



The Bamberg Cyrillic Alphabet – a Colour Facsimile

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The simple purpose of this paper is to present a colour facsimile of the so-called Bamberg Cyrillic Alphabet. This alphabet was first edited by Mathiesen in 1985, and then included by Marti as no. 3 in his overview of xenographic Slavic alphabets, i.e. Slavic alphabets in non-Slavic (Latin) contexts (see Marti 1991a, 148–164). His paper included a black-and-white picture of fols. 104v and 105r, which present four alphabets side by side: *Hebraicum*, *Grecum*, *Chaldaicum*, *Ruthenicum*. In a separate paper, Marti (1991b) presented the two parts of the Mss. themselves in much more detail. Again, a black-and-white picture of the same two manuscript pages were included. In the context of the present volume, it may be noted that Marti thanks William Veder for pointing out Mathiesen’s work to him (1991a, 148, fn. 41).

The alphabet stems from the 13th century and is of considerable importance to the study of Slavic alphabets because it is reliable and informative, seeing that the alphabet itself is accompanied by a list of (lowercase) Latin or, in two cases, Greek equivalents of the Cyrillic letters (written as capital letters), by the Slavic letter names (in a mixture of initial capital letters and lowercase letters), and a few (two) additional notes. To quote Roland Marti:

“Qualitativ liegt hier ein für slavisches Material ganz neuer Typus von xenographischem Alphabet vor. Er zeugt von ernsthafter Beschäftigung mit dem Material, und seine Informationen dürfen als zuverlässig gelten. Dieser neue, philologische Typus findet in der Folgezeit seine Nachahmer.” (Marti 1991a, 149)

The manuscript containing the four alphabets is included in a catalogue of 12th. c. manuscripts kept at the Bavarian State Library in Bamberg, with the text of the second part of the volume thought to be written in 1280–1290s (Suckale-Redlefsen 1995, 68).

Below, we present the alphabet in tabular form and, for the first time, as a colour facsimile. The photograph of the Ms. page was kindly supplied by the Bavarian State Library at Bamberg. Our transliteration of the letter names is slightly closer to the original than the one found in Marti (1991b, 59f.) in that it uses the ‘dotless-i’ everywhere and also the ‘long s’, where appropriate, and also adds one more accent which is clearly visible in the facsimile (sıwéte). Also, we think that the name ‘Hlahol’ should be represented here with a capital initial letter, if compared with the fourth letter in the same word which is a lowercase character.

		Alphabetū Ruthenicū.	
a	ⱁ	Az	
b	ⱂ	Bukı	
w	ⱃ	wede	
h	ⱄ	Hlahol	
d	ⱅ	Dobro	
e	ⱆ	ıezth	
f	ⱇ	sıwéte	
z	ⱈ	zelo.	
	ⱉ	zemle	ısta lıtt[e] ^r a ponı ^{ur} ĩ num[e] ^r o
ı	ⱊ	ıfe	
ı	ⱋ	ı.	ısta &.
k	ⱌ	kaco	
l	ⱍ	Lıdie	
m	ⱎ	Mızléte	
n	ⱏ	Nas	
o	ⱐ	on.	
p	ⱑ	Pocoı.	
r	ⱒ	ırcı	
s	ⱓ	zlowo	
t	ⱔ	tverdo	
y	ⱕ	ık	
f	ⱖ	fert	
che	ⱗ	cher	
ω	ⱘ	oth	
c	ⱙ	cı	
	ⱚ	sherıw	
	ⱛ	sche	
	ⱜ	ıftfe	
	ⱝ	ıor	
	ⱞ	ıorı	[letters switched places,
	ⱟ	ıær.	names in correct order]
	Ⱡ	ıeth	
v	ⱡ	ıv	
	Ɫ	ıvz	
	Ᵽ	ıa.	

Table I: The Bamberg Cyrillic Alphabet (13th c.)

105
104.
Alph

Alfabetū chaldaicū.		Alfabetū ruthenicū.	
a	ʔ Afo.	a	А az
b	B berth.	b	Б Buki
c	P chen.	ʷ	В wede
d	ʔ thron.	h	Г hlalhol
e	ʔ ech.	δ	Δ Dobro
f	ʔ foch.	e	ε ielth
g	ʔ gibv.	ʃ	Ж siwere
h	K hagale.	z	Ζ zelo.
i	ʔ is:	ʒ	ʒemle
k	ʔ kate.	ʒ	ʒe
l	ʔ laga.	ʒ	ʒe
m	ʔ oan.	k	К kaco
n	ʔ got.	l	Л lydie
o	ʔ othel.	m	М onllete
p	ʔ pert.	n	Н has
q	ʔ chan.	o	О on.
r	ʔ reht.	p	П pocoj.
s	ʔ subil.	r	Р rci.
t	ʔ tachur.	e	С slowo
ʔ	ʔ	ʃ	Т tverdo
ʔ	ʔ	ʒ	ʒ ik
ʔ	ʔ	f	Ф fert
ʔ	ʔ	che	Х cher
ʔ	ʔ	u	Ц oth
ʔ	ʔ	e	Ч ci
ʔ	ʔ	ʒ	Ш shery
ʔ	ʔ	ʒ	Щ sche
ʔ	ʔ	ʒ	Ѡ uſe
ʔ	ʔ	ʒ	Ѣ ior
ʔ	ʔ	ʒ	Ѥ iei
ʔ	ʔ	ʒ	Ѧ iax.
ʔ	ʔ	ʒ	Ѩ ieth
ʔ	ʔ	v	Ѫ iv
ʔ	ʔ	ʒ	Ѭ ivz
ʔ	ʔ	ʒ	Ѯ ia.

ista lita ponit i numo
ista j.

Fig. 1: The Bamberg Cyrillic Alphabet (Msc.Patr.130-2, fol. 105r)

Alphabeti Chaldaei		Alphabeti Arabici	
א	Alfa	א	Alfa
ב	Beta	ב	Beta
ג	Gamma	ג	Gamma
ד	Delta	ד	Delta
ה	Eta	ה	Eta
ו	Zeta	ו	Zeta
ז	Eta	ז	Eta
ח	Theta	ח	Theta
ט	Iota	ט	Iota
י	Kappa	י	Kappa
כ	Lambda	כ	Lambda
ל	Mu	ל	Mu
מ	Nu	מ	Nu
נ	Xi	נ	Xi
ס	Omicron	ס	Omicron
ע	Pi	ע	Pi
פ	Rho	פ	Rho
ק	Sigma	ק	Sigma
ר	Tau	ר	Tau
ש	Upsilon	ש	Upsilon
ת	Phi	ת	Phi
	Chi		Chi
	Psi		Psi
	Omega		Omega

Alphabeti Syriaci		Alphabeti Armenici	
Ⲁ	Alfa	ա	Alfa
Ⲃ	Beta	բ	Beta
Ⲅ	Gamma	գ	Gamma
Ⲇ	Delta	դ	Delta
Ⲉ	Eta	ե	Eta
Ⲋ	Zeta	զ	Zeta
Ⲍ	Theta	տ	Theta
Ⲏ	Iota	յ	Iota
Ⲑ	Kappa	կ	Kappa
Ⲓ	Lambda	լ	Lambda
Ⲕ	Mu	մ	Mu
Ⲗ	Nu	ն	Nu
Ⲙ	Xi	ք	Xi
Ⲛ	Omicron	օ	Omicron
Ⲝ	Pi	փ	Pi
Ⲟ	Rho	ռ	Rho
Ⲡ	Sigma	ս	Sigma
Ⲣ	Tau	տ	Tau
Ⲥ	Upsilon	ւ	Upsilon
ⲧ	Phi	ֆ	Phi
ⲩ	Chi	չ	Chi
ⲫ	Psi	փ	Psi
ⲭ	Omega	օ	Omega

Alphabeti Hebraei		Alphabeti Persici	
א	Alfa	ⴌ	Alfa
ב	Beta	ⴍ	Beta
ג	Gamma	ⴎ	Gamma
ד	Delta	ⴏ	Delta
ה	Eta	ⴐ	Eta
ו	Zeta	ⴑ	Zeta
ז	Theta	ⴒ	Theta
ח	Iota	ⴓ	Iota
ט	Kappa	ⴔ	Kappa
י	Lambda	ⴕ	Lambda
כ	Mu	ⴖ	Mu
ל	Nu	ⴗ	Nu
מ	Xi	ⴘ	Xi
נ	Omicron	ⴙ	Omicron
ס	Pi	ⴚ	Pi
ע	Rho	ⴛ	Rho
פ	Sigma	ⴜ	Sigma
ק	Tau	ⴝ	Tau
ר	Upsilon	ⴞ	Upsilon
ש	Phi	ⴟ	Phi
ת	Chi	ⴠ	Chi

Fig. 2: All four alphabets (Msc.Patr.130-2, fol. 104v-105r)

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