

Problem #3

The ‘hook’ that each word has in the middle or at the right edge (if the word is written by two characters) marks a vowel. The little circle on top of it indicates brevity (accordingly, the absence of a circle indicates length). From the words ‘passion’ and ‘turn around’, which contain a character not found anywhere else, we see that the direction of the script is left to right and the ‘rare character’ stands for k. The other characters in these words are м (the final consonant in ‘passion’) and н (in ‘turn around’). No word but ‘have’ begins with м, so we derive the character for н. And so on; each consonant has its letter, except for final м after a short vowel; there is also a special character for the absence of an initial consonant.

Assignment 1.

ка:m	‘passion’	а:c	‘passion’
ам	‘suck (a breast)’	кам	‘suck (a breast)’
ріьм	‘delta’	роьм	‘delta’
поьт	‘lead, guide’	ај	‘lead, guide’
ноьт	‘inarticulately’	реът	‘inarticulately’
ніьк	‘turn around’	тиъп	‘turn around’
сај	‘trim, rough-hew’		

To write the words in the Roman script, we need to determine the rules that govern the choice of the vowel: since it is always written by the same character, its quality will have to depend on the consonants (and, possibly, its quantity). Here is a summary of what we observe:

	short vowel		long vowel
	final м	final н	
initial p, м, н or н	оъ роьт, поьт, ноьт	еъ реът	іъ ріьм, тиъп, ніьк
initial с, к or zero	а ам, кам, ај, сај		а: а:c, ка:m

Assignment 2.

kam	‘spoke (in a wheel)’	ca:m	‘Cham’
ka:k	‘crow’	niъ:m	‘name’
ноът	‘bright red’	тоьт	‘robust’

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