

## Persian

### Letters of the Alphabet

| Initial | Medial | Final | Alone | Romanization      |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| ا       | ا      | ا     | ا     | omit (see Note 1) |
| ب       | ب      | ب     | ب     | b                 |
| پ       | پ      | پ     | پ     | p                 |
| ت       | ت      | ت     | ت     | t                 |
| ث       | ث      | ث     | ث     | s                 |
| ج       | ج      | ج     | ج     | j                 |
| چ       | چ      | چ     | چ     | ch                |
| ح       | ح      | ح     | ح     | h                 |
| خ       | خ      | خ     | خ     | kh                |
| د       | د      | د     | د     | d                 |
| ذ       | ذ      | ذ     | ذ     | z                 |
| ر       | ر      | ر     | ر     | r                 |
| ز       | ز      | ز     | ز     | z                 |
| ژ       | ژ      | ژ     | ژ     | zh                |
| س       | س      | س     | س     | s                 |
| ش       | ش      | ش     | ش     | sh                |
| ص       | ص      | ص     | ص     | ʃ                 |
| ض       | ض      | ض     | ض     | ʒ                 |
| ط       | ط      | ط     | ط     | t̤                |
| ظ       | ظ      | ظ     | ظ     | ʒ̤                |
| ع       | ع      | ع     | ع     | ‘ (ayn)           |
| غ       | غ      | غ     | غ     | gh                |
| ف       | ف      | ف     | ف     | f                 |
| ق       | ق      | ق     | ق     | q                 |
| ک       | ک      | ک     | ک     | k (see Note 2)    |
| گ       | گ      | گ     | گ     | g (see Note 3)    |
| ل       | ل      | ل     | ل     | l                 |
| م       | م      | م     | م     | m                 |
| ن       | ن      | ن     | ن     | n                 |
| و       | و      | و     | و     | v (see Note 3)    |
| ه       | ه      | ه     | ه     | h (see Note 4)    |
| ی       | ی      | ی     | ی     | y (see Note 3)    |

Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 5)

|   |   |              |   |    |    |
|---|---|--------------|---|----|----|
| ā | a | ā, ā̄, ā̇    | ā | ā̇ | ā̇ |
|   |   | (see Note 6) |   |    |    |
| ū | u | ū, ū̄, ū̇    | ū | ū̇ | ū̇ |
|   |   | (see Note 7) |   |    |    |
| ī | i | ī, ī̄, ī̇    | ī | ī̇ | ī̇ |
|   |   |              |   |    |    |

Notes

- For the use of **ا** (*alif*) to support **ء** (*hamzah*) and **مَدَّاه** (*maddah*) see rule 1(a). For the romanization of **ء** and **مَدَّاه** see rules 4 and 5 respectively. For the use of **ا** to represent the long vowel romanized *ā* see the table of vowels and diphthongs, and rule 1(b).
- Final **ك** and **گ** (often written **ك** and **گ**) may have the form **ك**, without the distinguishing upper stroke or strokes. The two letters are always distinguished in romanization.
- For other values of **و** and **ی** see the table of vowels and diphthongs, and rules 2, 3, and 7.
- ۀ (dotted **ه**) when used as an alternative to **ت** is romanized *t*.
- Vowel points are not printed on Library of Congress cards.
- See rules 1(b) and 5.
- See rule 3(d).

RULES OF APPLICATION

Letters Which May Be Romanized in Different Ways Depending on Their Context

- ا** (*alif*) is used:
  - As a support for **ء** (*hamzah*) and **مَدَّاه** (*maddah*). In these cases it is not represented in romanization. See rules 4 and 5.
  - To indicate the long vowel romanized *ā*. For the use of **ا** in *tanvīn* see rule 6.  

|        |      |
|--------|------|
| دَانَا | دانا |
|--------|------|
- و** is used to represent:
  - The consonant romanized *v*.  

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| varzīsh | ورزش |
| davā    | دوا  |
| sarv    | سرو  |

Silent و following خ is retained in romanization.

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| khvāstan | خواستن |
| khvud    | خود    |

(b) The long *u*-vowel (and short *u*-vowel in some monosyllables) is romanized *ū*.

|      |     |
|------|-----|
| dūr  | دور |
| chūn | چون |
| tū   | تو  |

(c) The diphthong romanized *aw*.

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| Firdawsī | فردوسی |
|----------|--------|

When the diphthong precedes a consonantal و, the combination is romanized *avv*. See rule 7.

و may be used as a support for ة (*hamzah*); in this case it is not represented in romanization. See rule 4.

3. ی is used to represent:

(a) The consonant romanized *y*.

|       |      |
|-------|------|
| yār   | یار  |
| siyāh | سیاه |
| pāy   | پای  |

(b) The long vowel romanized *ī*.

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| Īrān | ایران |
| qālī | قالی  |

(c) The diphthong romanized *ay*.

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| ayvān | ایوان |
| ray   | ری    |

(d) The final long vowel romanized *ā*.

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Muṣṭafā | مصطفی |
|---------|-------|

For the use of ی as a mark of *izāfah* see rule 8(c).

ی in the medial forms ـی, ـی, without dots, may be used as a support for ة (*hamzah*); in this case ی is not represented in romanization. See rule 4 below.

### Orthographic Symbols Other Than Letters and Vowel Signs

The signs listed below are frequently omitted in Persian writing and printing; their presence must then be inferred. They are represented in romanization according to the following rules:

4. ؤ (hamzah)

(a) When initial, ؤ is not represented in romanization.

(b) When medial or final, ؤ is romanized ' (alif) except as noted in (c) and (d) below.

|           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| mu'ass̄ir | مؤثر  |
| khulafā'  | خلفاء |
| pā'in     | پائین |

(c) When used as a mark of *izāfah*, ؤ is romanized -'i.

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| astānah-'i dar | استانه در |
|----------------|-----------|

(d) When used to mark the indefinite article, ؤ is romanized 'i.

|          |      |
|----------|------|
| khānah'i | خانه |
|----------|------|

5. ٱ (maddah)

(a) Initial ٱ is romanized ā

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| āb               | آب          |
| Kullīyat al-Ādāb | كلية الآداب |

(b) Medial ٱ, when it represents the phonetic combination 'ā, is so romanized.

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| ma'āšir     | مآثر      |
| Daryā'ābādī | دریاآبادی |

(c) ٱ is otherwise not represented in romanization.

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| gardāvarandah | گردآورنده |
|---------------|-----------|

6. *Tanvīn* (written ٱ, ٱ, ٱ), which occurs chiefly in Arabic words, is romanized *un*, *in*, *an*, and *an*, respectively.

7. ٱ (shaddah or *tashdīd*) is represented by doubling the letter or digraph concerned.

|          |      |
|----------|------|
| khurram  | خرم  |
| avval    | اول  |
| bachchah | بچه  |
| Khayyām  | خیام |

Note the exceptional case where  $\bar{w}$  is written over  $\bar{u}$  and  $\bar{y}$  to represent the combination of long vowel plus consonant.

nashrīyāt  
qūvah

نشریات  
قوه

### Grammatical Structure as It Affects Romanization

8. *Izāfah*. When two words are associated in the relation known as *izāfah*, the first (the *muẓāf*) is followed by an additional letter or syllable in romanization. This is added according to the following rules:

(a) When the *muẓāf* bears no special mark of *izāfah*, it is followed by *-i*.

dar-i bāgh

qālī-i Īrān

khānah-i buzurg

در باغ

قالی ایران

خانه بزرگ

(b) When the *muẓāf* is marked by the addition of  $\bar{w}$ , it is followed by *-i*.

qālī-ī Īrān

khānah-ī buzurg

قالی ایران

خانه بزرگ

(c) When the *muẓāf* is marked by the addition of  $\bar{y}$ , it is followed by *-i*.

rū-yi zamīn

Daryā-yi Khazar

khānah-yi buzurg

روی زمین

دریای خزر

خانه ی بزرگ

(d) *Izāfah* is represented in romanization of personal names only when expressly indicated in the Persian script.

### Affixes and Compounds

9. Affixes.

(a) When the affix and the word with which it is connected grammatically are written separately in Persian, the two are separated in romanization by a single prime ('). See also 12(b) below.

|     |              |           |
|-----|--------------|-----------|
|     | khānah' hā   | خانه ها   |
|     | khānah' am   | خانه ام   |
|     | khānah' ī    | خانه ای   |
|     | mī' ravam    | می روم    |
| but | mī' ravam    | میروم     |
|     | bih' gū      | به گو     |
|     | bar' rasīhā  | بررسیها   |
|     | Kāẓim' zādah | کاظم زاده |
| but | Kāẓimzādah   | کاظمزاده  |

- (b) The Arabic article *al* is separated by a hyphen, in romanization, from the word to which it is prefixed.

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| dār al-mu'allimīn | دار المعلمین |
| 'Abd al-Ḥusayn    | عبد الحسين   |

10. Compounds. When the elements of a compound (except a compound personal name) are written separately in Persian, they are separated in romanization by a single prime ('). See also 12(b) below.

|            |               |           |
|------------|---------------|-----------|
|            | marīz/ khānah | مریض خانه |
| <i>but</i> | marīzkhānah   | مریضخانه  |
|            | Shāh' nāmah   | شاه نامه  |
| <i>but</i> | Shāhnāmah     | شاهنامه   |

Note the treatment of compound personal names:

|               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Ghulām 'Alī   | غلام علي or غلامعلي         |
| Shāh Jahān    | شاه جهان or شاهجهان         |
| Ibn Abī Tālib | ابن ابي طالب or ابن ابيطالب |

### Orthography of Persian in Romanization

11. Capitalization.

- (a) Rules for the capitalization of English are followed, except that the Arabic article *al* is lower cased in all positions.
- (b) Diacritics are used with both capital and lower case letters.

12. The single prime (') is used:

- (a) To separate two letters representing two distinct consonantal sounds, when the combination might otherwise be read as a digraph.

|          |       |
|----------|-------|
| marz' hā | مرزها |
|----------|-------|

- (b) To mark the use of a letter in its final form when it occurs in the middle of a word. See also rules 9(a) and 10 above.

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| rāh' hā       | راهها      |
| Qāyim' maqāmī | قائم مقامی |
| Bih' āzīn     | به آذین    |

13. Foreign words in a Persian context, including Arabic words, are romanized according to the rules for Persian. For short vowels not indicated in the script, the Persian vowels nearest the original pronunciation of the word are supplied in romanization.
14. Dictionaries.

In romanizing Persian, the Library of Congress has found it necessary to consult dictionaries as an appendage to the romanization tables, primarily for the purpose of supplying vowels. For Persian, the principle dictionary consulted is:

M. Mu'īn. *Farhang-i Fārsī-i mutavassit*.

### SPECIAL CHARACTERS AND CHARACTER MODIFIERS IN ROMANIZATION

| <i>Special Characters</i>  | <i>Name</i>       | <i>USMARC hexadecimal code</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| '                          | soft sign (prime) | A7                             |
| ،                          | alif              | AE                             |
| ع                          | ayn               | B0                             |
| <br>                       |                   |                                |
| <i>Character Modifiers</i> | <i>Name</i>       | <i>USMARC hexadecimal code</i> |
| á                          | acute             | E2                             |
| ā                          | macron            | E5                             |
| ◌̣                         | dot below         | F2                             |
| ◌̣̣                        | double dot below  | F3                             |
| ◌̣̣̣                       | underscore        | F6                             |