

Coptic / ΜΕΤΝ̄ΡΕΜ̄Ν̄ΧΗΜΙ Metn̄remn̄khēmi

romanization: KNAB 2001-07-17

1	ⲁ ⲁ	a	12	Ⲙ Ⲙ	m	23	Ⲫ Ⲫ	ps
2	ⲃ ⲃ	v	13	Ⲛ Ⲛ	n	24	Ⲕ Ⲕ	ō [o:]
3	Ⲅ Ⲅ	g [k]	14	Ⲟ Ⲟ	ks	25	Ⲗ Ⲗ	š [ʃ]
4	Ⲇ Ⲇ	d [t]	15	Ⲙ Ⲙ	o	26	Ⲙ Ⲙ	f
5	Ⲉ Ⲉ	e	16	Ⲡ Ⲡ	p	27	Ⲣ Ⲣ	h
6	Ⲋ Ⲋ	z [s]	17	ⲣ ⲣ	r	28	Ⲥ Ⲥ / ⲤⲤ	x ^A [x]
7	Ⲍ Ⲍ	ē [e:]	18	Ⲧ Ⲧ	s	29	Ⲩ Ⲩ	ǵ [dʒ]
8	Ⲏ Ⲏ	th [t ^h]	19	Ⲙ Ⲙ	t	30	Ⲭ Ⲭ	q
9	Ⲑ Ⲑ	i [i:]	20	Ⲓ Ⲓ	u [u:]	31	Ⲕ Ⲕ	ti
10	Ⲕ Ⲕ	k	21	Ⲗ Ⲗ	ph [p ^h]			
11	Ⲇ Ⲇ	l	22	Ⲙ Ⲙ	kh [k ^h]			

^A The first variant is used in Bohairic, the second in Akhmimic dialect.

Notes

1. The macron above characters (in the Sahidic standard language) is romanized also with a macron: $\overline{\text{NPMNKHM}} \overline{\text{E}} \overline{\text{nr̄m̄nk̄hēme}}$. If the macron is on *e*, *ē*, *o* and *ō*, in romanization it is substituted by the grave accent: *è*, *ê*, *ò*, *ô*.
2. The diaeresis (¨) denotes *i* and *u* starting a new syllable: $\text{EPO}¨\text{i}$ *eroi*.
3. The apostrophe (') indicates the end of phonological words and clitics: $\text{EPWANTBAWOP} \text{AWKAKEBOL} \text{AN} \text{'}$ *eršantvašor' aškakevol'an'*.
4. The circumflex (^) is used on vowels forming independent syllables: $\text{TH} \hat{\text{A}} \text{B} \text{E}$ *têêve*.
5. Other diacritical marks except macron are used rarely. In Coptic script, the distinction of capital and small letters is not very common either.

Comparison of Egyptian, Coptic and Hebrew transcriptions

<i>Egyptian</i>						<i>Coptic</i>	<i>Hbr</i>
KNAB	WWR	[IPA]	EL	KH	ENE	KNAB	EL
ⲛ (3) ^A	ⲛ	ʔ	a	ⲛ	ⲛ	(a)	'
ⲓ	ⲓ (i)	i, j	â	ⲓ	ⲓ	(i)	'
ⲉ	c	ç	ā	c	c	..	ⲉ
y	y	..	i	j	y
w	w	u, w	u	w	w	(u)	w
b	b	b	b	b	b	v	b
p	p	p	p	p	p	p	ⲡ
f	f	f	f	f	f	f	ⲡ
m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
n/l	n (l)	n/l	n	n	n	n	n
r/l	r (l)	r/l	r/l	r/l	r	r, l	r/l

h	h	h	h	h	h	h	h
ḥ	ḥ	ḥ	ḥ	ḥ	ḥ	..	ḥ
ḫ	ḫ	x	kh (χ)	..	ḫ	<u>x</u>	ḫ
ḥ	ḥ	ç?	ḥ
s	s (< z)	..	s	s	s	s	s
ś	s	s	s	ś	ś	..	ś
š	š	ʃ	sh (ś)	ś	š	š	š?
k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k
q	q	q	q	ḳ	ḳ	q	q
g	g	g	ḳ	g	g	g	g
t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t
d	d	d	ṯ	d	d	d	ṯ
ṯ	ṯ	tʃ	th (θ)	t	ṯ	ti	ṯ
<u>d</u>	<u>d</u>	dʒ	tch (tʰ)	ṣ	<u>d</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>d</u>
(e) ^B	..	(ε)	(e)	-	-	e	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	z	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	ē	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	th	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	ks	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	o	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	ph	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	kh	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	ps	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	ō	-

^A As this sign was encoded in Unicode fairly recently, it is often substituted by 3.

^B e is a conventional sound inserted in Egyptian words for convenience of pronunciation, its actual usage is unknown.

Sources

EL = Sir E. A. Wallis Budge. Egyptian Language. Lessons in Egyptian Hieroglyphics.

Barnes & Noble Books, New York 1993, p. 31-32.

ENE = Eesti nõukogude entsüklopeedia, 2. kd. Tallinn 1987, lk 476.

IPA = International Phonetic Alphabet (< WWR).

KH = Wilhelm Spiegelberg. Koptisches Handwörterbuch. Heidelberg 1921.

WWR = The World's Writing Systems. 1996, p. 75 (egiptuse), 288 (kopti).