A COMPARISON OF THE TRANSLITERATIONS PROPOSED BY V. A. USPENSKI AND R. O. JAKOBSON

Russian alphabet	Uspenski's system		Jakobson's system	
	with diacritical marks	with digraphs	for semiautomatic telegraph	for automatic telegraph
а	a	a	a	a
б	b	b	b	b
в	v	v	v	v
г	g	g	g	g
д	d	d	d	d
е	e	e	e	e
ё	ë	jo		ho
ж	ž	zh	zh	hz
з	z	z	z	z
и	i	i	i	i
й	i	jh/j	j	j
к	k	k	k	k
л	l	l	l	l
м	m	m	m	m
н	n	n	n	n
о	o	o	o	o
п	p	p	p	p
р	r	r	r	r
с	s	s	s	s
т	t	t	t	t
у	u	u	u	u
ф	f	f	f	f
х	q	kh	x	x
ц	c	c	c	c
ч	č	ch	ch	hc
ш	š	sh	sh	hs
щ	x̆	xh	hh	hh
ъ	j	j'	w	w
ы	y	y	y	y
ь	'	'	j	q
э	ĕ	eh	eh	he
ю	ü	ju	ju	hu
я	ä	ja	ja	ha

A SYSTEM OF TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSCRIPTION OF BULGARIAN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES INTO ROMAN LETTERS*

Report presented by Bulgaria

In the last few years, in view of the intensification of international contacts, especially in cultural and sports exchanges and tourism, the need for setting up means of communication has become ever more urgent. The task of the transliteration system described here is to familiarize foreigners in the most adequate way with Bulgarian geographical nomenclature.

Of late, to serve the needs of tourism, many and different cartographic aids and handbooks have been published in the orthographies of the various nations which use the Roman alphabet. These publications have, nevertheless, a limited use, and they can only be aimed at

tourists from the country in which that particular form of the Roman alphabet is used. Among the structural and alphabetic features of the different languages there is much in common, but there are also substantial differences which impede the transformation of a written text from one system into another. It is obvious that a single standardized system using Roman characters is a necessity for the writing of Bulgarian geographical names, because of these differences between the different national forms of the Roman alphabet, which are due to many historical and cultural factors. To overcome these differences, a universal system must be found whose peculiarities could easily be understood in the legends of cartographic publications.

The first theoretical study of the problem of the transcription of Bulgarian names into the Roman alphabet was an article by S. Romanov entitled "Latin trans-

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* The original text of this report, prepared by M. S. Mladenov, of the Council of Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names at the Central Administration of Geodesy and Cartography, was contaned in document E/CONF.61/L.79.

cription of Bulgarian names" (*Bulgarski Progled*, vol. 1 (1930), No. 3, pp. 421-424). He put forward a very trim and exact system, which was consistent, without any internal contradictions. We can only regret that the system elaborated by him was not approved, because its approval would have created the prerequisites for the establishment of a Bulgarian national tradition in this important field of literary practice.

Somewhat later, L. Andreichin focused his attention on the theoretical principles of transcribing Bulgarian names into Roman characters in his article entitled "On certain questions in connexion with the Latin transcription of Bulgarian names" (*Bulgarski Ezik*, vol. 5 (1955), No. 3, pp. 246-249), and in his article "Latin transcription of Bulgarian names" (in *Na Ezikov Post* (Sofia, 1961), pp. 236-239).

It should be pointed out that L. Andreichin categorically emphasized that it was a question of rendering in Roman characters the Bulgarian written (alphabetic) form of the words, and not of their written and phonetic adaptation to foreign language patterns. "... Our transcription in this case cannot be anything else but transliteration", he wrote in his article in *Bulgarski Ezik* (p. 247). It is therefore to a certain extent inaccurate to speak of a transcription of Bulgarian geographical names into Roman characters, because in fact what we are concerned with is a transliteration, i.e. an exact letter-by-letter rendering of a text in one system of writing through the medium of another system of writing. (See A. Ahmanov, *Dictionary of Linguistic Terms* (Moscow, 1966), p. 476, where the following definition of "transliteration" is given: "Rendering of a text written with the aid of one alphabetic system by means of another alphabetic system".) Practice fully bears out this definition, because with this method it is not the phonetic sound image of the words that is rendered, but only their written, alphabetic image. In transcription, it is not so much the written image of the name that is reproduced as its pronunciation. This is of particular importance for languages in which the orthographic system is not phonetic but is based on etymology and morphological considerations. But in fact no orthographic system can be built entirely on the phonetic principle, and in the Bulgarian orthographic system, although it is basically phonetic, there are a number of spellings based on the morphological principle. Thus, for instance, Dimitrovg*rad*, Kroumovg*rad* and Begle*zh* are pronounced Dimitrovg*rat*, Kroumovg*rat* and Begle*sh*.

At the moment several systems for transliterating the Bulgarian system of writing into Roman characters are in use in our country:

The system of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), elaborated by the Bulgarian Language Institute and published by the Standardization Committee as standard No. BSS-1956-56;

The system of the International Organization for Standardization, described in "Système international pour translitération des caractères cyrilliques", 1st ed. (1955).

The system of the Bulgarian Posts and Telegraphs. This system is the most popular one and has the widest mass application.

The system of the Bulgarian State Railways (BSR) and Navigation.

Between the first three systems there are more common features than differences, and that is why the table below shows only the differences.

Letter	System of BAS	ISO system	System of Posts
Ж	ž	ž	j
Й	j	–	–
Х	h	h	h, kh
Ц	c	c	ts
Ч	č	č	tch
Ш	š	š	ch
Щ	št	št	cht
Ъ	â	ă	a
Ы	–	y	y
Ь	j	'	–
Ѣ	–	ě	–
Ю	ju	ju	iu
Я	ja	ja	ia
ДЗ	dz	–	–
ДЖ	dž	–	–

It can be seen that the systems of the BAS and the ISO are very much alike. The system of the Posts differs substantially from them, and has obviously been influenced by the spelling conventions of French (thus ш becomes "ch", ч becomes "tch", etc.).

The three systems each show a different rendering of the Bulgarian letter ъ: "â" (BAS system), "ă" (ISO system), and "a" (system of the Posts).

In the system elaborated here, the rule has been adopted to represent the Bulgarian letter ъ by the letter ă. This is indeed a deviation from our practice so far, but in this way only one diacritical sign (the haček) needs to be introduced, and a uniform system is in fact established: č, š, ž, ě, ă. Particular modifications of the basic sounds thus find a similar graphic representation, and —what is most important—a uniformity of diacritical signs is achieved.

In the International Organization for Standardization system the Roman characters representing the letters ы and ѣ (y and ě respectively) are required for the transliteration of old texts in which those letters are used. It is also necessary, as a matter of fact, to provide a sign for the letter х, which was used in the Bulgarian alphabet until 1945. Since this Bulgarian letter had a sound value coinciding with that of the letter ъ, it is suggested that it should be rendered by the letter ă. The letter ѣ should be rendered according to the rules of the literary language: in some cases by the combination ja, like the letter я (so for instance Бѣла becomes "Bjala") and in other cases by e, like the letter e (for instance Бѣли Искър becomes Beli Iskăr).

The BAS and ISO systems provide in almost every case for the representation of each Bulgarian letter by a single Roman one, and only in the rendering of the letters

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щ, ю and я are two letters used. Here the devisers of the transliteration systems were guided by the fact that these Cyrillic letters each represent a combination of two sounds: щ is a letter standing for the sound sh + t (corresponding to the Roman št); я is a letter which after a vowel has the sound value of the combination йа (corresponding to the Latin ja) and after a consonant designates palatalizaton of the consonant followed by the sound a, i.e. ьа (corresponding to the Latin ja); ю, similarly, has after a vowel the sound value of the combination йу (corresponding to the Latin ju) and after a consonant designates palatalization of the consonant followed by the sound y, i.e. ьу (corresponding to the Latin ju).

The ISO system provides the sign ' for rendering the Bulgarian ь, while the BAS system here specifies j, i.e. the same as for the letter й.

Finally, it should be noted that Bulgarian orthography contains two instances of the representation of one sound by two letters: the combinations дз and дж. In representing them by means of Latin characters, pure transliteration is applied (unlike the cases of щ, ю and я in which a certain concession is made to the transcripton principle).

As has already been mentioned, one more system has for a long time been in use in Bulgaria (although only for a particular purpose and for a limited number of objects)—the system used by the Bulgarian State Railways (BSR) for representing Bulgarian geographical names in Roman letters. This system is quite rational and is very similar to the BAS system. It is used for the signboards of railway stations and ports, and it has also been used recently for the traffic signs of the highway network in the country and the names of towns and villages on the main arteries.

The system of the State Railways is distinguished by the following characteristic transliterations:

Bulgarian letters	ж и й х ц ч ш щ ъ ь ю я
Roman letters	ž i j h tz č š št ă j ju ja

As can easily be seen, the best feature of the BSR system is the fact that each letter of the Bulgarian alphabet corresponds to only one Roman letter. Only the letter ц is represented by a digraph. For the letter ш there is also a digraph—št—but this representation corresponds to the sound content of the Bulgarian letter. It is interesting to note the rendering of the letter ъ by ă. The diacritical sign ˇ (haček) over the letter naturally places this letter among the other letters with such signs —č (for ч), š (for ш) and ž (for ж).

If we make a comparison between the different national romanization systems and the Bulgarian system for rendering Bulgarian names in Roman characters, we shall establish that the latter stands close to Czech usage. Its characteristic feature is the almost complete lack of digraphs. The system of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is, in fact, oriented towards a Roman orthography of the Slav type (the Czech), which can also be seen in the system used for transliterating the Russian Cyrillic alphabet into Roman characters.

All this testifies to the fact that the main principles of the system of rendering Bulgarian names in the Roman alphabet are correct and contain no contradictory elements.

It can now successfully be used as a universal means of revealing the Bulgarian geographical nomenclature in Roman characters, thus making it accessible to all who use the Latin alphabet.

The Bulgarian system of representing Bulgarian geographical names, which has been approved by the Council of Orthography and Transcription of Geographical Names, reads as follows:

1. А а a	12. Л л l	23. Ц ц c
2. Б б b	13. М м m	24. Ч ч č
3. В в v	14. Н н n	25. Ш ш š
4. Г г g	15. О о o	26. Щ щ št
5. Д д d	16. П п p	27. Ъ ъ ă
6. Е е e	17. Р р r	28. Ь ь j
7. Ж ж ž	18. С с s	29. Ю ю ju
8. З з z	19. Т т t	30. Я я ja
9. И и i	20. У у u	31. Ы ы y
10. Й й j	21. Ф ф f	32. Ѣ ѣ ja or e
11. К к k	22. Х х h	33. Ж ж ă

We think that, as presented here, it will be able successfully to meet the needs of the present stage of the country's development.

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE CYRILLIC ALPHABET INTO ROMAN CHARACTERS*

Report presented by Czechoslovakia

In Czechoslovakia the transliteration of the Cyrillic (Russian) alphabet had been a great concern of the Transliteration Commission of the Slavonic Institute as early as in 1939.

A draft for transliteration, published in *Slavia*, No. 7 (1939), pp. 317-320, was accepted and put into practice in the publications of Czech scientific institutions and in scientific journals as well as in specialized libraries. The draft was published anew in the same journal in 1951 (pp. 158-161) and approved by the Com-

mission on Terminology in 1953, rules for transliteration from some other languages having been included.

The basic principles of both the original and the later drafts were the following: the system should provide a transliteration, reversible so that a precise transcription back could be made, rendering each character of the Russian alphabet by means of one Roman letter, and achieving this with the characters of the Slavonic Roman alphabet. At the same tme, the Commission took into full account any system of romanizaton that was either generally established in a language, as was the case in Serbian, or officially acknowledged, as in the case of the proposal of the Academy of Sciences of the