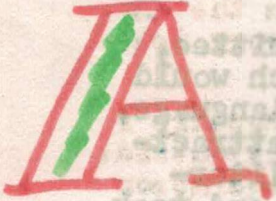


F E N A C H R O N E V I

Printed by Gray Fox Press, 101 Victory Square, Lambengard, Lambenya Directorate, Federated Kingdoms of Khorlia. All copy wordguarded. American agent, Dave Fox, 1143 Justin, Glendale Calif., 91201.

ROSTRUM



GROUP of our readers, notably June Konigsberg, after studying our "experimental" first page, have remarked upon the resemblance of several Khorlian characters to those used in English for similar sounds. This is hardly surprising to anyone versed in Khorlian history. When Geoffrey Lamben fled the Norman Conquest and sailed to Khorlia, he brought not only his fighting men and their families, but the noble lady who was his wife. The Lady Jorymar was something of a rara avis in her day, a noblewoman who cared more for her native tongue than for Latin and who let her preference be known far and wide. As the Lamben fortunes prospered, Middle English became a popular item among the nobility and as the word spread of the Lady's kindness to the peasant folk, the common people took Lady Jorymar and her language to their hearts. When Duke Geoffrey was killed at the Battle of Ranville, his sons carried on his conquest ably, and his widow toured the growing duchy, teaching the English tongue to any who would listen, with such success that by 1099, when Henry Lamben was crowned the first king of Middle Khorlia (or Lambenya, as it soon became), much to the distress of the clergy the ceremony was performed in English.



FROM THIS beginning, English spread over all Khorlia, replacing the barbaric Xofic spoken in the Northeast, the bastard Franco-Khorlian of the west, and the myriad languages and dialects used in the smaller states. This despite the furious resistance of the Xof family, who regarded the Lambens as upstart newcomers, and their language as affront to all things Khorlian. However, there was one difficulty. Spoken English spread swiftly but written English was simply ignored, and the traditional Xofic Script was used. This, according to one writer of that day, was like harnessing a spirited charger to a dead horse, and indeed it did seem to be a mistake to attempt to burden writers and readers with the ponderous intricacies of Old Xofic. By 1200 all Khorlia spoke English, but the upper class still clung to Xofic Script and only at the newly founded University of Odivad did anyone openly call for a change. Still, such things do move slowly. In the fall of 1630 the Council of Reconciliation met for the first time in the chambers of Saint David College, Odivad, and the following spring, brought forth a group of "humble proposals" for the replacement of some of the more difficult Xofic characters or groups of characters with their Roman alphabet counterparts. Despite the uproar in the north (the chief librarian of Xofheim's Buchhaus fired and exiled by Duke Donal Xof for agreeing with the reformers), these changes were finally accepted. The seal of approval was put on these changes when the reigning king, one of the better Xofs, publicly praised the Council and endorsed its work.

In these proposals was set the pattern which future reformers would follow---a few letters changed at a time, replacement, when necessary, by Roman alphabet symbols no slavish adherence to English forms or usage, and for each new character, one phonetic value only. For the next two centuries this policy brought about changes few in number but of lasting influence.

I N 1847 a new organization, The Phonetics Committee, began to agitate for a series of reforms which would make Khorlian a completely phonetic written language. The movement was growing from year to year, attracting many eminent figures of linguistics and literature, when, in 1870 the Austrians walked in and took over the government of Khorlia. One of the first non-political groups suppressed by the invading government was The Phonetics Committee---some member of the Austrian herrenvolk had decided that phonetics was a dangerously republican idea. However, if the phonetics minded scholars were forbidden to work in public, they could still work secretly, and fifty years later, just three years after Khorlia's War of Liberation ended so gloriously, the existence and work of The Committee of Revision was proclaimed publicly, and their completed Plan For an All-Phonetic Script was revealed to the nation. The members of the Rikesmoot from Odivad, aided by rikesmen from Xofheim, Lambengard and ancient Aquatinum, with the official blessing of the Grand Regent, Field Marshal Garfield Ross, introduced the first Language Reform Bill. Two months later it was passed, virtually unaltered, and on Seplun first, 1921, after a year of preparation, it was put into effect, making the Federated Kingdoms one of the few major nations with a true phonetic script. Out of 34 letters, about 14 are obviously derived from the Roman alphabet, 4 have come down from the Old Xofic, and the rest have been borrowed from a variety of sources. Little did the Lady Jorymar guess what would be the result of her fondness for her native tongue---a once polyglot nation united by one language, strong ties of culture and trade with England, and, because of the hopeless conflict between English sounds and Xofic spelling, a new and commonsense written language

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THIS is the Khorlian Alphabet, or as we call it, the AHLZAG. It is made up of 33 characters and about 8 punctuation marks. With each character we have typed, in English Script, the name of the character and its sound in English.

Π π	AHLAHF	AH	⊕ 9	GAL	GOT
⋈ ⋈	AKZAG	CAT	I	EE	SEE
Ɱ Ɱ	AWM	AWE	Ǝ ɛ	IST	HIS
⊖ ⊖	BEEDA	BAT	Ᵽ Ᵽ	JAD	JOY
Ꞁ Ꞁ	CHOW	CHAT	ꞁ ꞁ	ARK	KITTEN
⊙ ⊙	DIE	AD	Ɽ Ɽ	LOI	ALONG
Ⓢ Ⓢ	EZWAL	GET	Ⓜ Ⓜ	ARM	MUM
ⱦ ⱦ	ORF	FOX	Ⓢ Ⓢ	NAN	END

NING SONG⁴ OON RUDE

OBE SOLE UDD GUN

PAR POP OOK BOOK

RIG CORE VAR OVER

ERM BIRD ZIK BUZZ

SAHG SIR ZHAZZ AZURE

ASH SHOW HOW HOLY

TETH TOOT

SITH THINK

ATHROP GATHER