

Comparison of the Danube Script with the Oldest Known European Linear Writing Systems

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1. Introduction

This document describes the author's third approach to get a reading of the Danube Script (DS), also called the Old European Script (OE). It is based upon the hypothesis that there is a continuous tradition of the first writing system of the Danube civilization into the Aegean, Minoic, Mykenic, Cypriot and Phoenician cultures over the time span of several thousand years.

The following Figure 1 shows the purported / proposed geographic dilution of the European linear writing systems (“Alteuropäische Linear-schrift”).

Note: Reading does not necessarily mean deciphering. We may still be unable to translate the underlying language even if we can read it.

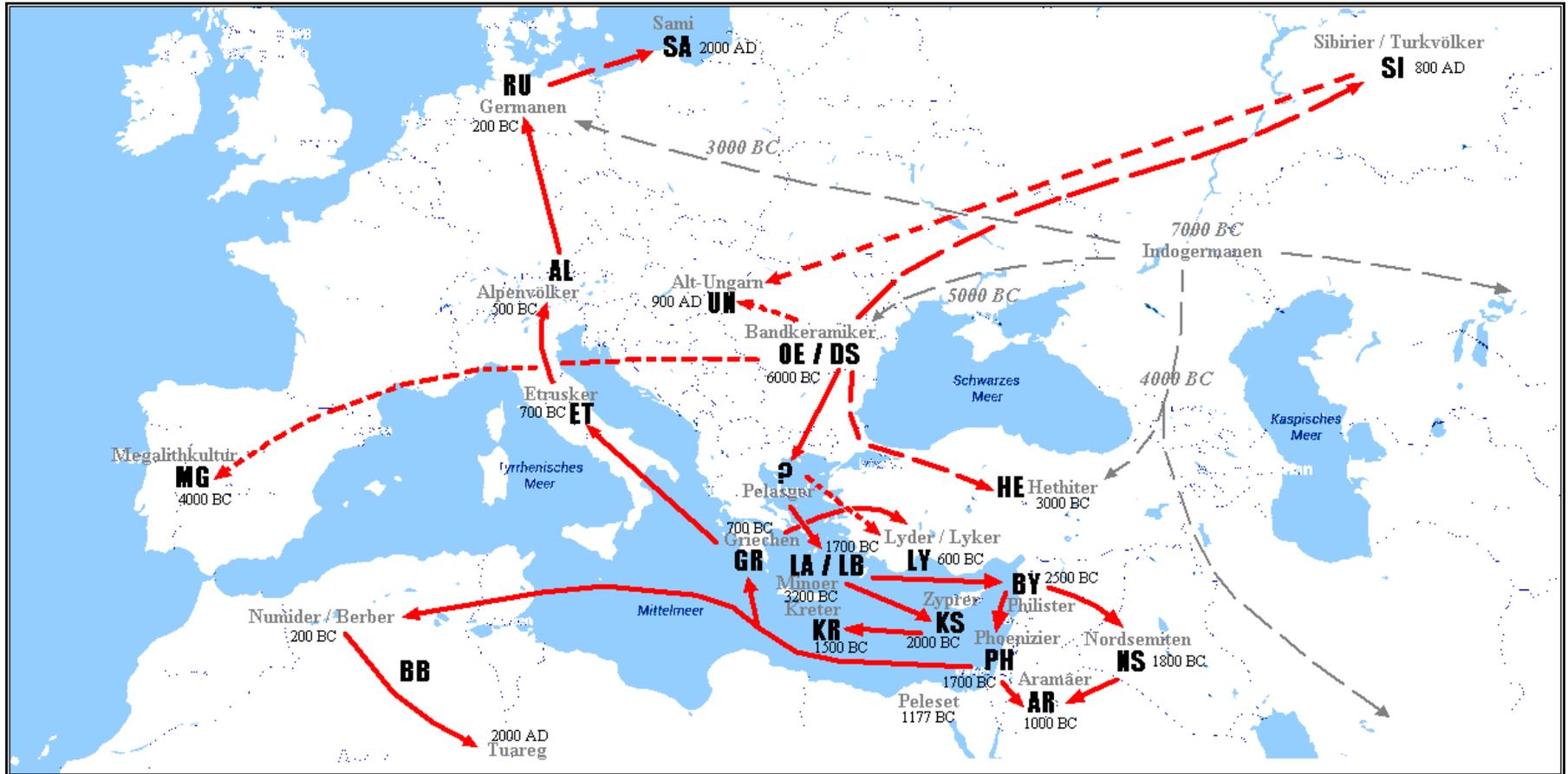


Figure 1: Purported / proposed geographic dilution of the European linear writing systems

The herein proposed underlying chronology is the following:

CHRONOLOGY OF THE WRITING SYSTEMS

Writing System	Shortcut	Time	Language Family	Remark
Old European/Danube Script	OE/DS	6000 BC	pre-indoeuropean	
Megalithic Hunter/Gatherer	MG	4000 BC	pre-indoeuropean	added later?!
Minoic Linear A	LA	3200 BC	pre-indoeuropean	
Hethitic	HE	3000 BC	indoeuropean	
Byblos	BY	2500 BC	semitic	
Cypro Syllabic	KS	2000 BC	pre-indoeuropean	
North Semitic	NS	1800 BC	semitic	
Mykenic Linear B	LB	1700 BC	indoeuropean	
Phoenikish	PH	1700 BC	semitic	
Crete-Mykenic	KR	1500 BC	indoeuropean	
Arameic	AR	1000 BC	semitic	
Greek	GR	700 BC	indoeuropean	
Etruskic	ET	700 BC	pre-indoeuropean	
Lydic/Lykie/Luwian	LY	600 BC	indoeuropean	
Alpine	AL	500 BC	indoeuropean	
Berberic/Tifinagh	BB	200 BC-pres.	afro-asiatic	
Runic	RU	200 BC	germanic	
Siberic	SI	800 AD	turk	
Hungaric	UN	900 AD	finno-ugric	
Sami Owner Signs	SA	2000 AD	finno-ugric	unrelated?

Other researchers (H. Haarmann) propose similar ways for the distribution of the linear writing systems in Europe:

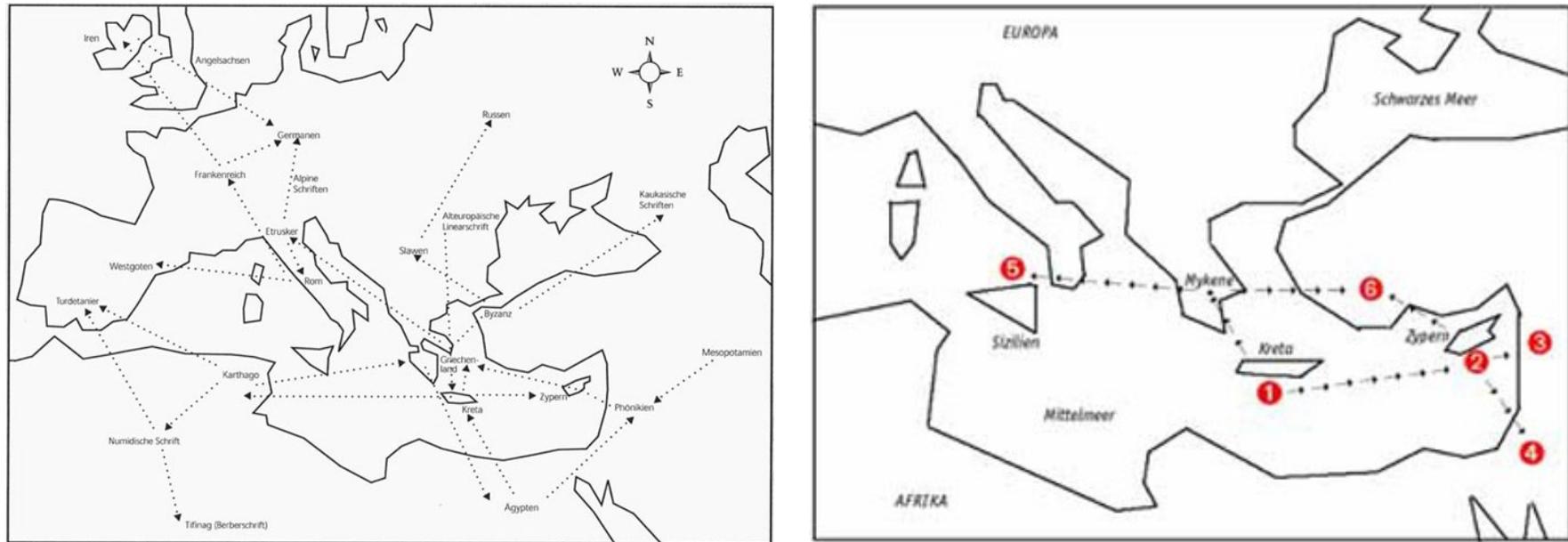


Figure 2: Grafiken: © B. Schnelle (24 Oktober 2011)

2. Comparison of the Writing Systems

First, we collect sign tables for the related scripts and, as far as available, their possible readings. We will compare only the oldest European writing systems:

- The Old European or Danube Script
- Crete-Minoic Linear A
- Mykenic Linear B
- Cypro-Minoic or Eteo-Crete
- Phoenician

2.1. Old-European or Danube Script

The following collection of the signs of the Danube Script is based upon the inventories of Harald Haarmann, Marco Merlini and Shan M. M. Winn.

The classification is made by the author. We do not classify the signs by their geometric shape but according to (admitted: subjective) similarities (via pattern recognition).

There is one difficulty: Because we do not know the writing direction for sure, we do not know the correct orientation of the signs either.

For example:

If there is a basic shape of the sign, e.g. 

there might be the mirrored or reversed form also .

Or the basic shape is inverted or flipped over (upside down) .

Or it is flipped and mirrored .

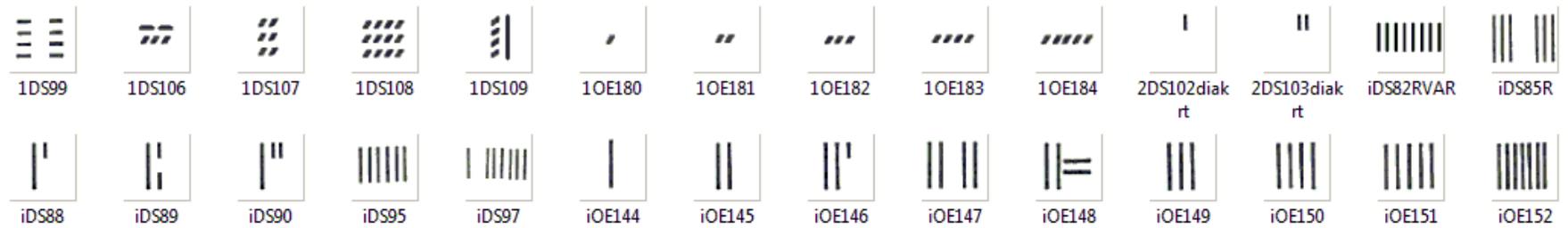
Or any variant is rotated about an oblique angle (here the basic shape is rotated 90° clockwise) .

It is not clear if every variant has its own reading. In our modern scripts mirrored signs are wrongly written, but their reading remains unchanged (except in a special mathematical context): E and ∃ keep their meaning while M and W represent different sounds, as well as the rotated ∑. The same may be true for the signs of the Danube script.

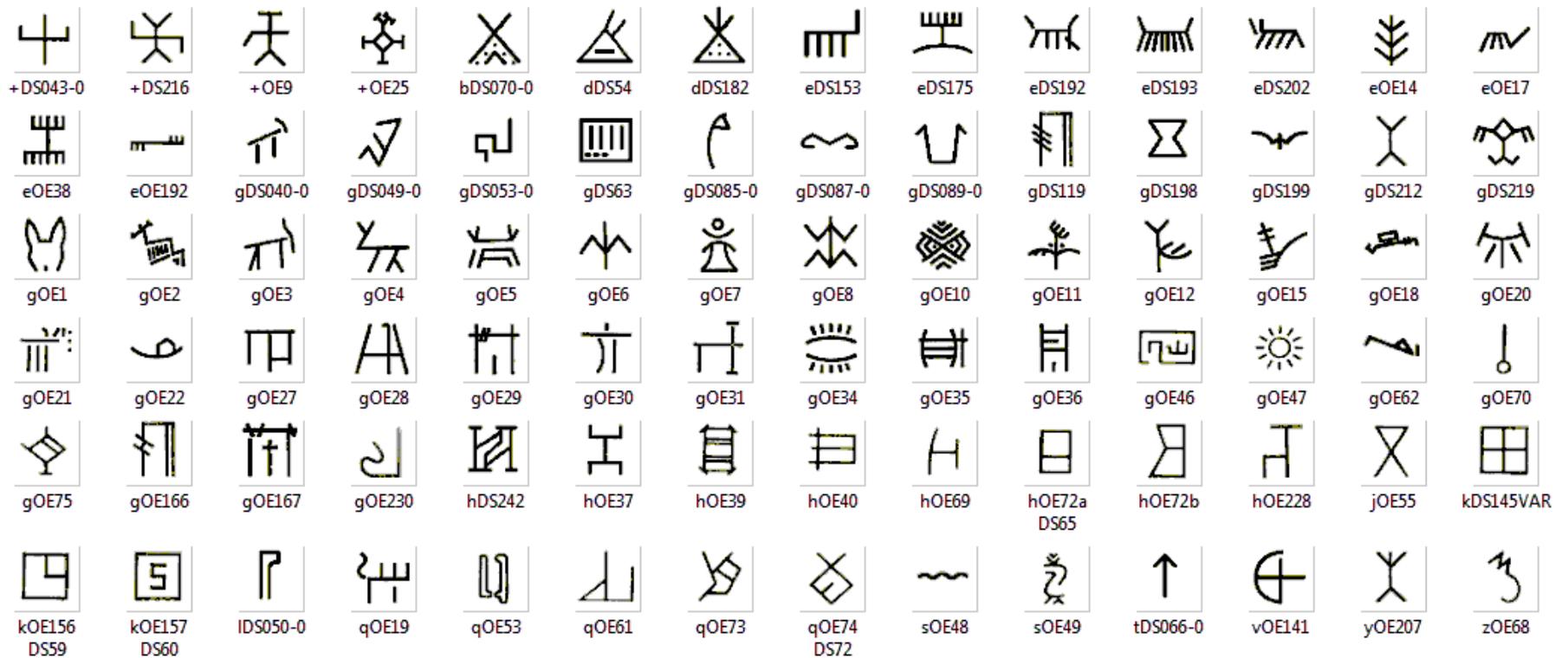
The following pages contain the complete collection of signs of the Danube Script, as known so far to the author.

The Old European writing system consists of basic signs, logograms, ligatures and quite ornamental signs. The basic signs are given in the last table.

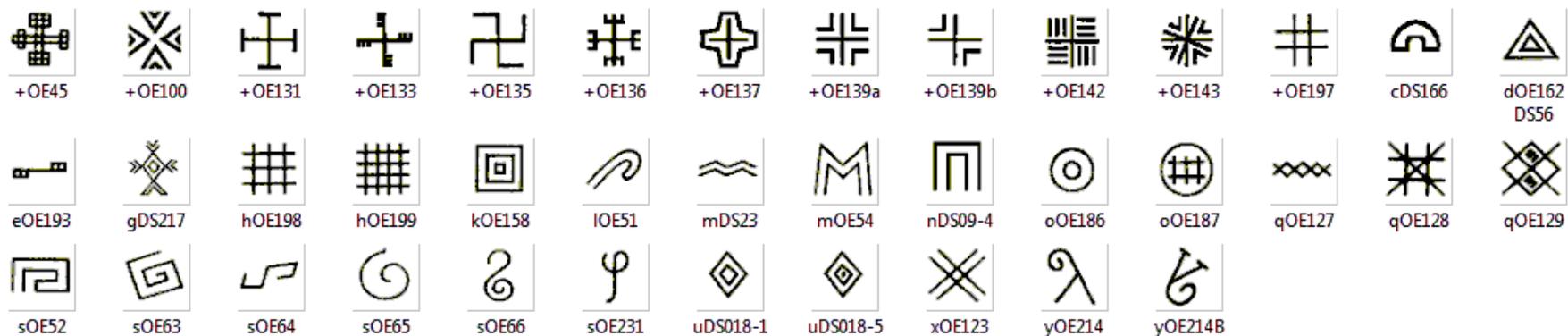
Strokes and dashes in various combinations may represent numbers:



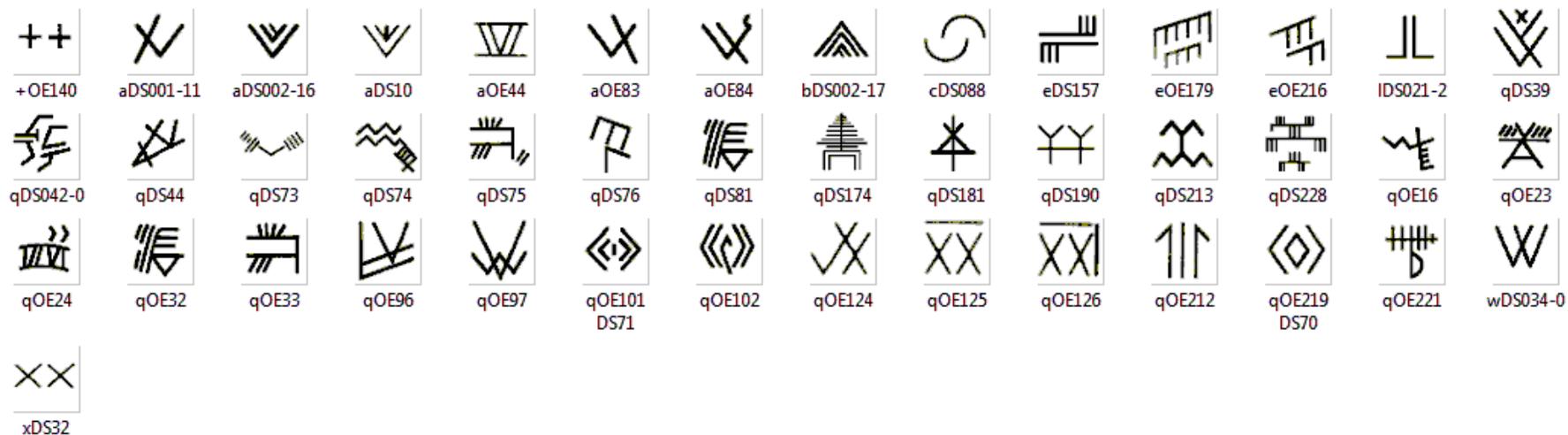
The following signs seem to be logograms:



Beside the inventory of the Danube Script of simple basic signs and logograms we may find many symbols that look more like ornaments or designs but they may even be calligraphic signs:



Other signs may be ligatures, signs combined of some simpler symbols:



First, we tried to identify basic signs of the Old European (OE) or Danube Script (DS). There appear variants for some of the basic symbols. They also sometimes seem to be tagged with strokes, dashes, dots etc. This may alter the meaning or use of the signs. Compare to the Linear B signs for “horse”:



We listed tagged, decorated, and other forms of variants of the basic signs in the following table.

Basic Sign	Variant	Tagged	Decorated	Interpretation
⊕	⊕ ⊕ ⊕	⊕		
+	†	† † †	‡ ‡ ‡	
∨	∨	∨ ∨		
∧	∧	∧ ∧		
∧	∧			
∨	∨			
∨	∨ ∨ ∨	∨		
∧	∧ ∧ ∧	∧		
∧		∧ ∧		
∨		∨ ∨		
∧	∧			
∨	∨			
∧	∧			
∨	∨			
∧	∧			
∧	∧ ∨	∧		
∧	∧			Logogram (Tent)
∧		∧		
∨		∨ ∨ ∨ ∨ ∨ ∨ ∨ ∨		
∧		∧ ∧ ∧ ∧ ∧ ∧ ∧ ∧		

Basic Sign	Variant	Tagged	Decorated	Interpretation
王				
≠	≠ ≠			
π	π	π	π	Logogram (Man with Stick)
卩	卩	卩		
士	士	士		
干	干	干		
√				
卩				
ㄥ	ㄥ			Logogram ARCHE
ㄣ	ㄣ		ㄣ	Logogram (Bat)
丫				
𠃉			𠃉	
𠃊				
𠃋			𠃋	
𠃌				Logogram (Bird) KUCHRAM
𠃍				
𠃎	𠃎			
𠃏			𠃏	Logogram (Eyes)
𠃐	𠃐 𠃐		𠃐	Logogram (Plant)
𠃑				

Basic Sign	Variant	Tagged	Decorated	Interpretation
卅				
𠂇	卅			
☀				
				Logogram (Tool)
丨		丨		
丨		丨		
𠂇	𠂇			
工	工	工	工	
𠂇	𠂇	𠂇		
田	田			
𠂇	𠂇	𠂇		
日		日	日	
卅	卅 卅 卅			
𠂇		𠂇		
目			目	
𠂇	𠂇			Logogram (Animal)
丨				
𠂇	𠂇			
𠂇		𠂇 𠂇 𠂇		

Basic Sign	Variant	Tagged	Decorated	Interpretation
				
	 		  	Logogram (Building)
		 		
				
				
				
	 	 		
				
				
	 			
	 			
				
		 		
				
				
				
				
	   		  	
	 			
				

Basic Sign	Variant	Tagged	Decorated	Interpretation
			U	
𐌹	𐌺		𐌹	
𐌿				
R	𐌹 𐌺			
𐌺	𐌺 𐌹 𐌺		𐌺 𐌹 𐌺	Logogram (Water, River)
𐌺				
↑	↑			
T	T	𐌹		
◇		◇ ◇ ◇	◇ ◇	
D				
⊕		⊕		
∞	∞ ∞ ∞	∞ ∞ ∞	∞ ∞	
∞	∞ ∞ ∞	∞ ∞ ∞	∞ ∞	
X		X' X X X X X	X	
X	X	X X		
X		X		
Y	Y	Y		
Y				
Y	Y Y		Y	
λ	λ	λ λ	λ 𐌹	

Basic Sign	Variant	Tagged	Decorated	Interpretation
⌈		⌈		
⌋		⌋		
⌒		⌒		
⌓		⌓		
⊠			⊠	

2.2. Linear A

The Minoan Linear A script of Crete is approved a writing system of the Minoan pre- or non-Indoeuropean language – and one of the oldest Aegean scripts. Its syllable values are derived by comparison with the younger but deciphered and closely related Old Greek Linear B script:

	A	E	I	O	U	A2	O2	U2
D								
J								
K								
M								
N								
P								
Q								
R								
S								
T								
W								
Z								

Other symbols

au (?) pi (?) pa (?) tve (?)

Unclassified symbols

R

Comparación del Lineal A y el Chipro-minoico											
Lineal A		Chipro-minoico		Lineal A		Chipro-minoico		Lineal A		Chipro-minoico	
	b/pe		b/pe		da		d/ta		se		se
	b/pa		b/pa		sa		sa		ti		ti
	lu		lu		ya		ya		me		me
	za		za		zu		zu		du		d/tu
	h/ke		h/ke		a		a		ma		ma
	nu		nu		ra		ra		i		i
	na		na		b/pu		b/pu		h/ki		h/ki
	h/ka		h/ka		wa		wa				

Segni e numerazione secondo E. Bennett. Zeichen und Nummerierung nach E. Bennett. Das Lesen von Zeichen basiert auf Analoga von Linear B .											
*01-20		*21-30		*31-53		*54-74		*76-122		*123-306	
𐀀	DA *01	𐀁	QI *21	𐀂	SA *31	𐀃	WA *54	𐀄	*76	𐀅	*123
𐀆	RO *02	𐀇	*21 ^f	𐀈	*34	𐀉	*55	𐀊	KA *77	𐀋	*131a
𐀌	PA *03	𐀍	*21 ^m	𐀎	TI *37	𐀏	PA ₃ *56	𐀐	QE *78	𐀑	*131b
𐀒	TE *04	𐀓	MI? *22	𐀔	E *38	𐀕	JA *57	𐀖	WO ₂ ? *79	𐀗	*131c
𐀘	*05	𐀙	*22 ^f	𐀚	PI *39	𐀛	SU *58	𐀜	MA *80	𐀝	*164
𐀞	NA *06	𐀟	*22 ^m	𐀠	WI *40	𐀡	TA *59	𐀢	KU *81	𐀣	*171
𐀤	DI *07	𐀥	MU *23	𐀦	SI *41	𐀧	RA *60	𐀨	*82	𐀩	*180
𐀪	A *08	𐀫	*23 ^m	𐀬	KE *44	𐀭	O *61	𐀮	*85	𐀯	*188
𐀰	S *09	𐀱	NE *24	𐀲	*45	𐀳	JU *65	𐀴	*86	𐀵	*191
𐀶	*10	𐀷	RU *26	𐀸	*46	𐀹	TA ₂ *66	𐀺	TWE *87	𐀻	*301
𐀼	*11	𐀽	RE *27	𐀾	*47	𐀿	KI *67	𐁀	*100/ *102	𐁁	*302
𐁂	ME *13	𐁃	I *28	𐁄	*49	𐁅	TU *69	𐁆	*118	𐁇	*303
𐁈	QA ₂ *16	𐁉	*28b	𐁊	PU *50	𐁋	*70	𐁌	*120	𐁍	*304
𐁎	ZA *17	𐁏	*29	𐁐	DU *51	𐁑	MI *73	𐁒	*120b	𐁓	*305
𐁔	ZO *20	𐁕	NI *30	𐁖	*53	𐁗	ZE *74	𐁘	*122	𐁙	*306

2.3. Linear B

Linear B is the deciphered and readable script of an old Greek Indoeuropean language of Crete and Mykene:

a	da	ja	ka	ma	na	pa	qa	ra	sa	ta	wa	za
e	de	je	ke	me	ne	pe	qe	re	se	te	we	ze
i	di		ki	mi	ni	pi	qi	ri	si	ti	wi	
o	do	jo	ko	mo	no	po	qo	ro	so	to	wo	zo
u	du	ju	ku	mu	nu	pu		ru	su	tu		
man	woman	deer	horse	mare	stallion	ewe	ram	nanny goat	billy goat	sow	boar	
cow	bull	wheat	barley	olive oil	spice	cyprus	kapo	kanako	oil	wine	arepa	
meri	bronze	gold	wool	horn	cloth	garment	armour	month	tree	helmet		
footstool	bathtub	spear	arrow	sword	wheeled chariot	chariot	chariot frame	wheel	dart			

2.4. Cypro-Minoan

Cypro-Minoan is a syllable script of Cyprus that was used to write Old-Greek and was derived from the older Minoan language (Eteo-Crete), which is given in the first table:

✱	∪	↑	∩	✕	⊥	≠	Ω	V	†)	⋈	⋈
a	ja	ka	la	ma	na	pa	ra	sa	ta	xa	wa	za
✱		✕	8	✕	∩	S	∧	≡	∩	∩	I	
e		ke	le	me	ne	pe	re	se	te	xe	we	
✕		∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	↑)		
i		ki	li	mi	ni	pi	ri	si	ti	wi		
∩	∩	∩	+	⊙)	∩	∩	∩	F	∩	∩	
o	jo	ko	lo	mo	no	po	ro	so	to	wo	zo	
∩		✕	∩	✕)	∩)	∩	F			
u		ku	lu	mu	nu	pu	ru	su	tu			

Cypro-Minoic:

Cypro-Minoan signs with most certain value

Based on their comparison with signs of the Cypriot and Linear B scripts.

F1 – Faouconau1, F2 – Faouconau2, FN – Facchetti/Negri, C – Colles, O – Opheltau.

	A	E	I	O	U
-	102	38	104	64	12/197
B/P	6	11			
D/T	4	7	23		
K/G	25		70	217	
L	87	24	9	5	
M	55/53		91	73/75	
N	8	2			
R		33		97	
S	82	44	27		467
W		1			
Y	69				
Z					

2.5. Phoenician

Phoenician is the first true alphabet script and was derived from syllable scripts from Lydic or Cyprus. It is therefore a descendant of the old Aegean writing systems, and hence a derivative of the Danube script:

✱	'	⊗	‡	∪	P
∫	B	∩	Y	∩	Š
∧	G	✱	K	⊗	Q
∇	D	∪	L	∇	R
≡	H	∩	M	∩	Š
Y	W	∩	N	X	T
I	Z	≡	S		
⊠	H	○	'		

3. Assignment of the Signs of the Danube Script to Syllables

The target of this chapter is the systematic sorting of signs of the Danube signs looking similar to signs of the confirmed Aegean writing systems into a syllable table. It is a quite subjective kind of pattern recognition, and different authors may reach different results.

Therefore, I suggest the repetition of this sorting process by independent researchers.

3.1. Assignment by Haarmann

One of the top researchers in the Danube writing system, Harald Haarmann, provides his own table of similar signs of the Old European script and the writing systems Linear A and B. The syllable reading is added by the author:

†	AB 01	da	Y	OE 213 a
+	AB 02	ro	+	OE 130
≠	AB 03	pa	≠	OE 203
✂	AB 04	te	✂	OE 14
ƒ	AB 05	to	ƒ	OE 224
‡	AB 09	se	‡	OE 19
ƒ	AB 10	u	ƒ	OE 69
↵	AB 11	po	↵	OE 222
♀	AB 21	qi	♀	OE 231
‡	AB 24		‡	OE 226

Ψ	AB 27	re	Y	OE 206
Y	AB 31	sa	Y	OE 205
C	AB 34	A	(OE 168
∧	AB 37	ti	∧	OE 103
⋈	AB 38	E	⋈	OE 104a
⋈	AB 39		⋈	OE 161
⋈	AB 40	pi	⋈	OE 94
⋈	AB 41	si	⋈	OE 134
⋈	AB 51	du	⋈	OE 9
z	AB 53	ri	z	OE 189
H	AB 55	nu	H	OE 200

H	AB 56		H	OE 201
H	AB 57	ja	H	OE 202
H	AB 58	su	H	OE 52
z	AB 60	ra	z	OE 230
H	AB 74		H	OE 62
z	AB 76	ra	z	OE 49
⊕	AB 77	ka	⊕	OE 138
⊕	AB 80		⊕	OE 1
z	AB 81		z	OE 6
H	AB 86		H	OE 73
H	AB 87	twe?	H	OE 53

	AB 2131b		OE 228		A 318		OE 55
	AB 188		OE 72b		A 323		see OE 161
	AB 191		OE 159		A 325		OE 71
	A 302		OE 216		A 327		OE 41
	A 304 ti		OE 79		A 330		OE 56
	A 305		OE 54		A 332		OE 217
	A 308		see OE 161		A 346		OE 220
	A 309a		OE 185		A 349		OE 68
	A 309c		OE 186		A 358		OE 61
	A 317		OE 59		A 360		OE 72a
					A 701 = AB 03		see OE 203

Abbildung 40: Alteuropäisch-altägäische Zeichenkonvergenzen
(Donauschrift/OE: Linear A)

A 702 = AB 02			see OE 130	∇	L'14		see OE 79		
2	A 703	we	2	OE 66	□	L'22	□	OE 153	
7	A 704		7	OE 51	≡	L'24	si ?	≡	OE 174
λ	A 706		λ	OE 214a	⊥	L'34	⊥	OE 20	
1	A 707		1	OE 211a	⊥	L'37	⊥	OE 126	
T	A 708	da	T	OE 208				OE 144	
∩	A 709		∩	OE 67	.		.	OE 180	
††	A 710 see AB 03	pa	††	see OE 203					
≡	A 711		≡	OE 197					
†	A 712		†	OE 60					

Alteuropäisches Zeichen	Referenz-Nummer	Linear B Zeichen	Lautwert
	OE 105		e
	OE 118		je
	OE 229		te

Abbildung 41: Konvergenzen im Zeichenrepertoire von Linear B und der Donauschrift (ohne Parallelismen in Linear A); (nach Haarmann 1995: 154)

3.2. Actual Assignment by the Author

Due to the work of Michael Ventris and the following scientists, Linear B is readable and deciphered and the sound values of the particular signs are known.

Because the sign inventory of Linear A is very close to Linear B the comparison resulted in the probable reading of the texts. Even if the language is still under discussion and may be a Luwian dialect [13] or non-Indo-European at all.

Phoenician is the oldest alphabet, therefore we felt free to assign the letters to seemingly appropriate syllables. A hint from which syllabic signs the alphabetic letters are derived gives the name of the letters: e.g. beth from the syllable BE, gimel from GI, dalet from DA, etc.

Next, we assigned the basic signs of the Danube Script to the oldest writing system, Linear A. Then followed the comparison with the later Linear B. In sequence came Cypro-Minoan and Eteo-Crete. The last comparison is made with the youngest writing system, Phoenician if no other sign fitted.

The hypothesis behind this method is the idea, that the writing system of the Danube script was transferred through different cultures and ethnies over thousands of years, like our own writing system with Roman letters is more than 2000 years old.

The result of the sorting process is given in the tables on the following pages:

Language Syllable	Linear A	Linear B	Cypro-Minoic Eteo-Cretic	Phoinikian	Old European (Danube) Script
A					
E					
I					?
O					
U					
Ja, Ha					
Je, He					
Ji, Hi					?
Jo, Ho					
Ju, Hu					
'(ha)					
Wa, Ba	†				
We, Be	†				

Language Syllable	Linear A		Linear B		Cypro-Minoic Eteo-Cretic	Phoinikian	Old European (Danube) Script
Wi, Bi							
Wo, Bo							
Wu, Bu							
Xa, Sha							
Xe, She							
Xi, Shi							
Xo, Sho							
Xu, Shu							
Ssa, Za, Tsa							
Sse, Ze, Tse							
Ssi, Zi, Tsi							
Sso, Zo, Tso							
Ssu, Zu, Tsu							
La, Ra							

Language Syllable	Linear A		Linear B		Cypro-Minoic Eteo-Cretic	Phoinikian	Old European (Danube) Script
Le, Re		𐀀		𐀀	8 𐀀 𐀀	9	𐀀 𐀀 𐀀 𐀀 9
Li, Ri		𐀁		𐀁	𐀁 𐀁 𐀁		𐀁 𐀁 𐀁
Lo, Ro		𐀂		𐀂	𐀂 𐀂 𐀂		𐀂 𐀂 𐀂 𐀂
Lu, Ru	𐀃	𐀃		𐀃	𐀃 𐀃	4	𐀃 𐀃 𐀃
Ma	𐀄 𐀄		𐀄		𐀄 𐀄		𐀄 𐀄 𐀄
Me	𐀅		𐀅		𐀅	𐀅 𐀅	𐀅 𐀅 𐀅 𐀅
Mi	𐀆 𐀆		𐀆		𐀆 𐀆		𐀆 𐀆 𐀆 𐀆 𐀆
Mo			𐀇		𐀇 𐀇		𐀇 𐀇 𐀇
Mu	𐀈		𐀈		𐀈		𐀈 𐀈
Na	𐀉		𐀉		𐀉 𐀉	𐀉 𐀉	𐀉 𐀉
Ne	𐀊		𐀊		𐀊 𐀊		𐀊 𐀊
Ni	𐀋		𐀋		𐀋		𐀋 𐀋
No			𐀌		𐀌		𐀌 𐀌

Language Syllable	Linear A	Linear B	Cypro-Minoic Eteo-Cretic	Phoinikian	Old European (Danube) Script
Nu					
Ka, Ga, Qa					
Ke, Ge, Qe					
Ki, Gi, Qi					
Ko, Go, Qo					
Ku, Gu, Qu					
Pa					
Fa					
Pe					
Fe					
Pi					
Fi					
Po					
Fo					
Pu					
Fu					
Sa					
Se					

Language Syllable	Linear A	Linear B	Cypro-Minoic Eteo-Cretic	Phoinikian	Old European (Danube) Script
Si					
So					
Su					
Da, THa					
De, THe					
Di, THi					
Do, THo					
Du, THu					
(N)Ia					
(N)Ie					
(N)Ii					
(N)Io					
(N)Iu					

Language Syllable	Linear A	Linear B	Cypro-Minoic Eteo-Cretic	Phoinikian	Old European (Danube) Script
Still undeciphered and unreadable signs					
					
					
					 Se
					
					
					
					
					 Le, Re
					
					
					
					 U ?

Language Syllable	Linear A	Linear B	Cypro-Minoic Eteo-Cretic	Phoinikian	Old European (Danube) Script
					 Ku, Gu, Qu
					
					
					 tagged Ku, Gu, Qu
					
					 tagged Le, Re
					 tagged Me
					 tagged Mu
					 I
					
					
					 
					 Ju, Hu

Language Syllable	Linear A	Linear B	Cypro-Minoic Eteo-Cretic	Phoinikian	Old European (Danube) Script
	↑				↑ Di, Thi, (N)Ti
	Σ				Σ Δ
	⌘				⌘

We may guess the names of the numbers by the following line of reasoning:

Reading “i” for the number “1” is pure speculation [9].

In a guess to read the inscriptions on spindles from Jela of the Vinca culture [10] we concluded that the number “2” was spoken “Ti” and the number “3” was spoken “Li”.

With high probability in Linear A the name of the number “5” is “Ta-Ja” [14]. According to the results of [9] in DS the vowel following “T” is mostly “i”, while the vowel following “J” is more often “a” than others. Therefore we assume that the name of the number “5” in the Danube language is “Ja”. There were also hints to read “4” as “Av” or “Alv”, and “10” as “Wi”, “Vis”, or even “Tha”.

Numbers	1? or 10?	1	2	3	4	5	
Word	Vis? Wi? Tha?	I?	Ti?	Li?	Av? Alv?	Ja?	
Symbol	•						

4. The Syllable Table for the Danube Signs

Finally, the last step is the compilation of the signs of the Old-European Script into a syllable table according to their sorting.

	A	E	I	O	U
	△ 𐌰 𐌱 𐌲	△ 𐌰	𐌱 𐌲 ?	𐌳 𐌴 𐌵 𐌶	𐌷 𐌸 𐌹
^c (h)	(○ ◇				
W, B	𐌰 𐌱 𐌲 𐌳	𐌴 𐌵 𐌶 𐌷	𐌸 𐌹 𐌺 𐌻	𐌼 𐌽 𐌾	𐌿
D, Th	𐌰 𐌱 𐌲	𐌴 𐌵 𐌶 𐌷	𐌸 𐌹 𐌺 𐌻	𐌼	𐌿 𐍀
K, G, Q	⊕ 𐌰 𐌱 𐌲 𐌳	⊗ ⊕ 𐌴 𐌵 𐌶 𐌷	𐌸 𐌹 𐌺	𐌼 𐌽 𐌾	𐌿 𐍀 𐍁 𐍂
J, H	⊕ ○ ?	𐌴 𐌵	𐌸 𐌹?	𐌼 𐌽 𐌾	𐌿 𐍀 𐍁
M	𐌰 𐌱 𐌲	𐌴 𐌵 𐌶 𐌷	𐌸 𐌹 𐌺 𐌻	𐌼 𐌽 𐌾	𐌿 𐍀
N	𐌰 𐌱	𐌴 𐌵	𐌸 𐌹	𐌼 𐌽	𐌿
P, F	𐌰 𐌱 𐌲 𐌳	𐌴 𐌵 𐌶 𐌷	𐌸 𐌹 𐌺	𐌼 𐌽 𐌾	𐌿 𐍀 𐍁 𐍂
L, R	𐌰 𐌱 𐌲 𐌳 𐌴	𐌴 𐌵 𐌶 𐌷 𐌸	𐌸 𐌹 𐌺 ?	𐌼 𐌽 𐌾 𐌿	𐌿 𐍀 𐍁
S	𐌰 𐌱 𐌲	𐌴 𐌵	𐌸 𐌹 𐌺	𐌼 𐌽	𐌿 𐍀 𐍁
Sh, X	𐌰 ((𐌴 (𐌸 𐌹		
Ss, Ts, Z	𐌰 𐌱 ((𐌲	𐌴 𐌵 𐌶 𐌷		𐌼 𐌽	𐌿 𐍀
(N)T	[𐌰 𐌱 𐌲 𐌳	𐌴 𐌵 𐌶	𐌸 𐌹 𐌺 ?	𐌼 𐌽	𐌿 𐍀 𐍁

We encountered some inconsistencies of the comparison table to the table of the sorted basic symbols of the Danube Script. This is, because we allowed the signs to be rotated, mirrored or flipped for best fit with Linear A and the other scripts. Also, some of the Linear A signs cited by Haarman could not be found in our table of the Linear A syllables. There is hope that consistent reading of the inscriptions of the Danube Script will settle these discrepancies somewhat.

But the syllable table will allow us a first try to read inscriptions of the Danube Script. Anyway, this task is not part of this document and further research is necessary.

4.1. First Try by the Author

The above given syllable table is not the first try of the author to generate such a table to read the Danube Script signs. It may be interesting to compare an older version to the actual table.

The method to compile this table has been the same as applied in this document, which was done independently. The result is slightly different. This underlines the necessity for other researchers to repeat this process.

The images of the signs of the Old European Script as collected by the author are available for free. In case of interest please contact the author at

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5. Summary and Outlook

As impossible as the task at first seems to be, to read and decipher an unknown writing system of an unknown language while even it is not entirely clear if it is a writing system at all, there are traces through history that provide clues where the research can start.

It is amazing how many signs of the Old-European Script find its counterpart in the later Aegean and Mediterranean writing systems. The syllable table is nearly completely filled.

The syllable table for the signs of the Old-European Script may enable us to “read” the texts of the inscriptions of the Danube civilization. The test, if this reading is correct would be if the same linguistic forms show up in different texts and also, if known words of the Old European language as listed by Haarmann [2, 3, 6] could be deciphered.

We suggest the following steps toward progress in better reading and a real deciphering:

- The complete publication of the text corpus of the Danube Script as known to date would be helpful.
- A quantitative count of the absolute frequency of every sign would make the comparison with the frequency of syllables much easier.
- Time lines of the use of every sign should be made up to determine which signs were simultaneously in use at a given date.
- A try should be given to recognize ligatures and variants of the signs.
- To approach the Old European language, an utmost complete inventory of Old European substrat words should be compiled.
- To define the language family of the Old European language different hypotheses should be tested: Luwian, Hatti, semitic languages, Celtic, Baltic, Finno-Ugric, non of these at all

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