

2 Old European Syllabary

Stuart L. Harris, October 2011

Summary of Old European Syllabary

Table 1 summarizes Old European syllabary prior to introduction of curved elements, one of two tools needed to translate inscriptions into Finnish and to diagnose compound letters built from several syllables. With this table and the Excel dictionary of Old European, anyone can translate ancient inscriptions. Table 3 defines the name of each letter based upon their shape.

Table 1: Table of Old European Syllabary prior to curved elements.

Table 1: Table of Old English phonetic symbols prior to our reconstruction

	A	Ä	E	I	O	U	Y
	¹	¹⁰	⁵⁰	¹⁰⁰			
Vowels	a	ä	e	i	o	u	y
H	ha	hä	he	hi	ho	hu	hy
J	ja	jä	je		jo	ju	jy
K	ka	kä	ke	ki	ko	ku	ky
L	la	lä	le	li	lo	lu	ly
M	ma	mä	me	mi	mo	mu	my
N	na	nä	ne	ni	no	nu	ny
P	pa	pä	pe	pi	po	pu	py
R	ra	rä	re	ri	ro	ru	ry
S	sa	sä	se	si	so	su	sy
T	ta	tä	te	ti	to	tu	ty
V	va	vä	ve	vi	vo	vu	vy

URO AKA PO MA MÄ SE SE SE NY PE PA PÄ NA NA NÄ RÄ
TO TO JA SA RE HE JO HE LI KÄ MÄ
TA LA SA RE TU HU VE SU VY KY KI SI MU SA

Old European Names for Numbers and Letters

In 1987, **John Chadwick** of Cambridge University predicted that "the letters in Minoan Linear A are pictograms that exhibit acrophony, that is, their initial sounds will be the same as the name of the letter."¹ He was right. Linear A employs graphic syllables that look like real objects, a man carrying a sack, or the head of a goat, or a two-handled jug. For example,



letter PE in Linear A was called *pelle* meaning 'clown'.

Could Chadwick's prediction hold true for Old European with its abstract syllabary?

The signs of Old European are so abstract that archaeologists, photographers, curators, museum goers and the like often fail to recognize an inscription. For example, the **Venus from Hohle Fels** Cave in Germany has a long inscription, the oldest in Europe, up her right arm, across her back, down her missing left arm and ending across her breasts. A reproduction of the tiny ivory carving in the new historical museum at Burgos smoothes over this writing, fills in the grooves, as if the deliberate strokes were accidents from lying in the ground. Moreover, the tiny figurine is displayed deep in a case without proper lighting, blowups or other visual aids, so that even if the strokes remained, no one could read them or even sense their existence.

To test Chadwick's theory on Old European, I began with numbers. Amazingly, they worked! They counted by ones, tens, hundreds and recognized zero, as shown in Table 2: The rest of the letters also resemble words in Finnish as shown in Table 3, useful for correctly drawing the letters and for diagnosing new renditions of letter names.

Contact: PO Box 60281, Palo Alto, CA 94396, Stuart. Harris -at- sbcglobal.net, 650-888-1859

Table 2: Number names in Old European.

PU		puole	half	stick broken in half
ME		meno	death	void, emptiness of life
Y		yksi	one	one finger upraised
KA		kaksi	two	two fingers upraised
KO		kolme	three	three fingers upraised
NE		nelja	four	four fingers upraised
VI		viisi	five	palm with five fingers curled
KU		kuusi	six	six points or fingers
SE		seitsemän	seven	simplified five + two
KY		kymmenen	ten	both hands upraised with ten fingers
SA		sata	hundred	product of 10 x 10 (10 = horizontal line)

¹ John Chadwick, *Linear B and Related Scripts*, 1987, U. of California Press.

Table 3: Letter names in Old European prior to curved elements.

Letter	Name	English	Letter	Name	English
A	aarna	mark	NÄ	näveri	auger
Ä	äijön	old man	NE	nelja	four
E	etinen	forward	NI	nisä	breast
I	ikäinen	old	NO	noja	rest against
O	onkalo	cave	NU	nurka	corner
U	ulote	projection	NY	nykerän	stubby?
U	ulote	projection	PA	pano	fuck
HA	hammas	tooth	PÄ	päälle	onto, into
HÄ			PE	penkki	seat
HE	henki	breath	PI	piit	teeth
HI	hissi	lift	PO	portat	stairs
HO	hörösteleikse	pricks up its ears	PU	puole	half
HU	hullu	madman	PY	pyhä	sacred
JA	jalo	noble	RA	raja	divider
JÄ	jäykkä	stiff, rigid	RÄ	ree	sled
JO	joutsen	swan	RE	rehto	pole fence
JU	juoma	drink	RI	riihi	drying shed
KA	kaksi	two	RO	roikkua	dangle
KÄ	kärkvä	pointed	RU	ruotet	roof poles?
KE	kello	bell	SA	sata	hundred
KI	kiemura	bend	SÄ	säärit	legs
KO	kolme	three	SE	seitsemän	seven
KU	kuusi	six	SI	sillinruoto	herring bone
KY	kymmenen	ten	SO	sopen	corner
LA	laaha	wide	SU	suomuja	scales
LÄ	lähe	start	TA	taajaan	close together
LE	letti	plait	TÄ	teitä	road, path
LI	linnun	a bird	TE	teille	paths
LO	loiste	gleam	TI	tippui	teardrop
LU	luoja	creatress	TO	toveri	friend
LY	lyhte	sheaf	TU	tunkio	rubbish heap
MA	maien	countryside	VA	vaara	hill
MÄ	mätä	tussock	VÄ	väännä	twist, bore
ME	meno	death	VE	vetenpinta	water surface
MI	mieleni	my desire	VI	viisi	five
MO	molemmat	both	VO	voi	butter (paddle)
MU	muotakas	buxom	VY	vyö	belt
NA	naia	to marry			