

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR BURMESE

BGN/PCGN 1970 System

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. It is considered inapplicable to names from other languages of Burma which are written in Burmese script.

CONSONANT CHARACTERS

	Burmese	Romanization	(See notes 2, 5, and 6.)
1	က ခ	k, ka	(g, ga after any vowel letter or nasal consonant letter, except as cited in note 5.)
2	ဂ ဃ	g, ga	
3	င	ng, nga	
4	စ ဆ	s, sa	(z, za after any vowel letter or nasal consonant letter, except as cited in note 5.)
5	ဇ ဈ	z, za	
6	ည	ny, nya	
7	တ ဒ ထ ဌ ဋ	t, ta	(d, da after any vowel letter or nasal consonant letter, except as cited in note 5.)
8	ဒ ဉ ဍ ဎ	d, da	
9	န က	n, na	
10	ပ ဖ	p, pa	(b, ba after any vowel letter or nasal consonant letter, except as cited in note 5.)
11	ဗ ဖ	b, ba	
12	မ	m, ma	

	Burmese	Romanization	(See notes 2, 5, and 6.)
13	ယ ရ	y, ya	
14	လ ဉ	l, la	
15	ဝ	w, wa	
16	ဆ	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	င ချ	Cy, Cya	
2	ဆ	Cw, Cwa	
3	င ချ	Cyw, Cywa	
4	ဟ	hC, hCa	
5	ခ ချ	ch, cha	(gy, gya after any vowel letter or nasal consonant letter, except as cited in note 5.)
6	ရှ	sh, sha	

VOWEL CHARACTERS

Independent Characters		Dependent Characters	
Burmese	Romanization (See note 4.)	Burmese	Romanization
1		ာ ခါ	a
2	ဧ ဧါ	ဧာ	e
3		ဲ	è
4	ိ ဤ	ိ ိ	i
5		ိ ိ	o
6	ု ိ	ု ိ ိ ိ	u
7	ာ ဧာ ဧါ	ဧာ ဧါ ဧါ ဧါ	aw

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

1	ာ et ိ eik ိ ôk ိ aik ဧာ auk
2	ာ et
3	င် in ိ ein ိ aing ဧာ aung
4	စ် it ိ ôk
5	င် it ိ eik
6	ည် i, in, e (See note 10.)
7	တ် at ိ eik ိ ôk ိ ut ိ wut ဧတ် it

8 □ at

o₂ wut

9

ဝဒ် wut

10 𐌺𐌰 at 𐌺𐌰 eik 𐌺𐌰 ôk

□ at

11 $\square^{\zeta}_{\ominus}$ at $\square^{\zeta}_{\ominus}$ eik

□⁸ at

12 $\square \begin{smallmatrix} \circ \\ \circ \end{smallmatrix}$ an $\square \begin{smallmatrix} \circ \\ \circ \end{smallmatrix}$ ein $\square \begin{smallmatrix} \circ \\ \circ \end{smallmatrix}$ on $\square \begin{smallmatrix} \circ \\ \circ \end{smallmatrix}$ un $\circ \begin{smallmatrix} \circ \\ \circ \end{smallmatrix}$ wun

13 ၵၢ် ၵၢ် an ၵၢ် ၵၢ် ein ၵၢ် ၵၢ် ôn ၵၢ် ၵၢ် aing

14 $\square \delta$ at $\square \delta$ eik $\square \delta$ ôk $\square \delta$ ut

15

ဝါဒ် wut










16 an ein on un wun

17 □ω è

၁၈ ခလ် an ခိုလ် aing

19 ခ်သ် at ခိုသ် eik

20 § in

21  a  e  ɛ  ɐ  ɔ  u  ʊ  o  ɯ

22 သံ at

END-OF-SYLLABLE MARKS



(See the table of consonant characters with end-of-syllable marks.)

SOUND-CHANGE MARK

3

(See note 8.)

TONE MARKS



(See note 7.)

NUMERALS

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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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.
2. Except when accompanied by a dependent vowel character or an end-of-syllable mark, a Burmese consonant character or consonant character combination should be romanized with a following vowel letter a: မဒမ → **madama**, အက → **aga**, ကလိ → **kali**, သာယံ → **thangè**, ပြဝင် → **pyazin**.
3. At the beginning of a word, the character အ should not be romanized, unless followed by a consonant character that does not bear a vowel character or an end-of-syllable mark, in which case the character အ should be romanized a: အကက → **aga**, but အိုဘဲ → **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**, ဧကီ → **eni**, ကြေ → **kye-e**, ကြောင်ဥကျည် → **kyaung-ugyin**.
5. When two consonant characters are written 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, သဒ္ဓါ → **thadda**, ပညာ → **panyza**, အင်္ဂိမဘဝ → **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: သေတ္တာ → **thetta**, မိစ္ဆာ → **missa**, 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 ဖွဲ့ငန်း → **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 sound-change mark ◻^h 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. ◻ည် is romanized **i**, **in**, or **e**, depending on pronunciation. A reference source should be consulted in case of uncertainty.