



The Wylie Encoding Scheme

The following Roman characters are used for transcribing Tibetan to Roman ASCII characters. Note that the Asian Classics Input Project (ACIP) Wylie encoding has two characters that are specified differently. These are indicated in the table as the right-most value in a pair (Classical/ACIP).

ཀ KA	ཁ KHA	ག GA	ང NGA
ཅ CA	ཆ CHA	ཇ JA	ཉ NYA
ཏ TA	ཐ THA	ད DA	ན NA
པ PA	ཕ PHA	བ BA	མ MA
ཚ TSA/TZA	ཛ TSHA/TSA	ང DZA	ཤ WA
ཞ ZHA	ཟ ZA	འ'	ཡ YA
ར RA	ལ LA	ཤ SHA	ས SA
ཏ HA	ཨ A		

ཀ KA ཀེ KE ཀི KI ཀོ KO ཀུ KU

The Tibetan syllables are put together with the various ASCII characters to form separate words. In the ACIP notation, space is equal to a TSEK ('), and a comma is equal to a SHE (།). In order to read or put together the Wylie or ACIP ASCII notation, you need to understand how the various letters are formed, including how they look like when they stacked above or below.

Note: This notation was never designed for pronunciation purposes. The idea was to write down Tibetan letters using ASCII so that the words are mapped exactly one-to-one with the corresponding Tibetan letters.

Examples

The following examples are of the format: Tibetan - ACIP Wylie - Pronunciation - Translation

ས་ལམ	SA LAM	SA LAM	Stages and Paths
ལས	LAS	LE	Karma
ཚོས	CHOS	CHÖ	Dharma
རྒྱུ	RGYU	GYU	Causes
སེམས་ཅན	SEMS CAN	SEM-CHEN	Sentient being
བྱང་ལྷན	BYANG CHUB	JANG-CHUP	Enlightenment
ཚུལ་ཁྲིམས	TSUL KHRIMS	TSUL-TRIM	Morality
རྩ་བའི་བླ་མ	RTZA BA'I BLA MA	TZA-WAY LAMA	Root teacher
སངས་རྒྱས	SANGS RGYAS	SANG-GYE	Buddha
སྙིང་རྗེ	SNYING RJE	NYING-JE	Compassion
བསྟན་པ་འཛིན	BSTAN PA 'DZIN	TENPA DZIN	Knowledge holder

Further Notes

Depending on the source, Wylie is written in upper case, lower case, or even mixed case letters.

ACIP Wylie is always written in uppercase letters.

The most common mistake is to mix the Wylie and ACIP definitions of ཅ and ཚ.

Letter:	Wylie:	ACIP:
ཅ	TSA	TZA
ཚ	TSHA	TSA

One way to remember this concerning ACIP is that ཚ is somewhat more common in Tibetan, so due to this the TSA with the S notation is used, while ཅ is less common so the TZA with the Z notation is used.

ACIP uses a dash to separate the letter ཡ (YA) that is below the root letter and to the right. For example: ་གཡོན (G-YON, *left*), ་གྲོང (GYONG, *rude*), ་གཡས (G-YAS, *right*), ་གྲ (GYA, *swirl*). Another notation used in some dictionaries is instead of a dash to use a dot (G.YON).

