

TRANSLITERATION SYSTEM FOR RUSSIAN
BGN/PCGN 1947 System

The BGN/PCGN transliteration system for the Russian cyrillic alphabet was originated in 1944 by the BGN and adopted by the PCGN in 1947. It has been applied to the romanization of hundreds of thousands of geographic names and is one of the most extensively used BGN/PCGN systems.

The system combines a high degree of mechanical applicability with near-reversibility. A knowledge of Russian is not essential to its implementation.

It is used in the standardization of geographic names by the BGN in all areas of acknowledged Soviet sovereignty and all areas of Soviet de facto administration except the three Baltic States, where it is used only for names not available in Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian respectively. In the case of former Japanese areas, names for which cyrillic spellings are not available continue to be romanized as Japanese names.

The Board does not require transliteration systems for Ukrainian, White Russian, Georgian, and other locally used languages employing cyrillic or other alphabets, since all of the required names are available in the Russian alphabet.

TRANSLITERATION SYSTEM FOR RUSSIAN
BGN/PCGN 1947 System

<u>Russian</u>	<u>Roman</u>	<u>Russian</u>	<u>Roman</u>	<u>Russian</u>	<u>Roman</u>
А, а	a	К, к	k	Х, х	kh
Б, б	b	Л, л	l	Ц, ц	ts <u>4/</u>
В, в	v	М, м	m	Ч, ч	ch
Г, г	g	Н, н	n	Ш, ш	sh
Д, д	d	О, о	o	Щ, щ	shch
Е, е	e, ye <u>1/</u>	П, п	p	Ъ	"
Ё, ё	ë, yë <u>2/</u>	Р, р	r	Ы, ы	y <u>3/</u>
Ж, ж	zh	С, с	s	Ь	'
З, з	z	Т, т	t	Э, э	e
И, и	i	У, у	u	Ю, ю	yu
Й, й	y <u>3/</u>	Ф, ф	f	Я, я	ya

1. The Russian letter е is transliterated as ye initially, after vowels, and after ъ and ь ; elsewhere as e.
2. The letter Ё is not considered a separate letter of the alphabet, and the " is often omitted. When printed in Russian as Ё , it is transliterated as yë initially, after vowels, and after ъ and ь ; elsewhere as ё.
3. Both Й and И are transliterated as y, but these letters rarely occur initially and the likelihood of confusion is slight; the Й usually occurs only as the second part of diphthongs, while the И occurs before other vowels or between consonants.
4. This system provides no means of distinguishing between the transliterations of the Russian letter ц and the to letter combination; however, the latter occurs infrequently.