

NOTE ON TRANSLITERATIONS AND TRANSCRIPTIONS

I shall use two systems for reproducing Hebrew and Aramaic words in Roman letters. One system, which I shall call transliteration, consists of the exact reproduction of the consonants of the Semitic word. The following symbols are used. Note that all the Roman letters are capitals.

א = ' (Aleph)	מ = M
ב = B	נ = N
ג = G	ס = S
ד = D	ע = ' (E)
ה = H	פ = P
ו = W	צ = S (Zet)
ז = Z	ק = Q
ח = H (Chet)	ר = R
ט = T	ש = S (Shin)
י = Y	ש = S (Shin)
ך = K	ת = T
ל = L	

The second system, which I shall call transcription, attempts to reproduce the vowel structure as well as the consonants. This system uses most of the same symbols as the transliteration system, except that they appear as lower case letters in italics. A few different and a few additional symbols are also used. In transcription I use *v* for W and *sh* for Š. I also use *v*, *kh*, and *f* to represent spirant B, K, and P respectively. I am not consistent in the indication of *alef* at the beginning of words. Occasionally I use *i* for Y when the latter serves as a *mater lectionis*. In representing the vowels I do not attempt to indicate exact quantity or quality. The following signs are used.

a	=	<i>pataḥ</i>
ā, a	=	<i>qamaṣ</i>
e	=	vocal <i>sheva</i> ; <i>segol</i>
ē, e	=	<i>ṣērē</i>
i	=	<i>hireq</i>
o	=	<i>holem</i>
u	=	<i>shureq</i> , <i>qibbuṣ</i>

I do not represent quiescent *sheva*.

Words which have been “naturalized” in English are not transcribed according to the above system, thus “Geonic”, “Amoraim”, etc. Proper names posed the usual problems of pedantry and consistency. For the most part I transcribe proper names. However, in some cases I retain the usual English form, e.g., Samuel, Nehardea.