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WRITING SYSTEMS
TRANSFER OF NAMES FROM ONE WRITING SYSTEM TO ANOTHER

TRANSLITERATION OF MODERN GREEK WRITING

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ROMANIZATION OF GREEK (Modern)

1. The present Greek alphabet has been used since about the 5th century B.C. In many respects it deviates from modern pronunciation.
2. Problems. A simple and reversible romanization system would be similar to that generally used for ancient Greek; one that tried to approximate modern pronunciation would be complex --because Greek orthography is more traditional than phonemic-- and non-reversible.
3. Systems. The following are commented upon below:
 ISO = International Organization for Standardization. ISO Recommendation R 843, 1968.
 UK/US = U.S. Department of State. Romanization Guide, 1967. Shows the jointly agreed --in 1962-- system used by the [U.S.] Board on Geographic Names and the [U.K.] Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use; pages 25-27.
 LC = [U.S.] Library of Congress system; shown in: American Library Association. Cataloging Rules, 1949, page 247.
 W3 = Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, unabridged. Springfield, Mass., U.S., [1961]; Alphabet Table, page 61.
 Greece = Place-name romanization used in Greece; shown in a letter from the Greek Consul-General in Hamburg, 7 April 1962, "Transcription used at present, in Greece, for place names".
 Budapest = Staatsamt für Geodäsie und Kartographie der Ungarischen Volksrepublik. Schreibung der Geographischen Namen auf der Weltkarte 1: 2 500 000. Budapest, [1962]; pages 55-57.

Signs 1-24 are the same in LC and W3. For 25-30, no indication in W3. ISO is the same as LC and W3, except as follows: numer 9, iota subscript is represented as j; 17, even with rough breathing = r; 20 = u; 21 = f; 22 = h (the ISO Table shows x. This is an error; see third example under (e) on page 1, and the fact that, the system having full reversibility, x is used for 14); 23: LC has h; ISO has an apostrophe (and omits over 17).

Greek	ISO	UK/US	LC	W3	Greece	Budapest
(only when different from ISO)						
A = α	A, a					
αι	ai				ai, e	
αυ	au	av			af, av	
β, β̄	B, b	v	ay		v	v
			b (v if name of writer is better known with this transliteration)			

No.	Greek	ISO	(only when different from ISO)			
			UK/US	LC	W3 Greece Budapest	
3	Γ, γ	G, g	g except: n before γ; ξ, and χ; y before α, ε, ελ, η, ι, ο, υ and υλ	g (n before γ, κ, χ)	g (n before velars)	g
4	Δ, δ	D, d	G initially, ng medially dh (d between 13 ρ and 17 ρ)			ghe ghi g at beginning of word: g
5	E, ε ελ ευ	E, e		i ev		i ef, ev
6	Z, ζ	Z, z				
7	H, η	Ē, ē		i	ē (i if name of writer is better known with this transliteration)	i
8	θ, θ	Th, th		iv		if, iv
9	I, ι	I, i				
10	K, κ γκ	K, k		omit see under 3		see under 3
11	Λ, λ	L, l				
12	M, μ μπ	M, m		B' initially, mb medially	mp (mb if name of writer is better known with this transliteration)	b b initially, mp medially
13	N, ν ντ	N, n		D initially, nd medially ntz		d d initially, nt medially
14	Ξ, ξ	X, x				
15	O, ο οι οῦ	O, o				i ou
16	Π, π πσ μπ	P, p p's				
17	Ρ, ρ ῤ, ῥ	R, r R, r		see under 12	see under 12 r, rh Rh, rh (r if name of writer is better known with this transliteration)	rh
18	Σ, σ ς (final)	S, s				

No.	Greek	ISO	(only when different from ISO)				
			UK/US	LC	W3	Greece	Budapest
19	Τ, τ	T, t					
	ϒ, ϓ						
	ϒ, ϓ	t·h					
20	Υ, υ	U, u	i initially	Y, y (u when is	= LC	i	y (u after
			and between	final element			a, ε, η)
			consonants,	in diphthongs)			
			v after a,				
			ε, and γ; u				
			after o				
	ϒ, ϓ			ay			
21	Φ, φ	F, f	i			i	yi
				Ph, ph	ph		
22	Χ, χ	H, h	kh	Ch, ch (h if name			ch
				of writer is			
				better known			
				with this			
				transliteration)			
23	Ψ, ψ	Ps, ps					
24	Ω, ω	Ō, ō	o			o	
25	Ͱ, ͱ	Ͱ (apostrophe)	omit	h			h
		omit when it occurs over 17					
26	Ͳ, ͳ	omit					
27	ʹ, ͵	ʹ					
28	Ͷ, ͷ	Ͷ		omit			
29	͸, ͹	͸		omit			
30	ͺ, ͻ; ͼ, ͽ	ͺ or ͻ (according to the original)	ͺ; not mentioned	omit			ͺ; not mentioned

4. Proposal. The ISO system is simple and reversible. It is proposed for adoption for United Nations use. In popular romanization (newspapers, etc.), it is recommended that the same system be used, omitting those diacritical marks not found in the typesetting process being utilized (e.g., the macron may be omitted --7 and 24 would be written e and o respectively).

Budapest = Staatsamt für Geodäsie und Kartographie der Ungarischen Volksrepublik. Schreibung der Geographischen Namen auf der Weltkarte 1: 2 500 000. Budapest, [1962]; pages 66-67.

LC = [U.S.] Library of Congress. Processing Department. Cataloging Service. Bulletin 15, February-March 1948, and 16, April 1948.

W3 = Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, unabridged. Springfield, Mass., U.S., [1961]; Alphabet Table, page 61.

Prussian = Instruktionen für die alphabetischen Kataloge der preussischen Bibliotheken vom 10. 5. 1899, 2nd edition 1908; reprint, Wiesbaden, 1964. Annex II. (Still authoritative in German-speaking countries).

Budapest and UK/US are the same. Signs 32-47 in Prussian are as follows:
 a ä e ē i ō o u ū.

No.	Hebrew	ISO	UK/US and Budapest	LC	W3	Prussian
1	Ⲁ		(initial: omit) (when is mater lectionis, transliterated by a bar over the preceding vowel)	(omit when initial or used as mater lectionis)	Ⲁ (prime) (initial and final: omit)	(initial: omit) (initial: omit)
2	Ⲃ	b				
3	Ⲅ	v			b, bh	b
4	Ⲇ	g				
5	Ⲉ	g̃	g	g	g, gh	g
	Ⲋ (used only in non-Hebrew words)	g̃				
6	Ⲭ	d				
7	Ⲯ	<u>d</u>	d	d	d, dh	d
8	Ⲱ	h (when is mater lectionis, transliterated by a diaeresis over the preceding vowel)	h (omit when final)	h	h	
9	Ⲳ (mappiq)	h				
10	Ⲵ	w (see also numbers 42 and 43)		v		
	Ⲷ			v		
11	Ⲹ	z				
	Ⲻ (used only in non-Hebrew words)	z̃				
12	Ⲽ	ḥ	ḥ			

No.	Hebrew	ISO	UK/US and Budapest (shown only	LC when	W3 different	Prussian from ISO)
13	ט	t̥	t	t		
14		y (see also numbers 39, 40 and 41)		y (at begin- ning of word or syllable; otherwise, i)	y	j
15	כ	k				
16	ך (final)	k̥	kh	kh	k, kh	k
17	ל	l				
18	מ (final)	m				
19	נ (final)	n				
20	ס	s				
21	ש	ʃ	ʃ	ʃ	ʃ	ʃ
22	פ	p				
23	פ (final)	f			p, ph	
24	צ (final)	z̥		ts	ʒ	ʒ
	ץ (used only in non- Hebrew words)	č				
25	ק	q		k		
26	ר	r				
27	שׁ	ʃ̄	sh	sh	sh	
28	שׂ	ʃ̆	s	s		
29	ת	t				
30	תּ	t̥	t	t	t, th	
31		a (when furtive pataḥ, is transliterated before conso- nant under which is placed)		a		
32	א (gadol)	ɑ	a	a		
33	א (qatan)	ɔ	o	a		
34	ה	e	e	e		
35	ה	e				
36	י	i				

No.	Hebrew	ISO	UK/US and Budapest (shown only	LC when	W3 different	Prussian from ISO)
37	וּ	o				
38	וּ	u				
39	וּ	ē				
40	וּ	ē	e			
41	וּ	i	i	i		
42	וּ	ō	o	o		
43	וּ	ū	u	u		
44	(šewā na ^c) (šewā nah)	e omit	shewa na ^c : e shewa nah: omit			
45	אָ	ă	a			
46	עֵ	ē	e			
47	וּ	ō	o			

ISO notes: 1. Unpronounced consonants, like the ך in בַּרְכִּי, are transliterated parenthetically: baṛa(y)w.

2. Letters with daḡeš forte are transliterated by doubling the consonant:

רֵׁיִצָּא re'iyā.

3. Particles (like the article) which are written together with the following word may be separated, in transliteration, by a hyphen: הַאֲרֵצִים ha-arez.

4. Proposal. The ISO system is complex but is the only reversible one. It is recommended for United Nations use when a narrow transcription is desired. For a broader one, the vowels could be romanized as in UK/US. In popular romanizations (newspapers, etc.), the same system might be used, omitting those diacritical marks not found in the typesetting process being utilized.

UK/US notes: 1. (same as ISO 2)(but the digraph sh is not doubled)

2. The definite article הַ is capitalized in transliteration and run together with the following word, whose initial letter bearing the dagesh (=dot) is also capitalized but not doubled, e. g., HaYogev. If the initial letter is 'ayin the following vowel is capitalized, e.g., Ha'Ogen.

3. "Used as mater lectionis"= not bearing a vowel or shewa.

ROMANIZATION OF PERSIAN

1. Persian, the modern language of Iran and western Afghanistan (also used in Pakistan, and by Indian Muslims as a literary language) is written in an alphabet based on the Arabic script. This alphabet's relationship to the pronunciation of modern Persian is slight. The letters are --as in Arabic and Hebrew-- primarily consonants; a few are also used secondarily to represent certain vowels, but full indication of vowels, when provided at all, is by means of a system of dots or strokes adjacent to the consonantal characters.

2. Problems. Because Persian orthography is based on tradition, it often shows differences which do not exist in pronunciation. The systems given below are mainly based on spelling.