

ROMANIZATION OF 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.

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 ဝု	Cy, Cya	
2.	ခြ ချ	ch, cha	(gy, gya after any roman script vowel, n, or ng, except as cited in note 5.)
3.	ဝူ	Cw, Cwa	
4.	ဝို ဝါ	Cyw, Cywa	
5.	ဟ်	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 ¹
4.	ဣ ဣ်	ိ ဝီ	i
5.		ို ဝို	o
6.	ဥ ဥ်	ု ဣ ဣ် ဣ	u
7.	ဩ ဩဝ် ဩဝ်	ော ဝော် ဝေါ ဝေါ	aw

¹ Unicode encoding for è is 00E8.

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

1.	ဝက်	et	ပိုက်	aik	ဘေက်	auk						
2.	ဝင်	in	ပိုင်	aing	ဘေင်	aung						
3.	ဝစ်	it										
4.	ည်	i, in, e (see Note 10)										
5.	တ်	at	ပိတ်	eik	ုတ်	ôk	ွတ်	ut	ဝတ်	wut	တ်	it
6.	န်	an	ပိန်	ein	ုန်	ôn	ွန်	un	ဝန်	wun		
7.	တ်	at	ပိတ်	eik	ုတ်	ôk	ွတ်	ut				
8.	မ်	an	ပိမ်	ein	ုမ်	ôn	ွမ်	un	ဝမ်	wun		
9.	ယ်	è										
10.	ိုင်	in										
11.	ံ	an	ိံ	ein	ုံ	ôn	ံ	wun				

END OF SYLLABLE MARKS

VOWEL MARK

TONE MARK

ံ	ံ	ံ	ံ	ံ:
(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 ၀ 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**, ပြဇင် → **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: သြဘာ → **awba**, ဧဏီ → **eni**, ကြေး → **kye-e**, ကြောင်ဥကျဉ် → **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: သဒ္ဒါ → **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.
11. The Romanization columns show only lowercase forms but, when romanizing, uppercase and lowercase Roman letters as appropriate should be used.

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