

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR BURMESE

BGN/PCGN 1970 Agreement

This system is an amplified restatement of the 1907 version of the *Tables for the Transliteration of Burmese into English*, published in 1908 by the Office of the Superintendent, Government Printing, Rangoon, Burma. The BGN has utilized the system mainly to supplement the body of place names published in Survey of India and other Roman-script maps and lists.

CONSONANT CHARACTERS

| | Burmese | Romanization | (see Notes 2, 5 and 6) |
|----|---------------|------------------------|---|
| 1 | က ခ | k, ka | (g, ga after any roman script vowel, n, or ng, except as cited in note 5) |
| 2 | ဂ ဃ | g, ga | |
| 3 | င | ng, nga | |
| 4 | စ ဆ | s, sa | (z, za after any roman script vowel, n, or ng, except as cited in note 5) |
| 5 | ဇ ဈ | z, za | |
| 6 | ည | ny, nya | |
| 7 | တ ထ (ဋ) (ဌ) | t, ta | (d, da after any roman script vowel, n, or ng, except as cited in note 5) |
| 8 | ဒ (ဍ) (ဎ) (ဏ) | d, da | |
| 9 | န ဏ | n, na | |
| 10 | ပ ဖ | p, pa | (b, ba after any roman script vowel, n, or ng, except as cited in note 5) |
| 11 | ဗ ဘ | b, ba | |
| 12 | မ | m, ma | |
| 13 | ယ ရ | y, ya | |
| 14 | လ (ဌ) | l, la | |
| 15 | ဝ | w, wa | |
| 16 | သ | th, tha | |
| 17 | ဟ | h, ha | |
| 18 | အ | a, -, or not romanized | (see Note 3) |

CONSONANT CHARACTER COMBINATIONS

| | Burmese | Romanization | (see Notes 1, 2, 5 and 6) |
|----|---------|--------------|--|
| 1. | ငြ ဖျ | Cy, Cya | |
| 2. | ဇြ ချ | ch, cha | (gy, gya after any roman script vowel, n, or ng, except as cited in note 5.) |
| 3. | ဝ္ | Cw, Cwa | |
| 4. | ဝ္ ဝှ | Cyw, Cywa | |
| 5. | ှ | hC, hCa | |
| 6. | ရှ | sh, sha | |

VOWEL CHARACTERS

| Independent Characters | | Dependent Characters | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Burmese | Romanization (see Note 4) | Burmese | Romanization |
| 1. | | ာ ဝါ | a |
| 2. | ဧ ဧ် | ေ | e |
| 3. | | ဲ | è |
| 4. | ဣ ဣ် | ိ ဝီ | i |
| 5. | | ို ဝို | o |
| 6. | ဥ ဦ | ု ဝု ဝူ ဝူ | u |
| 7. | ဩ ဩဝ် ဩဝ် | ေဝ် ဝေဝ် ဝေဝ် ဝေဝ် | aw |

**CONSONANT CHARACTERS WITH END-OF-SYLLABLE MARKS IN SYLLABLES
CONTAINING A MEDIAL VOWEL AND A FINAL CONSONANT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|------------------------|-------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 1. | ၀ကံ | et | ပိုကံ | aik | ၀ကံ | auk | | | | | | |
| 2. | ၀င် | in | ပိုင် | aing | ၀င် | aung | | | | | | |
| 3. | ၀စ် | it | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | ၀ည် | i, in, e (see Note 10) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | ၀တ် | at | ပိတ် | eik | ုတ် | ôk | ွတ် | ut | ဝတ် | wut | ၀တ် | it |
| 6. | ၀န် | an | ပိန် | ein | ုန် | ôn | ွန် | un | ၀န် | wun | | |
| 7. | ၀ပ် | at | ပိပ် | eik | ုပ် | ôk | ွပ် | ut | | | | |
| 8. | ၀မ် | an | ပိမ် | ein | ုမ် | ôn | ွမ် | un | ၀မ် | wun | | |
| 9. | ၀ယ် | è | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. | ၀ဉ် | in | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. | ၀ံ | an | ပိံ | ein | ုံ | ôn | ံ | wun | | | | |

END OF SYLLABLE MARKS

VOWEL MARK

TONE MARK

| | | | | |
|--|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| ၀ | ံ | ံ | ံ | ံ |
| (see table of consonant characters with end-of-syllable marks) | | (see Note 8) | | (see Note 7) |

NUMERALS

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ၀ | ၁ | ၂ | ၃ | ၄ | ၅ | ၆ | ၇ | ၈ | ၉ |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

NOTES

1. The symbol ◌ in the tables and in the following notes represents any Burmese consonant character, and the letter **C** represents the romanized equivalent of that character. The symbol → means “is romanized”.
2. Except when accompanied by a dependent vowel character or an end-of-syllable mark, a Burmese consonant character or a consonant character combination should be romanized with a following vowel letter **a**: မဒမ → **madama**, အက → **aga**, ကလိ → **kali**, သာငယ် → **thangè**, ပြစင် → **pyazin**.
3. At the beginning of a word, the vowel-carrier အ should not be romanized, unless followed by a consonant character that does not carry a vowel character or an end-of-syllable mark, in which case the character အ should be romanized **a**: အကာ → **aga**, but အိုဘွဲ့ → **obè**, အပ် → **at**. At the beginning of a medial or final syllable, အ should be rendered by a hyphen: မအူ → **ma-u**, သီးပင်အိုင် → **Thibin-aing**.
4. The independent vowel characters should be romanized without a hyphen at the beginning of words and with a hyphen at the beginning of medial and final syllables: ဩဘာ → **awba**, ဧနီ → **eni**, ကြေး → **kye-e**, ကြောင်ဥကျပ် → **kyaung-ugyin**.
5. When two consonant characters are written stacked one above the other without an end-of-syllable mark, the upper character should be romanized first, followed by the lower character, and then the vowel and consonant characters, if any: သဒ္ဓါ → **thadda**, အန္တိမဘဝ → **andimabawa**. It should be noted that the alternative romanizations shown in the tables of consonant characters and consonant character combinations do not apply to the upper character: ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ → **ukkada**.
6. When the letter **n** at the end of a syllable within a romanized word is followed by **g** or **y** at the beginning of the next syllable, the letter sequences should be rendered **n-g** and **n-y**, respectively, in order to differentiate those sequences from the digraphs **ng** and **ny**: အင်းကွတ် → **in-gut**, ကွန်ရက် → **kun-yet**, but ရွှေငန်း → **shwengan**, ညိုညာ → **nyinya**, တိုင်အောင် → **taing-aung**. Similarly, the letter sequence consisting of **t** at the end of a syllable within a romanized word, followed by **h** at the beginning of the next syllable, should be rendered **t-h** in order to differentiate that sequence from the digraph **th**: ဟက်ဟက်ပက်ပက်ရယ် → **het-hetpetpetyè**, but ဝသီ → **wathi**.
7. The tone marks ◌ and ◌: are not represented in romanization: ဘေးမဲ့ → **bemè**, တုံစား → **tanza**, ပြီးစီး → **pyizi**.
8. The vowel mark ◌ indicates a change in the romanization of the preceding syllable from **a** to **in**: သဘော → **thinbaw**, ဘင်္ဂလားအော် → **Bin-gala Aw**, စင်္ကာပူ → **Sin-gabu**.

9. Although of infrequent occurrence, a number of character ligatures and abbreviations are found in Burmese writing. In the event that a character not shown in the tables is encountered, a reference source should be consulted.
10. ြ် is romanized **i**, **in** or **e**, depending on pronunciation. A reference source should be consulted in case of uncertainty.

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