

A Note on Transliterations

Given the confusing issues with spelling, identification, and localization of personal and place names, we have in the main text of Part I largely standardised proper names using diacritical marks only for lesser-known proper names. In the appendices, we present variations of terms and names as they appear in the languages of our sources. We have only marked verbatim quotations with quotation marks, but not our summaries of the texts. If not otherwise indicated, additions in square brackets ([...]) in quotations are from us.

Nepālī and Sanskrit

We follow the standard system transliteration transliterating the Devanagari script (except for most personal and place names in Part I). Regarding Nepālī we mostly use the *Nepālī Bṛhad Śabdakośa* as a standard. In this language, the final consonant is usually written with an inherent short *a*, which in speaking the language is generally not enunciated.

Chinese and Tibetan

Some earlier scholars used Wade–Giles in their works, but now there is a general tendency to use Pinyin instead. Hence, Pinyin is used if the text is translated directly from Chinese, while Wade–Giles is employed if the original text cited, or if the scholars’ names used it.

While using Pinyin, there are two points that XY proposes to make it more readable for non-PRC readers. 1) Hyphens are used to connect syllables within words or names, such as Sun Shi-yi 孫士毅, *gong-xian* 貢獻, unless the continuous form is commonly used, such as “Sichuan”. 2) some semi-syllabic characters used in transcriptions, such as *er* and *le*, are reduced to one phoneme, i.e., -r and -l, such as in Kuorka 廓爾喀.

Published in: Axel Michaels, Xu Yunheng, Who Won the Sino-Nepalese War of 1791–1792? A Study in Transcultural Complexity, Heidelberg: Heidelberg University Publishing, 2026 (Documenta Nepalica: Book Series, Vol. 8).
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17885/heiup.1666>

In the bibliography, if a publication was published in Japan, the Japanese pronunciation of the Chinese characters is used. In the case of Taiwanese or Cantonese contributors, the Wade–Giles system or the Cantonese transliteration is used according to the principle of naming after the original.

When it comes to Tibetan, the problems consist in the disparity between classical spelling and the pronunciation in contemporary Lhasa dialect which yields many simplified transcriptions. When the language “Tib.” is given before the transcription, the transcription is based on the Wylie transliteration. Thus, the root letter instead of the prescript is capitalised. Hyphens are not used within words.