

Judges ( Superior Court 1790-1857, Supreme Court 1845-1857, Solicitors) : in Miller's *Bench and Bar of Georgia*, II. 369-378.

## 2. *The Transliteration of Russian Names.*

Of all the names that confront the student of European history none are more puzzling to the eye and ear than those of the Russians, and it was with considerable reason that the humorist gave as his rule for pronouncing Russian names—"sneeze twice and say *ski*!" The names are difficult enough in many instances when pronounced by the facile-tongued subjects of the Tsar, but when their fantastic forms meet English eyes after more or less illogical transliterations into Polish, German and French the confusion and dissonance are such as to demand some alleviation.

Fortunately for such an attempt but few conventional forms obstruct the way. The former capital of Russia is by her citizens called Moskva, and as the Slavonic *v* is a compromise between *w* and *v*, the early German traders of the Hansa towns by a transposition called it Moskau. To reproduce the sound of the German name Englishmen used the spelling Moscow, the last syllable of which was pronounced like the name of the domestic animal similarly spelled. It would be absurd, of course, to change the orthography of a name so conventionalized, but such instances are not numerous. The bulk of Russian proper names have a multiplicity of forms which historical writers have hitherto used with little or no attempt at uniformity, a fact of particular annoyance to a student consulting an index or a catalogue. It may be fairly assumed that no prejudice in favor of established usage—since there is no established usage—will meet an attempt to sketch the lines of a simple, rational and uniform system of transliteration.

The Russian language is a difficult one, of that there is no doubt; Gorchákov easily checked Bismarck's attempt to introduce German as the diplomatic language by informing the chancellor that he might write to the ministry at St. Petersburg in German if he desired, but that he must expect replies in Russian. But if Russian names look particularly formidable in their French or German dress, note also how unrecognizable are English words which have undergone the same process. The truth is that we have many sounds in common with the Russians which the French and Germans can only approximate by awkward combinations of characters. In such cases as this it is obviously absurd to keep the various clumsy borrowed forms instead of taking simple ones directly from the source. Take, for example, the name of the Russian composer; why should we write him Tschaikowski with the Germans, or Tchaïkoffsky with the French, when Chaïkovski exactly transliterates the Russian? How can one with any facility consult an index when he may expect to find the well-known Russian statesman burdened with the name Schuwalow if the author indexed has used chiefly German sources, or Chouwaloff if French authorities are responsible for his information, whereas

a Russian, were he to use the English alphabet, would write it Shuválov. It is not at all surprising that the name of the greatest of Russian generals is unintelligibly pronounced when it appears as Suwarow or Souworoff instead of Suvórov. Indeed the sympathies of the writer and the authorities he has used, whether German or French, may be detected by noting whether he has used the German or the French forms of transliteration. The Polish language, which is very similar to the Russian in many respects, uses the Roman alphabet but gives to the letters sounds very different from those which they represent in other languages. In this way it has been responsible for a few of our illogical spellings, as for example the word Czar, which should be writ en Tsar.

It is possible without any reference to Russian characters, but simply by a comparison of French and German forms, to formulate a simple and useful if not entirely complete canon of transliteration and pronunciation. As to accent, the majority of Russian names, especially those ending in *-ov*, *-ski*, or *-vich*, have the stress on the penult; thus Románov, Dolgorúki, Turgénev, Danilévski, Tsarévích. The feminine form of the ending *-ov* is *-ova*; of *-ski*, *-ska*; and of *-vich* (meaning *son of*) *-vna*. The son of Peter Tuberovski would be called, for example, Ivan Petróvich Tuberovski, while his daughter might have the name Anna Petróvna Tuberovska.

For a canon of transliteration it will perhaps be simplest to mention various English letters or combinations of letters and the French and German forms which should be replaced by them. The changes chiefly to be observed are as follows:

*Ch* should replace the German *tsh* and the French *tch*, as Gorchákov. *G* is always hard; where the French are obliged to write *gu* on this account they should not be copied, as Turgénev.

For *kh* German writers use *ch*, which is much too guttural to represent correctly the Russian, writing Astrachan for Astrakhan.

*S* and *z* have their exact equivalents in Russian, but German and French scholars frequently use *s* for the latter and *ss* for the former, writing Wassili for Vasili, and Rasumowski or Rasoumoffsky for Razumovski.

*Sh* should be used for the German *sch* and the French *ch*, as Dashkov. For *ts* the Germans write *z*.

*V* correctly transliterates the third letter of the Russian alphabet, which French and German writers have variously represented by *w* and *ff*, e. g., Vorontsov. To be sure *ff* at the end of a word more correctly approximates the Russian pronunciation, but for the sake of uniformity it is much better to use *v* in all cases, and this usage has been adopted by the authorities of the British Museum. The Russian character for this letter is *В* and to this was due the mistake by which Sevastópol was formerly written Sebastopol.

*Zh* should be used where the French use *j*, so Nizhni Novgorod.

The vowels *e* and *i* must be retained as in the French and German with their continental pronunciation (*e*=*ē* and *i*=*ē*); but *i* (German *j* and French *y* in some cases) standing before a vowel

has its force as a consonant. In Russian these combinations are expressed by single characters and we take our transliteration from the Polish; thus *Diébich* has two syllables and *Paskiévich* has three. *Y* however may be used at the beginning of a word instead of *I*, as in *Yermólov*.

For *u*, pronounced *oo* when not preceded by *i*, the French use *ou*, writing *Zouboff* for *Zubov*.

Scarcely less puzzling are Polish names, which are apparently unpronounceable and labor under the additional disadvantage of not being subject to transliteration. This is due to the fact that since Roman characters are used Polish names have naturally been adopted without change of spelling, although many of these characters represent sounds entirely different from those for which they are used in English. A mention of some of these peculiarities will perhaps be useful in showing the similarity between Polish and Russian names and in rendering somewhat easier their pronunciation. Following are a few of the Polish characters and their English equivalents:

*c=ts*; *ch=h*; *cz=ch*; *ia=yah*; *ie=yā*; *sz=sh*; and *w=v*.

The following names will serve to illustrate the peculiar uses of the letters here mentioned: *Chlopicki* (*Hlopitski*), *Czartoryski* (*Chartoriski*), *Sienkiewicz* (*Sienkiévich*), and *Paderewski* (*Paderevski*).

The object of this brief outline of Russian-English transliteration has been to be of service to those who have occasion to use Russian names but are not acquainted with the Russian language. Elaborate treatment of the vowel-changes and the hardening and softening of consonants peculiar to Slavonic languages has not been attempted, but only those things have been noted which seemed of value for practical use; and it is in the hope that some advance may be made towards uniformity and simplicity in the spelling of Russian proper names in historical works that this article is written.

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## NOTES AND NEWS

The Duke of Aumâle, who might not unfitly be called the first citizen of France, died on May 7, at the age of seventy-five. Born in 1822, he was the fourth son of Louis Philippe. After the exile of the family, he began in England the series of his historical works, with two monographs on the captivity of King John of France and on the siege of Alesia respectively. His great work, his *Histoire des Princes de Condé pendant le XVI<sup>e</sup> et le XVII<sup>e</sup> Siècles*, was begun in exile. Its first volume could not be published in France till 1869. Seven volumes have been published, of which the last five relate to the Great Condé. The seventh, published last year, was noticed on pp. 141-143 of this volume. The Duke became a member of the Académie Française in 1871, when his return to France was permitted. He resided thenceforth at Chantilly, except during a second period of exile under the present republic. He was widely esteemed as a scholar and as a man of noble character.

Homersham Cox, barrister and mathematician, and author of *Antient Parliamentary Elections*, 1868, and of a *History of the Reform Bills of 1866-1867*, died on March 10, aged 75.

The Rev. Nicholas Pocock, contributor of many valuable articles on English ecclesiastical history to the *English Historical Review*, died on March 4, aged 83.

Konstantin Bestushev-Riumin, Russian historian, died on January 15, aged 67. His chief work was his critical history of Russia, in two volumes, extending to the end of the sixteenth century; it has been translated into German.

Mr. A. Lawrence Lowell has been appointed a lecturer in the department of history and government at Harvard University; Professor O. H. Richardson, of Drury College, has been called to Yale University.

Among offers of prizes which may possibly be tempting to American scholars we note: that of the Belgian Royal Academy for 1897, for an essay on religion and worship in ancient Crete; for 1898, for a critical study of the lives of the saints of the Carolingian period; that of the Rubenow-Stiftung in Greifswald, for 1901 (2000 marks), for a history of public opinion in Prussia and especially in Berlin from 1795 to 1806; the king of the Belgians' prize of 25,000 francs, for 1901, for a military history of Belgium from Roman times; and that for 1900 (1000 marks) on the part of the Fürstlich Jablonowski'sche Gesellschaft, for a study of the social and legal condition of artisans and the economic organization of industry in ancient Greece. The Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres announces, among the subjects for the Prix Bordin for