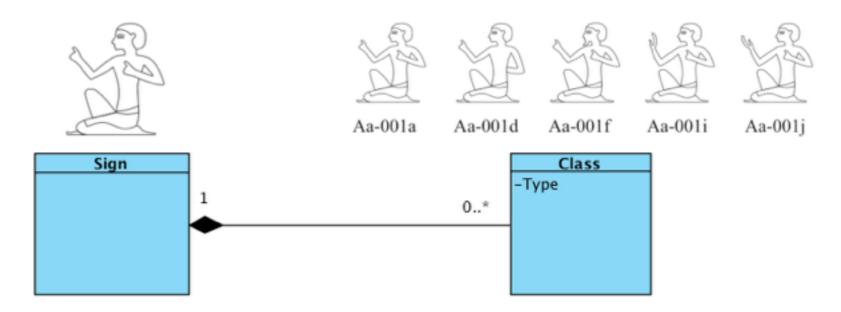


### Dictionnaire hiéroglyphique, inventaire des hiéroglyphes et Unicode

#### Dimitri Meeks

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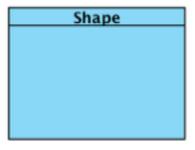


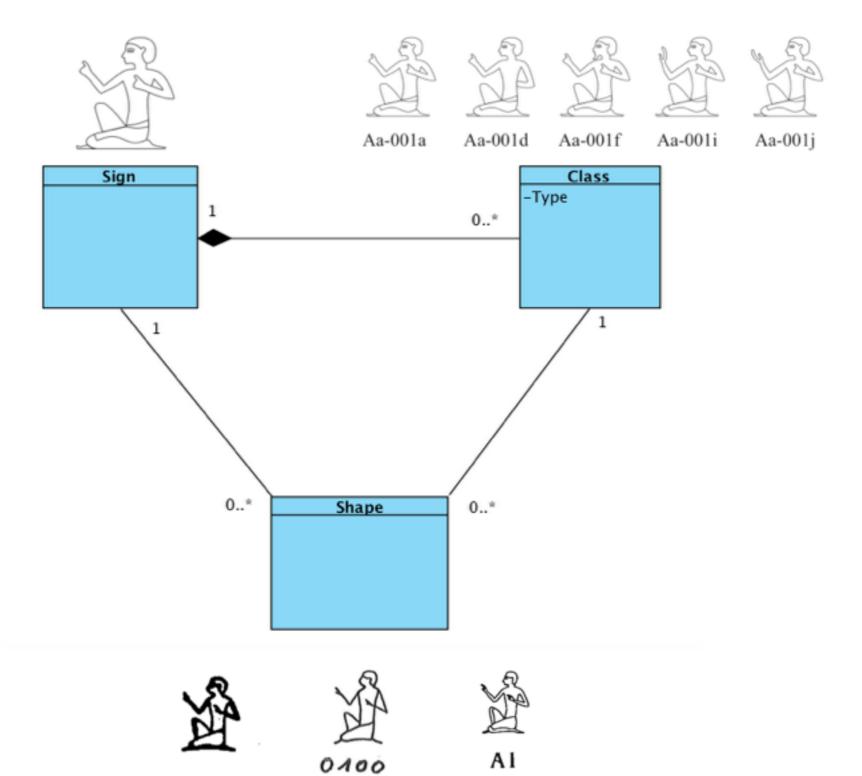


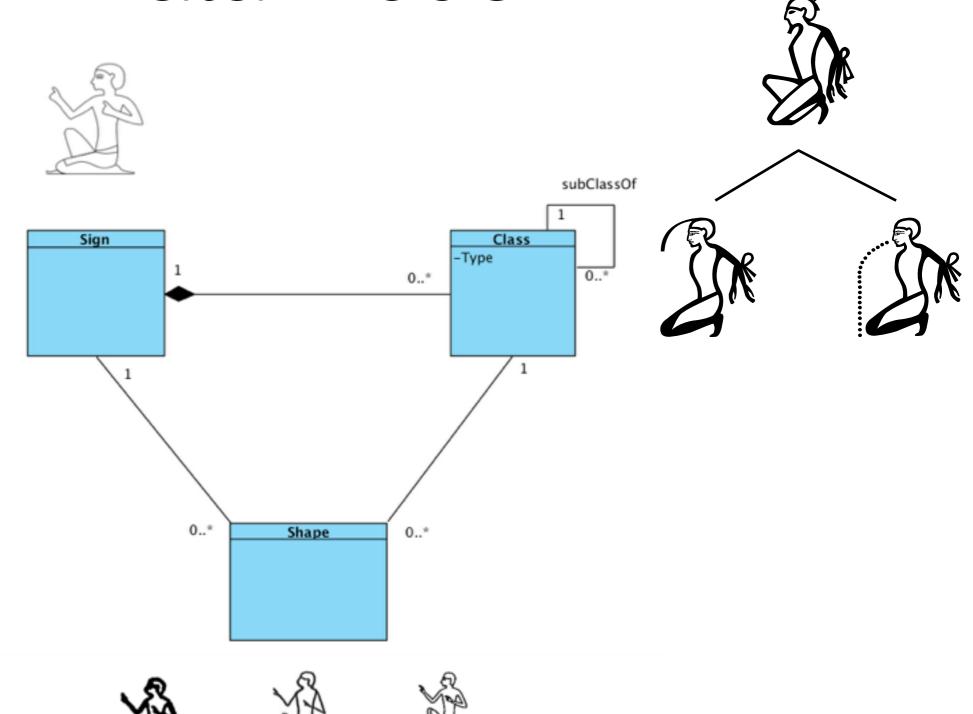
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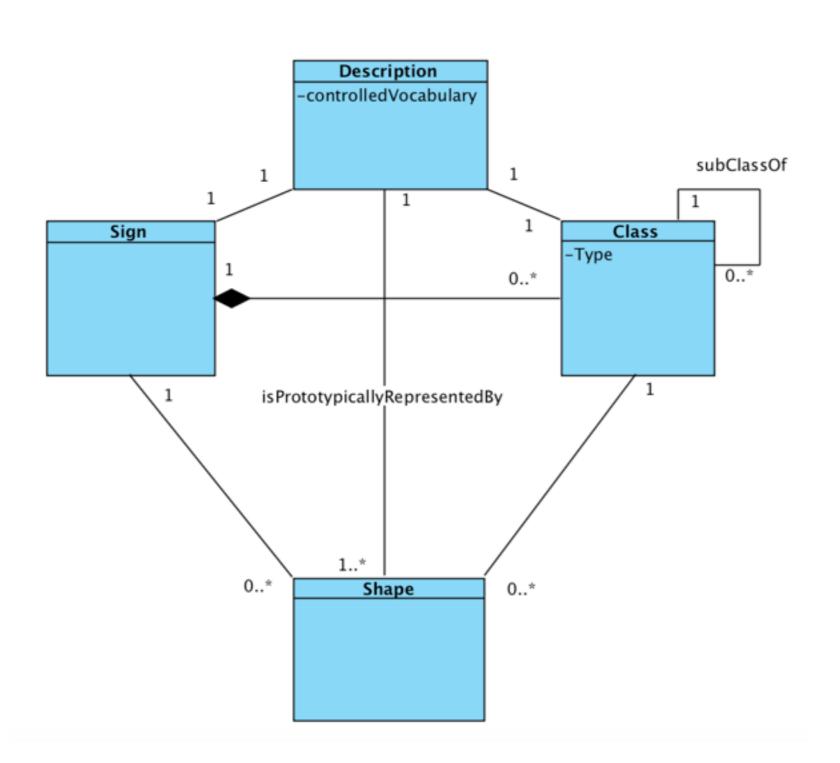
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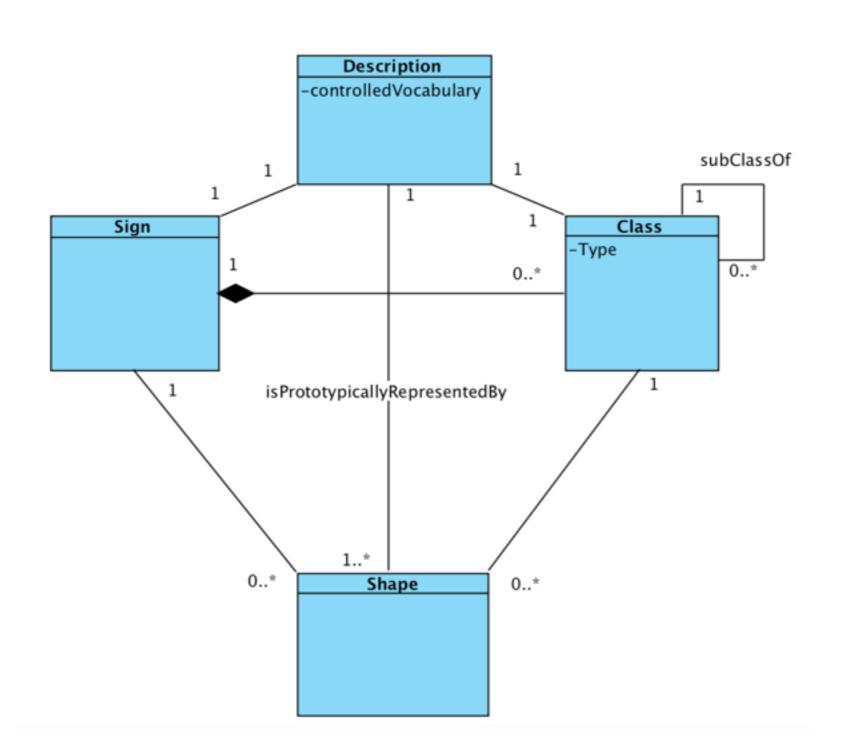
CNRS. Directeur de recherche honoraire 19 rue Gamay, 34980 Saint-Clément-de-Rivière. France dimitri.meeks@wanadoo.fr 2013

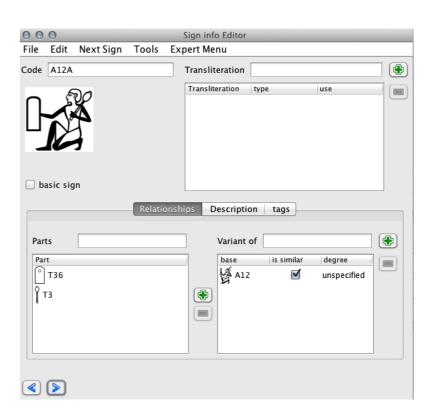




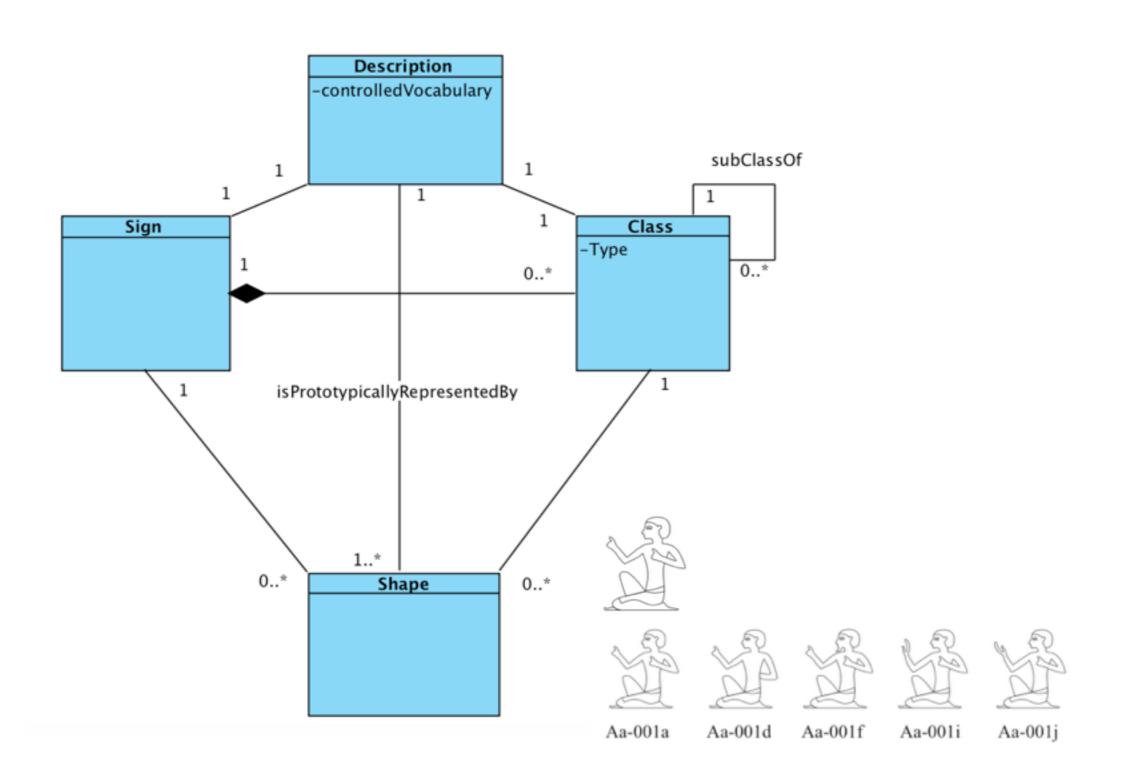


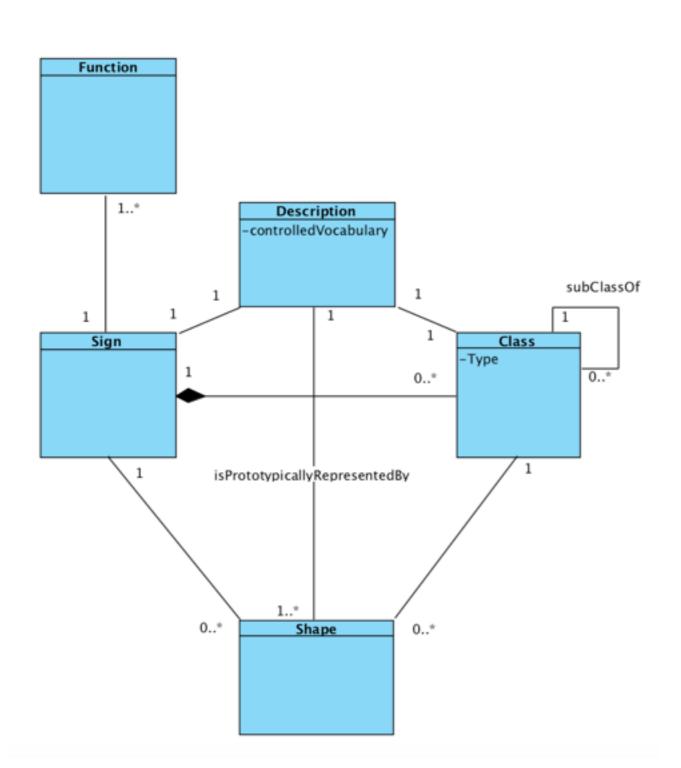


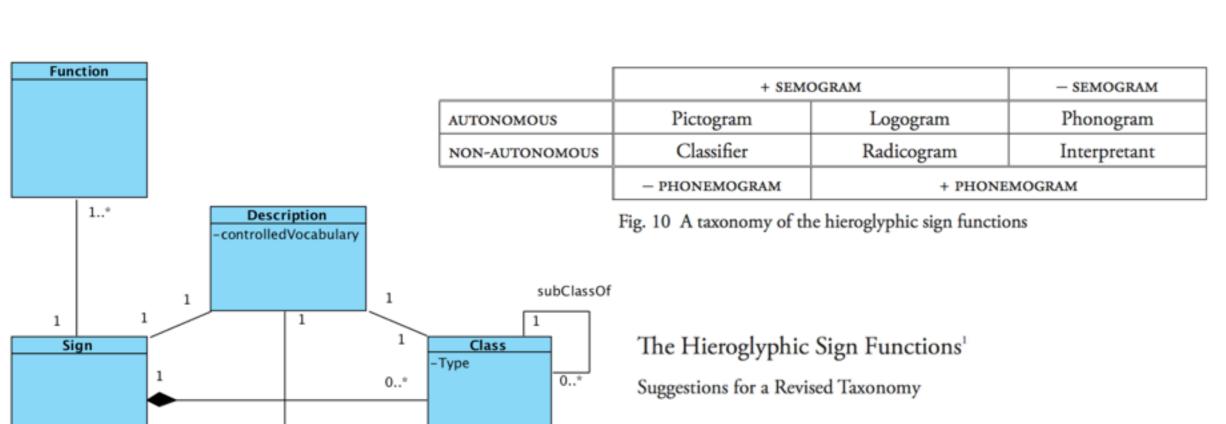




+ Vergnieux' Unicos







isPrototypicallyRepresentedBy

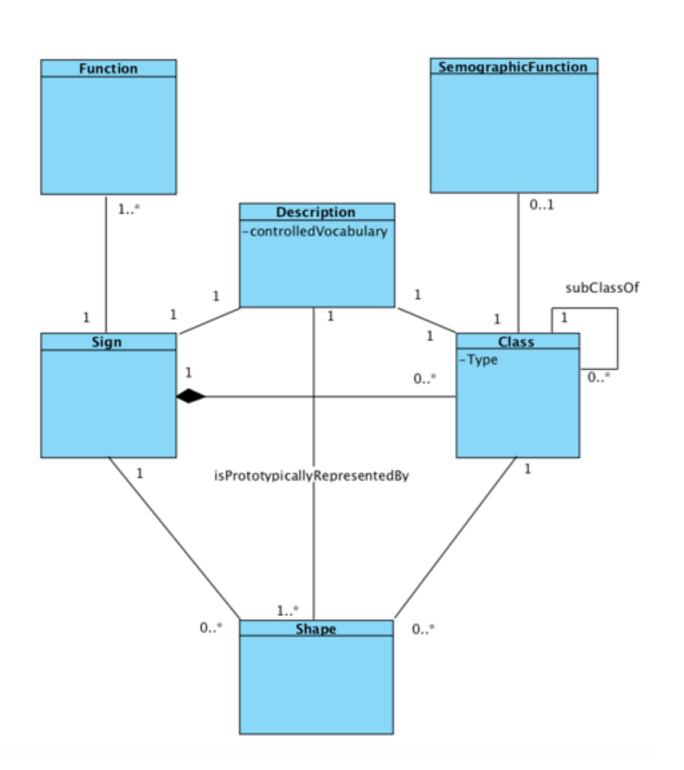
Shape

0...9

Stéphane Polis/Serge Rosmorduc

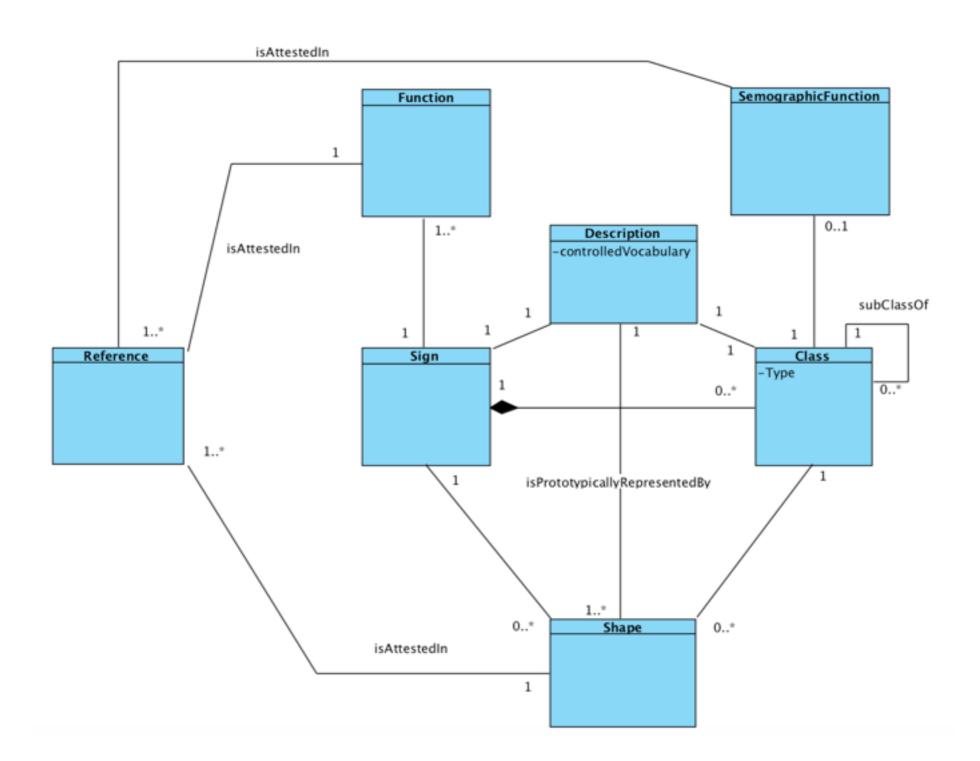
#### Abstract

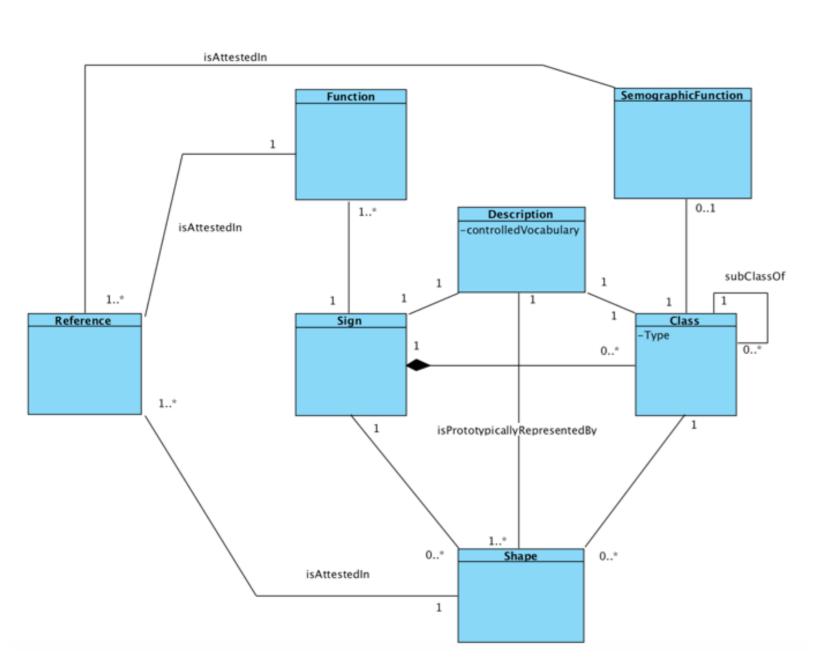
The aim of this paper is to suggest a taxonomy that allows for a systematic description of the functions that can be fulfilled by hieroglyphic signs. Taking as a point of departure the insights of several studies that have been published on the topic since Champollion, we suggest that three key-features — namely, semography, phonemography and autonomy — are needed in order to provide a description of the glottic functions of the ancient Egyptian graphemes. Combining these paradigmatic and syntagmatic features, six core functions can be identified for the hieroglyphic signs: they may behave as pictograms, logograms, phonograms, classifiers, radicograms or interpretants. In a second step, we provide a definition for each function and discuss examples that illustrate the fuzziness between these core semiotic categories.











### TSL features

- Structured
- Referenced

### Forthcoming

- Linked data
  - Corpora
  - Hieratic Palaeography (Mainz)
- Collaborative website

### Unicode

• Shapes, just as other ones