

Glyph for U+2F2A KANGXI RADICAL LAME

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It recently came to our attention that the glyph for U+2F2A KANGXI RADICAL LAME 尢 is inadvertently identical to the glyph for U+2E90 CJK RADICAL LAME THREE 尢. The glyph for the former is in turn intentionally identical to the glyph for U+5C22 尢.

Among the alternate shapes for Kangxi radical 43 is 尢, which is encoded as U+21BC1. It is clear that the separate encoding of U+2E90 was intended to capture the variation of 尢 and 尢. Furthermore, the glyph used for radical 43 in the *Kangxi Dictionary* itself is the 尢 glyph, not the 尢 glyph. *Kangxi* gives 尢 as an alternate shape.

This also matches the glyph used on page 5 in the original proposal, SC2 N3213, dated 1998-10-28:

<https://www.unicode.org/L2/L1998/02n3213.pdf#page=5>.

Kangxi's practice is the reverse of modern dictionaries, which universally give the 尢 shape as the base shape and 尢 as an alternate (if they include alternates at all).

It's clear that it is inappropriate to use the same glyph for both characters. There are two alternatives:

1) Follow *Kangxi*. This would require changing the glyph for U+2F2A KANGXI RADICAL LAME to match that of U+21BC1. This also matches the glyph used on page 5 in the original proposal, SC2 N3213, dated 1998-10-28:

<https://www.unicode.org/L2/L1998/02n3213.pdf#page=5>.

A cross-reference to U+21BC1 should also be added to U+2F2A KANGXI RADICAL LAME.

The mapping in EquivalentUnifiedIdeograph.txt for U+2F2A KANGXI RADICAL LAME should not need to be changed, because the compatibility mapping to U+5C22 should take priority over the cross-reference to U+21BC1. Similarly, CJKRadicals.txt should not need to be changed. (Personally, I'd be happier if we made the changes, but this is for the UTC to decide.)

This option may prove more confusing for end users of our main character charts, who expect U+2F2A KANGXI RADICAL LAME to look like U+5C22. Because we give alternate shapes in our radical-stroke charts, it shouldn't be an issue there.

2) Follow current practice. This would require changing the glyph for U+2E90 CJK RADICAL LAME THREE to match that of U+21BC1. No other alterations would be required.

The consensus of the experts has been that the first option is to be preferred. It would be good to get a decision on the issue at UTC #159 so that it can be discussed at IRG #52.