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WRITING SYSTEMS

TRANSFER OF NAMES FROM ONE WRITING SYSTEM TO ANOTHER

TRANSLITERATION OF THAI WRITING

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U.N. Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names
Committee on Romanization

The attached comparative table sets forth the following:

A   The consonant and vowel characters of the Thai writing system;
B   the Precise System of Transliteration of Thai Characters into Roman;
C   the General System of Phonetic Transcription of Thai Characters into
    Roman; and
D   the phonemic transcription system employed in:

> Thai-English Student's Dictionary
> M.R. Haas
> Stanford University Press
> Stanford, California, 1964

Systems A B and D contain, in addition to the material cited in the table,
means of indicating the five tones of Thai; and additional notes and
instructions as to application are contained in each system.

The romanization of Thai writing is somewhat more complex than the table
alone might indicate, in that the representation of the phonological elements
of the language is often inconsistent, ambiguous, or redundant:

1. Frequently vowel phonemes (and infrequently consonant phonemes) are
    omitted in Thai writing: ง /ngong/; ศิลป /sĭnlápà/.
2. Graphic misrepresentation of consonant (and occasionally of vowel)
    phonemes occurs: มูล /muun/; เมน /mên/.
3. Thai characters often appear in superfluity: จริง /cing/; จันทร์ /can/;
    in a misleading order: เขยา /khajaw/; แขนง /khanɛɛng/; and occa-
    sionally in representation of phonemes of tone: หงอก /ngɔɔk/; อยาก /jàak/.
        (In the above, underlining of a character or letter marks an incon-
        sistency between phonemic and orthographic elements. The transcrip-
        tions cited are based on Haas, including tone markers. These words
        might be literally transliterated: [ngng silap, muul meen, cring
        canthor, kheejaa khɛɛnang, hngɔɔk ʔjaak].)

The Thai General System (column C), with which the BGN/PCGN 1963 Translitera-
tion System for Thai is identical, is, insofar as the writer is aware, the
sole system used by the Royal Thai Survey Department in the romanization of
Thai geographic names.

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Consonants | Vowels

Consonants

	A	B	C (init)	C (fin)	D (init)	D (fin)
ก	k	k	k	k	k	g
ข	kh	k,kh	kh	k	kh	g
ฃ	kh′	k,kh′	–	–	–	–
ค	kʻ	k,kʻ	kh	k	kh	g
ฅ	kʻ′	k,kʻ′	–	–	–	–
ฆ	khʻ	k,khʻ	kh	k	kh	g
ง	ng	ng	ng	ng	ŋ	ŋ
จ	č	t,č	ch	t	c	d
ฉ	ch	t,ch	ch	t	ch	–
ช	cʻ	t,cʻ	ch	t	ch	–
ฌ	chʻ	t,chʻ	ch	t	ch	–
ญ	y′	n′	y	n	j	n
ฎ	d	t	d	t	d	d
ฏ	ḍ	t,ḍ	d	t	d	d
ฐ	ḍ′	t,ḍ′	d	t	th	d
ฑ	ṭ	t,ṭ	t	t	t	d
ฒ	th	t,th	th	t	th	d
ณ	ṭh	t,ṭh	th	t	th	d
ด	tʻ	t,tʻ	th	t	th	d
ต	ṭʻ	t,ṭʻ	*th,dt	t	th	d
ถ	thʻ	t,thʻ	th	t	th	d
ท	ṭhʻ	t,ṭhʻ	th	t	th	d
ธ	n	n	n	n	n	n
น	ṇ	ṇ	n	n	n	n
บ	b	p	b	p	b	b
ป	p	p	p	p	p	b
ผ	ph	p,ph	ph	p	ph	–
ฝ	pʻ	p,pʻ	ph	p	ph	b
พ	phʻ	p,phʻ	ph	p	ph	b
ฟ	f	p,f	f	p	f	–
ภ	f′	p,f′	f	p	f	b
ม	m	m	m	m	m	m
ย	y	–	y	–	j	j
ร	r	n,r	*r	n	r	n
ฤ	–	n,rr	*	*	*	*
ล	l	n,l	l	n	l	n
ฦ	l	n,l	l	n	l	n
ว	w	–	*w	–	w	w
ศ	ş	t,ş	s	t	s	–
ษ	ş′	t,ş′	*	*	*	*
ส	ś	t,ś	s	t	s	d
ห	ṣ	t,ṣ	s	t	s	d
ฬ	ṣ	t,ṣ	s	t	s	d
อ	h	–	*h	–	h	–
ฮ	h′	–	h	–	h	–
๏	–	–	*–	–	ʔ	ʔ

? = glottal stop.
– = doesn't occur; or is not cited in the system.
* = cited in notes appended to the system.

In consonant columns B C and D, syllable initial consonants are on the left, syllable final consonants on the right.

Vowels

A	B	C	D
xะ	ăʔ	a	a(ʔ)
x ั	ă	a	a
xา	a	a	aa
xำ	ăm	am	am
xิ	ĭ	i	i(ʔ)
xี	i	i	ii
xึ	ŭ	u	y(ʔ)
xื	uʻ	u	yy
xุ	ŭ	u	u(ʔ)
xู	u	u	uu
เxะ	ĕʔ	e	e(ʔ)
เx ็	ĕ	e	e(ʔ)
เx	e	e	ee
แxะ	ăeʔ	ae	ɛ(ʔ)
แx	ae	ae	ɛɛ
โxะ	ŏʔ	o	o(ʔ)
—	ŏ	o	a(ʔ),o,ɔɔ
โx	o	o	oo
เxาะ	ŏʔ	o	ɔʔ
xอ	ɔ	o	ɔɔ
เxอะ	ŏeʔ	oe	əʔ
เxิ	ŏe	oe	əə
เxอ	oe	oe	əə
เxียะ	ia, ie	ia	iaʔ
เxีย	ia, ie	ia	ia
เxือะ	ɯa, ɯœ	ua	–
เxือ	ɯa, ɯœ	ua	ya
x ัวะ	ua, uo	ua	–
x ัว	ua, uo	ua	ua
ใx	ăĭ	ai	aj
ไx	ăĭ	ai	aj
x ัย	ăy	ai	aj
ไxย	ăiy	ai	aj
xาย	ai	ai	aaj
เxา	ăo	ao	aw
xาว	ao	ao	aaw
xุย	ui	ui	uj
โxย	oi	oi	ooj
xอย	ɔi	oi	ɔɔj
เxย	œi	œi	ɔɔj
เxือย	ɯœi	uai	yaj
xวย	uoi	uai	uaj
xิว	iu	iu	iw
เx ็ว	ĕo	eo	ew
เxว	eo	eo	eew
แxว	aeo	aeo	wɛɛ
เxียว	iœo	iœo	iaw
ฤ	rŭ,rĭ,rœ	ru,ri,rœ	ry
ฤๅ	rɯ	ru	ryy
ฦ	lɯ	lu	ly
ฦๅ	lɯ	lu	lyy