Report of the Annual General Meeting of the Alphabets of Life Foundation, 12 December 2015

Present: Dr. K. H. Veltman, chairman, and Nino Niën, Honorary secretary.

Absent: Professor Frederic Andres (N.I.I. Tokyo)

The Alphabets of Life Foundation was officially founded in January 2015 under registration no. 62102346 of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce and a bank account was opened.

During the year 2015, there seemed to be a possibility of support of the Robertson Foundation which led to a preliminary application, but this turned out to be spam. A copy thereof is attached to this report (Appendix A).

In the course of the year various conversations occurred with Prof. Frederic Andres (N.I.I. Tokyo) concerning possible student internships and potential sources for support. An attempt was made to include him as a non-voting member of the foundation but this, given his residency in Japan, proved impractical qua the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands (KvK).

There are provisional plans that Prof. Andres will come to visit in February 2016 to discuss further cooperation.

For the moment, the bank account remains limited to the 100 euros that were initially donated.

As part of the chairman's scholarly activities there were two keynotes: one in Ravenna and a second in Delhi, which touched on problems in *Alphabets of Life*.

The Russian students have continued to update the webpage for Alphabets of Life and are exploring the possibility of sending one or two interns in 2016.

A financial statement will be prepared by Mr. Jan Dierick for the Chamber Of Commerce.

The chairman thanked the honorary secretary for taking notes and the meeting was adjourned.

Appendix A: Application for a Robertson Foundation Grant

Table of Contents

- 1. Title of Project
- 2. Principal Area
- 3. Chief Investigator
- 4. Background
- 5. Challenges
- 6. Project
- 7. Benefits to the Region
- 8. Conclusions and Future Plans
- 9. Time Frame
- 10. Costs
- 11. Letters of Recommendation

Appendix 1. Sample Alphabets

Appendix 2. Eastern Emanations of Deities

Attachment 1: Curriculum vitae

Attachment 2: Introduction to Alphabets of Life.

- 1. Title of Project: Alphabets of Life, Cosmology and Religion
- 2. Principal Area: This project pertains to religion & spirituality with implications for education.
- 3. Chief Investigator: Dr. Kim H. Veltman

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Alphabets of Life Foundation (Stichting Alfabetten van het Leven)

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Ing Bank, Vrijthof 45 Maastricht, 6211 LE

Netherlands

Account Number: NL86 INGB 0006 6740 12

4. Background

In 2000, while working to create e-Culture Net for the European Commission, I was approached by Professor Jacques Poulain (Paris VIII), to become a founding member of a planned new European University of Culture. This entity has not yet been created but the prospect has shaped my work of the past 15 years. It was clear that if Europe and West generally are to continue to play a significant role on the global scene it must go beyond Eurocentrism. We need New Models of Culture that integrate the contributions of the world's great cultures: e.g. China, India, Persia, Arabia, Russia. This concern led to a series of 32 lectures recorded on video by the National Institute of Informatics (Tokyo, 2004), which are now used in teaching in Japan. There is an invitation to create a second series of such lectures and an invitation to record the book as 26 video programmes in Kathmandu both planned for 2116.

Beginning in 2004, the work gained a new focus. For a decade, I studied the roots of 5 world languages (Chinese, Sanskrit, Latin, Arabic, and Cyrillic). This has resulted (2014) in a 2 volume tome of 2,100 pages. Essential findings are that there were older Slavic alphabets predating Christian times, linked with two ancestral religions Yudzhizm and Ingleizm. Sanskrit was a model for Indo-European and for 7 other language families. There is evidence that the 22 letter abjad alphabets associated with Phoenician and Hebrew have their roots in the Indus valley. In his major work on the alphabet Diringer (1948, 201) claimed that "alphabets follow religion." Alphabets of Life suggests that these connections between alphabets and religion are fundamentally important. The early alphabets were summaries of cosmology and early Western alphabets became summaries of creation.

The history of Christianity is typically described as a simple triumph of monotheism in the context of monotheistic, Abrahamic religions. From a narrow Roman viewpoint, there was one Catholic Church with a number of schisms and heresies. The story is more complex. Rome followed a Petrine model based on good works (cf. Indian Karma-Yoga). Byzantium followed a Pauline model based on faith (solo fide, cf. BhaktiYoga). Alphabets of life suggests that the 5 early centres (Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem, Constantinople, Rome) developed their own versions of Christianity each with their own alphabets.

From a larger viewpoint the major religions explored a spectrum from belief in 1 god (monotheism, monophyticism); 2 gods (bitheism, binitarianism, ditheism, dyophticism, dualism); 3 gods (trinitarianism, tryphyticism). Each of these differing definitions of Christ's dual human and divine nature led to new alphabets. Of particular interest are links between Christianity and India: Christ belonged to the Essenes, who trace their roots to India. Both the Apostle Thomas and John the Evangelist had Essene and Indian connections (Saint Thomas Christians, Saint John Christians). In other words, Antioch, and Alexandria linked Western Christianity with Eastern religion. The challenge lies in creating a context to understand these connections more fully. Needed is a new approach to the history of religions and alphabets. This can be a contribution to peace though understanding our common humanity.

4.1.Summary of Results thus Far:

Electronic Book: Alphabets of Life (2104).

Database: New Models of Culture: 388,224 terms (January 12, 2015).²

5. Challenges and what the project is not

Some describe a Clash of Civilizations (Huntingdon) as if this were merely confrontations between the great religions. Others focus on the Semitic tradition, and problems of antisemitism as it applies to the Hebrew tradition, while ignoring anti-semitism with respect to Canaanites, Palestinians and Arabs. Misunderstandings have led to regional conflicts, threats of crusades, holy wars, jihads, intifadas and worse. In contemporary news these problems are reduced to slogans such as je suis Charlie. There is an increasing stereotyping whereby the complexities of earlier traditions are forgotten or deliberately ignored.

A single project cannot solve the problems of religious conflict. It cannot be an encyclopaedia of all religions, sects, schisms and heresies or pretend to be a new history of religions. Needed is an approach that creates a new framework for discussion, proceeds incrementally, and brings to light underlying links between the world religions, alphabets, and cultures.

6. Project

The project proposes to use the book Alphabets of Life as a starting point for this new framework, beginning with dissemination (6.1) through a print version, 2 electronic versions, translations into Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Russian and Persian. The author has made trips to

centres of religious thought.³ Four further trips of c. 15 days are planned to deepen an understanding of these traditions (6.2).

The main focus of the project is development (6.3) of an encyclopaedic catalogue of alphabet letters with links to religious concepts and religions, which will be connected with the book and translations through omni-links. This work will proceed in phases. The results can become an online resource for general and specialized use.

6.1. Dissemination of Preliminary Findings

In 2014, a first edition of Alphabets of Life appeared in two versions.⁴ Further dissemination is planned through a print version of edition 1, a new electronic version (edition 2), a hybrid book-electronic book version (edition 3) and translations into 5 major languages.

6.1.1. Edition1: Print Version of Alphabets

Given the size of the book (2,110 pages), it has been recommended that the book should be printed through a self-publishing firm, possibly in India. A part-time assistant would be hired to see this through the press.

6.1.2. Edition 2: Electronic Omnilinked Version for Mobile Devices The second electronic edition will have text only on the main screen, with hyperlinked references to images and tables. When clicked, these will appear on a second screen. Hereby, persons wishing to focus on the story can read without distraction from images and tables.⁵ A computer programmer will develop this.

6.1.3. Edition 3: Omnilinked Physical-Electronic Version

Foreseen is a third edition which will be a hybrid between a physical book and an e-book. The physical book will have only text and minimal notes. It will require a programmed penscanner and an internet enabled screen (e.g. tablet, mobile device or computer screen). A person can read a physical book as usual. When they encounter a reference to a figure, they touch this with their electronic pen, which sends a message to their networked screen and displays the given image.

This idea can be extended to create omnilinks within both electronic and physical books. When a reader encounters an unfamiliar word, they touch it with their pen and the word is sent into OpenSums, where there is often some introductory information. Sending a pen word directly to an Internet search engine would ask an implicit, general *what is* question with millions of general hits. Sending the word via SUMS means that the general question can be parsed into facets as *who is*, *what is*, *where is*, *when is*, *how is* and *why is?* A programmer will develop this new hybrid. An assistant will hyperlink tables (cf. § 6.3.1 below).

6.1.4. Translations into Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Russian, Persian

Five individuals will be found to translate Alphabets of Life into other five languages. Hereby, the basic ideas will be accessible in modern equivalents of the 5 world alphabets and

thus reach a significant number of the world population. Persian is included because of its importance in Zoroastrian, Mithraic and Magian religions.

A corollary advantage of these translations accessible in five languages plus English is that they can then be hyperlinked together such that a reader can potentially see what the equivalent term is in these other world languages. This greatly expands the scope and impact of the new framework.

6.2. 2.1. Exploratory Travel

In order to expand my understanding of the roots of religious traditions four trips each of a fortnight are planned with specific goals:

- 1. Saint Thomas Christians, Judaism and Hinduism South India: Kerala and Southern Indian Temple Sites
- 2. Links between Coptic, Syriac, Aramaic, Armenian and Georgian Turkey, Armenia and Georgia: Sanliurfa (Edessa), Yerevan, Tblisi (Mtskheta)
- 3. Zoroastrian Context

Iran: Zoroastrian Sacred Sites Yazd⁶

- 4. Context of the Old Slavic VseYaSvetnaya Alphabet (ВсеЯСветная Грамота)⁷: Russia, Moscow, Volgograd, Omsk.
- 6.3. Database for an Encyclopaedia of Alphabet Letters and religious concepts. A major focus of the project is to develop the existing SUMS database on New Models of Culture and cross-reference it with the book Alphabets of Life such that it functions as a kind of hybrid super-index.

6.3.1. Catalogue of Alphabets and Alphabet letters

The catalogue of alphabets and alphabet letters will be expanded in phases. A minimal budget will allow 2 phases. With a little more this can be expanded to 4 phases (Table 1). One assistant will work on each phase. Another assistant (cf. § 6.1.3) above will link these individual letters with tables of letters found in the book (cf. Appendix 1a-d) as part of the hyperlinking process. As a result if a reader encounters the 132 Bulgarian runes (Appendix 1.b) the usual hyperlinks will take them to an original image online. In addition, if they click on image 48 of the table they will be taken to the Bulgarian letter Phi, and can follow this link to a history of Phi⁸ letters. This same granularity will apply to comparative charts in the book (cf. Appendix 1c) and to basic Chinese radicals.

Phase 2 will expand this to some alphabets in Fry (1799), one of the standard compendiums. Phase 4 will extend this to 4 standard compendiums of alphabets. As a result, in future, a person reading these works, clicking on an individual letter could immediately be hyperlinked to that letter in New Models of Culture. Phase 4 will begin link letters, religious deities and

concepts. For instance the Bon religion lists 32 deities which are aligned with 32 metaphysical concepts (Appendix 2). If a user clicks on 1° Father of Greatness (*Pera, Deep, Kuntuzangmo*)

Phase 1: Scan in letters of 5 world languages

Chinese: 214 Chinese radicals, 328 Tonal syllables, 413 Chinese Syllables, 37

Chinese syllabic letters

Russian: 256 karuna, 202 letters of VseYaSvetnaya Alphabet (Грамота ВсеЯсветная и Русь) and subsets, 132 Scytho-Sarmatian, Old Bulgarian

Runes, Old Slavonic Glagolitic, Cyrillic.

Sanskrit: 297 letters of Aryabhatta Numeration, 50 Letters of Sanskrit, Brahmi.

Arabic: 28 Letters of Arabic; 28 letters in Abjad, 32 letters of Persian.

Latin: 31 letters of Latin and subsets (7 alphabets in Fry).⁹

Phase 2a: Greek (33 alphabets in Fry), Coptic.

Phase 2b Syriac (7 Alphabets) and Chaldean (18 Alphabets in Fry).

Phase 3: Alphabets in four standard works.

Duret (1613), Fry (1799), Taylor (1883,1899), Diringer (1948)

Phase 4: Initial Histories of Letters and Deities

Table 1. Four Phases of a Catalogue of letters.

they would be taken to Father of Greatness in the database with a choice of Names, ¹⁰ Terms etc. The reader thus has the equivalent of a dictionary, encyclopedia for each term in the book. An immediate advantage of this approach is that it shows how key names, terms, concepts are shared by Eastern and western religions. Jesus, the Splendour, who appears in place 25 in the Tibetan list, is paralleled by Jesus in Manichaeism and in Christianity.

7. Benefits to the region

Histories of Chinese, Sanskrit, Cyrillic, Arabic and Latin tend to be written with a focus on their own regions. Histories of religions of these major cultures tend to be written with a similar focus almost in the form of parochialism. There is a bigger picture that needs to be understood. By way of an example, it is instructive to look at the opening words of the fourth Gospel (Table 2). The English term is the Word. Latin equivalents are Verbum and Sermo. The Greek equivalent is Logos (\dot{o} $\lambda \dot{o} \gamma o \varsigma$). One Indian equivalent is Vak, another is Prajapati.

In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God. 11

John 1: 1, New Testament

Έν ἀρχῆ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεός ἦν ὁ λόγος

In the beginning was $V\hat{a}k$, and $V\hat{a}k$ was with Yahva, and $V\hat{a}k$ was $Yahv\hat{i}$. ¹² Sarabhanga, India

"In the beginning was Prajapati, and with Him was the Word." Krishna Yajurveda, Kathaka Samhita, 12.5¹³

Table 2. In the beginning.

If persons in different cultures are able to discover connections between their beliefs, alphabets and cultures, then there can be more understanding and peace. These insights can affect persons in Europe, the United States and throughout the world.

8. Conclusions and Future Plans

The project offers concrete steps towards a new framework for understanding the 5 world languages/alphabets, which are linked with the world's great religions. It explores the use of technology in working towards a new level of granularity in textual analysis, down to the level of individual letters. It demonstrates that there is a big picture far beyond the shores of Greece and the Near East. Two scenarios are offered: minimal (2 phases: \$350,000), full (4 phases: \$440,000, see §10 below).

The concept of e-pen applied to physical books linked with electronic databases can be further developed. Once the individual letters are recorded in the database and linked with concepts, then the pen could potentially be used in reading any book with the alphabet letters in question. The current cost of e-pens is still too high for universal consumption. But once costs decrease the principle of e-pens could become a basic tool at levels of education.

Future projects would need to trace the genealogy of Sanskrit (Brahmi, Pali) letters as Sanskrit expanded from an original text of the Vedas to the 26 mother languages of India, to 100 Indian and Nepali languages, and to over 40 major languages in at least 7 language families of South-East Asia. Separate projects would need to trace the role of Hebrew in this story and address variants at national and regional levels.

9. Timeframe¹⁴

Year 1

Ed. 1 of Alphabets of Life as physical publication

Ed. 2 as mobile

Translations, volume 1

Catalogue of Letters: Phase 1

Phase 2a

2 trips of 15 days (Turkey, India)

Year 2

Ed 3. as omnilinked connecting book with database

Translations volume 2

Catalogue of Letters: Phase 2b

Phase 3

Phase 4

2 trips of 15 days (Russia, Iran)

10. Costs

Publication of Ed 1. of Alphabets \$20,000

Translation into 5 languages 150,000 (\$30,000 x 5 languages)

Omnilink the 5 translations 20,000

Travel to explore roots 20,000 (5,000 x 4 trips)

Travel of assistants and translators 10,000

Technology

Computers and Hardware 8,000

Software (e.g. Fonts) 2,000

Edition 2 with Mobile 15,000

Programmer

Edition 3 with e-Pen 40,000

Programmer Junior Assistant

Catalogue of Letters:Phase 1 25,000

Junior Assistant to scan

Catalogue: Phase 2

Junior Assistant to scan 30,000

Subtotal 350,000

Catalogue: Phase 3

Junior Assistant to scan 30,000

Catalogue: Phase 4 35,000

Assistant

Administrative Assistant 20,000 (10,000 x 2)

Part time

Total 440,000

11. Letters of Recommendation

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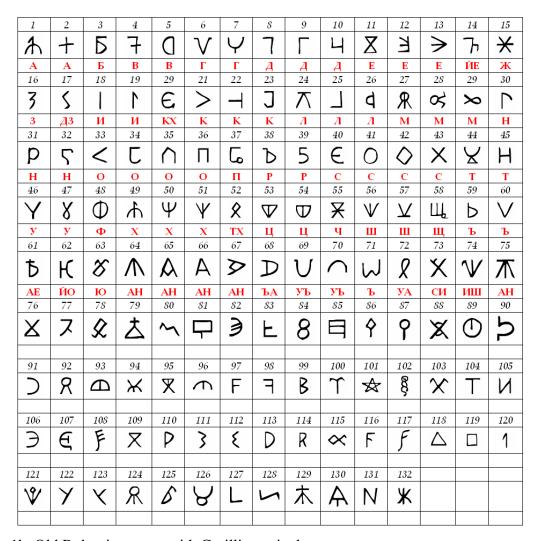
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Appendix 1. Sample Alphabets



1. a. Coptic alphabet with Latin and Arabic equivalents



1b. Old Bulgarian runes with Cyrillic equivalents

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1.c. Comparative table of Ugarit, Arabic, Aramaean, Greek, Nabataean, Latin, Palmyranian, and Syriac.

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1.d. 214 Chinese radicals.

Appendix 2. Deities

32 Dieties

o 0° Yab-Yum

- 1° Father of Greatness (*Pera, Deep, Kuntuzangmo*)
- 2° Mother of Life (*Dum*, *Silence*, *Kuntuzangmo*)
- 3° Primal Man (Mana, Mind, Nous, Adam Qadmon) Vajrasattva
 - o 4° Five Children of Primal Man
 - o 5° Five Children of Primal Man
 - 6° Five Children of Primal Man
 - o 7° Five Children of Primal Man
 - 8° Five Children of Primal Man
- 9° Beloved of Lights
- 10° Great Builder
- 11° Living Spirit Paraklete, Tawm, Twin, Partner
 - o 12° Five Sons of Living Spirit Keeper of Splendor
 - 13° Five Sons of Living Spirit King of Honor
 - o 14° Five Sons of Living Spirit King of Glory
 - 15° Five Sons of Living Spirit Adamas of Light
 - o 16° Five Sons of Living Spirit -Atlas
- 17° Third Envoy Great Judge, Judge of Truth
- 18° Living Soul (Virgin of Light, Spouse of Third Envoy)
- 19° Column of Glory Perfect Man, Light-Mind
 - o 20° Five Sons of Perfect Man Council of Life (Youth)
 - o 21° Five Sons of Perfect Man Great Judge
 - o 22° Five Sons of Perfect Man Paraclete
 - 23° Five Sons of Perfect Man Call God
 - o 24° Five Sons of Perfect Man Answer God
- 25° Yeshu-Ziwa (Yeshu dNazirutha Jesus the Splenour incarnate)
- 26° Maiden of Light (Miryai dMagdala Mary the Luminous)
- 27° Light Mind (Mani-Hiya Living Spirit incarnate)
 - 28° Five Daughters of Light Mind Apostles of Light
 - o 29° Five Daughters of Light Mind Light Form
 - o 39° Five Daughters of Light Mind Wreath Angel
 - 31° Five Daughters of Light Mind Robe Angel
 - o 32° Five Daughters of Light Mind Prize Angel

32 Metaphysical Constructs 15

o 0° Kunzhi, or the Base of Everything

- 1° White Compassion (Rahma) Essence (ngo-bo)
- 2° Red Wisdom ('ruta) Nature (rang bzhin)
- 3° Glorious Ziwa-Noorah Balanced Light Energy (thugs rje)
 - 4° 5 Buddhas: Living Zephyr
 - o 5° 5 Buddhas: Living Wind
 - o 6° 5 Buddhas: Living Light
 - o 7° 5 Buddhas: Living Water
 - o 8° 5 Buddhas: Living Fire
- 9° White Bodhicitta Drop
- 10° Red Bodhicitta Drop
- 11° Unified (red-white) Bodhicitta drop
 - o 12° 5 Bodhicittas:
 - o 13° 5 Bodhicittas:
 - o 14° 5 Bodhicittas:
 - o 15° 5 Bodhicittas:
 - o 16° 5 Bodhicittas:
- 17° Pingala solar nadi: the male complementary nadi to Ida
- 18° The lunar Ida nadi. Ida carries feminine essence.
- 19° The Sushumna: the major nadi that runs up the spinal column
 - o 20° 5 Chakras: Secret
 - o 21° 5 Chakras: head
 - o 22° 5 Chakras: throat
 - o 23° 5 Chakras: heart
 - o 24° 5 Chakras: navel
- 25° Waking Consciousness
- 26° Sleeping Consciousness
- 27° Dreamless Sleep
 - o 28° 5 Aggregates: consciousness (vij~nana)
 - o 29° 5 Aggregates: volition (sam.skaara)
 - o 39° 5 Aggregates: conception (sa~nj~naa)
 - o 31° 5 Aggregates: sensation (vedanaa)
 - o 32° 5 Aggregates: material organism (ruupa)

Notes

¹ www.alphabetsof life.com

 $http://new.sumscorp.com/index.php?id=249\&statement=new_models\&object_package=124341\&package_title=New\%20Models\&package=17$

- ³ E.g. Rome, Istanbul, the Char Dam (4 pilgrimage sites in Northern India: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath), Varinasi, Buddhism sites (Lumbini, Sarnath, Bodh Gaya), the 4 royal cities of Nepal, Pashputinath, Mount Kailash.
- ⁴ Alphabets of Life: John the Evangelist
- ⁵ Detailed sections of the full study merely appear as headings without text in the physical book. Since the numbering of figures is based on the full version of the text, the sequence of figure numbers will sometimes have gaps in the physical book. In future, a reader who wishes to see these detailed sections and images can consult the electronic versions via omni-links.
- ⁶ Zoroastrian Sites: http://sacredsites.com/middle_east/iran/zoroastrian_sacred_sites.html
- ⁷ Russia: http://vk.com/vseyasvetnaya_gramota
- ⁸ Phi:

 $http://new.sumscorp.com/index.php?id=249\&statement=get_obj\&id_object=171788\&session=ZW5nbGlzaDtlbmdsaXNoO05ldyBNb2RlbHM7MTI0MzQxOzE3OzA7MDtJbnRlcm1lZGlhdGU7MDtsb29rdXA-$

⁹ Fry in his Pantographia, London, 1799 listed all known examples of various alphabets at the time.

¹⁰ Father of Greatness Names:

http://new.sumscorp.com/index.php?id=249&statement=get_obj&id_object=151640

¹¹ John 1:1: http://bible.cc/john/1-1.htm

In 1986-1987, a year as Getty Scholar allowed first efforts towards a system for universal media searching (SUMS), initially as a database on perspective. I am deeply grateful for their support, to Larry Moore of the OLA, to the team that developed the Toronto demo, to Alexander and Vasily Churanov, and more recently Maksim Kutsov who created the current demo.

By 1995, SUMS was recognized as one of four examples for pilot project 5 of the G7: Multimedia Access to World Cultural Heritage. This led to exhibitions in Brussels, Halifax and Midrand and involvement with EC plans for an MoU for Multimedia Access to Europe's Cultural Heritage, Medici Framework, and E-Culture Net. I am grateful to Mario Verdese and colleagues at the EC.

- ¹² Sarabhanga: http://www.reocities.com/sarabhanga/
- ¹³ Krishna Yajurveda, Kathaka Samhita, 12.5, 27.1; Krishna Yajurveda, Kathakapisthala Samhita, 42.1; Jaiminiya Brahmana II, Samaveda, 2244). See more at: http://www.ocoy.org/original-christianity/the-christ-of-india/#sthash.3oOkjWMK.dpuf
- ¹⁴ Parallel Projects: Although the project slated for two years, the year 2016 already has two commitments of a month (Tokyo and Kathmandu). So in practical terms the 24 months might extend over 26 months.
- ¹⁵ 32 Deities 32 Metaphysical Concepts:

http://essenes.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=109&Itemid=752

² Database: