The following pages are scans of a document written by David Birnbaum in 1989. This document attempted to enumerate the possible requirements for encoding additional Cyrillic characters and marks for characters used in Old Church Slavonic and other early Cyrillic texts. This document by Birnbaum was used as input in creating the original repertoire of Cyrillic included in Unicode 1.0.

It is provided from the archives of Joe Becker which cover source materials for Unicode 1.0.
Diacritics for Early Cyrillic – Preliminary Listing

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Introduction

The following preliminary list of diacritics used in early Cyrillic writing is based primarily on:


I have supplemented Bulatova’s list with additional terms mentioned in:


Where multiple terms exist for a single diacritic, the terms Bulatova favors are given in boldface. I personally prefer to use Greek terms (in their Russian form), which is also the preference of the editors of the handbook in which Bulatova’s article appears (p. 131). Notations of stress below reflect modern usage; in early Slavic grammatical treatises the terms are stressed as in Greek.

There is a number of additional accential and decorative diacritics, described in certain early Slavic grammatical treatises, that should be catalogued and added to this list. (These treatises may also provide information on alternative names and graphic variants for some diacritics already represented in this inventory.) Neumes and other musical diacritics in Slavic manuscripts are relatively poorly understood and still require study and cataloguing.
I. Abbreviation (знаки сокращения)

титло (титло), (Карскй: вмѣт): ¬
вмѣт, (Карскй: титло): ¬
покрѣтіе: ¬
смычек: н

Notes: Карскй's титло is Bulatova's вмѣт and vise versa. Карскй uses смычек to designate a double acute and does not include the abbreviative diacritic to which Bulatova assigns this name.

II. Anlaut (знаки словесного приступа)

псил (пал), тонкое придыхание (spiritus lenis), (Колосов: псил, псили, лагодная, краткая, звательная, запятая, острая, тонкая): ¬
дасія (дасія), густое придыхание (spiritus asper), (Колосов: сиплива): ¬

Notes: the general term for these is спиритус. Traditionally used over word- and syllable-initial vowels (vowels not preceded by a consonant, неприкрытые гласные), possibly (in some cases) to indicate jotation. Булатова reserves the terms звательнo, звательница, звательное for the use of over the first syllable of any word, including consonant-initial syllables. These items may be replaced by точка or две точки (·, ·). Булатова incorrectly (?) writes дасія for дасія and spells “звательцо” and “звательное” without soft signs (although звательница).

III. Syllable division or replacement of missing letters (знаки слогоделения или заменяющие отсутствующие буквы)

апостроф (апостроф): ¬
паерок (ерок, ерчик, ертика): ¬

Note: graphic form varies considerably among scribes and manuscripts.

IV. Stress

оксія (оксія), акът (acute), остroe ударeніe, (Колосов: окъ, поокъ, остряя): ¬
вáрія (варія), грáвис (gravis), тяжелое ударение: ¬
кamóра (каамра), периспомeна (периспомeна), циркумфлекс (circumflexus), облеченнее ударение, (Карскй: периспомень), (Колосов: переспомени, облеченная, покрышка): ¬
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isc (іс)о, иск, исть, (Kolesov: ико, иск): “
apostrof:”

Notes: Per Bulatova, iso occurs on vowel-initial syllables in word anlaut, apostroph on final or penultimate vowel-initial syllables. I have seen iso used internally. Karskij illustrates apostroph with ".

V. Quantity

кенде ма (кёктима), двойная вариа, двойной гравис: “
двойная оксия, двойной акут, (Karskij: смычек, оковавы), (Kolesov: сквавы, свады): “
mакр (макр), лонга (longa), долгий завлак: —
перевернутая камора, врхия (брехв), брэвис (brevis), стопица, слитная.
кратная, (Karskij: кавичка), (Kolesov: краткая, чашка): —
dолгая (Zaliznjak: лонга): —

Note: Bulatova uses longa to refer to designate a horizontal line, while Zaliznjak uses it as a synonym for dolgaja. The latter term, according to Bulatova et al., is more appropriately reserved for a slightly slanted elongated varia.

General Notes

My preliminary general inventory of glyphs for early Cyrillic included the following items not represented above:

“ " " " The remaining combinations of breathing (psila, dasija) with accentual diacritics (oksija, varija, kamora). The latter two definitely occur in Slavic manuscripts, but I have not personally seen the former two (although they are theoretically possible). I do not know whether they have any particular names.

(точка), " (двe точки), and " (točka combined with oksija). Frequently substituted for other diacritics.

Used over e, o in some Ruthenian printing to designate the sound i from e, o in new closed syllables.

kamora-like diacritic that occurs set off to the right above consonants (particularly n, l) to denote palatalization.

I am unable to locate any reference to this diacritic, which I originally included as the mirror image of dolgaja. I do not believe I have seen this diacritic personally, I
am unable to find any reference to it, I can think of no good reason for my having included it originally, and I now inclined to think it may be spurious, in which case it should be deleted.