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Exonyms

THE "DIDACTIC" PROBLEM OF EXONYM REDUCTION*

Paper presented by Canada

The reduction of exonyms is currently looked on as being desirable in theory but unrealistic in practice. It is the rare naming organization that opposes exonym reduction. Reticence is due to a belief that confusion will result and that exonyms will persist. Recent efforts to reduce exonyms indicate that, if the new names are widely broadcast, they are accepted quickly. The important question is determining the means of promoting the original names, especially encouraging the important publishers to use them on maps and in atlases. Airline schedules reveal a predominance of English exonyms, although some companies have adopted original forms.

* Prepared by Henri Dorion.