

How to use the Samian5 font

The Samian5 font is intended to display the terra sigillata stamp readings. The surrounding ‘normal’ text of the catalogue should be in some standard font, such as ‘Times New Roman’ or ‘Helvetica’. This is how the published volumes of the Index are formatted and that is how it is intended to be used.

To format a reading to use the Samian5 font, highlight the reading in the text and switch the font to Samian5 in one of the boxes in the tool bar. If Samian5 does not appear as an option in the list of available fonts then it is not installed (or not installed correctly) on the computer.

The Index project uses the program BabelMap to build up strings of characters for stamp readings. In BabelMap, set Samian5 as the ‘Single Font’ in the box near the bottom of the screen. The special characters start at code point F500 (use ‘Go to Code Point’). Sequences of characters built up in the Edit buffer can be copied and pasted into a word processor, where the readings have to be set as Samian5 (as above) to display the glyphs correctly.

BabelMap can be downloaded from: <http://www.babelstone.co.uk/Software/BabelMap.html>

Passing on word processor files using Samian5 to other users

If you pass on a PDF version of your report, the fonts (including Samian5) are embedded in the pdf file and should display correctly on any printer or in any viewer - or in a browser with the standard plugins.

If you send out a word processor file, like a Word .doc file, you also have to send a copy of the original font (preferably in the original installation file) and the font has to be installed on any machine that is used to edit or view the .doc file, otherwise the Samian5 characters will not display. This is because unlike .pdf files, which carry their own fonts around with them, .doc files rely on the fonts installed on the host system. If Samian5 is not installed, the Samian5 glyphs in a .doc file will display as black (or empty) boxes, or in an Asian script (depending on what fonts are installed on the system).

The development of the Samian5 font

The characters in the Samian5 font reflect the state of development of the Index, and continued to develop up until the publication of Volume 9 in 2012.

Backwards compatibility with earlier versions of Samian5 will be maintained until the publication of the final volume. At that point the situation may need reassessment because only then we will have a complete catalogue of glyphs. This is a consequence of the long duration of the project and not having all the glyphs at the outset.

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