

**Final -y and -yw in Cornish**  
**Discussion paper for the AHG**  
*Michael Everson and Nicholas Williams*  
*12 March 2008*

During an online meeting between the Linguistic Advisors and Albert Bock and Benjamin Bruch, it was agreed that several discussion papers could be forwarded to the AHG for further discussion and approval. This is one of those papers.

In our response to the Unresolved Issues document, we echoed the position Andrew Climo put forward in his response to a Questionnaire sent out by Albert Bock regarding the question of final <-y> in the SWF.

The SWF is linguistically satisfactory in its framework structure, but this does not mean that Traditionalists are willing to use unattested graphs where perfectly satisfactory attested graphs are available for use. There are not many unattested graphs.

- <oe> is not traditional; the main-form of <oo> is used instead.
- <hw> is not traditional; a side-form of <wh> has been granted.
- <kw> is not traditional; a side-form of <qw> has been granted.
- <iw> is not traditional; a side-form of <yw> has been requested.
- <-i> is not traditional; a side-form of <-y> has been requested.

(We note that Agan Tavas has requested <-y> as a Parallel Main Form.)

The proposals to add <-y> for the controversial <-i> (as well as <yw> for the controversial <iw>) speak directly to the Commission's recognition that "construed" forms will attract sustained and bitter criticism. Traditionalists expectations (including those of a number of academics who have *already* criticized the draft SWF) are simple here: we wish to use attested graphs and we do not wish to use graphs which are not attested.

Ken George offered in his response to the Unresolved Issues document the following:

*I advise against <-y>. Welsh and Breton both write <-i>.*

Cornish is Cornish; it is not Welsh or Breton. The idea that we should accept <-i> because two other languages use it seems to us to be rather absurd. (Similarly, the rationale for <iw> would seem to be that Breton has <iv> for these words. The graph <iw> is unattested as is <hw>.)

Albert and Ben said in their Unresolved Issues document:

*... [W]hile it could be argued that unstressed final <-y> (representing [-ɪ]) might make a good choice for the main form, the SWF agreement calls for <-i> to be used instead, following KK and RLC practice.*

We would like to point out that RLC practice *also* uses <-y>. Although Richard Gendall has been using more Lhuydian orthographies recently, his earlier work used <-y>. Lhuydian orthography is not Traditional. It is scientific, and useful and admirable for what it is. An authentic orthography, however, is based on the scribal tradition (which ends with Jordan). To mix Lhuydian graphs with scribal graphs is anachronistic.

Trond, Albert, and Ben are *well aware* that we have disputed their claim that the Agan Tavas representatives approved of final <-i> whether stressed or unstressed. Rigidity here will serve no one. UC and UCR users will not use <-i> any more than they will use <hw> or <kw>.

*We would prefer not to have to add hundreds of new side forms in <-y> (including the 3s. fem. of all prepositions and the 2s. pr. subj. of all verbs) to the lexicon. AB and BB therefore suggest that if the AHG decide to allow a side form in <-y> that this usage be limited to open unstressed final syllables, since otherwise the relationship between main forms and side forms will not be predictable, as is the case with <c/k/q/wh>.*

With regard to the suggestion that <-y> be restricted to unstressed final syllables, we cannot agree. Tens of thousands of houses across Cornwall are named “Chy Pons”, “Chy war an Ton”, “Chy Gordon”, “Chy Salvester”, “Chy Noweth”, etc., etc., etc. These are not village, town, or field names, but names proper. There is no question of abandoning “Chy” in these. Perhaps Albert and Ben feel that a **chi/chy/chei** alternation is inconvenient, but it will certainly not cause confusion in either readers or writers, as <-y>, <-ei>, and <-i> do not alternate with anything else, whether in stressed or unstressed position. Nor should there be any difficulty for the high-frequency personal pronouns, for which there are many variations already: **my/me/vy/ve/avy, ty/te/chy/che, ev, hi/hy/hei, ni/ny/nei, hwi/why/whai**, (\***whi/hwy/hwei** are unlikely) **i/y/anjy/anjei**.

We also note that the “hundreds of new side forms” Albert and Ben wish to avoid is not so great. The number of monosyllables in final <-i>/<-y> is about 20. Here are the facts as regards attestation of monosyllables in <-i> in the Middle and Late Cornish corpus (ignoring initial mutation):

<b>bry</b>	‘esteem, value’	<i>bry</i>	9	<i>bri</i>	0		
<b>chy</b>	‘house’	<i>chy</i>	64	<i>chi</i>	1		
<b>cry</b>	‘cry’	<i>cry</i>	5	<i>cri</i>	0	<i>krei</i>	4
				<i>kri</i>	0		
<b>dhy, dy</b>	‘thither, to there’	<i>dy</i>	9	<i>di</i>	0		
<b>devry</b>	‘indeed’	<i>defry</i>	63	<i>defri</i>	0		
		<i>devery</i>	4	<i>devri</i>	0		
				<i>deveri</i>	0		
<b>dry</b>	‘bring’	<i>dry</i>	47	<i>dri</i> (LC)	6		
<b>fy</b>	‘fie’	<i>fy</i>	13	<i>fi</i>	0		
<b>gwry</b>	‘stitch, seam’	<i>gwry</i>	0	<i>gwri</i>	0		
<b>hy</b>	‘she, her’	<i>hy</i>	166	<i>hi</i>	6		
<b>ky</b>	‘dog’	<i>ky</i>	13	<i>kí</i> (AB)	1	<i>kei</i> (AB)	1
<b>pry</b>	‘clay’	<i>pry</i>	7	<i>pri</i>	0		
<b>ry</b>	‘give’	<i>ry</i>	119	<i>ri</i> (LC)	7	<i>rei</i> (LC)	9
<b>try</b>	‘three’	<i>try</i>	64	<i>tri</i>	5	<i>trei</i>	13
<b>ty</b>	‘roof, thatch’	<i>ty</i>	0	<i>ti</i>	0		
<b>ty</b>	‘swear’	<i>ty</i>	0	<i>ti</i>	0		
<b>ty</b>	‘thou, thee’	<i>ty</i>	349	<i>ti, tí</i>	23		
<b>why</b>	‘you’	<i>why</i>	380	<i>whi</i>	2	<i>whai</i>	4
				<i>hwi</i>	0	<i>whai</i>	3
						<i>huei</i>	23
<b>anjy</b>	‘they’	<i>angy</i>	7	<i>anji</i>	0	<i>an dzhei</i>	26
		<i>angye</i>	2				
		<i>anjy</i>	0				
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,321</b>		<b>51</b>		<b>83</b>

91% of these words are written **-y** in Traditional Cornish, compared with 3% with final **-i**, and 6% with final **-ei**. And that does not include the following words, for which an automatic count

- y** ‘they’; these are difficult to count since many examples of **y** are the particle.  
*y* attested 2,568 times; *i* ‘they’ in the formula **i a** for **y a** occurs 7 times. Ratio of graphs: 99.7% **y**, 0.3% **i**.
- ny** ‘we’; these are difficult to count since many examples of **ny** are the particle ‘not’.  
*ny* attested 1,920 times; *ni* attested 45 times, mostly LC and some are *ni* ‘not’; *nei* attested 37 times. Ratio of graphs: 96% **-y**, 2% **-i**, 2% **-ei**.

Agan Tavas has passed a resolution specifically regarding final **-y**, stating that their acceptance of the SWF is contingent upon the SWF having a “*Variant form for final <y> of the same status as <i>*”. Note that “Variant form” means “Parallel Main Form” here. We would accept Side Form, though we cannot speak for Agan Tavas in this matter.

The same sorts of figures can be shown for <yw> vs <iw>:

<b>dyw</b>	‘two (f.)’*	<i>dyw</i>	3	<i>diw</i>	0		
		<i>dyv</i>	3	<i>diu</i>	0		
<b>gwyw</b>	‘worthy’			<i>div</i>	0		
		<i>gwyw</i>	4	<i>gviw</i>	0		
		<i>guyv</i>	5	<i>guiv</i>	0		
		<i>gwyw</i>	1	<i>gwiw</i>	0		
<b>lyw</b>	‘colour’	<i>guew</i>	7	<i>guiu</i>	0		
		<i>lyv</i>	3	<i>liw</i>	0	<i>lew</i>	1
		<i>lyw</i>	9	<i>liw</i>	0		
<b>nywl</b>	‘mist, fog’			<i>liu</i>	0		
				<i>niul</i> (Lhuyd)	1		
<b>pyw</b>	‘own’**					<i>pev</i>	1
<b>pyw</b>	‘who’					<i>pew</i>	4
		<i>pyv</i>	33	<i>piw</i>	0	<i>peua</i> (Lhuyd)	1
		<i>pyw</i>	11	<i>piw</i>	0	<i>pew</i>	24
				<i>piu</i> (Lhuyd)	3	<i>peu</i>	1
						<i>pu</i>	4
<b>Total</b>			<b>79</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>36</b>

Thus **-y** 66%, **-ew/-u** 30%, and **-iw** 4% (both of which are Lhuydian).

\*Note that **dyw-** as a prefix is more commonly **dew-**, **dev-**, **dow-** even before feminine nouns: *dywle* 1; *dywluelf* 1; *dyvlef* 1; *dyvluelf* 1; *devle* 3; *dewla* 3; *dewla* 1; *dewleff* 3; *dowla* 5. Note also the spellings *dule* 10; *dula* 3 where *du* = *dew*; cf. *Du* ‘God’ attested at least 420 times.

\*\* **a bewhy** ‘which you may own’ CW 1159

**ryw** ‘slope’: attested only in place-names, e.g. *Trerew*, *Trefrew* and *Trefrouse*.

**syw** ‘bream’: in the texts found only in the pl. *shewyan* CW 411.

**stryw** ‘sneeze’: the word for ‘sneeze’ (noun) is known only from Lhuyd who gives *Strihue* ‘a sneeze’ (AB: 154c) and *Dho strihui* ‘to sneeze’ (also AB: 154c).

There is *no* linguistic reason to write **iw** in the SWF. And the political reason to write it is not in any way compelling.

**Final *-th/-dh* and final *-f/-v* in Cornish**  
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During an online meeting between the Linguistic Advisors and Albert Bock and Benjamin Bruch, it was agreed that several discussion papers could be forwarded to the AHG for further discussion and approval. This is one of those papers.

In our response to the draft Outline of the SWF document, we noted that the definition of the distribution of these sounds and the graphs to represent them was imprecise.

*5. 8. Fricatives: Word-final <-dh>, <-v> vs. <-th>, <-f>*

*It has been agreed that word-final fricatives should be spelt in a way which reflects their status of voicedness/voicelessness. Thus, the SWF writes both ‘will’, klav {clav} ‘sick’, but eth ‘eight’, dalleth ‘begin’, hanaf (~ hanath) ‘cup’, etc. Where evidence from the traditional Cornish corpus is ambiguous, Breton and Welsh cognates will be examined.*

This is problematic, because the text says two things. On the one hand it says that the graphs **dh** and **v** will be used for voiced sounds, and that **th** and **f** will be used for voiceless sounds. That’s perfectly fine. On the other hand it says that where the traditional corpus is ambiguous (which it will be because <th> is used for both [ð] and [θ]) then two other languages will be “examined”. But voicing and voicelessness in the *other* languages is *not* relevant to Cornish. Voicelessness in unstressed final syllables is common and contrasts with voicing in stressed final syllables *throughout the system*:

<b>mab</b> ‘son’	<b>methewnep</b> ‘drunkenness’
<b>neb</b> ‘some’	<b>hevelep</b> ‘likeness’
<b>wheg</b> ‘sweet’	<b>carrek</b> ‘rock’
<b>mog</b> ‘smoke’	<b>gallosek</b> ‘powerful’
<b>dov</b> ‘tame’	<b>warnaf</b> ‘on me’
<b>nev</b> ‘heaven’	<b>enef</b> ‘soul’
<b>ov</b> ‘I am’	<b>esof</b> ‘I am’
<b>gradh</b> ‘step, grade’	<b>noweth</b> ‘new’
<b>badh</b> ‘boar’	<b>gelwyth</b> ‘you call’ (literary register)

Recognition of this facet of Cornish phonology makes spelling easier for learners. **-dh** and **-v** should be used in final stressed syllables (as on the left), and **-th** and **-f** in final unstressed syllables (as on the right). To do otherwise is to make a linguistic mistake, and Accuracy is one of the pillars of the SWF.

Some may ask, what is the evidence? Let’s look at final **-f/-v** first.

**Unstressed final *-f* and stressed final *-v* in Cornish**

To start with, we notice that after an *unstressed* syllable, **f** has a tendency to disappear, thus original **dewlef** ‘hands’ becomes **dewla** [ˈdɛvlə]; note also **enef** [ˈɛnə] ‘soul’ and **genaf** [ˈɡɛnə]. It is true that Jenner, Nance, and Caradar all recommended pronouncing historic <f> after an unstressed vowel as [v], i.e. **caraf** [ˈkarəv], **genef** [ˈɡɛnəv], **dredhof** [ˈdɹɛðəv], and many speakers of the revived language maintain this pronunciation.

However, it is clear from our later Cornish sources, i.e. from Tregear onwards, that in native words final [g] occurs after a stressed vowel, e.g. **rag** ‘for’, **wheg** ‘sweet’, and **mog** ‘smoke’, whereas [k] is found after an unstressed one, e.g. **gowak** ‘mendacious’, **carrak** ‘rock’ and **gallosak** ‘powerful.’ The same appears to be true for [b] and [p]: **mab** ‘son’ but **methewnep** ‘drunkenness’, **neb** ‘some’ but **hevelep** ‘likeness’.

There can be no doubt that after a stressed vowel historic <f> was as [v], as is only to be expected. The following selection of examples indicate that the final segment of **ev** ‘he’, **nev** ‘heaven’, **ov** ‘am’, **gav** ‘forgive!’, **crev** ‘strong’, **sav** ‘stand’ was indeed [v]:

*ev yv pen cok* RD 2017;  
*ev a breffyas lowre gow theis* CW 818;  
*mabe Jared yth ov heb gowe* CW 2096;  
*Taz ni es en nev* Davies 1632;  
*Gav da ny gyn cambwith* Davies 1632;  
*eez en nôr pokara en nêv* Chamberlayne 1715;  
*Mez ol krêv en karensa vâz* Gwavas;  
*an Taz Olgallusack, gwrêar a'n nev* Pryce 1790;  
*Sâv aman, kebmer tha li* Pryce 1790.

It is by no means certain, however, that <f> after an unstressed vowel was pronounced [v]. It seems rather that in such a position [f] was maintained and later weakened to [h] and then disappeared. There are very many examples in the texts from *Pascon Agan Arluth* to *Creation of the World* in which final **f** after an unstressed vowel is written <ff>.

*par del won lauaraff* 3ys PA 8a  
*mar nyth wolhaff dre ow gras* PA 46c  
*nyth nahaff kyn fen lezys* PA 49d  
*ha del ve3aff hombronkis* PA 61d  
*3e wor3aff ve ham lays* PA 80a  
*yn nef y fe3aff tregis* PA 93c  
*mestry vyth te ny vea war[n]aff ve* PA 145a  
*ny vannaff aga gu3yll war ow fyth* PA 154d  
*towyll vyth ny allaff yn fas* PA 156d  
*me as gura ny strechyaff pell* PA 158c  
*pan welaff ow mab mar wan* PA 166d  
*or3aff mar mynnyth cole* PA 175d  
*predery ahanaff gura* PA 193b  
*Coyl ortheff vy meryasek* BM 407  
*ortheff na wyla pythays* BM 818  
*creyaff warnogh ladron drues* BM 1047  
*ganse temptijs y fethaff* BM 1101  
*manneff uskys* BM 1152  
*yma ortheff lovygyan* BM 1356  
*ortheff lemnen the voys grueys* BM 1363  
*Mannaff gueles agys dour* BM 1440  
*manneff ry alesonov* BM 1829  
*The crist ihesu in grassaff* BM 1858  
*theth palys lemen manaff* BM 1860

*dres an gluas y comondyaff* BM 1862  
*ha me a ra mar pewaff* BM 1864  
*ha thys y fanaff omry* BM 2127  
*benytha ny welaff guel* BM 2336  
*ihesu arluth ortheff myr* BM 2542  
*meryasek the ortheff vy* BM 2577  
*yma sur the ortheff vy* BM 2658  
*ny vannaff an dynyle* BM 2813  
*the venitens mannaff moys* BM 2863  
*mannaff the weles gueres* BM 3106  
*us nygis dyugh ortheff vy* BM 3126  
*Thum du offrynnnyaff pen margh* BM 3400  
*ihesu crist ny denahaff* BM 3556  
*mas orth dev croyth ny gerthaff* BM 4183  
*sav ny von pur in metyaff* BM 4186  
*grassaff 3e crist a vercy* BM 4233  
*pesy warnaff a rella* BM 4288  
*ha lues heboff oma* BM 4546  
*lo ethesoff ve genowgh why bys vickan* TH 17  
*Ny whelaff ve, y myth crist* TH 22a  
*fatell caraff ve ge* TH 43  
*I thesaff ow supposya* TH 47  
*om bos ynaff fallsurye* CW 353  
*rag me ny allaff meddra* CW 1551  
*deaw pillar mannaff poyntya* CW 2180.

The two spellings <genaffa> ‘with me’ CW 271 and <ny sewenaffa> ‘I shall not prosper’ CW 1285 also suggest that **-ef**, **-af** in unstressed syllables ended in a voiceless segment. In these two forms it appears that the final [əf] has been reinforced with an enclitic particle **ve** to give [əfə]: [ˈgɛnəf və] > [ˈgɛnəfə]. Such a development would not have occurred if the simplex in either case had been \***genav** and \***sewenv**.

<*Gene*> ‘with me’ and <*ene*>, <*ena*> ‘soul’ are common at all periods. Indeed <*ene*>, <*ena*> ‘soul’ rhymes with words ending in *-e* and *-a* at PC 2316, 2364, 2508, 2581, 2659, RD 18, BM 122, 482, 773, 910, 1561 and CW 1542. Because *genef* ‘with me’ in some forms of Cornish became \**geneh* > *gene*, it was reinforced either by *-ama* (<*genama*> PA 193d > Late Cornish <*gennam*>) or by *vy*. It is noteworthy that <*genevy*>, <*genavy*> is attested 13 times in Middle Cornish and <*genna vee*> occurs twice in Late Cornish.

As far as [v] after an unstressed vowel is concerned, we have two examples each of <*genev*>, <*genniv*> ‘with me’, one of <*ragov*> ‘for me’, six examples <*uarnav*> ‘upon me’ and one example of <*olav*> ‘I weep’. In every case these are from the pen of Edward Lhuyd. He could hardly have heard any of them, since in his day <*genef*> had become <*genna vee*>, and the others would have been \**ragam* or \**raga vee* and \**warnam* or \**warna vee*. *Olav* ‘I weep’, if it existed, would have been \**olama*, \**olam*.

We have, then, no evidence at all for unstressed *-av*, *-ov* in traditional Cornish; indeed the evidence suggests that the final segment in *enef* ‘soul’, *genaf* ‘with me’, *warnaf* ‘upon me’, etc. was either [f] or Ø, as [ˈɛnəf], [ˈɛnə], [ˈɡɛnəf], [ˈɡɛnə], [ˈwɑːnəf], [ˈwɑːnə]. We should therefore write *enef*, *genaf*, *warnaf*, and *ow enef vy*, *genaf vy*, and *warnaf vy*.

(To be perfectly honest about it, we would prefer to write *ef* and *geneff*, but the representatives of Agan Tavas to the AHG agreed that *ev* would be possibility to accommodate KK and RLC users, so that is why we recommend *ev* and *genef*. What we do not accept, however, is *ev* and \**genev*, because this is not accurate.)

### Unstressed final *-th* and stressed final *-dh* in Cornish

To restate here what we stated above, it is clear from our later Cornish sources, i.e. from Tregear onwards, that in native words final [g] occurs after a stressed vowel, e.g. *rag* ‘for’, *wheg* ‘sweet’, and *mog* ‘smoke’, whereas [k] is found after an unstressed one, e.g. *gowak* ‘mendacious’, *carrak* ‘rock’ and *gallosak* ‘powerful.’ The same appears to be true for [b] and [p]: *mab* ‘son’ but *methewnep* ‘drunkenness’, *neb* ‘some’ but *hevelep* ‘likeness’, as well as for [v] and [f]: *ev* ‘he’ but *genef* ‘with me’.

The same alternation of voiced consonant after a stressed vowel and voiceless after an unstressed one is also noticeable with the reflex of British \**d*. After a stressed vowel Lhuyd writes ‘will be’ regularly as *bedh* and *ved*. When the syllable is unstressed, however, he writes the final segment as <th> [θ]: <*volenezeth*>, <*volyndzheth*>, <*bolenezeth*> ‘wish’ (AB: 222, 224 and 240c) and <*guironeth*>, <*Gwyroneh*> ‘truth’ (AB: 222, 240c). There are many examples of *-th* in Lhuyd (thanks to John Mills for providing this):

**arleth** *n.* A lord, a master, a ruler, a chief [55b]; A Lord or Master [65b]. *Latin* Dominus [55b]; Herus [65b]; Proceres [128c].

**Banneth** *n.* a blessing.

**Bisqueth** *adv.* Ever [229a].

**Bisqueth** *adv.* Ever.

**Bithqueth** *adv.* Ever.

**Bitqueth** *adv.* Ever.

**Bolonegeth** *n.* The will.

**Borègueth** *adv.* On a morning.

**Bysqueth** *adv.*

**Dallath** *n.* A beginning, an entrance, an original, &c. [128b]. *Latin*: Initium [71a]; Principium [28b].

**Dallath** *n.* *Latin*: Initium.

**dallath** *v.* To begin, to [engage in] enterprise, to go about [69a]. *Latin*: Incipio.

**Deguyth** *adv.* Ten times.

**Deuyth** *adv.* Twice.

**egrūath** *v.* *Latin*: Voluto.

**filgeth** *n.* Soot [7b] [21c] [62a]. *latin*: Fulgio [33a]; Fuligo [62a].

**filgeth** *See main entry: filgeth.*

**Folneth** *n.* Folly.

**Foloreth** *n.* Folly.

**Glannith** *adj.* Clean, fine, neat, trim, handsome [95c]; Clean, neat, trim [99b]. *Latin*: Mundus, [mund]a. [mund]um [95c]; Nitidus [99b].

**Gouegneeth** *n.* Fra[ud]; deceit; falsehood.

**gresyith** *v.*

**Guanath** *n.* Wheat [15b]; Wheat [176a]. *Latin*: Triticum [167a].

**Guanath** *n.* Wheat. *Latin*: Triticum.

**Gurkath** *n.* A he-cat.

**Gwyroneh** *n.* Truth.

**hanath** *n.* A Cup [33c] [274c]; A drinking cup, a bowl, a dish, a mug [45c]; A drinking cup, a bowl [53n]. *Latin:* Calix [45c]; Cyathus [53b].

**Iganzvath** *number-ordinal.* The twentieth.

**Kanzuyth** *adv.* A hundred times.

**karlath** *n.* A Ray [136a]; A ray or thornback [241b].

*Latin:* Raia lævis [136a]; Raia [136a].

**Kettoth** *adv.* As soon as [249a][250a].

**kidniath** *See main entry: kidniaz.*

**Kyzalath** *n.* Peace, quietness; Also pardon and forgiveness, favour, leave. *Latin:* Pax.

**kýzalath** *See main entry: kýzeleth.*

**kýzeleth** *n.* Peace, concord, agreement [50b]; Peace, peaceableness, tranquillity [240c]; Peace [243b]. *Latin:* Concordia [50b].

**kýzaleth** *See main entry: kýzeleth.*

**'lannith** *adj.*

**lonath** *n.* A Kidney [30c]; the reins [138c]. *Latin:* Ren [138c].

**meneth** *n.* A Mountain [19b]; A mountain [230c][242b].

**Mennith** *v.* Thou wilt.

**miluyth** *adv.* A thousand times [232a][248c].

**Molleth** *n.* A taunt, a check or reproach; a curse. *Latin:* Maledictum.

**mýhterneth** *n.* Sovereignty [240c].

**nèpyth** *n.* nèpyth [244c]; Nepeth [ʔ Nebaz] [249a], Nepeth [135a]. A little, but little, too little, scarce [113c]; So little and small, very little [161a]; some [227a].

**progath** *n.* A Sermon [16a]; An Oration or Speech, a Sermon [50b]. *Latin:* Concio [50b].

**Skiantoletth** *n.* Prudence.

**sýuêth** *int.* Alass! Wo is me! [42a]. *Latin:* Ah [42a].

**sýwêth** *See main entry: sýuêth.*

**tallath** *n.* *Latin:* Initium.

**terguyth** *adv.* Thrice [248b][248c]

**terguyth** *See main entry: terguyth.*

**travêth** *n.* Any thing [244c].

**traveth** *See main entry: travêth.*

**trebath** *n.* A Trivet or Brand-Iron [19a].

**triuyth** *n.*

**uarbarth** *adv.* Together.

**uyhith** *n.*

**Ynuyth** *adv.* Once.

**Zilguyeth** *adv.* On a Sunday.

**gevyth** *v.* Thou shalt have.

Lhuyd was certainly well able to distinguish between [ð] and [θ]: where he does write **-dh** in unstressed position it is almost always in the same place where Welsh has **-dd**. This is linguistic interference from Welsh onto the Cornish data.

There is also internal proof in Jordan's Creation of the World showing that in unstressed position **th** was used for [θ]. At line 1080, we find Abel saying: *mos then menythe me a vyn mos dhe'n menyth me a vynn* 'I will go to the mountain'. Jordan uses the graph <the> throughout his text, and in monosyllables it is used regularly where we now write **dh** for the voiced sound; in line 41 compare even the polysyllable *inwethe inwedh* with stress on the final syllable. In polysyllables Jordan writes *menythe* in line 1080, and *ow bannethe* 'my blessing' in line 1945. It is very unlikely that <the> in these indicates voicing. Jordan also writes English third person singular verbs *takethe* and *stayethe* and *comethe* and *spekethe* x5 and *gevethe* and *turnethe* and *leadethe*. These are certainly [əθ] and indeed then *menythe* must be ['mənəθ] and *ow bannethe* must be [ə 'bænəθ]. Even KK has the latter as *bennath*, though we surmise that it has this because of Welsh, just as it has *menydh* because of Welsh.

The evidence suggests strongly that in Traditional Cornish the sound is voiceless. The principle of "Inclusivity" means that UC/UCR/RLC pronunciation needs to be supported. <dh> is *not* an acceptable umbrella graph for [θ]. Moreover, Agan Tavas users have objected to the KK **-dh** and **-v** in unstressed final position for as long as they have the other major graphs of KK. Just because **c/q/wh** are the "poster children" for Authentic graphs does not mean that the principle of Authenticity can be abandoned elsewhere.

Ken George himself says ['nɔwəθ] and certainly in Agan Tavas we also say ['nɔwəθ]. It may be argued that George does so because he learned UC, but even so, and even if his pronunciation is not representative of how most younger KK users speak, that would only mean that the younger KK users are in the minority, because UC/UCR and RLC users use voiceless consonants in unstressed final position. We know that many KK users are concerned with accuracy. In this case, final unstressed [v] and [ð] is not accurate. The SWF spellings should be **-f** and **-th** in unstressed position and **-v** and **-dh** in stressed position.

**Anomalous vowel length in Cornish**  
**Discussion paper for the AHG**  
*Michael Everson and Nicholas Williams*  
*12 March 2008*

During an online meeting between the Linguistic Advisors and Albert Bock and Benjamin Bruch, it was agreed that several discussion papers could be forwarded to the AHG for further discussion and approval. This is one of those papers.

In our response to the draft Outline of the SWF document, we noted that a specification of an anomalous class was problematic.

*There is a small class of MC words which lack pre-occluded Variant Forms. Some of these seem to have been borrowed from English after pre-occlusion occurred, e.g. **jynn** ‘engine’; others like **gonn** ‘knows’, were replaced by alternatives in LC and thus are only attested in their non-pre-occluded MC variants.*

The forms **jynn** and **gonn** cannot be admitted to the SWF. These would alternate with **\*jydn** and **\*godn** which do not occur. Anomalous vowel length is already a feature of the SWF, however (though ambiguity can be overcome with the optional use of diacritics), so **jyn** and **gon** (~**gòn**) should be the forms of these words. (If <i> is used for [i:] and <y> for [ɪ] in monosyllables, there will be no reason to write **\*jynn** however.)

Let’s explore anomalous behaviour first. In the list below, we are using the grave accent to indicate “anomalous short vowels”, that is, vowels which by the consonant rules should be long but are in fact short.

**càn** [kæn] ‘very white’  
**dàr** [dɔɪ] ‘what, eh?’  
**gràm** [gɹæm] ‘gramme’  
**jàm** [dʒæm] ‘jam’  
**làs** [læs] ‘lace’  
**màn** [mæn] ‘anything, nothing’  
**màr** [mɔɪ] ‘as’, ‘if, doubt’  
**nàm** [næm] ‘fault’  
**pàn** [pæn] ‘when’  
**swàn** [swɔɪn] ‘swan’  
**tàn** [tæn] ‘take!’. Contrasts with **tan** [tæ:n] ‘fire’.  
**wàr** [wɔɪ] ‘on’. Contrasts with **war** [wæ:r] ‘be-ware!’.

**crèn** [kɹɛn], [kɛ.m] ‘shake’  
**dèr** [dɛɪ], [dɔɪ] ‘through’.  
**ès** [ɛz] ‘than’. Contrasts with **es** [e:z] ‘ease’.  
**gwrèm** [gɹɛm] ‘hem’  
**hèm** [hɛm] ‘this’  
**hèn** [hɛn] ‘that’. Contrasts with **hen** [he:m] ‘old’.  
**kèn** [kɛn] ‘skin, peel’. Contrasts with **ken** [ke:m] ‘other’.  
**mès** [mɛz] ‘but’. Contrasts with **mes** [me:z] ‘thumb’.  
**tèst** [tɛst] ‘witness’

**bò** [bɔ] ‘if’. Contrasts with **bo** [bo:] ‘might be’.  
**bòs** [bɔz] ‘bush’. Contrasts with **bôs** [bo:z], [bɔz] ‘to be’.  
**cògh** [kɔx] ‘red, scarlet’. Contrasts with **caugh** [kɔx] ‘excrement’.  
**còst** [kɔst] ‘cost’. Contrasts with **cost** [ko:st] ‘coast, region’.  
**gòn** [gɔn] ‘I know’. Contrasts with **godn, gonn** [gɔ<sup>d</sup>n], [gɔn] ‘gun’.  
**gròn** [gɹɔn] ‘mass, bundle’  
**hòm** [hɔm] ‘this’  
**hòn** [hɔn] ‘that’  
**mòn** [mɔn] ‘fish offal’. Contrasts with **mon** [mo:n] ‘slender’.  
**nòs** [nɔz] ‘mark, token’. Contrast with **nos** [no:z] ‘night’.  
**pòr** [pɔɪ] ‘very’  
**scòn** [skɔn] ‘soon’  
**sòn** [sɔn] ‘sound’



Now many of these are high-frequency “function words”. Words like *wàr* ‘on’. For this word to follow the ordinary rules, it should be written *\*warr*, but everyone is agreed that we do not want to do this. In dictionaries and other materials for learners, it should be possible to mark the word *wàr* of course, to distinguish it from *war* ‘beware!’. But materials for learners which do not make use of diacritics will certainly have to offer a list of words with anomalous vowel length.

The problem here is that in that list, there are a number of words which have short vowels before -m and -n which do not pre-occlude. Here they are:

**càn** [kæn] ‘very white’  
**gràm** [gɹæm] ‘gramme’  
**jàm** [dʒæm] ‘jam’  
**màn** [mæn] ‘anything, nothing’  
**nàm** [næm] ‘fault’  
**pàn** [pæn] ‘when’  
**swàn** [swɔn] ‘swan’  
**tàn** [tæn] ‘take!’. Contrasts with **tan** [tæ:n] ‘fire’.  
**crèn** [kɹɛn], [kɛ.m] ‘shake’  
**gwrèm** [gɹɛm] ‘hem’  
**hèm** [hɛm] ‘this’  
**hèn** [hɛn] ‘that’. Contrasts with **hen** [he:n] ‘old’.

**kèn** [kɛn] ‘skin, peel’. Contrasts with **ken** [ke:n] ‘other’.  
**gòn** [gɔn] ‘I know’. Contrasts with **godn, gonn** [gɔ<sup>d</sup>n], [gɔn] ‘gun’.  
**gròn** [gɹɔn] ‘mass, bundle’  
**hòm** [hɔm] ‘this’  
**hòn** [hɔn] ‘that’  
**mòn** [mɔn] ‘fish offal’. Contrasts with **mon** [mo:n] ‘slender’.  
**scòn** [skɔn] ‘soon’  
**sòn** [sɔn] ‘sound’

The proposal made in the draft Outline SWF would divide this list into two. The words would arbitrarily be separated into two groups. One would contain words with anomalous vowel length, and the other a second list containing words which are spelt as though they pre-occluded but in fact do not preocclude. Possibly the lists would look like this:

**màn** [mæn] ‘anything, nothing’  
**pàn** [pæn] ‘when’  
**hèm** [hɛm] ‘this’  
**hèn** [hɛn] ‘that’. Contrasts with **hen** [he:n] ‘old’.  
**hòm** [hɔm] ‘this’  
**hòn** [hɔn] ‘that’  
**scòn** [skɔn] ‘soon’

**cann** [kæn] ‘very white’  
**gramm** [gɹæm] ‘gramme’  
**jamm** [dʒæm] ‘jam’  
**namm** [næm] ‘fault’  
**swann** [swɔn] ‘swan’  
**tann** [tæn] ‘take!’. Contrasts with **tan** [tæ:n] ‘fire’.  
**crenn** [kɹɛn], [kɛ.m] ‘shake’  
**gwremm** [gɹɛm] ‘hem’  
**kenn** [kɛn] ‘skin, peel’. Contrasts with **ken** [ke:n] ‘other’.  
**gonn** [gɔn] ‘I know’. Contrasts with **godn, gonn** [gɔ<sup>d</sup>n], [gɔn] ‘gun’.  
**gronn** [gɹɔn] ‘mass, bundle’  
**monn** [mɔn] ‘fish offal’. Contrasts with **mon** [mo:n] ‘slender’.  
**sonn** [sɔn] ‘sound’

The problem may not be immediate to the KK members of the AHG, but what this means is that for a baker’s dozen words, learners who pre-occlude will certainly treat these as *\*cadn*, *\*grabm*, *\*jabm*, *\*nabm*, *\*swadn*, *\*tadn*, *\*credn*, *\*gwrebm*, *\*kedn*, *\*godn*, *\*grodn*, *\*modn*, and *\*sodn*. All of those are *wrong!* People who pre-occlude do *not* pronounce these words with pre-occlusion!

We believe that it is simpler to have one list of anomalous vowel length than to have one of those as well as a list of words that look as though they could pre-occluded but do not. And there is the question of “which error is worse?”: To take an extreme example. one might write “*Crenn gramm a jamm!*” ‘Shake a gram of jam!’ or one might write “*Cren gram a jam!*” The first, if mispronounced, would be [kre<sup>d</sup>n græ<sup>b</sup>m ə dʒæ<sup>b</sup>m], and the second, if mispronounced, would be [kre:n græ:m ə dʒæ:m]. The first is the worse mistake in terms of authenticity and comprehension.

**Initial *i-* and *y-* in Cornish**  
**Discussion paper for the AHG**  
*Michael Everson and Nicholas Williams*  
*10 March 2008*

During an online meeting between the Linguistic Advisors and Albert Bock and Benjamin Bruch, it was agreed that several discussion papers could be forwarded to the AHG for further discussion and approval. This is one of those papers.

In our response to the Unresolved Issues document, we proposed a scheme to deal with the distribution of *i* and *y* in initial position. To date this issue has not been addressed. In fact, Trond told Michael that he thought that it was outside the AHG Agreement and would have to be dealt with by a later

UC uses *y-* in all positions. KK inherited this and changed some words from *y-* to *i-* evidently for etymological reasons (sometimes rightly and sometimes wrongly). RLC has tended to *i-* or *e-* for the same words, largely in terms of pronunciation. We believe that none of these systems is particularly helpful to learners, and have proposed a reorganization of the material whereby basically *i-* is used where words are pronounced either [i:] or [ɪ], and *y-* is used where words are pronounced either [ɪ] or [ə].

There are not very many words in initial vocalic *y-*; we have taken all of them which appear in George's dictionaries and recommend the following respellings. Note that in the first set the initial vowel should be *e-* rather than *y-* or *i-*. The list here also contains some words not found in George's dictionaries. Some examples are also given.

*edhna* 'fowler'  
*edhnyk* 'young bird'  
*edhyn* 'birds'  
*empynnnyon* ~ *empydnyon* 'brains'  
*encladhva* 'cemetery'  
*encledhyas* 'burial'  
*enkys* 'incense'  
*enkyslester* 'thurible'

*idhyl* 'feeble'  
*idhyow* 'ivy'  
*idhyowek* 'ivy-clad place'  
*idn* ~ *inn* 'narrow'  
*ilyn* 'limpid'  
*imbracya* 'embrace'  
*imp* 'graft'  
*impya* 'to graft'  
*in* 'in'  
*in Kernow* 'in Cornwall'  
*i'n chy* 'in the house'  
*in y jy* 'in his house'  
*i'm breus avy* 'in my judgement'  
*ino* 'in him',  
*inhy* 'in her'  
*ina* (*inha*) 'in them'

*enys* 'island'  
*Enys* 'Shrovetide'  
*enysega* 'insulate'  
*er* 'fresh'  
*eryn* 'sloes'  
*eskyinna* ~ *eskydna* 'ascend'  
*ettew* 'firebrand, log'.

*in kerdh* 'away'  
*in mes* 'out'  
*in nes* 'near'  
*inwedh, i'wedh* 'also'  
*indelma* 'in this way'  
*indella* 'in that way'  
*inketelma* 'in this same way'  
*inketella* 'in that same way'.  
*inflamya* 'inflammation'  
*injin* 'ingenious'  
*injynieth* 'originality'  
*injynor* 'engineer'  
*injynores* 'female engineer'  
*ink* 'ink'  
*inclynacyon* 'inclination'  
*inclynya* 'to incline, to bow'

**incressya** ‘increase’  
**injyn** ‘stratagem’  
**inn ~ idn** ‘narrow’  
**inia** ‘urge’  
**inyadow** ‘urgency’  
**inspyrya** ‘inspire’  
**instytûtya** ‘institute’  
**instrûctya** ‘instruct’  
**intendya** ‘intend’  
**intendys** ‘intended’  
**inter** ‘among’  
**inter benenes** ‘among women’  
**intredhon ny** ‘among us’

**interlûd** ‘interlude’  
**intertainment** ‘entertainment’  
**intertainya** ‘entertain’  
**inyal** ‘desolate’  
**iredy** ‘readily, indeed’  
**iscar** ‘sackcloth’  
**isel** ‘low’  
**Israel** ‘Israel’  
**issyw** ‘issue’  
**istyna** ‘extend’  
**ivla-gras** ‘revenge’  
**iweys** ‘indeed’  
**iweyn** ‘yew’

**y** ‘his’  
**y jy ev** ‘his house’.  
**yma** ‘is’  
**ymons** ‘are’  
**ymownjy** ‘are’  
**yns** ‘they are’  
**yw** ‘is’  
**ywa** ‘is’  
**yn** ‘adverbial particle’  
**yn fas** ‘well’  
**yn few** ‘alive’  
**yn freth** ‘fluently’

**yn tâ** ‘well’.  
**yn bàn** ‘up’  
**yn dann ~ yn dadn** ‘under’  
**y(th)** ‘preverbal particle’  
**yth ov vy** ‘I am’  
**y coodh dhybm, y coodh dhymm** ‘I should’  
**yn medh** ‘says, said’.  
**ÿs ~ ës** ‘corn’  
**ÿsasver ~ ësasver** ‘harvest’  
**ÿsla ~ ëslla** ‘granary’

Two things need to be noted here.

First, the preposition **in** ‘in’ is written with <i> and the adverbial particle **yn** is written with <y>. This orthographic distinction will help learners remember that **in** ‘in’ is not usually followed by any mutation, whereas Type I Mixed mutation follows the particle **yn**. The word **kyn** ‘although’ has the same mutation.

Second, the scheme outlined above increases the visibility of the letter **i** greatly, and many RLC users have a dislike for the “overly medieval” letter **y**. Because RLC is written based on post-Jordan orthography, the overall look of the SWF is much closer to UC, KK, and UCR than it is to RLC. In the matter of initial **i-** and **y-**, we have an opportunity to support a long-standing aesthetic preference of RLC users.

In terms of Authenticity, forms in initial **i-** are very, very much more common than most people used to UC, KK, or UCR would realize. For instance *inweth* occurs 93 times, *ynweth* 8 times! Nance erred in eschewing initial **i-**.

We do not believe that there are any serious disadvantages to any user of Revived Cornish with this rationalization of initial **i-** and **y-**. Quite the opposite. We hope that the AHG will agree.

**The graphs *tth* and *lh* and *nh* in Cornish**  
**Discussion paper for the AHG**  
*Michael Everson and Nicholas Williams*  
**10 March 2008**

During an online meeting between the Linguistic Advisors and Albert Bock and Benjamin Bruch, it was agreed that several discussion papers could be forwarded to the AHG for further discussion and approval. This is one of those papers.

In reviewing the draft Outline SWF we discovered that a geminate graph, <tth>, had been included in the phonetic table although in Andrew's notes it did not appear that this had been discussed during the November and December AHG discussions. Since geminate consonants are not a part of the phonology of most speakers of Revived Cornish, the KK method of using them to mark vowel length was not accepted. We thought that this was a mistake, and we suggested:

Remove the unnecessary geminate **tth** from the table of consonants.

During the online discussion we asked, where did this **tth** come from? Albert said that it was found in the writings of Treager. And so it was! Tregear writes **cottha** and **perfettha**. But what do these mean? Are they just graphs for [θ], or do they represent a geminate, [θ:]?

Taken outside of any context, there is no knowing. But we have context... elsewhere in Tregear. Alongside **cottha** and **perfettha**, we have **pelha** and **gwelha**, as well as **gwanha**. This is evidence of a regular phonetic development. First aspiration, then gemination:

<b>coth</b>	+	<b>ha</b>	=	['kəθha]	>	['kəθ:a]
<b>perfeth</b>	+	<b>ha</b>	=	[pəɪ'fɛθha]	>	[pəɪ'fɛθ:a]
<b>pell</b>	+	<b>ha</b>	=	['pɛlha]	>	['pɛl:a]
<b>gwell</b>	+	<b>ha</b>	=	['gwɛlha]	>	['gwɛl:a]
<b>gwann</b>	+	<b>ha</b>	=	['gwanha]	>	['gwan:a]

Actually the regular development of the last would have pre-occluded in some dialects of Cornish, and we would expect there:

<b>gwadn</b>	+	<b>ha</b>	=	['gwa <sup>d</sup> nha]	>	['gwatna]
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One would write **gwannha** ~ **gwadnha** regularly, not \***gwatna** however. This phonetic process is shown in the devoicing of preoccluded **dn** in Late Cornish:

*Ha lebben 'th erama toulva tho gwellaz mar pel itna oggastigh vel leez a'n Controvagian* **Ha lebmyn th'eroma 'towla dhe gweles mar pell idnha ogasty avell lies a'n gentrevogyon** 'And now I intend to see as far in it almost as many of the neighbours' Nicholas Boson

*Ha Deu gwras deau gullou brôz, an broza rag an deth ha an behatna rag an noz* **Ha Duw a wras dew golow brâs, an brâssa rag an dëdh ha an biadnha rag an nos** 'And God made two great lights, the greater for the day and the lesser for the night' John Boson

*Ha Deew gwraz Deau Gollo broaz: an brossa tha rowly ahan Deeth ha an behattna tha rowlyah an noaz* **Ha Duw a wras dew golow brâs; an brâssa dhe rowlya a-ugh an dëdh ha an biadnha rag an nos** 'And God made two great lights, the greater for the day and the lesser for the night' ?John Keigwin

*Ha Che Bethalem en Pow Judah negooz an behathna amisk Maternyow Judah Ha chy Bethalem  
in pow Jûdah nag os an biadnha in mysk maternyow Jûdah* ‘And thou,  
Bethlehem in Juda, art not the least among the kings of Judah’ William Rowe

We do know that some UCR and RLC users do pronounce **lh** and **nh** either as aspirated sounds [lh] and [nh] or as geminates [l:] and [n:].

There is a good reason to retain **tth** in the SWF, but only if **lh** and **nh** are also added, because it is clear that there is a linguistic development here, not just a theoretical construct. If the SWF admits all three spellings, it will be consistent and accurate.

We do not mind whether **tth** and **lh** and **nh** are considered “Main Form” or “Side Form”. In our view this division is arbitrary anyway. But if people have permission to write **tth**, they must have the same to write **lh** and **nh**. The SWF should allow all of them or none of them, for consistency and accuracy.

**The graphs *au* and *ai* in Cornish**  
**Discussion paper for the AHG**  
***Michael Everson and Nicholas Williams***  
***12 March 2008***

During an online meeting between the Linguistic Advisors and Albert Bock and Benjamin Bruch, it was agreed that several discussion papers could be forwarded to the AHG for further discussion and approval. This is one of those papers.

In reviewing the draft Outline SWF we discovered that two graphs proposed in KS had been overlooked in the November and December AHG discussions. This is not surprising: certainly the work was very hard and the days very long, and the AHG members deserve to take credit for having done that work. Nevertheless, two graphs were overlooked, and we propose that these be admitted to the SWF.

1. We propose to add ***au*** as a Main Form spelling (or, if necessary, as a Side Form Variant spelling) of short [ɔ] in loanwords. The number of words affected is not great: ***auctour*** ‘author’, ***auncyent*** ‘ancient’, ***Australya*** ‘Australia’, ***Austrya*** ‘Austria’, ***avauncya*** ‘advance’, ***caugh*** ‘excrement’, ***cauns*** ‘pavement’, ***chauncya*** ‘chance’, ***chaunjya*** ‘change’, ***chauns*** ‘chance’, ***dauncya*** ‘dance’, ***dauns*** ‘dance’, ***launcya*** ‘lance, shaft’, ***stauns*** ‘stance’, and also—significantly—in the toponym ***Austol***. Writing ***au*** here better reflects the Norman French origin of the loans than does ***o***, and certainly ***\*octour*** and ***\*oncyent*** and ***\*Ostrya*** and ***\*Ostol*** are unacceptable. ***\*Awstralya*** and ***\*Awstrya*** might be possible (by recommending a change in pronunciation for these words which are not attested in Traditional Cornish), but ***\*awctour*** and ***\*awncyent*** and ***\*Awstol*** are not. Note that in the history of the revival ***chans*** [tʃa:ns], ***chons*** [tʃɔns], ***chōns*** [tʃo:ns] have all been used. We believe that learners should pronounce these words correctly, and ***chauns*** [tʃɔns] is the correct spelling which will lead to the best pronunciation for this small class of words. (Note that UC and UCR users do not pronounce ***caugh*** ‘excrement’ with a diphthong as in ***\*cawgh***. It is [kɔx], and not ***cogh*** [kɔ:x]; nor should the spelling be ***\*côgh***, since that means ‘scarlet’.)

2. We propose to add ***ai*** as a Main Form spelling (or, if necessary, as a Side Form Variant spelling) of long [e:] in a number of loanwords. The number of words affected had an original diphthong [ei] which simplified to [e:], e.g. ***trailya*** [ˈtre:ljə] ‘turn’, ***traitor*** [ˈtre:tər] ‘traitor’, ***gwaityewgh*** [ˈgwe:tjeɔx] ‘take care!’, ***intertainment*** [ɪntəˈteɪnmənt] ‘entertainment’. KK uses ***ay*** in some these words: ***traytor*** [ˈtraɪtər], ***gwaytyewgh*** [ˈgwaɪtjeɔx], ***yntertaynment*** [ɪntəˈaɪnmənt]; KK ***trelya*** [ˈtre:ljə] ‘turn’ implies ***ev a \*drel*** but the attested forms are ***treyl*** 4x, ***dreyl*** 2x, so this is evidently an error in KK. Some RMC and RLC speakers pronounce these as though they were written ***\*treyltor*** [ˈtreɪtər], ***\*gweytyewgh*** [ˈgweɪtjeɔx], but most do not. The graph ***ai*** can act as an umbrella graph for this very small class of words: KK speakers can say [ai] and other speakers can say [e:] or [ɛi]. Note that there *are* genuine words in ***ay*** which *everyone* pronounces [ai], which is why we have suggested this umbrella graph—to avoid mispronunciation by speakers who do not have [ai] in in this context.

# Miscellaneous orthographic suggestions for the Cornish SWF

## Discussion paper for the AHG

Michael Everson and Nicholas Williams

10 March 2008

During an online meeting between the Linguistic Advisors and Albert Bock and Benjamin Bruch, it was agreed that several discussion papers could be forwarded to the AHG for further discussion and approval. This is one of those papers.

In reviewing both the draft Outline SWF and the Unresolved Issues document, we discovered a number of items that were either missed or ambiguously specified. This document summarizes them. We trust that the resolutions we propose will be uncontroversial.

**1.** Nance distinguished vowel length with macrons and vowel quality in **u** /u/ and **ü** /y/. The SWF can do no worse. Users must be able, optionally, to mark anomalous vowel length (short **gòn**, long **stât**) and quality (short **jùj**, long **rùth**; alternate pronunciations **bj̄s**/**bēs**) when necessary. The proposed text has been discussed with Trond and Albert and Ben: “*Diacritical marks are not a part of the mandated SWF orthography. However, publishers are permitted to use them, optionally, to mark words with anomalous vowel length or quality.*”

**2.** Distribution of medial **i** and **y** in loanwords. We suggest that the SWF use **i** medially for [i:] and **y** medially for [ɪ] in polysyllabic loanwords (typically Latin). The distribution of these two letters in disyllables and polysyllables is inconsistent in all varieties of RC. The scheme for writing both shorter common loanwords and longer less common loanwords should be the same. This has the advantage of being fairly future-proof. This rule is necessary since many of these words are absent from KK dictionaries.

**3.** Use initial **z-** as a Main Form Variant in the set of words with initial **s-** in RMC and initial **z-** in RLC. Neil Kennedy has said that this is an important linguistic concern. Not all words in initial **s-** voice to **z-** but it should be permitted to RLC users to write those that do with **z-**. Examples: **De Sadorn**, **De Zadorn**. *We consider this to be an essential option for RLC users.*

**4.** Write, optionally, permanent soft mutation of **f** and **s** as **v** and **z**. This simply corrects a long-standing oversight by Nance, who wrote: “*In addition to the written mutations, **f** and **s** (unless **s** is followed by a consonant) have respectively the sounds of **v** and **z** as second or soft state, caused in exactly the same way but except in Late Cornish (and so in place-names, as **Trevose**, **Penzance**, etc.) not written: e.g., **an fenten sans**, the holy well, is pronounced **an venten zans**.*” This should be an option, not an obligation.

**5.** Permit **z** in initial, medial, and final position in loanwords. The Outline document suggests that only initial position should be considered, but loans with **z** in medial and final position should also be permitted.

**6.** Spell **plass** ‘place’ and **spass** ‘space’ regularly. The SWF succeeds in writing consonant quality correctly and has some anomalous vowels. The suggestion here would preserve consonant quality for these words, and their anomalous vowels could be written **pláss** and **spâss**. Note *yn keth plassma* ‘in this same place’ in BM 247. The suggestion here is similar to the suggestion made in our other document about **gràm** and **gòn**. It is better to place **plass** and **spass** on an existing list of words with anomalous vowel length than to start a new list of words that look as though they are pronounced with final [z] but are in fact pronounced with final [s]. We note the suggestions to write **plaç** and **spaç** but do not find this to be very appealing. Note also **lass** ‘lace’.