

## The Romanizing of Siamese.

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In my paper, "Some Suggestions for Romanizing Siamese," in the last volume of this Journal, I tried to give a historical review of the various series of attempts made in this respect during the last century in Siam. I did thus, perhaps, an involuntary injustice to the American missionaries, in stating that the only attempt made by them in this direction drew forth forcible objections on the part of King Mongkut. Now the American missionaries, already in 1842, published "A Catalogue of Scripture Proper Names as transferred from the Greek and Hebrew Languages into the Siamese Language," and further, "A plan for Romanising the Siamese Language; together with a List of Siamese Proper Names in conformity therewith, as agreed upon by the American Missionaries in Siam,"—Mission Press, Bangkok, 1842.

It is especially the introduction of this latter little pamphlet, which is worth reprinting, as certainly if the rule laid down in it had been followed, only those objections which are made against the Roman Catholic transcription could be made against it. It is, however, doubtful whether this pamphlet has ever been issued to the public in a separate form. It appears that the two pamphlets were to have been issued with J. Taylor Jones's "Brief Grammatical Notices of the Siamese Language, 1842;" but as in 1842 there were rumours about the prohibition of the issuing of the Bible and Christian writings in Siamese characters, it is possible that the pamphlet was never issued. Certainly the rule laid down was not followed by the American missionaries, and I trust no excuse is wanted now for reprinting the introduction in the pages of our Journal. It is as follows:—

## PLAN FOR ROMANIZING.

*Power of the Roman Characters Employed.*

## CONSONANTS.

The consonants *b, d, f, h, l, m, n, r, s, w,* and *y,* have the power which they commonly have as initials in English.

*K, p, t,* and *ch,* are to be uttered without any aspiration. When they have a comma over the right side, they are to be aspirated. These four characters are commonly aspirated by those with whom the English language is vernacular, so that no special care is requisite in pronouncing them when they have the sign of aspiration ; but much care is needed to *avoid* the aspiration when they are without that sign.

*Ng* is used both as initial and final, and in either case is to have the same sound as when used as a final in English.

## VOWELS.

a— as in <i>quota, America.</i>	o— as in <i>note, but much shortened.</i>
á— as in <i>far, father, alms.</i>	ó— as in <i>note, cold.</i>
e— as in <i>met, den.</i>	ò— as <i>a</i> in <i>fall, tall.</i>
é— as in <i>they, prey, or a</i> in <i>late.</i>	u— as in <i>full, bull, or oo</i> in <i>foot.</i>
è— as <i>ay</i> in <i>mayor.</i>	ú— as in <i>rule, or oo</i> in <i>stool.</i>
ë— as in <i>her, i</i> in <i>fir, bird, or o</i> in <i>word.</i>	ü } Sounded like the short and long
i— as in <i>fin, pin.</i>	ii } sounds of the French <i>u,</i> but more
í— as in <i>machine, or e</i> in <i>deist.</i>	open.

## DIPHTHONGS.

ai— as in <i>aisle, or i</i> in <i>pine, fine.</i>	öi )
ái— is precisely the affirmative <i>aye</i>	ói )
au— as <i>ou</i> in <i>loud, house.</i>	öi )
áu— as above, with <i>a</i> longer as in <i>father</i>	üi )
éu )	üi )
èu )	üi )
iu )	üi )
íu )	üi )
Sound the <i>u</i> as <i>v,</i> and give to the initial vowels the sounds designated by their marks.	Give to each initial its appropriate sound, and to the <i>i</i> the power of <i>y</i> in <i>boy.</i>

ía )	} Give each vowel its appropriate sound.
íó )	
úa )	
úe )	
üa )	
üa )	

THE CHARACTERS WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

CONSONANTS.		VOWELS.		DIPHTHONGS.	
ก	k	THE a CLASS.		THE a CLASS.	
ข ฃ ค ฅ ฆ	k'	ะ	a	ไ-ย-ัย	ai
ง	ng	า	á	ไ-า ย	ái
จ	ch	THE e CLASS.		ไ-า	au
ฉ ฌ ฎ	ch'	เ-ะ	e	-า	áu
ซ ณ ด ษ	s	เ	é	THE e CLASS.	
ด ฎ	d	แ	è	เ-อ	éu
ต ฏ	t	เ-๊ เ-็	ë	แ-อ	èu
ถ ฐ ท ฑ ฒ	t'	THE i CLASS.		เ-ย	ëi
ณ ฎ	n	ิ	i	THE i CLASS.	
บ	b	ี	í	เ-อ	iu
ป	p	THE o CLASS.		เ-อ	íu
ฝ พ ภ	p'	Inherent vowel o		เ-ย	ía
ฝ ฟ	f	โ	ó	เ-ยา	íó
ม	m	อ	ò	THE o CLASS.	
ย ญ	y	THE u CLASS.		โ-ย	ói
ร	r	ุ	u	-อ ย	òí
ล ฬ	l	ู	ú	THE u CLASS.	
ว	w	ุ	ü	เ-ย	úi
ห ฬ	h	ุ	ü	เ-ย	ùí
อ	ó	ุ	ü	เ-อ ย	úa
				เ-อ ย	úé
				เ-อ	üa
				เ-อ ย	üé

## EXEMPLIFICATION.

ก	kò	กั่ม	küm	เกอ	kéu
กา	ká	กั่ม	kum	แกอ	kèu
กิ	ki	กั่ม	kúm	โกย	kói
กั	kí	เกม	kém	กอย	kòì
กั	kü	แกม	kèm	กวย	kúe
กั	kü	โกม	kóm	เก็ยว	kífo
ก,	ku	กอม	kòm	เก็ยย	küe
ก,	kú	กวม	kuam	เก็ย	kía
เก	ké	เก็ยม	kíam	เก็ยชะ	kía-
แก	kè	เก็ชม	küam	เก็ช	küa
ไก	kai	เก็ม	këm	เก็ชชะ	küa-
ไ	kài	เกย	kèi	เกอ	kè
ไ	kó	กย	kai	เกอชะ	kè-
เกา	kau	กาย	kái	กั้ว	kùa
ก่า	kam	กาอ	káu	กั้วชะ	kùa-
กะ	ka-	กั้ว	kiu	เกะ	ké
กม	kom	กั้ว	kíu	แกะ	kè-
กั่ม	kam	กั้ว	kíu	โกะ	kó
กาม	kám	กั้ย	küi	เกาะ	kò-
กั่ม	kim	กั้ย	küi	กวม	kam-
กั่ม	kím	กั้ย	küi	กอ	kò
กั่ม	küm	กั้ย	küi	กัช	kü

## NOTES.

1. When the wisanch'aní ( ʒ ) is used for the purpose of abruptly closing the sound of a word, it is represented by a hyphen; thus ʌŋʒ kè-

2. When the ʼ has the same sound in practice as the ʷ it should be represented as the ʷ is represented.

3. In the above plan, those sounds of the consonants only are represented which they have as *initials*. When, as a final, a consonant has a sound different from that which it has as an initial the representation should be changed so as to represent that sound.

4. The English and American reader is exceedingly liable to attach a wrong sound to the simple *a* as used in most systems of Romanizing, especially when found in a mixed syllable. There is a strong tendency to give it the sound of *a* in man, fan. To guard against this, let the distinct sound of it, as already given, be carefully borne in mind.

