
Scripts of Cyprus

Cyprus, ca. 800–200 B.C.E.

The *Cypriote syllabary*, used primarily in Greek inscriptions of ca. 800–200 B.C.E., shares many of the features of Linear B (Masson 1983). The sign forms (TABLE 7.3) are clearly not pictographic; they seem to be derived from Cypro-Minoan scripts. Cypriote is written from right to left, with conventions similar to those of Linear B. The chief difference is that all syllables ending in liquids or sibilants (*par*, *pas*), and those with nasals final in the word (*pan*), are written with two syllabograms, *CV-Ce* (cf. * $\text{X}\gamma\text{r}\text{N}\text{t}\text{h}$ *a-no-ko-ne* ἄνωγον [ano:gon] ‘they ordered’ and * XtX *i-ta-i* ἰν ταῖ [in ta:i] ‘in the’) (Chadwick 1987, Baurain 1991).

Cyprus, ca. 1500–1200 B.C.E.

No consensus has been reached on the interpretation of the very limited corpus of *Cypro-Minoan* inscriptions. Many signs resemble those of Cypriote, except that they are written by impressing the stylus rather than drawing with the stylus; the appearance of a text is often reminiscent of Linear A signs. It has naturally been suggested that the Cypriote is descended from Cypro-Minoan, which in turn is descended from Linear A (Chadwick 1987, Palaima 1989).

TABLE 7.3: *The Cypriote Syllabary*

✱	a	✱	e	✱	i	≧	o	Υ	u
∅	ja					∞	jo		
↑	ka	∂	ke	Υ	ki	∩	ko	✱	ku
∞	la	8	le	≤	li	+	lo	∞	lu
∞	ma	✱	me	∞	mi	∅	mo	∞	mu
τ	na	∂	ne	∂	ni	∩	no	∞	nu
†	pa	∂	pe	∞	pi	∂	po	∞	pu
Ω	ra	∩	re	∂	ri	∩	ro	∞	ru
∞	sa	∞	se	∩	si	≧	so	∞	su
†	ta	∞	te	↑	ti	∩	to	∞	tu
∞	wa	∩	we	∞	wi	∩	wo		
∞	xa	∩	xe			∞	xo		
∞	ga								

SAMPLE OF GREEK IN CYPRIOTE SYLLABARY (WITH CLASSICAL EQUIVALENT)

1. *Syllabary:* ✱∩∩∂ ∞τ∩∂∂ ∞τ∩∂∂∂ ∞∩τ∩∞✱∂∩∂
2. *Transliteration:* a-no-ko-ne o-na-si-lo-ne , to-no-na-si-ku-po-ro-ne
3. *Classical:* Ἄνωγον Ὀνασίλον τὸν Ὀνασικύπρων
4. *Transcription:* áno:gon onasílon ton onasikúpro:n
5. *Gloss:* they.ordered Onasilos the of.Onasikupros

1. ∞∂ ∅∞Ω∂∂ ∩∞ ∞∞ ∞∞ ∞∞∂∂∞∞
2. to-ni ja-te-ra-ne , ka-se , to-se , ka-si-ke-ne-to-se
3. τὸν ἰατῆραν κὰς τὸς κασιγνήτος
4. ton iatê:ran kas tos kasigné:tos
5. the physician and the brothers

1. ✱∅∞∞∞∞ ∞∞ ∞∞∂∞∞ ∞∞ ∞ ∞∞
2. i-ja-sa-ta-i , to-se , a-to-ro-po-se , to-se , i ta-i
3. ἰᾶσθαι τὸς ἀνθρώπος τὸς ἰν τᾶι
4. iâst^hai tos ant^hró:pos tos in tai
5. to heal the men those in the

1. ∞∞∞∞ ∞∞∞∞∞∞∞ ∞∂∞∞ ∞∞∞∞
2. ma-ka-i , i-ki-ma-me-no-se , a-ne-u , mi-si-to-ne
3. μάχαι ικμαμένος ἄνευ μισθῶν.
4. mák^hai ikmaménos áneu mist^hō:n
5. battle wounded without fee

‘They ordered Onasilos the (son) of Onasikupros the physician and the brothers to heal the men wounded in the battle without fee.’

—*From the Idalion inscription, after Chadwick 1987: 56, with permission.*