

Joint BGN/PCCN Rules  
for the  
Treatment of Persian Geographic Names

Extracted and revised from  
Special Publication No. 78 (1946)  
of the Board on Geographic Names

Washington, D. C.

The parts of Special Publication No. 78 which pertain to Arabic have been superseded by Transliteration System for Arabic Geographic Names (The EGN/PCGN System), March 1957. This publication is available free upon request from the Board on Geographic Names, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

Special rules for the transliteration of Persian to accompany the Persian section of the Transliteration of Arabic and Persian, Special Publication No. 78, Department of the Interior, United States Board on Geographical Names (now the Board on Geographic Names), Washington 25, D. C.

1. Persian ز hitherto transliterated as Z will henceforth be rendered as underlined z (z).
2. In Persian names of Arabic origin, the word division used for Arabic will obtain, except that names ending in the word Allāh will be written solid and the a of Allāh will be replaced by o. The Arabic definite article will be written ol instead of al, e.g., Zū ol Faqār, 'Abdollāh.
3. The Ezāfeh (the presence or absence of which can be determined only from informants or from collateral romanized sources) will be rendered as -e after consonants and -ye after vowels. Final he with hamzeh for ezāfeh will be rendered -ye.
4. Khe plus vāv plus long vowel or khe plus vāv plus zammeh will be rendered khv although the v is not pronounced.
5. The word Ābād which occurs at the end of thousands of place names will be written solid with the preceding word; e.g. AllāhĀbād, not Allāh Abād.
6. In Persian names in general, in sequences of name elements pronounced as a single unit, division into separate words will be made after Persian letters written in the word final form. (But cf. Paragraph 5 immediately above.)
7. Persian derivational endings such as - vand and Turkish and other endings such as - lar, - lî and - lî will be written solid with the preceding word, whether so written in Persian script or not.
8. The Persian ending ه will be rendered with the standard transliteration -eh despite romanizations as ah in British or other sources. ه, when used in Turkish fashion for word internal e, will be transliterated -eh as usual but will be written solid with the following word partial.

TABLE III

Modifications of the Arabic Alphabet for Persian Consonants

Persian or Arabic letter	Name of letter	Translit.	Remarks
پ	pe	p	
ش	še	š	
چ	che	ch	
ذ	zāl	z	
ز	zhe	zh	
ض	zād	z	
گ	gāf	g	Kāf (ک) is sometimes written for gāf.
و	vāv	v	Except as provided in special vowel combinations in table IV.

TABLE IV

Modifications of the Arabic Alphabet for Persian Vowels and Diphthongs

Persian or Arabic letter	Name of letter	Translit.	Contrasting Arabic transliteration
َ	fatḥeh	a	a
ِ	kasreh	e	i
ُ	ṣammeh	o	u
آ, اَ	fatḥeh alef; alef madd	ā	ā â
ی (i)	kasreh ye	ī	ī
و (u)	ṣammeh vāv	ū	ū
وِ	ṣammeh vāv sāken	ow	aw
یِ	kasreh ve sāken	ey	ay











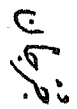



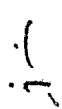

















TABLE V

Comparative Table of Arabic and Persian Consonant Transliteration with Examples

Letter and name		Text transliteration		Map transliteration (See table II, note 7)		Examples	
Arabic	Persian	Arabic	Persian	Arabic	Persian	Arabic	Persian
1. ا (alif)	(alef)	omit	omit	omit	omit	ارض	ارض
2. ب (bā)	(be)	b	b	b	b	البحرين	باھرين
3. پ —	(pe)	—	p	—	p	—	pol
4. ت (tā)	(te)	t	t	t	t	تال	tal
5. ث (thā)	(ṭe)	th	ṣ	th	ṣ	ثابت	Sābet
6. ج (jīm)	(jim)	j	j	j	j	جازيره	Jazīreh
7. ح —	(che)	—	ch	—	ch	—	chāh
8. هـ (hā)	(he)	h	h	h	h	حسن	Ḥasan
9. خ (khs)	(khe)	kh	kh	kh	kh	خبر	Kheybar
10. د (dāl)	(dāl)	d	d	d	d	دزول	Derfūl
11. ذ (dhāl)	(zhāl)	dh	z	dh	z	ذراع الارضه	Zar'
12. ر (rā)	(re)	r	r	r	r	رزق	Rowzeh
13. ز (zay)	(ze)	z	z	z	z	زر	Zeyd
14. س —	(zhe)	—	zh	—	zh	—	zherfā
15. ش (shīn)	(shīn)	sh	sh	sh	sh	شاه	Shām
16. ص (shān)	(shān)	—	—	—	—	صحنه	Ṣaḥneh
17. ض (ṣād)	(ṣād)	—	—	—	—	ضريحان	sarrābkhāneh
18. ط (ṭā)	(ṭā)	ṭ	ṭ	ṭ	ṭ	طهران	Tehrān
19. ظ (ẓā)	(ẓā)	ẓ	ẓ	ẓ	ẓ	ظفر	Zohr
20. ع (‘ayn)	(‘eyn)	‘	‘	‘	‘	عاص	‘Abbās
21. غ (rheyn)	(rheyn)	gh	gh	gh	gh	غور	ghowr
22. ف (fē)	(fe)	f	f	f	f	فوزيه	Fowziyeh
23. ق (qāf)	(qāf)	q	q	q	q	قزوين	Qazwīn
24. ك (kāf)	(kāf)	k	k	k	k	كربلت	Koveryt
25. گ —	(gāf)	—	g	—	g	—	Garmstīr
26. ل (lām)	(lām)	l	l	l	l	لایلا	Leylā
27. م (mīm)	(mīm)	m	m	m	m	محمد	Muḥammad
28. ن (nūn)	(nūn)	n	n	n	n	نصف	Najaf
29. و (wāw)	(vāv)	w	v	w	v	وطن	Vaṭan
30. هـ (hā)	(he)	h	h	h	h	هندیه	Hendīyeh
31. ی (yā)	(ye)	y	y	y	y	یوسف	Yūsuf

TABLE VI

Comparative Table of Arabic and Persian Vowel and Diphthongs Transliteration with Examples

Letter(s) and name(s)		Transliteration		Examples	
Arabic	Persian	Arabic	Persian	Arabic	Persian
1.  (fatḥah)	 (fatḥeh)	a	a	 Mashhad	 Mashhad 1.
2.  (kasrah)	 (kasreh)	i	e	 Ibrāhīm	 Ebrāhīm 2.
3.  (ḍammah)	 (sammeḥ)	u	o	 Jurjān	 Gorgān 3.
4.  (fatḥah alif, alif maddah)	 (fatḥeh alef, alef madd)	a, ā	ā	 bāb	 bāb 4.
5.  (kasrah yā)	 (kasreh ye)	ī	ī	 Falastīn	 Falastīn 5.
6.  (ḍammah wāw)	 (sammeḥ vāv)	ū	ū	 majnūn	 majnūn 6.
7.  (fatḥah wāw sukūn)	 (sammeḥ vāv sāken)	aw	ow	 ḥawz	 ḥowz 7.
8.  (fatḥah yā sukūn)	 (kasreh ye sāken)	ay	ey	 ḥusayn	 ḥoseyn 8.

6682