

surveys of the inland and coastal waters of Bangladesh and is responsible for the publication of nautical charts. While publishing the nautical charts, the Department of

Hydrography, in collaboration with the Survey of Bangladesh, enters the geographical names for maritime features in the charts.

REPORT PRESENTED BY LIBERIA*

Liberia's first formally standardized geographical names list was prepared in 1955 by the Liberian Board of Geographic Names commissioned by the President of Liberia under the chairmanship of Mr. Arthur Sherman, the then Director of Bureau of Mines. Among other members were the Director of the Liberian Cartographic Service and representatives from the Ministries of Education and of Local Governments Rural Development and Urban Reconstruction (the then Departments of Education and of the Interior, respectively).

Although two of Liberia's 27 linguistic groups have their own scripts, with characters that differ from any others in the world, Liberia from its inception adopted the English language as the lingua franca, using Roman letters. This arrangement facilitates our interrelationships in the comity of nations. The spelling of words in the list followed, for the most part, the international phonetic arrangement. The exceptions were spellings of major towns that had had long usage.

This first list has been expanded considerably and we now have a gazetteer, showing in alphabetical sequence the standardized spelling and geographic position of 11,000 names. The United States Defense Mapping Agency was of great assistance.

This standardization is one of the factors in achieving

unity of approach in the unification and integration of the many elements that make up the Liberian Republic. Maps help considerably in bringing the standardized spelling to the public. The process of expanding the gazetteer with additional names continues.

It is necessary, when deciding upon the correct spelling, to know the meaning of the word in the language of the locality. Such knowledge would enable the Board to utilize the correct tones, cadences and accents. The difficulty of this task is obvious if one bears in mind the country's 27 different linguistic groupings. The principal members of the Board must therefore be persons who have travelled considerably throughout Liberia and who have at their command several of the languages. Having access to such experienced persons both within and outside of the Board, the Board could then be expected to review effectively the name cards presented by the surveyors who make the field photo classification of the aerial photographs.

It can be readily seen that the gazetteer will need revision as more experienced linguists become available and as more places are identified. Towns and farms named after chiefs or farmers often change names to those of the successor. These also make it necessary to have revised editions. In order to be more meaningful to the layman, the next edition should, in addition to giving location in latitude and longitude, show the chiefdoms, districts and counties in which the places named are situated.

* The original text of this paper appeared as document E/CONF 69/L 146

REPORT PRESENTED BY BOTSWANA*

INTRODUCTION

In May 1965 the Surveyor-General proposed that a Place Names Commission be appointed for the purpose of examining names that occurred on existing maps, with a view to ascertaining their authenticity and ensuring their correct spelling. Prior to this proposal the Surveyor-General's Department had relied upon information obtained from District Commissioners, Government departments and their field officers, but this means of verification had been found wanting in many respects.

A decision to establish a Place Names Commission was not finally made until October 1967. Commissioners were appointed on the basis of their knowledge of the country,

its history and the various languages and dialects spoken in different areas. No terms of reference were provided. The Commission met for the first time in January 1968.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PLACE NAMES COMMISSION, 1968-1977

The Commission has met over 60 times during the last nine years and has examined most of the standard maps of Botswana, in particular the 1:125,000 sheets. It has also examined a number of new maps prior to their publication.

After 26 meetings the Commission published in 1970 a booklet containing over 1,000 place names with their recommended or accepted spellings. This list of names has formed the basis for the provision of authentic names and correct spellings on maps produced since that date. During the last six years much attention has been devoted

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