

Excerpt from The Burman: His Life and Notions  
Phoneticism is said to be the murderer of history, and there has been a craze of late years to prevent this felony by the adoption of scientific methods of rendering Burmese in English characters. I have no doubt that whatever other faults I may be accused of, I shall be greatly blamed for endeavouring to reproduce the pronunciation rather than the orthography of Burmese words. But I may be allowed to contend that the catch phrase ascribing bloodguiltiness to phoneticism, however just it may be in a country where fonetic nuz puzzle a long-suffering generation, is most misleading and calumnious where it is applied to a foreign language, and especially to such a language as Burmese. No one who is concerned about the etymology of a language is likely to study it except in the national character; if he trusts to transliterations, scientific or otherwise, he will most assuredly be little worth listening to. When an author writes in English about a little-known people he presumably writes for a majority of readers who know nothing whatever of the language, and cannot be reasonably expected to have any very great concern in its etymology as long as they get a more or less correct notion of how the words should be pronounced. This is most especially the case in Burmese, where, in very many cases, the orthography of a word supplies but the remotest possible hint of its pronunciation. About the Publisher  
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William Shatners Tek World, Vol. 1 No. 5; Jan. 1992, Hawaii, Colombia: Including its History, The Santa Cruz de Mompox, The Salt Cathedral of Zipaquira, and More, Getaway Guide to Botswana: Where Time Stands Still, A Genealogical And Heraldic Dictionary Of The Landed Gentry V1, A To L: Of Great Britain And Ireland (1847), The Hazards of Hunting While Heartbroken,

The Burman, His Life and Notions is an extraordinarily warm and human book, the validity and usefulness of which remains amazingly high even eighty years  
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