

Title: Some examples of *LATIN LETTER OI (gha)* (U+01A2, U+01A3) in Tatar and Uighur printing, with remarks on the recommended glyphs.

Source: Michael Everson, 1999-05-14

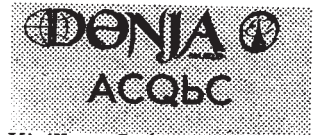
The first samples come from *Donja: Xalıqara tatar gazetası* ('*World: International Tatar Newspaper*'), published 1992-10 in Qazan, Tatarstan, in the Russian Federation. Latin orthography was used in Tatar ca. 1927-1937, according to Edward Allworth (*Nationalities of the Soviet East*, Columbia University Press, 1971). In *Donja*, the editors were reintroducing Latin script for Tatar, with mixed typographic success.

In the sample to the right, TUQJANNARBN and two other words are composed out of a printed DIGIT ZERO and a handwritten vertical with a j-terminal. It is a rather clumsy attempt. In the italic text below, however, we see the word *Qaqıdäläre* written with a historically authentic shape; note that the bowl is sliced flat and is somewhat thinner on the side next to the vertical.

Below this we see part of the alphabet key printed on the front page of the newspaper to assist readers with the Latin text. Here we see that the letter has been constructed by attaching a hooked vertical to it.

TUQJANNARNBN
BBLQJAN CAQJB

□ 14 bit — BTK Başqarma komitets
— häm aññ, eşcänlege Qaqıdäläre



Kirill	Latin	Terek
А а	A a	A a
Ә ә	Ə ə	E e
Б б	B b	B b
В в	V v	V v
—	W w (uau)	—
Г г	G g	G g
—	Q q (qalıñ g)	Q q
Д д	D d	D d

Qajber istäleklergä qarağanda, bu binada 1906 jıldan soñ aldınqı qaragıñ tatar zıjalıların yzlärenen çibışların oñıştıra torğan bulğannar. Monda әdәbi salon eşlägen digән fikirlär bar. Әlege kicälergә yzenen jaqın dustı Fatix Әmirxan belән bergә Qabduilla Tuqaj da qatnaşqan, imes.

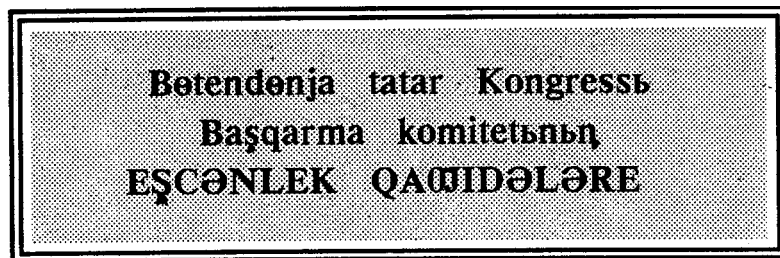
Qosman XƏBİBULLIN,
muzej direktorı.

Next we see these two letters presented in text. They look reasonable, though in the printing process there doesn't seem to be enough space between the bowl and the vertical, and the join between them is too black. In the signature the capital in *Qosman* is constructed very badly out of a DIGIT ZERO and a lengthened CAPITAL I.

Qali contains this same ugly capital; in the text following, *qıtqalarındaqı* shows how the typographer has narrowed a lower-case *o* and attached a vertical to it. It is not so easy to see in the scan, but in the original the balance between *q* and *qı* is not good (the *qı* is looks squished and is too black) and the thickness of the vertical is much thinner than other verticals. The terminal of the *qı* does have the usual serif, not the unusual hook.

Qali TUGUŞEF
(Tol'jatti, Rusie):

Xәzerdәn yk dә njanın
tәrlә qıtqalarındaqı
tatarlar arasыnda elem-
tәlәр nıqar dip faraz itәrgә
bula. Buss ә metle. Lәkin



In *QAQIDÄLӘRE* we see a very crude hand-made ligature of DIGIT ZERO and CAPITAL J. The vertical lacks its usual descender, and the colour of the letter in the text is bad.

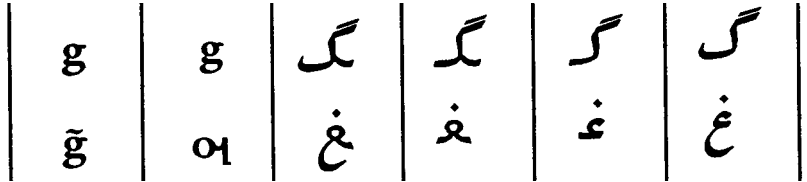
The last example from *Donja* is in Helvetica style, and shows very clearly the sliced bowl preferred for this character (which we shall see from a 1938 dictionary below), even though the vertical of this character is drawn by hand.

MƏRƏÇƏ QJƏTE

This 1992 newspaper is extremely interesting in that it shows early modern attempts to reconstruct and reproduce a letter which had been out of use for half a century. Many of these attempts are unsuccessful, but as noted, two of them (in *Qaqıdäläre* and *MƏRƏÇƏQJƏTE*) do succeed in reproducing good 1938 typographic practice.

Q The letter *Q* has been used for languages other than Tatar, as well. In Henry G. Schwartz's *An Uyghur-English dictionary* (Western Washington 1992, it is said that from the mid-1960s until the early 1980s a Latin script was used, though it had been supplanted by Arabic. The letter shown to the left here is from David K. Parshall's *The first step in Uygur* (Xinjiang University, 1993). There is a certain flattishness in the bowl next to the vertical, but the descender of the vertical is too short and in text the letter looks too black.

Schwartz gives a sample *q* in his dictionary; it is unusually wide and is not used anywhere else in the dictionary.



Q In Edward Allworth's *Nationalities of the Soviet East* (Columbia University Press, 1971), a number of languages are shown as having used this letter at some stage. The sample, shown on the right does not have the flattened bowl and has a hooked descender. It is only used in charts, not in text.

Aa	Bb	Cc	Çç	Dd	Ee	Ff	Gg
Q q	Hh	Ĥĥ	Ħĥ	Ii	Jj	Kk	Ƙƙ
Ll	Łł	Łł	Mm	Nn	Oo	Pp	Qq
Qq	Rr	Ss	Şş	Şş	Tt	ƧƧ	Uu
Vv	Xx	Xx	Xx	Zz	Zz	ƷƷ	

Harald Haarman gives a number of non-Russian alphabets from the Soviet Union of the 1920s and 1930s in his book *Die Universalgeschichte der Schrift* (Campus, 1990). One of these alphabets, Avar, has what I consider to be the canonical *Q*.

I take Nuqajbik, Əmirxan, Qorban and Fəjzuillin's *Rusca-tatarca syzlek* (*Russian-Tatar dictionary*) published in Qazan in 1938 to provide the best model for this character, as it is a large dictionary, and has been carefully typeset. In the two examples below, capital *Q* and small *q* can be seen in both roman and italic style. The sliced bowl and serifed vertical can be clearly seen.

Şulaj uq moña qədər tatar telendə cыqqan rusca-tatarca syzleklərdən həm termin syzleklərennən fajdalanılb.

б, и, й, к, н, о, п, с, у, ф, х, ц, ч, ш, щ, ә, ю һәм я хәрефләрен — Q. Nuqajbik,

Ç Ə V A P L Ъ R E D A K T O R L A R :

Prof. M. Qorbanqalief, prof. M. Fazlullin, M. Qjmadief.

The *Rusca-tatarca syzlek* shows another interesting glyph. In the word *FAJDALANUCЬLARQJA* below, we see a stylized letter which seems to have been reproduced in the 1992 newspaper *Donja*, as shown in the word *MƏRƏÇƏQƏTE* on the previous page.

SYZLEKTƏN FAJDALANUCЬLARQJA

Bu syzlek tatar хезмәт иәләренән kin massasь өсән, ваşьса, rus телән ваşьлануьс һәм, urta мәктәп дәрәҗәсәндә өjrәnycelәр, şulaj uq ваşьлануьс һәм urta мәктәпләрдә uqucьлар өсән төзелде.

I suppose I should take a moment to remind readers that, although the name LATIN LETTER OI has been applied to this character in ISO/IEC 10646 and Unicode, this name is completely spurious. The ordinary name of this character is *qa* or *gha*.