ROMANIZATION OF OSSETIAN

BGN/PCGN 2009 System

The BGN/PCGN system for Ossetian is designed for use in romanizing names written in the Ossetian Cyrillic alphabet. Ossetian is a member of the north-eastern Iranian language group and has over half a million speakers. It has principally been written in a modified Cyrillic alphabet though a Roman alphabet was used between 1923 and 1938. The BGN/PCGN Romanization System is derived from the correspondences between that Roman alphabet and the Cyrillic alphabet used for Ossetian today, with modifications to suit an English-language user.

	Ossetian				Ossetian Unicode	Romanization		Ossetian				Ossetian Unicode	Romanization
1	А	а	*А*	*а*	0410; 0430	a	14	И	и	*И*	*и*	0418; 0438	i
2	Æ	æ	*Æ*	*æ*	04D4; 04D5	æ	15	Й	й	*Й*	*й*	0419; 0439	y[1]
3	Б	б	*Б*	*б*	0411; 0431	b	16	К	к	*К*	*к*	041A; 043A	k
4	В	в	*В*	*в*	0412; 0432	v	17	Къ	къ	*Къ*	*къ*	041A+044A; 043A+044A	k'[2]
5	Г	г	*Г*	*г*	0413; 0433	g	18	Л	л	*Л*	*л*	041B; 043B	l
6	Гъ	гъ	*Гъ*	*гъ*	0413+044A; 0433+044A	gh[3]	19	М	м	*М*	*м*	041C; 043C	m
7	Д	д	*Д*	*д*	0414; 0434	d	20	Н	н	*Н*	*н*	041D; 043D	n
8	Дж	дж	*Дж*	*дж*	0414+0436; 0434+0436	j[4]	21	О	о	*О*	*о*	041E; 043E	o
9	Дз	дз	*Дз*	*дз*	0414+0437; 0434+0437	dz	22	П	п	*П*	*п*	041F; 043F	p
10	Е	е	*Е*	*е*	0415; 0435	e	23	Пъ	пъ	*Пъ*	*пъ*	041F+044A; 043F+044A	p'[5]
11	Ё	ё	*Ё*	*ё*	0401; 0451	ë [Note 1]	24	Р	р	*Р*	*р*	0420; 0440	r
12	Ж	ж	*Ж*	*ж*	0416; 0436	zh [Note 1]	25	С	с	*С*	*с*	0421; 0441	s
13	З	з	*З*	*з*	0417; 0437	z	26	Т	т	*Т*	*т*	0422; 0442	t

[1] Formerly /j/ in the Ossetian Roman-script alphabet
[2] Formerly /kh/ in the Ossetian Roman-script alphabet
[3] Formerly /h/ in the Ossetian Roman-script alphabet
[4] Formerly /dž/ in the Ossetian Roman-script alphabet
[5] Formerly /ph/ in the Ossetian Roman-script alphabet

	Ossetian				Ossetian Unicode	Romanization		Ossetian				Ossetian Unicode	Romanization
27	Тъ	тъ	*Тъ*	*тъ*	0422+044A; 0442+044A	t'[6]	36	Ш	ш	*Ш*	*ш*	0428; 0448	sh [Note 1]
28	У	у	*У*	*у*	0423; 0443	u, w [Note 2]	37	Щ	щ	*Щ*	*щ*	0429; 0449	shch [Note 1]
29	Ф	ф	*Ф*	*ф*	0424; 0444	f	38	Ъ	ъ	*Ъ*	*ъ*	042A; 044A	„ [Notes 1 & 3]
30	Х	х	*Х*	*х*	0425; 0445	kh[7]	39	Ы	ы	*Ы*	*ы*	042B; 044B	y
31	Хъ	хъ	*Хъ*	*хъ*	0425+044A; 0445+044A	q	40	Ь	ь	*Ь*	*ь*	042C; 044C	' [Note 1]
32	Ц	ц	*Ц*	*ц*	0426; 0446	ts[8]	41	Э	э	*Э*	*э*	042D; 044D	e [Note 1]
33	Цъ	цъ	*Цъ*	*цъ*	0426+044A; 0446+044A	ts'[9]	42	Ю	ю	*Ю*	*ю*	042E; 044E	yu [Note 1]
34	Ч	ч	*Ч*	*ч*	0427; 0447	ch[10]	43	Я	я	*Я*	*я*	042F; 044F	ya [Note 1]
35	Чъ	чъ	*Чъ*	*чъ*	0427+044A; 0447+044A	ch'[11]							

NOTES

1. The characters ё, ж, ш, щ, ъ, ь, э, ю, я appear only in loan words and their romanizations in the Ossetian System are therefore as they appear in the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Russian Cyrillic.

2. У has several different functions:
   - In combination with another vowel (either preceding or following) У is a 'semi-vowel' and should be romanized 'w' [e.g. *Дзау → Dzaw (=Java)*]
   - У also serves to labialize the consonants Г, Гъ, К, Къ, Х and Хъ and should also be romanized 'w' after each of these [e.g. *Гуырдзы → Gwyrdzy (=Georgia)*]
   - elsewhere У should be romanized 'u' [e.g. *Республикæ → Respublikæ (=Republic)*].

3. Ъ should be represented with ", except as it occurs in the digraph combinations гъ, къ, пъ, тъ, хъ or чъ representing the glottal consonants as shown separately in the table.

4. An inventory of letter-diacritic combinations, with their Unicode encoding, in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script is:

   All apostrophes appearing in romanization are U+2019

Æ (U+00C6)	æ (U+00E6)
Ë (U+00CB)	ë (U+00EB)

5. The Roman-script columns show only lowercase forms but, when applying the table, uppercase and lowercase Roman letters as appropriate should be used.

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[6] Formerly /th/ in the Ossetian Roman-script alphabet
[7] Formerly /x/ in the Ossetian Roman-script alphabet
[8] Formerly /c/ in the Ossetian Roman-script alphabet
[9] Formerly /ch/ in the Ossetian Roman-script alphabet
[10] Formerly /č/ in the Ossetian Roman-script alphabet
[11] Formerly /čh/ in the Ossetian Roman-script alphabet