

Ninth Session  
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Agenda item No. 6

REPORT OF THE NORDEN DIVISION

International co-operation on orthography

(submitted by Mr. A. Rostvik, Sweden)

In 1978 the Lapps in the northernmost parts of Norway, Sweden, and Finland, speaking the North Lappish dialect, agreed on a common orthography. In pursuance of a decision by the Ministry of Education in Norway and by the national survey authorities in Sweden and Finland, this new orthography will be used for North Lappish names on official maps in the three countries.

The new orthography will not be used for other Lappish dialects, e. g. Lule Lappish, spoken in the Lule river basin and adjacent parts of Norway, South Lappish, spoken in Norway and Sweden south of the Lule Lappish area, Inari and Scolt Lappish, each spoken by some four hundred persons in northern Finland.

Gazetteers

The Danish Place Name Commission (Stednavneudvalget) has published a gazetteer, Fortegnelse over stednavne i amterne øst for Lillebælt (List of Place-Names in the Counties east of The Little Belt). København 1978. The gazetteer is authorized by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. A gazetteer for Jylland (Jutland) is under preparation.

In Sweden the National Land Survey is investigating a process of compiling by ADP a gazetteer based on the name stock of the General Map at the scale of 1:250 000.

Names authorities

In Norway, the Ministry of Education in 1979 appointed a commission on place-names with instructions to analyse linguistic, legal, administrative, economic, and other problems of writing Norwegian place-names, and to submit a proposal for new rules for the writing of place-names.

In Sweden, the Ministry of Education in 1980 appointed a commission with the instructions to lay down the general outlines for standardizing place-names. The commission has been instructed to consider administrative problems and to propose a suitable co-ordination of the decision powers in this field.

Toponymic guidelines

A draft of Toponymic Guidelines for Cartography concerning Sweden has been prepared at the Institute for Place-Name Research at Uppsala in collaboration with the National Land Survey, and Toponymic Guidelines for Cartography concerning Finland has been prepared at the Onomastic Division of the Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages.