


















3c. CVCV signs

		$a + ra/i, ra + a$ (450 + 383)
		$i + ra/i, ri + i$ (209 + 383)
		$la + ra/i + a$ (175 + 383 + 450)
		ara/i (134)
		$tara/i$ (389)
		$hara/i$ (290)
		(IUDEX + ra/i) $dara$ (371 + 383)
		$mara/i^{-(ra/i)}$ (462, 463(3)) (For variant forms, especially ANCOZ, see Hawkins and Morpurgo Davies, 1998)
		kar (315)

L.450 *a**Origin* —*Reading*

Long uncertain beside incorrect “*a*” (for *i*) and *á*, also because of curious usages (initial-*a*-final, plene and space-filler zero).

Value *a* by Forrer (1932); Bossert (1944) *ā*; Güterbock (1950), Meriggi (1951), Friedrich (1953) had settled for *à* (the third *a*), followed by Laroche, *HH*, p. 232 f. (L.450, see discussion there). With the New Reading of “*a*” (L.209) as *i*, *à* could be moved to the vacant first *a* slot, thus became *a*. Transcription **a* indicates initial-*a*-final.

initial-*a*-final (-**a*)

Peculiar graphic practice whereby an initial *a*- in any word is written not at the beginning but instead at the end, standing as a tall, full-height sign. First observed in personal names on seals and elsewhere, then on monumental Empire inscriptions EMİRGAZİ 1, also 2: see Hawkins *apud* Melchert, *The Luwians* (2003), pp. 159–161 (6.2.3). For a detailed examination of the evidence and analysis see now J. M. Burgin,

Graphical origins of “initial-*a*-final” in Hieroglyphic Luwian (*SMEA NS 2* (2016), pp. 7–32).

Convention. In transliteration of text, initial-*a*-final is here placed where it appears at the end of the word (-**a*). Elsewhere, in commentary and discussion, it is transferred to where it belongs, at the beginning (**a*-).

Empire examples: EMİRGAZİ 1 follows this practice with no exceptions, as does NIŞANTAŞ (as far as visible). YALBURT normally slants initial *a* over the following signs, thus is equivocal, not very clear-cut: only definite example **a*-mu-pa-wa/i (block 4, § 3), a 4-sign group.

Transitional: initial-*a*-final followed by GÜRÜN, also KÖTÜKALE (İSPEKÇÜR, DARENDE—no examples); ALEPPO 6 and 7; ANKARA 2; but on KARAHÖYÜK only exceptionally. See below, *Usage*.

Late period: the practice continues through into the early Late period inscriptions, details explored by Melchert in *Fs Hawkins* (2010), pp. 147–158. This shows that it continued until c. 850 B.C., when it was gradually abandoned and replaced initial *a*- with *á*- or *–*. In the latest inscriptions *a*- partially reappears.

At Karkamiş for example, the Suhi-Katuwa inscriptions rigorously observe initial-*a*-final; Yariri (A6, A15b, A24a)