

There seems to be no transliteration scheme for Ancient Greek that is at the same time

- precise in representing data that are phonologically or grammatically relevant;
- economical, dispensing with signs that have lost their significance (final sigma, smooth breathing/coronis);
- comfortable in data entry and robust in transmission, avoiding uncommon characters;
- easily understood, being based on common ways of spelling Greek loan words.

Current transliteration schemes either demand special training (e.g. Beta Code) or do not support polytonic pronunciation (see e.g. The Perseus Project) or utilize rare signs that are not easy to enter and not always preserved in data transmission.

P-TAG is expected to fulfil these requirements. It seems to be especially appropriate for rendering chunks of Greek that occur in Roman script documents. As our scheme ignores a few niceties of Greek orthography, if converted, it will yield no 100% Beta Code transcript or Unicode Greek script, but the result will surely be intelligible. So far, however, conversion has not been tested. We used the new transliteration scheme in the ITALI section when rendering Greek terms contained in headings or index entries: e.g. { anagnó:risis}.

The present proposal is limited to the typographical signs that occur in standard editions of classical Greek literature, excluding special signs that are used in editions of inscriptions, very early texts and dialect texts (other than those written in the major "literary dialects"), as well as editorial signs used in the apparatus criticus or in editions of fragments. To the following chart there might be added digamma and koppa, adopting the transliteration of the Thesaurus Linguae Graecae: digamma = „w“, koppa = „q“.

P-TAG Chart (Beta Code [= BC] equivalents added):

A α	Alpha	A a	< BC: *A A >	Τ τ	Tau	T t	< BC: *T T >
B β	Beta	B b	< BC: *B B >	Υ υ	Upsilon	U u	< BC: *U U >
Γ γ	Gamma	G g	< BC: *G G >	Φ φ	Phi	Ph ph	< BC: *F F >
Δ δ	Delta	D d	< BC: *D D >	Χ χ	Chi	Ch ch	< BC: *X X >
Ε ε	Epsilon	E e	< BC: *E E >	Ψ ψ	Psi	Ps ps	< BC: *U U >
Ζ ζ	Zeta	Z z	< BC: *Z Z >	Ω ω	Omega	O: o:	< BC: *W W >
Η η	Eta	E: e:	< BC: *H H >	Ï ï Ÿ ÿ	Diaeresis	'I 'i 'Y 'y	< BC: *I+ I+ *U+ U+ >
Θ θ	Theta	Th th	< BC: *Q Q >	˘	Smooth breathing/Coronis		< BC:) >
Ι ι	Iota	I i	< BC: *I i >	˙	Rough breathing	H h	< BC: (>
Κ κ	Kappa	K k	< BC: *K K >	´	Acute	´ (combined)	< BC: / >
Λ λ	Lambda	L l	< BC: *L L >	ˋ	Grave	ˋ (combined)	< BC: \ >
Μ μ	Mu	M m	< BC: *M M >	˘	Circumflex	˘ (combined)	< BC: = >
Ν ν	Nu	N n	< BC: *N N >	α η ω	Iota subscript	aj, ej, oj	< BC: a h w >
Ξ ξ	Xi	X x	< BC: *C C >	.	Period	.	< BC: . >
Ο ο	Omicron	O o	< BC: *O O >	´	Apostrophe	´	< BC:) >
Π π	Pi	P p	< BC: *P P >	:	Colon	:	< BC: : >
Ρ ρ	Rho	R r	< BC: *R R >	,	Comma	,	< BC: , >
Ῥ ῥ	Rho	Rh rh	< BC: *R(R(>	;	Question Mark	?	< BC: ; >
Σ σ ς	Sigma	S s s	< BC: *S S j >	-	Hyphen, Dash	-	< BC: -, _ >

Example: Ilias 1,1-13

Unicode (UTF-8) with pre-combined accents

Μῆνιν ἄειδε, θεά, Πηληϊάδεω Ἀχιλῆος
οὐλομένην, ἣ μυρὶ Ἀχαιοῖς ἄλγε' ἔθηκε,
πολλὰς δ' ἰφθίμους ψυχὰς Ἄϊδι προΐαψεν
ἠρώων, αὐτοὺς δὲ ἑλώρια τεῦχε κύνεσσιν
οἰωνοῖσί τε πᾶσι, Διὸς δ' ἐτελείετο βουλή,
ἔξ οὗ δὴ τὰ πρῶτα διαστήτην ἐρίσαντε
Ἄτρεΐδης τε ἄναξ ἀνδρῶν καὶ δῖος Ἀχιλλεύς.
Τίς τ' ἄρ σφωε θεῶν ἕριδι ξυνέηκε μάχεσθαι;
Λητοῦς καὶ Διὸς υἱός· ὁ γὰρ βασιλῆϊ χολωθεὶς
νοῦσον ἀνὰ στρατὸν ὥρσε κακῆν, ὀλέκοντο δὲ λαοί,
οὔνεκα τὸν Χρῦσῆν ἠτίμασεν ἀρητῆρα
Ἄτρεΐδης· ὁ γὰρ ἦλθε θοὰς ἐπὶ νῆας Ἀχαιῶν
λυσόμενός τε θύγατρα φέρων τ' ἀπερείσι' ἄποινα,

Polytonic Transcription of Ancient Greek (P-TAG):

Mē:nin áeide, theá, Pe:le:'iádeo: Achilē:os
ouloméne:n, hē: muri' Achaiōis álge' éthe:ke,
pollàs d' iphthímous psuchàs Á'idi pro'íapsen
he:ró:o:n, autoùs dè heló:ria teûche kúnessin
oio:noiísi te pási, Diòs d' eteleiéto boulé:,
ex hoû dè: tà prô:ta diasté:te:n erísante
Atre'íde:s te áanax andrô:n kai díos Achilleús.
Tís t' ár spho:e theô:n éridi xunée:ke máchesthai?
Le:toús kai Diòs huiós; hò gàr basilé:'i cholo:theis
nouúson anà stratòn ô:rse kaké:n, olékonto dè laoí,
houúneka tòn Chrúse:n e:tímasen are:tê:ra
Atre'íde:s; hò gàr ê:lthe thoàs epì nê:as Achaiô:n
lusómenós te thúgatra phéro:n t' apereísi' ápoina,

Latin Transliteration of the Perseus Project:

mēnin aeide thea Pēlēiadeō Akhilēos
oulomenēn, hē muri' Akhaiōis alge' ethēke,
pollas d' iphthimous psukhas Aidī proiapsen
hērōōn, autous de helōria teukhe kunessin
oiōnoisi te pasi, Dios d' eteleieto boulē,
ex hou dē ta prōta diastētēn erisante
Atreidēs te anax andrōn kai dios Akhilleus.
tis t' ar sphōe theōn eridi xuneēke makhesthai;
Lētous kai Dios huios: ho gar basilēi kholōtheis
nouson ana straton orse [sic] kakēn, olekonto de laoi,
houneka ton Khrusēn ētimasen arētēra
Atreidēs: ho gar ēlthe thoas epī nēas Akhaiōn
lusomenos te thugatra pherōn t' apereisi' apoina,