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# **Estudios Iranios y Turanios**

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







## Brief note on the abbreviation marker 𐬨 in the Avestan manuscripts<sup>1</sup>

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**ABSTRACT:** *The paper offers the probable origin of a special symbol ( 𐬨 ) which is used in several Avestan manuscripts as a means to mark an abbreviated text.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Avestan manuscripts, practice of the Avestan scribes.*

The symbol 𐬨 appears in several Avestan manuscripts, marking an abbreviated text that has previously been written out in full. This sign appears in the oldest exegetical manuscripts: Rostam Mihrabān (ms. 2000-2610 [K7], in the year 1278), Pešōtān Rām Kāmdīn (ms. 2620 [M6], in 1397), Mihrābān Kayxōsrō (ms. 4600 [L4], in 1323), Āsdīn Kākā (ms. 2630, in 1552, and F1, in 1591); being also used in later copies, such as ms. 4620, in 1742; ms. 2690, after 1842<sup>2</sup>; ms. 2814 (without date), etc.

2610	2620	4600	2630	F1	4620	2690	2814
							
<i>passim</i>	<i>passim</i>	V19.22 <sup>3</sup>	<i>passim</i>	Yt13.35	V19.22 <sup>4</sup>	<i>passim</i>	<i>passim</i>


As far as I know, no indication has hitherto been given of the origin of this sign, which is the same as the Avestan letter  $\mathfrak{r}$  and the Pahlavi ⟨𐬨⟩ (only


<sup>1</sup> The present paper falls in the context of the Avestan Digital Archive (ADA) research project (<http://www.avesta.archive.com>) funded by Spain's Ministry of the Economy and Competitiveness and the Regional Government, the *Junta*, of Castilla y León. The signatures of the manuscripts have been taken from the numeric system for Avestan manuscripts created by Alberto Cantera (available at <http://ada.usal.es/img/pdf/Numbers.pdf>), by indicating in brackets Geldner's correspondences, insofar as they exist.

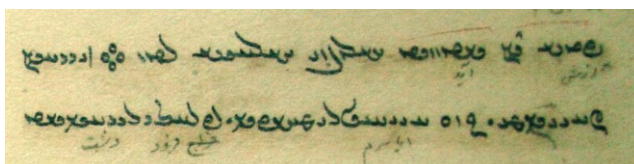
<sup>2</sup> The colophon of ms. 2690 (ms. MU35 in JAMASPASA/NAWABI's [1976] edition), after the second *Sīrōzah*, tells that the manuscript was written by Jāmāsp Āsā, the scribe of Geldner's ms. J11. Thus, the date should be in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, since the water mark of the paper indicates the year 1842, this colophon is with certainty a copy of the original one.


<sup>3</sup> Abbreviating the *ašəm. vohū*.


<sup>4</sup> See fn. 3.


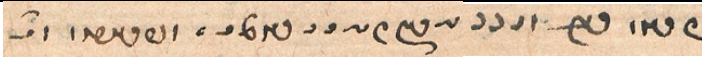
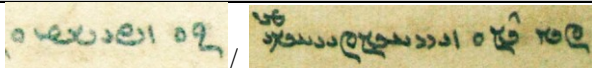
written in Aramaeographic forms)<sup>5</sup>. When dealing with the spelling peculiarities of manuscript F1 in JAMASPASA’s facsimile edition, HINTZE (1991, p. xx) simply mentioned: “There is also a special symbol  to mark an abbreviated text” [+ samples].

Ms. 2690 has almost constantly used  to mark abbreviated texts. However, the passage in Wisperad 1.2 has an example of a slightly different form, which I consider to be the origin of this symbol:



(...) niuuaē/δaiiemi.  aiiāθrimahe. fraouruuaešt ...  
[ms. 2690, fol. 23v, l.1-2]

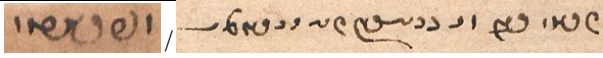
The form  is certainly the Pahlavi Aramaeogram <KN><sup>6</sup>, i.e., *ōh* “thus”, common to the Pahlavi exegetical tradition, and which should be understood as “thus (as it has been previously written)”, cf. the following sections of ms. 2690, against ms. 2610<sup>7</sup> (where <K[N]> is omitted):

Vr2.1	
<b>2690</b>	
(30r, l. 7)	<p>&lt;cygwn PWN <i>niuuaeδaiiemi</i>. <b>K</b>. npyšt' OD.&gt;  <i>cīyōn pad niuuaeδaiiemi ōh nibišt tā (...)</i>                      “Thus, as it has been written with the <i>niuuaeδaiiemi</i>, till (...)”</p>
<b>2610</b>	
(116r, l. 3-4)	<p>&lt;cygwn BYN <i>niuu/aēδaiiemi</i>. npyšt' OD.&gt;  <i>cīyōn andar niuuaēδaiiemi nibišt tā (...)</i>                      “As it has been written in the <i>niuuaēδaiiemi</i>, till (...)”</p>
Vr2.7	
<b>2690</b>	
(32v, l. 11; 33r, l. 1)	<p>&lt;cygw BYN. <i>niuuaēδiiae</i><sup>mi</sup>/ <b>K</b>. npyšt'&gt;  <sup>+</sup><i>cīyōn andar niuuaēδiiaeimi ōh nibišt</i>                      “Thus, as it has been written in the <i>niuuaēδaiiemi</i>”</p>

<sup>5</sup> This letter appears also in the Psalter’s fragments for simple <k>, both in phonographic forms and in Arameograms.

<sup>6</sup> E.g., Phl.  in ms. 2630.

<sup>7</sup> Ms. 2620 and ms. 2630 have the same text as ms. 2610.

<b>2610</b>  (119r, l. 9-10)	
<cygwn BYN niuuāēdāiēmi/ npšt'> cīyōn andar niuuāēdāiēmi nibišt “As it has been written in the niuuāēdāiēmi”	

It seems clear that 𐬵 has its origin in Pahlavi 𐬵 (𐬵N) *ōh*, as a way of marking the abbreviations of repeated previous texts, which is different to the one using the Pahlavi sign 𐬵 (OD) *tā* “(from here) till ... [the final of the abbreviated section]”.

**Quoted manuscripts:**

- Ms. 2000/2610** (K7): A. Christensen (ed.), *Codices Avestici et Pahlavici Bibliothecae Universitatis Hafniensis. Vol. XII. Selections from Codices K7 and K25 (Visperad and Frahang ī Pahlavik) and Tracings of the Avestan Codex K1*. University Library of Copenhagen-Copenhagen. 1944. Partially published in ADA ([www.avesta-archive.com](http://www.avesta-archive.com)) by A. Cantera.
- Ms. 2620** (M6): Signature of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Cod.Zend 51. To date unpublished images are available on ADA.
- Ms. 2630**: Published in ADA ([www.avesta-archive.com](http://www.avesta-archive.com)) by M. Á. Andrés-Toledo, *The Avestan manuscript T12 (Pahlavi Visperad 2630& Pahlavi Xwardag Abastāg) of the First Dastur Meherji-rana Library of Navsarī*. Avestan Digital Archive Series 63. 2014.
- Ms. 2690**: Signature G19 of the Meherji-rana Library (Navsarī). Partially published in ADA ([www.avesta-archive.com](http://www.avesta-archive.com)) by J. J. Ferrer. Published as MU 35 by: Kh. M. Jamaspasa, M. Nawabi (eds.), *Manuscript MU 35, The Avesta and Pahlavi texts of the minor and major Siroza and Visperad, etc*. Asia Institute of Pahlavi University 38, Shiraz. 1976.
- Ms. 2814**: Signature G15 of the Meherji-rana Library (Navsarī). To date unpublished images are available on ADA.
- Ms. 4600** (L4): Published in ADA ([www.avesta-archive.com](http://www.avesta-archive.com)) by A. Cantera, *The Avestan manuscript L4 (Pahlavi Vīdēvdād) of the British Library*. Avestan Digital Archive Series 5. 2008.
- Ms. 4620**: Signature D62 of the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute (Mumbai).
- Ms. F1**: Kh. M. Jamaspasa, *The Avesta Codex F1 (Niyāyišns and Yašts), Facsimile Edition with an Introduction*. Harrassowitz-Wiesbaden. 1991.