Ionic Number Systems (ROUGH DRAFT)

The *Ionic* (or *Melesian* or *Greek Alphabetic*) Number System is based on the values listed in the following table.

Numeral	Value	Name	Numeral	Value	Name	Numeral	Value	Name
α	1		ι	10		ρ	100	
β	2		κ	20		σ	200	
γ	3		λ	30		τ	300	
δ	4		μ	40		υ	400	
ε	5		ν	50		φ	500	
Ϝ (later ς)	6	*digamma*	ξ	60		χ	600	
ζ	7		ο	70		ψ	700	
η	8		π	80		ω	800	
θ	9		ϙ (or ϟ)	90	*koppa*	ϡ (once Ͳ)	900	*san* (or *sampi*)

Example ωξϜ has value 866.

For multiples of 1000, just use α to θ with a mark before it (often on the lower left). So ͵γ signifies 3000.

For example, ͵ετϙβ has value 5392.

These numbers are still used in modern Greece in the same way we still use Roman numbers.

Digamma Ϝ is the original letter used for 6. It has been replaced by stigma ς (which is in origin a combination of σ and τ).

San was the original name for the letter signifying 900. In the archaic Greek alphabet, san preceded koppa.

This system is sometimes called the *Milesian system* or the *alphabetic system*.

Until late antiquity, the Ionic number system actually used upper-case letters only. (The lower-case letters did not exist until late antiquity). This is illustrated in the next table.

Numeral	Value	Numeral	Value	Numeral	Value
A	1	I	10	P	100
B	2	K	20	Σ	200
Γ	3	Λ	30	T	300
Δ	4	M	40	Y	400
E	5	N	50	Φ	500
Ϝ later (ς)	6	Ξ	60	X	600
Z	7	O	70	Ψ	700
H	8	Π	80	Ω	800
Θ	9	ϙ (or ϟ)	90	Ѧ	900

For example, ͵AΨΞΔ has value 1764.
For example, KZ has value 27.
For example, ͵ΓΤϘϜ has value 3396.