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# Introduction and Acknowledgments

This unconventional dictionary is designed to help scholars and educated lay persons of all types to deal with a variety of Cyrillic texts. For the librarian, this may mean bibliographic citations. For the scientist it may be a journal article. For the tourist it may be a poster, a sign, or a spoken word.

Whatever its application, the dictionary results from my long-term interest in the transliteration of non-Roman alphabets.<sup>1,2</sup> Transliteration is the spelling of words from one language with characters from the alphabet of another. Ideally, it is a one-for-one character-by-character replacement. For example, LONDON is the Roman transliteration of the Russian word ЛОНДОН. Publication of this dictionary reflects my conviction that transliteration can help improve communications between countries that use non-Roman alphabets and those that do not.

This conviction stems from first-hand knowledge that the Cyrillic alphabet (introduced in the ninth century by St. Cyril, who combined letters from the Greek and Roman alphabets) presents an obstacle in using the Russian language that is vastly underestimated. I can well remember the difficulty of using standard Russian-English dictionaries in my recent travels in the Soviet Union. However, the original inspiration for this dictionary was my frustration in examining Russian scientific texts printed in Cyrillic. Since I was never able to "keep up" with my Russian, the letters of the Cyrillic alphabet were not indelibly fixed in my mind.

But even when I recognized the letters, I faced the frustrating task of dealing with an entirely foreign alphabetic ordering scheme. We learn the order of our alphabet as children through endless repetitions until we know it by rote. As adults, everyday use of alphabetically arranged material reinforces our skill. But this learning approach is not feasible for most people who must deal with Russian. As a result, I know people who can converse in Russian but still stumble over the order of the letters in the Cyrillic alphabet.

This dictionary presents solutions to both the problems of letter recognition and letter order. It contains a dual conversion table that makes it possible to quickly determine the Roman equivalent for any Cyrillic letter. In this way, Russian text can be transliterated with minimum effort. In fact, this purely mechanical procedure can even be performed by a machine. The transliterated word may then be found in the Russian-English section of the dictionary, where the Russian words are organized in *Roman* alphabetical order.

While this dictionary is designed primarily for reading Russian texts, there is also an English-to-Russian section. When you need the Russian equivalent of an English word, just look up the word in the English-to-Russian section. This provides the Russian word in transliterated form. You can then use the dual conversion table to reconstruct the transliterated word into its Cyrillic form.

The 27th edition of the Akhmanova-Wilson *Russian English Dictionary*, published by the Russian Language Press, Moscow, 1975 is the main source for the terms included in this first edition. This approach to word selection is significant because the Akhmanova-Wilson dictionary covers the words most frequently encountered in Russian texts. Nearly one

thousand words of a more technical nature were selected by the ISI staff to supplement the basic Akhmanova-Wilson list. I also considered the inclusion of other sources of technical terms such as glossaries and thesauri. However, to serve the widest possible audience, I decided to reduce the dictionary's size and publish it at a lower cost.

If this dictionary is successful, I hope to supplement this first edition with a volume including additional technical terms, especially those whose meanings are not obvious in transliteration. The remarkable fact is that the number of such words is relatively small. That is why transliteration "works." Once you have transliterated the truly Slavic terms in a text, you have little or no difficulty comprehending the rest. A large percentage of Russian technical words are cognate terms used in English, French, or German.

I believe this transliterated Russian-English dictionary will be of use to a variety of people who wish to read or translate Russian. Librarians involved in cataloging Russian materials will find it a great time saver as should anyone who must index or abstract Russian material. Instructors teaching introductory courses in Russian should find this dictionary a handy study aid for their students. It will help overcome an initial resistance for the reasons cited before. Finally, the traveler to the Soviet Union will find this dictionary a welcome companion.

Serious scholars who make continuous use of Russian may regard this dictionary as an unnecessary crutch. If such people can recite the Russian alphabet as rapidly as their own, then I would have to agree. But most scientists and scholars cannot; nor can they afford the luxury of keeping up with their Russian. This dictionary is designed to save them a lot of time and energy.

As much as I have been personally involved with the conception and creation of this dictionary, it simply would not have been possible to complete it without the assistance of my close colleague and friend, the late Robert Hayne.<sup>3</sup> As the Chief Editor of the Institute for Scientific Information, he assisted me in clarifying the objectives and design of the dictionary. He also launched the data gathering effort and worked out the details of the composition system. After his death the project waned but was given new life with the establishment of ISI Press.

I also wish to recognize the technical assistance of Yuri Meerovich in the transliteration work itself. Mr. Meerovich is currently teaching in the "English for Speakers of Other Languages" program of the Philadelphia Board of Education. Until 1974 he was an instructor at the Institute of Foreign Languages and a teacher in the Moscow public schools. Excellent advice was also received from Dr. Michael Zarechnak, of the Department of Languages and Linguistics at Georgetown University.

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## References

1. Garfield E. Transliteration ≠ Transcription ≠ Translation. *Current Contents* (16):5-7, 21 April 1975.\*
2. ———. Why not stop worrying about Cyrillic and read Russian! *Current Contents* (21):5-10, 26 May 1975.\*
3. Garfield E. To remember my brother, Robert L. Hayne. *Current Contents* (34):5-6, 22 August 1977.

\* Reprinted in: Garfield E. *Essays of an information scientist*. Philadelphia: ISI Press, 1977. 2 vols.

# User's Guide

## Content of Major Sections

This dictionary consists of two major sections. The Russian-to-English section lists nearly 17,000 Russian words that have been transliterated from the Cyrillic to the Roman alphabet. These words are listed according to the order of the Roman alphabet. In addition to the transliterated form, brief definitions and designations of parts of speech are provided for each Russian word. In the English-to-Russian section, English words are listed in Roman alphabetic order with each word followed by its transliterated Russian equivalent and a part of speech designation for the Russian word.

The English-Russian section of this dictionary is unusual in many respects. It was compiled by *re-sorting* the Russian-English section. Since the Akhmanova-Wilson dictionary includes the most frequently used Russian words, one might conclude that the re-sorted version would include all of the most commonly used English words. This is not the case. A number of the most familiar English words did not appear in the Akhmanova-Wilson translations of Russian words. The result is that the omitted words do not appear as entries in the English-Russian section.

The English-Russian section does, however, illustrate the richness of the Russian language in providing many subtle shades of meanings. This is shown by the array of Russian terms required to translate some of the English words that were used by Akhmanova-Wilson. For example, five different Russian words are provided as translations for the English word "departure." Also, in English a "deviation" may be a departure from the norm. In Russian the term closest to this is "otklonenie." However, several other Russian words convey different shades of meanings: "deviatsiya" means "deviation," as in a compass; while "uklon" means "deviation or deflection," in a political sense.

## Transliteration System

Conversion tables in this guide and at the endleaves allow the user to convert Cyrillic letters into their Roman equivalents and vice versa. The words contained in this dictionary were transliterated by the staff of the Institute for Scientific Information following the system of the British Standards Institute (BSI). This system was used because it seemed to combine the best features of two other leading systems, the Library of Congress and Board of Geographic Names. The British Standards Institute system's lack of ambiguity and absence of ligatures make it a useful system for personnel untrained in linguistics. In addition, it is a system that has been used by several English-language publishers of Russian materials and by many agencies of the United States government, such as the National Science Foundation and the Department of Agriculture. Since the Library of Congress system agrees with the BSI system in all but a few instances, it is a simple matter to convert one system to the other. There may be, however, some effect on the ordering of words when one system or the other is used.

There are few transliteration systems that can be applied in practical situations exactly as conceived. In this dictionary it was necessary to modify the BSI system slightly by ignoring the diacritical marks over the Cyrillic *ë* and *ï*. Thus, the Cyrillic *ë* is transliterated as a Roman *e*, and *ï* is transliterated as a Roman *i*. All other transliterations are in strict conformity to the BSI system. (Individuals interested in learning more about transliteration systems will find a wealth of useful information in H. H. Wellisch: *The Conversion of Scripts*, John Wiley & Sons, 1978.)

## Conversion Tables

The following tables show the characters of the Cyrillic alphabet and their Roman equivalents as used in this dictionary. The Cyrillic-to-Roman table is arranged in order of the Cyrillic alphabet. The Roman-to-Cyrillic table is arranged in the order of the Roman alphabet. Since the Cyrillic alphabet contains more letters than the Roman, combinations of Roman

Cyrillic	Roman	Roman	Cyrillic
А	a	a	А
Б(б)	b	b	Б(б)
В	v	ch	Ч
Г	g	d	Д
Д	d	e	Е,Ё
Е,Ё	e	é	Э
Ж	zh	f	Ф
З	z	g	Г
И,И	i	i	И,И
К	k	k	К
Л	l	kh	Х
М	m	l	Л
Н	n	m	М
О	o	n	Н
П	p	o	О
Р	r	p	П
С	s	r	Р
Т	t	s	С
У	u	sh	Ш
Ф	f	shch	Щ
Х	kh	t	Т
Ц	ts	ts	Ц
Ч	ch	u	У
Ш	sh	v	В
Щ	shch	y	Ы
Ъ	~	ya	Я
Ы	y	yu	Ю
Ь	'	z	З
Э	é	zh	Ж
Ю	yu	'	Ь
Я	ya	~	Ъ

letters and two special symbols are used to represent those Cyrillic letters for which there are no corresponding characters in the Roman alphabet. The latter include the so-called "soft" (ь) and "hard" (Ъ) signs, also known as the "silent letters," for which the single prime (´) and double prime (¨) symbols are used.

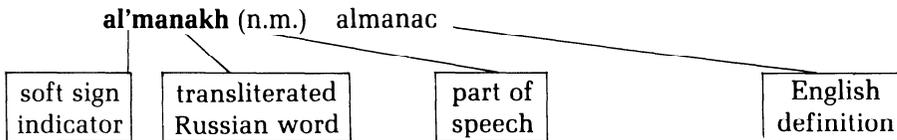
The reader should note carefully that unambiguous, one-to-one reversibility of Roman characters to their Cyrillic equivalents is difficult. This is because some Roman letters, such as "h," "j," "q," "w," and "x," represent sounds that are hard to reproduce in an unambiguous way with Cyrillic letters. The Russians approximate these sounds as follows:

<u>Roman letter</u>	<u>Cyrillic approximation</u>
h	Г (g)
j	ДЖ (dzh)
q	КВ (kv)
w	В (v)
x	КС (ks)

Thus, the name *Hilbert* is cited as *Gilbert*, *Woodward* as *Voodvard*. While this precludes complete letter-for-letter reversibility, the method typically used by the Russians to transliterate English words serves the needs of the Russian reader, just as the system used to transliterate the Russian words in this dictionary serves the needs of the English-speaking reader.

### Typical Entry (*Russian-English Section*)

The following is a typical entry in the transliterated Russian-to-English section as it would appear for the Russian word АЛЪМАНАХЪ:



The boldface entry is the transliterated Russian word. The abbreviation next to each transliterated word indicates the part of speech in accordance with the following scheme:

abbr.	abbreviation	n. n.	noun neuter
adj.	adjective	n. pl.	noun plural
adv.	adverb	num.	numeral
col.	colloquialism	p.	pronoun
conj.	conjunction	part.	particle
interj.	interjection	pred.	predicate use
intro.	introductory word	prep.	preposition
n. collect.	collective noun	v. impf.	verb in the imperfective aspect
n. f.	noun feminine	v. impf. & pf.	verb; can be either perfective or imperfective
n. m.	noun masculine	v. pf.	verb in the perfective aspect
n. m. & f.	noun; could be either masculine or feminine		

Following the part of speech is a simple (usually one-word) English definition. Occasionally, secondary definitions or shades of meanings are provided. Definitions taken from the Akhmanova-Wilson dictionary that were archaic or oriented to British usage have been modified to conform as much as possible to modern American usage. Information related to etymology, idiomatic use, and syntactic or semantic requirements is omitted.

Some additional conventions followed in this dictionary are as follows:

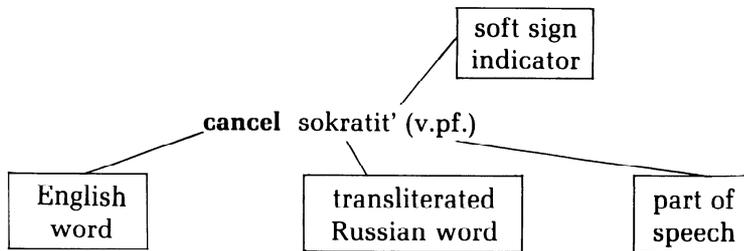
- the hard and soft signs are ignored in the alphabetization of transliterated Russian words in which they appear, as is the accent mark over the é.
- the reflexive ending *sya* appears in parenthesis following certain verbs. When this occurs, it indicates that the English definition is the same for the verb stem when it is combined with the *sya* ending as it is for the stem alone.
- pronouns, days of the week, months, and most proper adjectives are not capitalized in Russian. Geographic designations are capitalized when they apply to formal political institutions or units.
- a few Russian words have English definitions that would seem to require additional clarification. In such instances, a modifying word has been added, parenthetically.

Example:

**kumys** (n.m.) koumiss (a type of beverage)

### Typical Entry (*English-Russian Section*)

All conventions followed in the English-to-transliterated-Russian section have been described previously. The following is a typical entry in this section:



### Grammar

Each entry contains only a single form of the transliterated Russian word rather than the usual range of grammatical and lexical variations found in most traditional dictionaries. In view of this, the following general discussion of Russian grammar may be helpful to the user who wishes to go beyond the primary purpose of the dictionary.

Grammatical categories in Russian consist of the following features: voice, person, number, gender, case, mood, tense, and some others. By combining these features into a bundle, a particular part of speech is formed. Thus, noun endings combined with the stem form the categories of case, number, gender, and animateness. Verbs are formed by combining the categories of tense, person, number, voice, and mood. Adjectives are characterized by case, number, and gender. Parts of speech such as those mentioned above are called inflected. If no grammatical categories are added to the stem of the lexical meaning, as is the case with the adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and particles, these words are called uninflected. In most specific terms, inflected words are subdivided into those which are subject to declension (nominal inflection) and those which are subject to conjugation (verbal inflection).

The inflected forms are represented only by a specific form from the set of related inflected forms. Thus, the nouns are represented by the nominative case, gender, singular number; verbs by their infinitive form; adjectives by singular number, nominative case, and masculine gender. Pronouns, due to their small number and high frequency, are entered in all their forms. Therefore, the pronoun *ya* (I), is included as well as the declined forms *menya*, *mne*, *mnoi*. So are the other pronouns. The dictionary entries as defined above are referred to as canonical forms.

Canonical forms are the basis for the lookup. The user should match the word from the text, say, *podpiskami*, letter by letter from left to right until either the whole word or part of it is matched against the dictionary entry. If there are two matching forms of varying length, the longer form should be chosen. The remaining portion of the word should not consist of more than three letters (or four, in the case of the ending *-yami* which indicates the instrumental plural for palatalized noun stems). In our case, we will find two entries: *podpis'* and *podpiska*. We choose *podpiska* because it is the longest match, leaving the portion *-mi*. Combining the entry with the stem *-mi* we get *podpiskami*, where the ending *-ami* shows instrumental plural for nonpalatalized nouns.