

The Transliteration of Modern Russian
for English-Language Publications

J. Thomas Shaw

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or citations of bibliographical material. See the discussions of Systems II and III for suggestions on handling words as words and bibliographical citations in publications in which System I is used for personal and place names.

System II.

System II, the Library of Congress system for transliteration of modern Russian with the diacritical marks omitted, is recommended for use by those scholars in the social and natural sciences who are concerned with Russian studies. In publications of works in these fields, System II should be used for *all citations of bibliographical material*, and it may be used for *words as words*. Whether it is used for personal and place names in the text proper (in non-bibliographical matter) will depend on the extent to which the work is directed to specialists.

For example, a professional journal for specialists in Russian studies in the social sciences or in a particular field of social science may appropriately use System II throughout; similarly, other works (including dissertations) directed exclusively to such an audience may use System II consistently.

If System I is used in the text proper for works in the social or natural sciences when they are aimed at an audience broader than one of specialists, System II should be employed for transliteration of words as words and for documentation in all citations of bibliographical material. Thus System I may appropriately be used for personal and place names in the text in a general work on European history which includes a discussion of Russian history, in a general professional journal in history, and in a special study of a particular problem in Russian history for an audience which does not consist solely of specialists in this field; in each case, words as words and all citations of bibliographical material should be transliterated according to System II.

System II is not, in general, recommended for use in bibliographies published as separate volumes, but it may, for practical reasons, be used for such works as computer-set publications of library holdings.

System III

System III is the international scholarly system for the transliteration of Russian, used by linguists and literary scholars specializing in Russian and Slavic studies. In publications directed primarily or exclusively to linguists or literary scholars, System III should be used for *words as words* and for *all citations of bibliographical material*. Whether it is used for personal and place names in the text proper (in non-bibliographical matter) may depend on whether the publication is directed particularly to Russian (and Slavic) scholars.

For example, in a professional journal devoted to Russian (and Slavic) linguistics and literature, and in other works (including dissertations) addressed directly to specialists in these fields, it is appropriate to use System III consistently throughout. On the other hand, an article on Turgenev, for example, in a professional literary journal not limited to Russian or Slavic literature may use System I for personal and place names in text, but words as words and all citations of bibliographical material should be transliterated according to System III. For an annotated English-language edition of the letters of Pasternak, it would be appropriate to use System I for the text proper, and System III for transliteration of words as words and in all citations of bibliographical material.

System III is the most acceptable one to use for bibliographies in literary or linguistic publications (for example, the "Annual Bibliography" in *PMLA*) and for separately published bibliographies if the audience is to be an international one (for example, *The American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies*).

System IV

System IV is the Library of Congress system of transliterating modern Russian with diacritical marks. For *separate bibliographical publications*, especially in the social sciences, this system is satisfactory. If the audience is an international one, however, System III is usually preferable for bibliographies in book form.

Transliteration Chart

	Old Style				New Style				
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	
Aa	a	a	a	a	Pp	r	r	r	r
Bb	b	b	b	b	Co	s	s	s	s
Bb	v	v	v	v	Tp	t	t	t	t
Fr	g	g	g	g	Yy	u	u	u	u
Dr	d	d	d	d	Φφ	fʹ	fʹ	fʹ	fʹ
Be	eʹ	e	e	e	Xx	khʹ	khʹ	xʹ	kh
Be	yo	e	e	e	Dr	ts	ts	c	ts
Be	yo	e	e	e	Dr	ts	ts	c	ts
Жж	zh	zh	ž	zh	qy	chʹ	chʹ	č	ch
Зз	z	z	z	z	Шш	shʹ	sh	š	sh
Ии	i	i	i	i	Щщ	shchʹ	shch	šč	shch
Ии	yʹ	iʹ	iʹ	iʹ	Ъъ	—	ʹ	ʹ	ʹ
Кк	k	k	k	k	Кк	y	y	y	y
Кк	k	k	k	k	Бб	—	ʹ	ʹ	ʹ
Лл	l	l	l	l	Дд	yaʹ	ia	ja	ia
Мм	m	m	m	m	Өө	e	e	è	è
Нн	n	n	n	n	Юю	yuʹ	iu	ju	iu
Оо	o	o	o	o	Дд	yaʹ	ia	ja	ia
Пп	p	p	p	p					

Combinations of Letters

	Old Style			
	I	II	III	IV
(in names)	-xʹ	-yʹ	-yʹ	-yʹ
(in names)	-yʹ	-yʹ	-yʹ	-yʹ
(in names)	-yʹ	-ii	-ij	-ij
(in names)	-ia	-iia	-ija	-iia
	-ie	-ie	-ie	-ie
	-yi	-i	-i	-i
ko	x	ks	ks	ks

Other Letters of the Old Style Alphabet

The letters shown below in use in Old Style Russian, should, for general purposes, be transliterated as though they were the corresponding New Style letters. (Note: In transliterating Old Style Russian, one must be mindful of the changes of spelling of certain grammatical forms [especially genitive adjective case endings] and pronouns, and transliterate them as though they were spelled in New Style.)

Old Style	New Style
И и	И и
Ѣ ѣ	Е е
Ѹ ѹ	И и
Ѧ ѧ	Ф ф
Ѣ ѣ (terminal)	omitted

Place Names

It has been recommended that a single system of transliteration be used for all place names and personal names within the text of a publication, and a single system (which may or may not be the same one) for information—including place names—in all citations of bibliographical material. (See "Mixtures of Systems," p. 6.) Within English text, however, place names with Anglicized spelling in widely accepted usage may follow that spelling: e.g., Moscow (for *Moskva*), St. Petersburg (for *Sankt-Peterburg* or *S.-Peterburg*). For citation of the place of publication of Russian works, the following abbreviations may be used: M. for Moscow (*Moskva*), L. for Leningrad, SPb. for St. Petersburg (*Sankt-Peterburg*, *S.-Peterburg*).

Russians with Names of Non-Russian Origin

Non-Russian names of Russians should be transliterated as though the names were of Russian origin (e.g., Dal or Dal', Benkendorf, Vulf or Vulf', Fet, Fonvizin). Names of authors of non-Russian origin who made their reputations writing in Russian should be treated as though they were Russians (Gogol or Gogol', Bulgarin, Senkovsky).

Prenames

Prenames of Russians should be transliterated according to the appropriate system, rather than put in the form of English equivalents: e.g., Ivan *not* John; Vasily or Vasilii or Vasilij, *not* Basil. *Exception*: Russian rulers' names should be printed in the conventional English form if the patronymic is not furnished: e.g., Michael I, *but* Mikhail Pavlovich (or Mixail Pavlovič). Names which closely approximate English names (e.g., Aleksandr for Alexander; Petr for Peter) may be printed in the English form in System I, but they should be directly transliterated in Systems II, III, and IV.

Surnames of Russian Women

When the Russian form of a woman's surname is different from the masculine form of the same name (e.g., Pushkin's wife was Pushkina, Dostoevsky's was Dostoevskaya), the treatment in English will depend upon the audience, the number of such women's names, and particularly on whether the text uses the names without prename. In Systems II, III, and IV, the feminine forms should ordinarily be used; in System I it will depend upon the considerations cited above.

Thus, in System III, Puškin's wife is Mme Puškina, or Natal'ja Nikolaevna Puškina, or N. N. Puškina. In System I, Pushkin's wife is Mme Pushkina (or Pushkin), or Natalia Nikolaevna Pushkina (or Pushkin). Although, in Russian, initials are often given instead of first names for women, this practice should be avoided when System I is used. In dealing with the names of Russian women, when a feminine form is given prominence (as in a book title), it must be remembered that it is a feminine form: thus, if the ridiculous is to be avoided, the surname of Anna Karenina's husband must be given as Karenin, and the problem of consistency in handling the names of all the women in the work must be kept in mind.

Russian Wives of Non-Russians

The prenames should be transliterated from Russian, using the appropriate system; the surnames should be given their Latin-alphabet spelling.

Names of Individual Russians Who Have Accepted a Western Spelling

In general, these surnames should be spelled in the Latin-alphabet spelling which the individual himself accepted, e.g., Nirsky, Herzen. In bibliographical material of Cyrilllic publications, the precise transliteration should be used.