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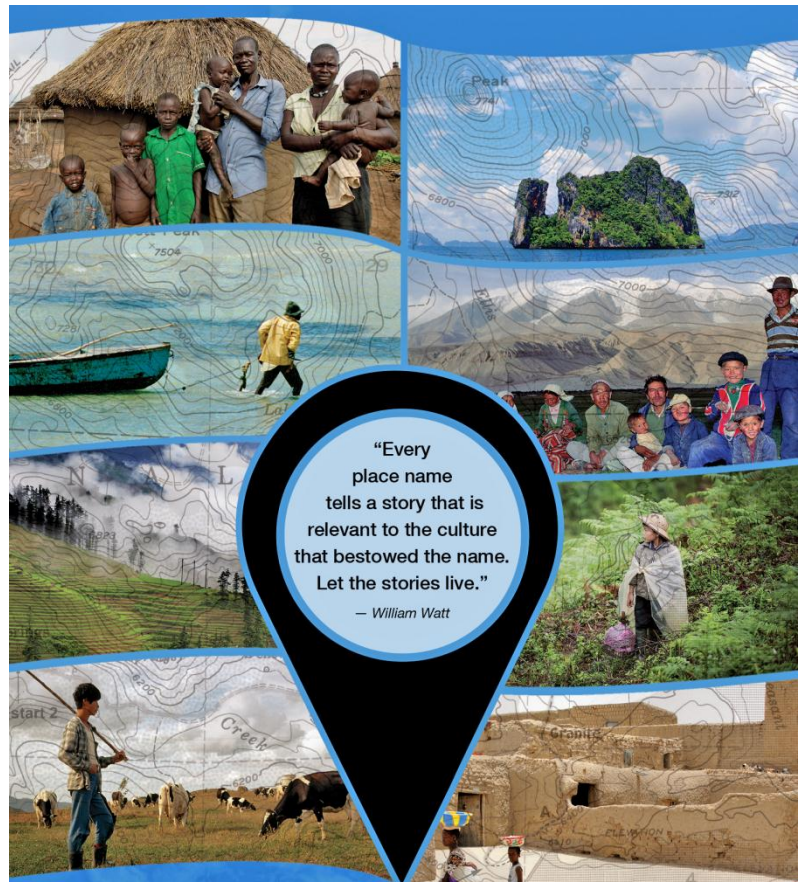
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“Every place name tells a story that is relevant to the culture that bestowed the name. Let the stories live.”  
— William Watt

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnSession28.html>

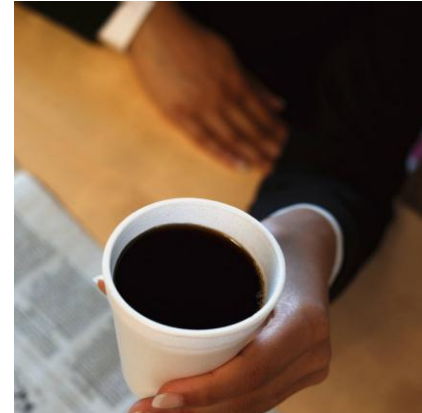


## UNGEGN Information Bulletin

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*[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn\\_info\\_bulletins.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn_info_bulletins.htm)*



## Message from the Chairperson



### Dear Colleagues,

I trust all is well with you and your preparations to attend the 29<sup>th</sup> UNGE GN Session in Bangkok are proceeding well. My thanks to the Secretariat for the work they have done to secure this venue on our behalf.

We held the 2009 session in Kenya in order to encourage a greater participation for the African countries, and in a similar manner, this session is being held in Bangkok to encourage greater attendance from the Asia region. I would like to invite all the countries from this region to take advantage of this opportunity and attend, if at all possible.

As you plan for your attendance, can I encourage all delegations to consider the papers you are planning to present. I would like to ask that you to consider the following points:

- Please submit your paper 6 weeks prior to the session. This will give the working group convenors the time to consider the contents and organise the best grouping and scheduling of all the papers to ensure that lively and informative discussion and considerations of the issues at hand is achieved.

- Please consider which of the papers presented should be submitted for information only or should be presented for discussion during the session. Both will contain valuable information, but those presented should be done so with a view of encouraging active discussion on the topic.
- Please be willing to prepare papers that outline concerns or issues that require some resolution, as it is likely that other countries will be facing similar issues and your willingness to bring it out in the open will assist with a resolution.

I have asked the working group convenors to look a different ways of presentation to develop emerging ideas and trends in a manner that encourages discussion at the session, but this will rely on each of us to come prepared to be involved in the meetings.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible and learning from you.

### **William Watt**

UNGE GN Chair

Australia

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## Message from the Secretariat



### Dear UNGEKN Experts,

The UNGEKN Secretariat and the Working Group on Publicity and Funding are delighted to offer you this 48<sup>th</sup> issue of the UNGEKN bulletin. I must confess that a few weeks ago, on approaching the deadline for the submission of articles, we were gravely concerned that this edition of the Bulletin would not be as substantial as expected. You, the Group of Experts have once again risen to the challenge and delivered. It has been certainly gratifying to have received over 25 submissions, six covering the special features section, six from the Divisions, six from working groups and twelve from country representatives, making the Bulletin a total of 60 pages.

Cultural heritage is seen as 'the total ways of living built up by a group of human beings, which is passed from one generation to the next', given to them by reason of their birth. Geographical names are addresses, the keys to identifying specific places, but also of irreplaceable cultural value of fundamental importance to local identity, and a person's sense of belonging, and therefore must be protected and preserved. Based on the importance of the topic and the increasing interest of the expert community, this issue of the Bulletin focuses on "Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage". The special features section begins with a pertinent article on the naming of a recently discovered Viking-Age ring fort in Denmark and how the naming dispute was resolved. Other interesting articles follow, featuring works in the Republic of Korea, Brazil, Tunisia, Botswana and Viet Nam.

In terms of housekeeping matters, UNGEKN publications such as "The Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names" and "The Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names" remain relevant and sought after documents that are available in the six United Nations official languages. Place name authorities and other linguistic institutions wishing to have the documents translated and published in other languages should contact the UNGEKN Secretariat and or the UN Publications Board and Exhibits Committee for guidance, as there are copyright and other issues that need to be addressed.

Please visit the UNGEKN website periodically for information on upcoming events, workshops and conferences. Member States and national institutions responsible for geographical names are reminded to submit their information for the UNGEKN World Geographical Names Database. We also wish to remind our global experts and persons wishing to learn more about toponymy that they can pursue the online BSc level, web course at: [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/docs/\\_data\\_ICAcourses/index.html](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/docs/_data_ICAcourses/index.html)

It is a 20 module program, subdivided in chapters, complete with self-study guides, exercises and resource documents.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGEKN is less than a year away, you are encouraged to begin preparing your papers for timely submission and making arrangements for your travel to Bangkok, Thailand for 25-29 April 2016.

We look forward to receiving your comments and your contribution to this and forthcoming bulletins. We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

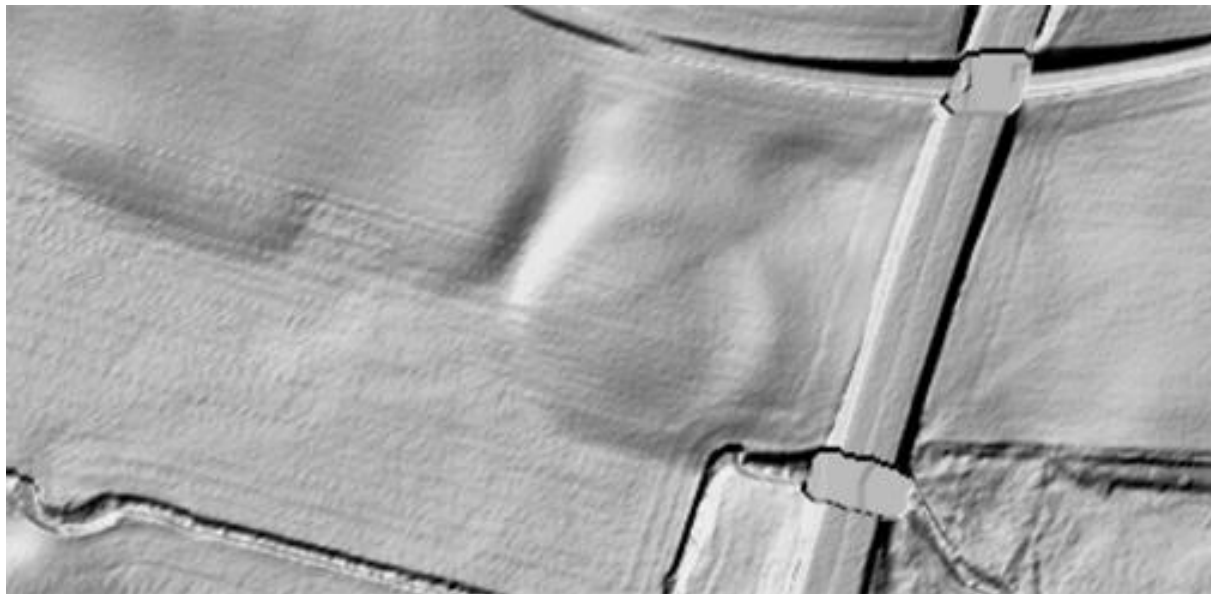
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## Special Feature

# Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

### *Borgring – The Battle Over a Name*



*The contours of Borgring are seen clearly in the Danish Cultural Heritage Agency's relief map, based on laser scans.*

An archaeological sensation was announced on 5 September 2014 – namely the discovery of a hitherto unknown Viking-Age ring fort of the so-called Trelleborg-type. Only four other ring forts of this type are known from Denmark, so the discovery of a fifth one was one which did not only make headlines in the Danish press but was also widely published internationally. For instance, it was the most read, shared and commented piece of news on the online version of the English newspaper, The Telegraph – and the archaeologists who found the final evidence of the ring fort's existence, seemed to be spending more time in the media than on the excavation in the ensuing weeks.

This discovery spurred a lot of discussion in the social media - Facebook groups started locating ring-shaped formations throughout Denmark, but - surprisingly - one of the greatest subjects circulating was that of the name of the locality. At the outset, the ring fort had been launched under the name of *Vallø Borgring*, as the ring fort is located

on land belonging to the Manor of Vallø Stift. However, this name was obviously too misleading for many people. Among the objections were the fact that Vallø was situated more than 10 km away from the ring fort and actually situated on land of the manor of Gammel Lellingegård - a subsidiary of Vallø Stift. Facebook groups emerged disputing the name and even the Name Research Section published an article on the locality and the known names throughout history. Other naming suggestions ranged from *Borgringen ved Lellinge* to simply *Borgring* - or in a historicising form *Borrering*.

The problem was that there were a number of diverging interests in the naming squabble. Such a discovery has a huge potential for generating revenue to the local area, thus the wish for a more locally founded name. The Viking Age generates a lot of interest both in Denmark and in the rest of the world - just consider the huge Viking exhibition running in China right now.



To remedy the growing concerns over the name of the locality - and to stop the ever growing name suggestions, the Danish Agency for Culture decided to give the locality a single name form once and for all. The agency's considerations included historical names of the locality and bestowing a name which was in key with the four other known ring forts of the Viking Age: *Aggersborg*, *Fyrkat*, *Nonnebakken* and *Trelleborg*. At the same time, the agency had to tread carefully in order not to certify a name which lend too much bias towards the previously published suggestions.

The ruling of Danish Agency for Culture was to bestow the locality with the name *Borgring*, following the modern Danish spelling conventions. This decision put a stop to much of the media discussions over the name of the ring fort - although there are still a lot of lobbying for the historicising form *Borrering* going on still.

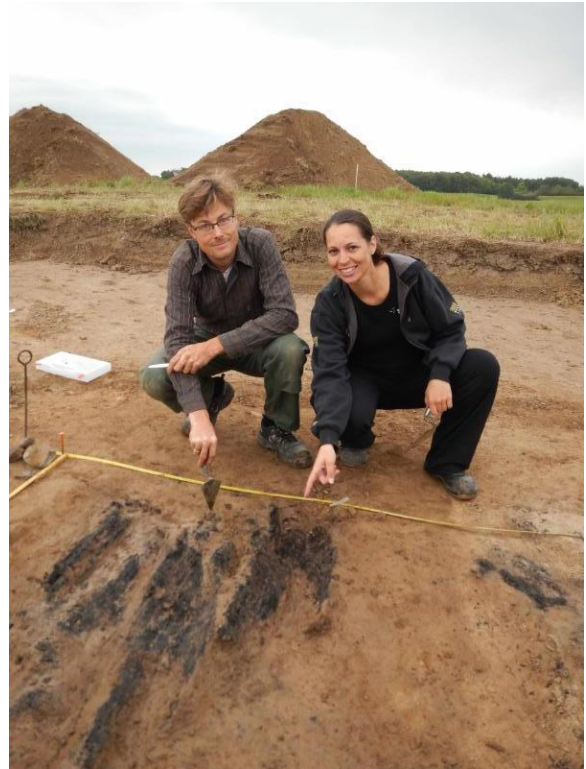
This debate and the ensuing ruling by the Danish Agency for Culture over the name of *Borgring* show how important it is to have a single, uniform name of cultural heritage localities. All we need now, is the Danish Agency for Culture bringing the matter up at the next meeting of the Danish Place-Name Commission so that the name can receive its final authorisation.

## DENMARK

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*Professor Søren Sindbæk and excavation manager Nanna Holm show their discovery to the world press. Picture courtesy of Dansk Borgcenter.*



*Aggersborg, the largest Viking-Age ring fort in Denmark*



*International Symposium on Toponymy: Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 5-7 November 2014*



Participants of the Symposium at the Opening Ceremony

A symposium on *Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage* was held in Seoul, 5-7 November 2014, organized and sponsored by the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) of the Republic of Korea. The symposium was composed of two keynote speeches, two paper sessions and one panel discussion session; 11 presentations in total:

**Keynote speeches**

- Helen KERFOOT (Natural Resources Canada): Tracing UNGEGN’s evolving interest in geographical names as cultural heritage
- William WATT (UNEGGN Chair): Getting the names right: Geographical names as intangible cultural heritage and activities of UNGEGN Working Group

**Session I: Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage: Conceptual Discussion and Practices** (Chair: CHI Sang-Hyun, Kyung Hee University)

- Staffan NYSTRÖM (University of Uppsala): Onomastic research in Scandinavia: Place-names as messages, memories and heritage
- Annette TORENSJÖ (Lantmäteriet): Good place-name practice in Sweden: Legislation and how to act as a place-name authority
- HUA Linfu (Renmin University of China): China’s toponymical influence upon Korean Peninsula during history period



Excursion at Changdeokgung (palace) in old Seoul

- SON Heuiha (Chonnam National University): The loss and transformation of meaning in Korean place names, and suggestions for its prevention
- CHOO Sungjae (Kyung Hee University): Geographical perception on place and place names as cultural heritage: The case of the Korean place names

**Session II: Cultural Politics of Toponymy** (Chair: RYU Yeon-Taek, Chungbuk National University)

- Peter KANG (National Dong Hwa University): Whose cultural heritage and in what sense? The naming of MRT station in Taiwan and the representation of urban space
- Derek ALDERMAN (University of Tennessee): Naming streets, doing justice? Politics of remembering, forgetting, and finding surrogates for African American slave heritage
- Multamia LAUDER and Allan LAUDER (University of Indonesia): A historical perspective on the study of geographical names in Indonesia
- Michel SIMEU-KAMDEM (National Institute of Cartography, Cameroon): One mountain, two geographical names: The endless dispute between the Batcha and Batchingou, West Cameroon

The symposium was followed by a half-day workshop, chaired by Annette Torensjö, convenor of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, to discuss future researches and implications for the standardization of geographical names. As a wrap-up of the symposium and workshop, a few points were made and received consensus by the participants:



- It was evaluated to be valuable to be exposed throughout the meeting to a large spectrum of toponymic issues with relevance to cultural heritage, in the context of different countries and cultures.
- Future researches on geographical names as cultural heritage may well include such topics as collection of toponyms with cultural heritage, ways of life mirrored in geographical naming, materialization of cultural elements, etc.
- UNGEGN may need to have its own specific definition of "cultural heritage" with reference to UNESCO's definition.
- An examination of the UNCSGN resolutions containing elements of cultural heritage may provide a good guidance to future directions.
- Preserving geographical names as cultural heritage

should be intimately related to activities for toponymic data files.

The three-day meeting was finished by a half-day excursion of the cultural heritage sites of old Seoul, including Changdeokgung (palace), Bukchon (traditional village) and Insa-dong (commercial area for traditional goods), and by a farewell dinner.

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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## *The Cultural Heritage of geographical names in the City of Petrópolis, Rio de Janeiro - Brazil*

The geographical names, by the understanding of their origins and motivations, allow us to establish numerous relations with the cultural, social, political, economic and natural aspects of the area they refer to. Because they are symbolic spatial forms they allow us to retrieve cultural aspects related to groups of individuals which sometime in history lived and took part in the construction of a given place. In this sense, therefore, geographical names have the ability to present the cultural heritage inherent in the place they identify.

The City of Petrópolis, located in the mountains of the State of Rio de Janeiro, is an interesting example from this perspective, since due to the particularities of its history, it keeps alive the memory of the German immigration into the region in the mid 1800s. Petrópolis is a city which was planned by the Brazilian court to be the summer residence of the imperial family. The plan for building the city began to be thought of in the second decade of the nineteenth century by Emperor Pedro I, however, it was only implemented by his son Pedro II in the 1840s by means of the Imperial Decree No. 155 of March 16, 1843. This decree, among other determinations, gave Major Koeler, a renowned German engineer known by the imperial family for important works carried out on roads in the mountainous region of Rio de Janeiro, the title of tenant and superintendent of the farm where the city would be built. Soon Koeler was responsible for the planning and execution of the so called "Plano Povoação-Palácio de Petrópolis" (The Settlement - Petrópolis Palace Project) or "Plano Koeler" (The Koeler Project).

For this venture, which also included the establishment of an agricultural colony, Koeler sought for free and qualified hand labor, which was scarce in Brazil at that time. Thus, the project stimulated, with the support of the Provincial Government, the arrival of German immigrants. This incentive combined with European social and economic conditions that favored emigration in search of better living conditions, led to the arrival of a large number of Germans to Petrópolis. Data indicate that in 1845 more than two thousand Germans from the region of the Rivers Rhine and Mosel arrived in the region.

This significant contribution of German immigrants marked the space of Petrópolis, including the geographic names adopted. This is evident from the analysis of historical cartographic documents that depict the city at the moment of its foundation.

The "Plano Koeler" organized the space into quarters and "vilas" which represented, respectively, the rural and the urban area of the city. In his first plan, two "vilas" and eleven quarters were delimited, all named. The two "vilas", the urban areas which were destined for the home of the Imperial Family, were baptized with names in Portuguese, which referred to and paid tribute to members of the court. It is noteworthy that all quarters received names of German origin, although some had been officially adopted as exonyms. The quarters are: Mosella, Westphalia, Bingen, Ingelheim, Nassau, Rhenania Inferior, Rhenania Central, Palatinato Inferior, Palatinato Superior, Castellania e Simmeria. It is also worth noticing that these names were





transplanted from Germany, meant as a tribute to the immigrants' birthplace, and aimed at establishing a historical union between their old and their new home.

It is noteworthy that in the first expansion of the city, still organized into quarters and "vilas" this characteristic of naming features with place names of German origin was maintained.

Regarding the transplanted toponyms, it is important to note that not all names have been incorporated in the way they are in the German language (endonyms). It is found that more than half of these geographical names were translated into Portuguese, producing exonyms. This conversion suffered by the transplanted names is expressed in the table below:

| Transplanted Names |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| German endonyms    | Brazilian exonyms (translation) |
| Kastellaun         | Castellania                     |
| Mosel              | Mosella                         |
| Pfalz              | Palatinato                      |
| Rheinland          | Rhenania                        |
| Simmern            | Simmeria                        |
| Westfalen          | Westphalia                      |
| Wörrstadt          | Woerstadt                       |

Table 1: Transplanted names which were translated

The translation of the mentioned geographical names proved quite surprising since, being mainly a tribute to German immigrants, there would be no reason for conducting such conversion. We raise the hypothesis that, even appearing in their written form translated into Portuguese, the Germans who lived in Petrópolis referred in their original language to the places baptized with transplanted geographical names.

However, the translation of the place names can be explained as a proper imperial request, since the city had been built to meet a specific demand of the Imperial Family and therefore, to some extent, the names should reflect their hegemony. On the other hand, language is an important cultural element, especially with regard to identity aspects, therefore, introducing these place names in the

Portuguese language would be a way to promote greater integration of immigrants and the natives, besides providing greater cohesion and making a national identity prevail.

Over the twentieth century the City of Petrópolis grew a great deal. And, since it no longer received any more significant waves of German immigrants, the initiative of attributing German names did not continue. However, although there is great integration between German descendents and those of Brazilian origins, it is still possible to observe aspects of German culture in the everyday life of the city such as the existence of a German Society, German pastry shops, traditional beer festivals, etc.

Thus, taking into consideration the inventory and analysis of the current geographical names of the City of Petrópolis, one can see that despite the division of the space in quarters no longer officially exists, they are still present in the minds and in the daily lives of individuals who live in the city. The names of the old quarters such as Mosela, Bingen, Castelânia, Siméria and Ingelheim remain alive in Petrópolis. This permanence of place names raises the idea of geographical names as linguistic fossils, i.e., the names have such capacity to identify, singularize and provide meaning to the space that even if the features they refer to or the motivation that led to the nomination eventually disappear, the toponyms may be perpetuated in time, even if associated to spatial elements with other functionality.

The permanence of these geographical names in Petrópolis maintains, in a sense, its territorial history alive in the memory of its citizens and undoubtedly evokes a collective memory and an important cultural heritage.

**BRAZIL**

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## *The valorization of the Tunisian cultural heritage*

### **Field work at « Ghar el Melh » (Tunisia), 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

During the workshop on Geographical Names, organized by the Tunisian National Centre for Mapping and Remote Sensing (CNTC) in collaboration with United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGE GN) from 12 to 16 January 2015 in Tunis, one day was devoted to the collection of geographical names in the field.

The oportunate date of 14<sup>th</sup> January, a holiday, was chosen in view of its recent history (revolution of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011), and the municipality of Ghar el Melh (Governorate of Bizerte) was chosen based on its prestigious historical heritage and its natural wealth classified since 2007 as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Convention).

The geographical names' field collection intended to meet two objectives:

1. Raise awareness among the members of the Tunisian National Committee of Toponymy about the standardization of geographical names and their possible evolution to help:
  - the conservation and coherent development of the toponymic heritage of Tunisia;
  - its distribution in both state services and general public.
2. Promote the rich cultural heritage that convey the geographical names by giving interest to:
  - the distant history of the region;
  - the monuments and vestiges of its prestigious past;
  - the tourism'activity around those places.

The required documentation noted:

- "GHAR EL MELH; LAKE EL GHAR MELH " on the national topographic map 1/25000, Sheet No. 7 (January 1984);
- "Ghar al Milh; Lake Ghar al Milh " on the map at 1/750000 of the former National Mapping and Topographic Office (OTC), update 2006;
- "*Ghar Al-Melh, a Tunisian naval base of the seventeenth century,*" title of Neji Djelloul book, published by the Ministry of National Defence, Directorate of Heritage, Information and Culture, Tunis (2012) ;
- "Ghar el Melh " on the map of Traveller's Guide, National Office of Tunisian Tourism.

The additional documentation added:

- "Ghar al Milh; بحيرة غار الملح" Lake Ghar el Melh" by Google (search of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015);
- "Ghar al Milh" by Wikipedia (search of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015);
- "GHAR EL MELH" on all road signs and hand-painted on fishing boats.

After describing the transformation of the geographical environment of the region, which gains each day field inches on the Lake and allowing new urban infrastructures that need to be named and after brushing the history of the region and outlining the economic and tourism issues of thereof, the delegate of Ghar el Melh concluded with important assets that are the places naming and the safeguarding of old names. Then, accompanied by three qualified persons of the National Heritage Institute, he gave us the honor of leading the tour.



*Guided geographical names collection*



*In front of Borj Bab Tunis*

The toponymic heritage of the region will emerge and shape depending on the geography, people's lives and their relationships with the story.

The small town of Ghar el Melh is so named because of the proximity of the salines. From Ghar "cave" and Melh "salt", the name means "salt cave".

It is located about sixty miles northeast of Tunis and nestled in a bay (forming a vast inland lake communicating with the sea through a gap) bounded by Cape Sidi Ali el Mekki. The city lies on the slopes of Jebel Ennadhour allowing you to observe the whole bay of Tunis.



It was a great defensive natural site that was exploited by the Phoenicians since 1101 BC, founding a named counter Rus Ucmona "cap of food." It will become the outer harbor of Utica (Utica meaning in Punic "old city", as opposed to Carthage "new city"), widely open to the sea by the Bay of Utica.

The movement of the mouth of the river of Mejerda silting the port, whose abandonment is final in the 6th century. At that time the lagoon was outlined with the formation of beach ridges separating the lake from the Gulf of Tunis. On the remains of the counter, at the beginning of the Muslim era, was built a fortified convent, the Ribat of Abi Saqr and a village called Ghar el Melwas born at its base.

This village, victim of the clashes between pirates, Turkish, English and Spanish, is named on European portolans and De Viviers plan (1669) "Porto Farina," after the name of a Spanish admiral. While the villagers still use the name of Ghar el Melh until today, the name Farina will be found in the name of a cape, Cape Farina, which will become the Cape Sidi Ali el Mekki whose current local nickname is the "tip of the mountain."

Taking advantage of the natural defensive cordon, the site near to Tunis and facing the sea, the Ottomans in the 17th century founded three forts whose construction is similar to the one of "castles" the forts are included today in a program of restoration and development.

From the cultural heritage and toponymic point of view, these forts are a result of the contributions of the Ottoman East, the Iberian Peninsula, Northern European and local traditions.

- The first fort, ordered in 1659, is named because of its proximity to Tunis "Borj Bab Tunis" that the people translate as "Fort Gate of Tunis", "Fort Bab Tunis" or "Borj Tunis ". It is surrounded by a moat, real close defense work, and has a single door, defended by a drawbridge. A beautiful Turkish inscription mentions the date of foundation.



This fort later took the name "Fort de la Zarite" or "Lazaret" when it became throughout the 19th century the hospital of contagious diseases that require quaranting the sick. This name is derived from St. Lazarus, patron of lepers. It was also used as a quarantine for the pilgrims returning from Mecca who must remain there for a certain time to ensure that they do not bear symptoms of contagious diseases.

- The second fort, started in 1638 and completed in 1640, is called "El Borj el Wousta", "El Borj el Woustani" or "Borj el Oustani", that people translate "median Fort" or "Fort of Middle". The monument in stone, is intended for close defense of the port; it has the shape of rectangle whose corners are flanked by bulwarks. It served as a prison and place of residence.



The 17th century saw the apogee of the Ottoman navy with the arrival of the Moors (Muslims expelled from Spain) and of English and Dutch pirates, whose navy technical skills were undeniable. The military role of the fort was increased with an arsenal of ships, designed for galleons and other high-aboard vessels. The naval base was active until 1820, at which time the silting of the lagoon was the cause of its disappearance.

- After the English attack in 1653, a third fort was built and completed in 1659 as confirmed by the beautiful Turkish inscription surmounting the door dated 1070 AH (1659). The fort is known as "Borj el Loutani", which means "the Fort below", close to the port. The port was named "Mina el Kachla" (literally "the port of the barrack"), the fort was given the name of "Borj el Kachla" or "Fort el Kachla", from the word "Kishla" of Turkish origin meaning "barrack".

The Ottomans employing the Andalusian labor of the village, the fortress bears marks, which are recognized by the defense system of double doors or "harrow" that served as cannons damper.

In 1962, the fort became a prison where were imprisoned some opponents of the regime of the 1st President of the Republic of Tunisia, late Habib Bourguiba. On the 1/25,000 scale map (1984 edition), the port and the fort have no name, only the designations of "Old Turkish port" and "Old prison."



Since 2013, housing the museum Dar el Bouhaira "the lake house," the fort took as official name "Borj Sidi Ali el Mekki," according to the National Office of Tourism.

The official selection of the name of the third fort, Borj Sidi Ali el Mekki, is not due to chance. It joins the history and the beginning of the Muslim era where the Sufi fighter, Ali el Mekki, founded a zaouia which means an oratory at East of Ghar el Melh. The Zaouia Sidi Ali el Mekki was one of the 1500 cultural and defensive posts, created around the saints, which marked the Tunisian coast. Today, his fame is always great and the people dedicate to this saint great fervor. The sanctuary is built on the side of Jbel Dimna, facing the sea and overlooking the beach, nowadays nicely frequented by tourists. The locals call it "the Beach" but it has no name on the map at 1/25,000 scale and tourists have difficulty to find it ; they seek long for the beach. Should it be called "Plage Sidi Ali el Mekki" ?



We all agree about the benefit of a place name and the treasure it contains ...

In addition to the geography and history, the component 'languages' is part of the toponymic heritage landscape of Tunisia: Arabic, the official language in Tunisia and French, a commonly spoken language, are intimately linked.

While walking in the small town, we note the street names, registered on the street signs, such as:

- نوح لبنان translated into French "Rue du Liban";
- ميناء الشهيد بشير بن الرايس translated into French and transliterated into Latin letters "PORT DU MARTYR BECHIR B. RAIES", where the writing in capital letter omits the accents, where B. abbreviation is ambiguous and where the transliteration meets the Tunisian uses.

It is noted that B. is an abbreviation, it would be good to standardize because a person who does not read Arabic ignores if B. stands for "Ben" meaning (son) or "Bou" meaning (father) or anything else.



Road signs in Arabic and French transcriptions

The valorisation of a national toponymic heritage is by harmonizing customs and good practice of typography (use of uppercase, lowercase, accents, dash, etc.) and by the choice of a standardized transliteration system that combines the achievements of an international Arab system while respecting our own national linguistic traditions.

The collection of geographical names allowed everyone to realize that a geographical name - a toponym - is a discrete witness of the national cultural heritage that needs to be conserved and saved in good conditions in order to raise its profile.

## TUNISIA

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## La valorisation du patrimoine culturel de la Tunisie

### Mission de terrain à « Ghar el Melh » (Tunisie), 14 Janvier 2015

Lors de l'atelier sur les noms géographiques, organisé par le Centre National de la Cartographie et de la Télédétection (CNTC) de Tunisie en collaboration avec la Division des Statistiques de L'ONU (UNSD) et le Groupe d'Experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques (GENUNG), en janvier 2015 à Tunis, une journée fut consacrée à une initiation à la collecte des noms géographiques sur le terrain.

La date opportune du 14 janvier, jour férié, fut retenue au vu de son importance historique récente (2011), et la municipalité de Ghar el Melh (gouvernorat de Bizerte) fut choisie en fonction de son prestigieux patrimoine historique et de sa richesse naturelle classée depuis 2007 comme zone humide d'importance internationale (Convention de Ramsar). La collecte des noms géographiques sur le terrain répondait à deux objectifs :

1. Sensibiliser les membres de la Commission Nationale de Toponymie (CNT) de Tunisie à la normalisation des écritures des noms géographiques et de leur éventuelle évolution pour contribuer à :
  - la conservation et au développement cohérent du patrimoine toponymique de la Tunisie ;
  - sa diffusion aussi bien dans les services de l'État que vers le grand public.
2. Valoriser le riche patrimoine culturel que véhiculent les noms géographiques en s'intéressant :
  - à l'histoire lointaine de la région ;
  - aux monuments et aux vestiges de ce passé prestigieux ;
  - à l'activité touristique moderne autour de ces lieux.

La documentation requise notait :

- « GHAR EL MELH ; LAC DE GHAR EL MELH », sur la carte topographique nationale au 1/25000, feuille n° 7 (janvier 1984) ;
- « Ghar El Melh; Lac de Ghar El Melh » sur la carte routière au 1/750000 de l'ancien Office de la Topographie et de la Cartographie (OTC), mise à jour 2006 ;
- « *Ghar Al-Melh, une base navale tunisienne du XVII<sup>ème</sup> siècle* », titre de l'ouvrage de Neji Djelloul, édité par le Ministère de la Défense Nationale, Direction du Patrimoine de l'Information et de la Culture, Tunis (2012) ;
- « Ghar el Melh » sur la carte du Guide du voyageur, Office National du Tourisme Tunisien.

Le complément de documentation ajoutait :

- غار الملح « Ghar al Milh ; بحيرة غار الملح Lake Ghar el Melh » par Google (consulté le 14 janvier 2015) ;
- غار الملح « Ghar El Melh » par Wikipédia (consulté le 14 janvier 2015) ;

- غار الملح « GHAR EL MELH » sur l'ensemble de la signalétique routière et peints à la main sur des bateaux de pêche.

Après avoir décrit la transformation de l'environnement géographique de la région qui gagne naturellement chaque jour sur le lac permettant à des infrastructures urbaines qui ont besoin d'être nommées et après avoir brossé l'histoire de la région et donné un aperçu sur les enjeux de ses activités économiques et touristiques, Monsieur le Délégué de Ghar el Melh conclut sur les atouts importants que sont la dénomination des noms et la sauvegarde des noms anciens. Puis accompagné de trois personnes qualifiées de l'Institut National du Patrimoine, il nous a fait l'honneur de conduire la visite.



Collecte guidée des noms géographiques



Devant Borj Bab Tunis

Le patrimoine toponymique de la région va naître et se modeler en fonction de la géographie, de la vie des habitants et de leurs relations avec l'histoire.

La petite ville de Ghar el Melh se nomme ainsi du fait de la proximité de salines. De *ghar* « grotte » et *melh* « sel », le nom signifie « grotte du sel ».

Elle est située à une soixantaine de kms au nord-est de Tunis et nichée au fond d'une baie (formant un vaste lac navigable communiquant avec la mer par une trouée) délimitée par le Cap Sidi Ali el Mekki. La ville s'étend sur le flanc du Jbel



Ennadhour qui permet d'observer toute la rade de Tunis.

C'était un formidable site naturel défensif que vont exploiter les Phéniciens dès 1101 avant J.-C., en fondant un comptoir nommé *Rus Ucmona* « cap de vivres ». Il deviendra l'avant-port d'Utique, ou *Utica* (signifiant en punique « ville ancienne », opposée à Carthage « ville nouvelle »), largement ouvert sur le large par la baie d'Utique.

Le déplacement de l'embouchure de l'oued Mejerda ensable le port dont l'abandon est définitif au VI<sup>e</sup> siècle. À cette époque s'ébauche la lagune avec la formation de cordons littoraux séparant le lac du golfe de Tunis. Sur les restes du comptoir, au début de l'époque musulmane, s'édifie un couvent fortifié le ribat d'Abi Saqr, et une bourgade s'organise à son pied en prenant le nom de Ghar el Melh.

Ce village, victime des affrontements entre pirates, Turcs, Anglais et Espagnols, est dénommé sur les portulans européens et un plan de De Viviers (1669), « Porto Farina », d'après le nom d'un amiral espagnol. Tandis que les villageois utilisent toujours le nom de Ghar el Melh, et ce jusqu'à nos jours, le nom de Farina va se retrouver dans le nom d'un cap, le Cap Farina, qui deviendra le Cap Sidi Ali el Mekki, dont le surnom local actuel est le « bout de la montagne ».

Profitant du cordon naturel défensif, du site proche de Tunis et face à la mer, les Ottomans du XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle fondèrent trois forts dont la construction rappelle celle des « châteaux-forts ». Ces forts sont aujourd'hui inclus dans un programme de restauration et de mise en valeur.

Du point de vue patrimonial culturel et toponymique, ces forts constituent une synthèse des apports de l'Orient Ottoman, de la Péninsule Ibérique, des Européens du Nord et des traditions locales.

- Le premier fort, ordonné en 1659, est nommé en raison de sa proximité avec Tunis, *Borj Bab Tunis* que les habitants traduisent par « Fort Porte de Tunis », « Fort Bab Tunis » ou « Borj Tunis ». Il est entouré d'un fossé, véritable ouvrage de défense rapprochée, et possède une seule porte d'entrée, défendue par un pont-levis. Une très belle inscription turque mentionne la date de fondation.



Ce fort prit par la suite le nom de « Fort de la Zarite » ou « Lazaret » quand il devint durant tout le

XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle l'hôpital des maladies contagieuses qui nécessitaient la mise en quarantaine des malades. Ce nom est tiré de saint Lazare, patron des lèpreux). Aussi fut-il utilisé comme quarantaine pour les pèlerins qui, revenant de la Mecque, devaient y demeurer une période suffisante pour s'assurer qu'ils ne portent pas les symptômes des maladies contagieuses.

- Le deuxième fort, commencé en 1638 et achevé en 1640, se nomme *El Borj el Wousta*, *El Borj el Woustani* ou *Borj el Oustani*, que les habitants traduisent par « Fort médian » ou « Fort du Milieu ». Le monument, en pierre de taille, est destiné à la défense rapprochée du port ; il est en forme de rectangle dont les angles sont flanqués de bastions. Il servit de prison, puis de lieu d'habitation.



Le XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle vit l'apogée de la marine ottomane avec l'arrivée des Morisques (musulmans chassés d'Espagne) et de pirates anglais et hollandais, dont les compétences techniques en matière de marine étaient indéniables. Le rôle militaire du fort s'est accru d'un arsenal de navires, destiné aux galions et autres vaisseaux de haut-bord. Cette base navale fut active jusqu'en 1820, date où l'ensablement de la lagune lui fut fatal.

- Après l'attaque anglaise en 1653, un troisième fort est érigé, et achevé en 1659 comme le confirme la très belle inscription turque surmontant la porte d'entrée datée de 1070 de l'hégire (1659). Le fort est connu sous le nom de *Borj el Loutani*, c'est-à-dire « le Fort d'en bas », à proximité immédiate du port.

Comme le port se nommait *Mina el Kachla* (littéralement « le port de la caserne »), le fort reçut l'appellation de *Borj el Kachla* soit « Fort el Kachla », du mot *kachla*, d'origine turque signifiant « caserne ».

Les Ottomans employant la main d'œuvre andalouse du village, la forteresse en porte des traces, que l'on reconnaît par le système défensif de double porte ou « herse » qui servait d'amortisseur à canons.

En 1962, le fort devint un bagne où furent incarcérés certains opposants au régime de 1<sup>er</sup> président de la République Tunisienne, feu Habib Bourguiba. Sur la carte au 1/25000 (édition 1984), le port et le fort n'ont pas de nom, seulement les désignations d'« Ancien port turc » et « Ancien bagne ».



Depuis 2013, abritant le musée *Dar el Bouhaira* « la maison du lac », le fort a pris pour nom officiel de « Borj Sidi Ali el Mekki », d'après l'Office National du Tourisme.

Le choix officiel du nom du troisième fort, Borj Sidi Ali el Mekki, n'est pas dû au hasard. Il rejoint l'histoire et le début de l'époque musulmane où le soufi combattant, Ali el Mekki, fonda une zaouia, c'est-à-dire un oratoire, à l'est de Ghar el Melh. La zaouia Sidi Ali el Mekki était un des 1500 postes culturels et défensifs, créés autour des saints, qui jalonnaient la côte tunisienne. Aujourd'hui, sa renommée est toujours aussi grande et la population voue à ce saint une grande ferveur. Le sanctuaire est édifié sur le flanc du Jbel Dimna face à la mer, dominant une plage aujourd'hui joliment fréquentée par les touristes. Les habitants l'appellent « la Plage », mais elle n'a pas de nom sur la carte au 1/25000 et les touristes ont du mal à la trouver ; ils cherchent longtemps la plage. Devrait-elle s'appeler « plage Sidi Ali el Mekki » ?



Nous convenons tous du bienfait d'un nom de lieu et du trésor qu'il renferme...

Outre la géographie et l'histoire, la composante « langues » fait partie du paysage patrimonial toponymique de la Tunisie : l'arabe, la langue officielle en Tunisie et le français, une langue couramment parlée, sont intimement liées.

En nous promenant dans la petite ville, nous relevons des ononymes, inscrits sur les plaques de rue, tels :

- نهج لبنان traduit en français « rue du Liban » ;
- نهج الشهيد بشير بن الرايس translittéré en lettres latines « Port du martyr Bechir B. Raies », où l'écriture en capitale omet les accents, où l'abréviation B. est ambiguë et où la translittération respecte les usages tunisiens.

Notons que B. est une abréviation qu'il serait bon de normaliser car une personne ne lisant pas l'arabe ignore qu'il s'agit du B. de *Ben* « fils », et pourrait supposer le B. de *Bou* « père » ou tout autre chose.



Transcriptions en arabe et en français sur des panneaux de signalisation

La valorisation d'un patrimoine toponymique national s'effectue par l'harmonisation des usages et de la bonne pratique de la typographie (emploi des majuscules, minuscules, accents, trait d'union, etc.) et par le choix d'un système normalisé de translittération qui allie les acquis d'un système international arabe tout en respectant les propres traditions linguistiques nationales.

La collecte des noms géographiques a permis à chacun de se rendre compte qu'un nom géographique – un toponyme – est un témoin discret du patrimoine culturel national, qu'il est à conserver et à sauvegarder dans de bonnes conditions, afin de le faire rayonner.

## TUNISIA

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### Geographical Name as Cultural Heritage

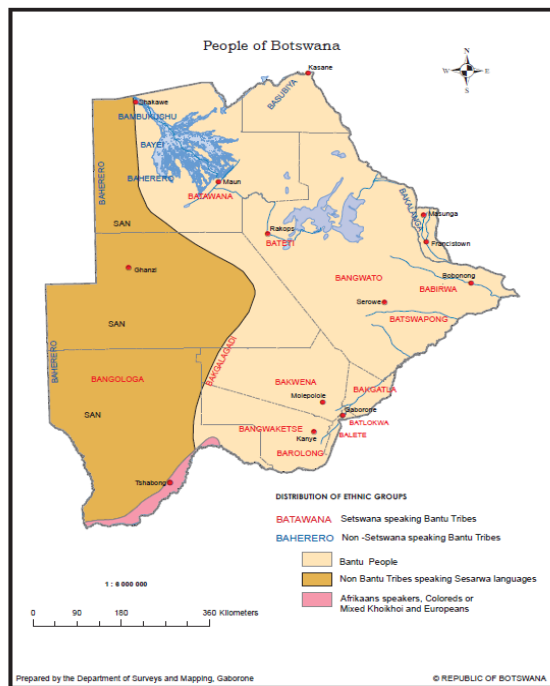
Geographical Place Names in Botswana reflect the languages spoken in the country, with reference to about eighty (80) dialects. The derivation of these names signifies the historical events, the languages and history behind these names form one basis of Botswana’s Culture and Heritage. Most of the names in all the regions of Botswana have maintained cultural background despite the different dialects.

Examples Of Some Botswana Names Derived From The Eighty Dialects.

| NAME                | LOCATION            | DESCRIPTION   | LANGUAGE   | INTERPRETATION/ MEANING   |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------|---|
| 1. Kachikau         | Chobe District      | Village       | Batawana   | Original name was 'Sekao" referred to a lady chief of the village. Other pronounced the name Chikau" Misinterpreted by different dialect or languages spoken in the area ie Barotsi, Basarwa, Basubia |
| 2. Palapye          | Central District    | Village/ Hill | Bangwato   | Different dialects from Kgalagadi, Kalanga languages eg, Phalatswe-The whistle of an impala;(Kgalagadi)<br>Palabgwe scatch the rock (Kalanga)   |
| 3. Sehitwa          | Ngamiland District  | Village       | Baherero   | "Originally 'Tjihitwa a place where people used to gather for meetings.   |
| 4. Maun             | Ngamiland District  | Major village | Bayei      | The place of reeds. Originally called "Maung" (Yei)   |
| 5. Ghanzi           | Ghanzi District     | Town          | Khoesan    | A musical instrument – one string violin  |
| 6. Tsabong/Tshabong | Kgalagadi District  | Village       | Batlhaping | "From where the people fled   |
| 7. Francistown      | North east District | Town          | English    | Named after Daniel Francis a prospector and miner, 1840-1920.   |

**NB:** Most names indicated on this table bare some historical and cultural background. The ethnic groups in those areas at times misinterpreted these names from their origin

Although the Botswana Place Names Commission has not been functional for some years, plans are underway to resuscitate the Commission so that these names can be documented and preserved.



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## *Preserving and promoting the historical-cultural value of geographical names from the perspective of geographical name standardization in Viet Nam*

### **ABSTRACT**

Every place name has its own formation history, so that it contains a lot of information about history and ecology of the region, reflecting the characteristics of culture and psychology of the communities in which it appears. The paper addresses an overview of the historical-cultural value of Vietnamese place names and the need to preserve and promote this value in the economical integration and development, as well as proposing the need for adequate attention to the conservation and promotion of this value in standardization of geographical names by establishment of the National Committee of Viet Nam on Geographic Names.

### **1. The general concept**

Any country in the world has its own geographical location and its history. Today, place names - the geographical names had become a subject of research by scientists in terms of language, history, and culture ... Because place names contain much information about history and ecology of the region, they reflect the characteristics of cultural and community psychology.

Geographical names and language have a dialectical relationship with each other. They are both a form of expression and there exist a formation method quite special of the language. Therefore, geographical names can be considered as a kind of historical evidence for the study of history of formation and development of vocabulary in particular and of the language in general.

It is not coincidentally that people said geographical names are "fossils", "monument" or "stele" by the language which concerned about what era it was created. Because every place name usually is associated with the historical and cultural - social conditions and natural environment in place to form identity (cultural) of the nation, ie unique distinctions in the culture of an ethnic community. Therefore every geographical name more or less contain a historical-cultural value, ie the cultural significance in relation to the events, people, things have been happened in the past.

Geographical names could be considered as valuable intangible cultural heritage and extremely close to us, but we have not yet paid enough attention to take care of them, and there are even some cases were geographical names have been rudely treated.

### **2. Historical value of geographical names**

As we all know, geographical name are formed under certain historical, geographical conditions. Therefore, the majority of geographical names are marked by the

environment, and the era when it was born. Most popular geographical names often named, based on the characteristics of the land as topography, ecology, physical characteristics, typical architecture, natural phenomena ... or human activities in the time it appeared. Thus, through geographical names, we can learn about geography, society, construction, history and culture of a region or country.

Geographical names are not only addresses, but they are also often the keyword to the legends, historical sites of the nation. In this sense, geographical names are linked to the classic reference. Hon Phu Tu (*island of Father and Son*), Tan Vien (*linked to the legend of Tan Vien mountain*), Ho Nui Coc (*linked to Nui Coc legend*), Thanh Co Loa (*linked to the legend of citadel Co Loa*), Bach Dang (*linked to the Bach Dang battle*), Chuong Duong (*linked to the Chuong Duong battle*), Dien Bien Phu (*linked to the Dien Bien Phu battle*)... the names associated with the formation area, say many things about the past history of the community and of the nation.

Geographical names are also interesting documents of historical linguistics in particular. Because each of the place names was created at a certain historical moment. For example, the name Cho Lon (*Grand Bazaar*) was bestowed in the early 19th century, associated with the development of the commercial area of the town's busiest in South at that time, the name of the ancient city of Hanoi: Hang Co (*street of grass*), Hang Ga (*street of chicken*), Hang Bot (*street of powder*), Hang Bun (*street of noodle*), Hang Than (*street of coal*) ... associated with the formation of the ancient Citadel Thang Long capital where traders held their market and flourished in the past. Geographical names sometimes help us to discover a surprise of history from which we can find clues or more fully understand the details of the historical process.

### **3. Cultural value of geographical names**

A geographical name is the result of a conscious (including mind, emotional, spiritual) imprint of real life through human activity, is the basis for forming material and intangible culture. It is the abstract but real (known through the evaluation and assessment of the people, the basis of the level of education of each person).



*Firstly, geographical names clearly express the identity of the regions.* For example, geographical names with elements "Nam" (water), as Nam Rom, Nam Tha, Nam Nhum ... let us know that we are in the Northwest, geographical names with elements "Dak" (also means water) as Dak Lak, Dak, Dak Nong, Dak Tuar ... tells us that these names are from the Central Highlands.

Similarly, geographical names with elements "Cai", as Cai Be, Cai Rang, Cai Mon, Cai Von ... let us know that we are now in the South. There are also geographical names with elements "Ke", as Ke Noi, Ke Sat, Ke Bang, Ke Go... these are ancient geographical names, only located in the North and North Central...

*Secondly, geographical names also have artistic value.* From time to time geographical names are tied to the fate of many people, thanks to the talents of so many known and unknown artists, geographical names went to folk tales, folk music, to drama, poetry, short stories, sub theory, songs, movies ..., became an integral part of the artwork. The folk poem of the ancient capital Thang Long (now Hanoi) is an example:

*Invite the friends go around Thang Long  
Thirty-six streets are very clear  
Hang Bo, Hang Bac, Hang Gai (names of the streets)  
Hang Bo, Hang Thiec, Hang Bai, Hang Khay ...  
(names of the streets)*

*Thirdly, many geographical names have linguistic value.* Many geographical names have stored in them traces of linguistic rules and phenomena of ancient languages, which could be considered as fossil of the language.

Geographical names are composed of phonetic units, subject to the effects of phonological rules. Many Vietnamese geographical names today are the results of the changing pronunciation process from pronunciation place names in the past as: Xom Chi, in the past was Xom Tri; Ba Mon (formerly Bau Mon) in Ho Chi Minh City; Nam O (formerly Nam O - *difference phonetic*) in Da Nang ....

Geographical names are also subjects to the study of local linguistics. Because they are products of local people, tied with the words and the voice of each region or locality. In Vietnamese place names, we can find the local words such as Cu Lao Chuong, Ho Ba Kieng, (*Lake Ba Kieng*), Song Chat Chat (*Local phonetic names in Quang Tri province*); Rong Nuoc Ngot, Ngoeo Giang Xay, Cau Truong Tien (*local phonetic in Hue*), Bau Chep, Ru Cam, Dong Troot, Dong Trua (*local names with local phonetic in Dong Hoi –Quang Binh Province*)... In fact geographical names have close relationships with many aspects of social life (language, culture, art, economics, society, travel, etc.). In other words, these

are factors which make geographical names having certain cultural values.

#### **4. Preserving and promoting the historical - cultural value of geographical names in the integration and development**

If the historical - cultural value of geographical names is present, this value needs to be preserved and, promoted. The preservation of geographical names, their dissemination, propagation and education of their historical - cultural significance can be done through different forms of media, education of history, propagation of geographical name information, tourism promotion, etc., is very important.

It has been shown that, in many countries around the world as well as in many places of Viet Nam tourism activities based on the exploitation and promotion of the historical - cultural value of the geographical names associated with monuments, heritage, specialty were an important way of introducing and honoring the local and national culture very efficiently, while providing significant economic value to the local community. Each place shown through tourism as a "destination" will be "hyphen" between the past and the present, between the local to the world and vice versa.

In summary, geographical names, as analyzed above, which are not only the names but can also be monuments and, heritage, are special having a historical nature as well as deep cultural nature. Therefore exploiting and promoting the value of geographical names as preserving the national cultural identity in general and economic development, tourism development following oriented sustainable development in particular have to start from the interest of preservation and promotion of historical and cultural values of geographical names.

#### **5. Recommendations on preservation and promotion of the historical - cultural value of geographical names from the perspective of geographical name standardization.**

Preserving the historical and cultural value of geographical names is a matter of concern in geographical name use and standardization. Geographical names partly represent a political and partly management cultural attitude of the regimes' administration. Under French colonial rule, government renamed the streets of Hanoi into French names, such as Hang Trong to Jules Ferry, Hang Khay to Paul Bert, Hang Chuoi to Beylier...

Some other street names have been translated into French, as Hang Quat (Eventails), Hang Dau (Graines),



Hang Chinh (Vases), Hang Bong (Coton), Hang Duong (Rue de Sucre), Hang Than (Charbon)...

After the Japanese over threw France (03/09/1945), Dr. Tran Van Lai (1894-1975) was appointed as Director of the Hanoi (ie Mayor) under the government of Tran Trong Kim. As a patriot, being just one month in office (from 20/07/1945 till August Revolution) he did much important work, including the demolition of the French colonial statue and renaming the streets of Hanoi. The street names associated with the ancient villages of Thang Long had been restored to the old names, and streets of French names (or also called West names) were replaced by the names of heroes and, celebrities of Viet Nam, Boulevard Carnot was changed to Phan Dinh Phung street, Boulevard Gambetta was renamed by Tran Hung Dao street ....

Numerous of people fully agreed with the Hanoi naming and renaming efforts by doctor Tran Van Lai, and so far many people still praise of this. However, not every governor can have the same vision. Many times, we have decided in a hurry, and not convincingly, such as renaming the park Thong Nhat to park Lenin, only some time later to revert back to the old name. Many famous old place names in many localities have been replaced by new names through the stages of development such as Tu Dong changed to To Dan Pho 6 (*Locality number 6*), Tam Tay changed to To Dan Pho 15 (*Locality number 15*)... in Hue city; Dong Hoang changed to Khu Pho 10 (*Quarter number 10*), Dinh To to Khu Pho 6 (*Quarter number 6*) ... in Quang Tri province. And there are many names like Dong Tam, Thang loi, Quyet Tien, Thanh Cong.... which have been replaced the old geographical names in other areas of were replaced by the names of heroes and, celebrities of Viet Nam. This is a sad fact showing a lack of understanding and interest in the preservation and promotion of historical cultural value of geographical names.

So far, there is no National Committee on Geographical Names in were replaced by the names of heroes and, celebrities of Viet Nam. In order to implement the resolutions of the United Nations on geographical name standardization, the Vietnamese government has currently assigned the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to implement the standardizing of geographical names shown on maps. However, this is only a part of the standardization of geographical names in accordance with its adequate meaning, because the Department of Survey and Mapping were replaced by the names of heroes and, celebrities of Viet Nam (*the agency under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has a function to standardize geographical names showed on the maps*) just based mainly on the current used geographical names on maps, and cooperating with linguistic experts to standardize just these map names. The larger and deeper issues besides this work, have in

fact not been found to be interesting, such as identifying the origin of the geographical names, investigating the process of use and change of the names and from this, decide on how to correct, adjust, change or create the new names, following the unified principles in order ensure to preserve the historical - cultural value of geographical names.

The related work mentioned above only can be done by a national interdisciplinary organization on geographical names such as the National Committee on Geographical Names. A National Committee on Geographical Names should include experts from the field of mapping, geography, language, culture, history and ethnography. This would help build and provide uniform rules for the implementation of geographical name standardization, uniformly handling adjustments, changing and creating the new names located throughout the country--based on which geographical names will be standardized in accordance with its adequate meaning and the geographical names historical-cultural value will be preserved and promoted.

To end this small article, the author would like the Government of Viet Nam to decide soon to establish the National Committee on Geographical Names in order to handle current problems of geographical names, to ensure an accurate, consistent standardization and use of geographical names, including the adjustment, changing, and coining of new names, to preserve and promote the historical-cultural values of the geographical names meeting the needs of integration and development.

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## VIET NAM

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## From the Divisions

### Romano-Hellenic Division



*Florence [Firenze], Italy, International scientific symposium Place Names as Intangible Cultural Heritage: group photo of the participants in the garden of Italian Army Unified Circle in Florence (Photo: Faiazza, IGMI, 2015);*



*Florence [Firenze], Italy, meeting of the Romano-Hellenic Division: group photo of the participants in the Attilio Mori Library, Italian Geographic Military Institute (Photo: Faiazza, IGMI, 2015).*

#### **United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Romano-Hellenic Division**

#### **International scientific symposium "Place Names as Intangible Cultural Heritage" Florence [Firenze] – Italy, 26 - 27 March 2015**

The Romano-Hellenic Division (RHD) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGN) organized the International scientific symposium "Place Names as Intangible Cultural Heritage" that was held in Italy, in conjunction with its divisional meeting, under the auspices of the Accademia della Crusca, the Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Government of the Tuscany Region. The International scientific symposium took place in Florence [Firenze], from 26 - 27 March 2015 and was hosted by the Italian Geographic Military Institute.

Twenty experts on geographical names: linguists, historians, geographers, planners and cartographers from Austria, Canada, Cyprus, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Sweden contributed to the symposium. They included representatives of the UNGEGN Romano-Hellenic Division

and the French-speaking Division, UNGEGN Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, IGU Commission / ICA Working Group on Toponymy, Accademia della Crusca, Accademia dei Lincei, Italian Society for Geographical Studies, Italian Centre for Historical-Geographical Studies and other prestigious Italian Universities.

Papers highlighted the efforts of the United Nations in national and international standardization of place names, the importance of the geographical names in safeguarding and preserving heritage, the relationship between historical maps and toponymy, *genius loci* and identity, etymological studies, vernacular place names, new toponyms, toponymy and landscape, the recent historical toponymic database of Tuscany Region and the role of Geographical Names Authorities for the preservation of toponymic heritage. It is planned to make the collection of papers available later this year.

Participants appreciated very much the subjects of discussion and in particular they stressed the fundamental role of the National Names Authorities in preserving



toponymic heritage, and at the end of the symposium, they unanimously approved the following motion:

"On the occasion of the International scientific symposium Place Names as Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Florence [Firenze] from 26 - 27 March 2015, organized by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Romano-Hellenic Division, under the auspices of the Accademia della Crusca, Italian Geographic Military Institute and Tuscany Region, the participants exhort Italy to reactivate its National Geographical Names Authority, as recommended by the relative UN resolutions, and they hope that each Region of Italy will create their Regional Geographical Names Authorities, in cooperation with the National Geographical Names Authority".

List of papers in chronological order:

#### First session: Prolegomena

- Andrea Cantile, Chair of the UNGEGN Romano-Hellenic Division (Italy)  
*Place names as intangible cultural heritage: introduction to the symposium.*
- Helen Kerfoot, Honorary Chair of the UNGEGN (Canada)  
*UNEGGN, National Names Authorities and the preservation of toponymic heritage.*
- Peter Jordan, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Convenor, UNGEGN WG on Exonyms (Austria)  
*Geographical names as part of the cultural heritage – some general thoughts.*

#### Presentation of the Tuscany Region

- Maurizio Trevisani and Umberto Sassoli, Tuscan Regional Ministry for Spatial Planning and Landscape (Italy)  
*Place names of Tuscany. From the cartographic sources to diachronic database.*

#### Second session: Genius loci, identity, safeguard and preservation of the place names

- Cosimo Palagiano, Emeritus professor of the "Sapienza" University of Rome, Accademia dei Lincei (Italy)  
*Genius loci and identity.*
- Enzo Caffarelli, University of Roma Tor Vergata (Italy)  
*The place name in the complexity of transonymic processes. A cultural-historical heritage to be safeguarded and preserved beyond its primary referentiality.*
- Alberto Nocentini, University of Florence, Accademia della Crusca (Italy)  
*Toponymy as source of (pre)history: our oldest river names.*

- Elena Dai Prà, University of Trento, Italian Centre for Historical-Geographical Studies (Italy)  
*Territoriality and toponyms. Borders and bordering in Trentino historical maps.*

#### Third session: Place names standardization and cultural heritage

- Leif Nilsson and Annette Torenstjör, Co-convenors, UNGEGN WG on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage (Sweden)  
*Place-names as intangible cultural heritage - the example of Sweden.*
- Élisabeth Calvarin, UNGEGN, Chair of UNGEGN French-Speaking Division (France)  
*The toponymic heritage of Ile-de-France through public transport.*
- Marta Montilla Lillo, Instituto Geográfico Nacional (Spain)  
*Situation and developments in the standardization of geographical names in Spain.*
- Andreas Hadjiraftis, President of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (Cyprus)  
*Toponymic Standardization in Cyprus, Geographical Names - Intangible Cultural Heritage.*

#### Fourth session: Historical and geographical point of view

- Laura Cassi, University of Florence, Society for Geographical Studies (Italy)  
*Geographical aspects of place names research. An overview.*
- Giuliana Biagioli, University of Pisa (Italy)  
*A cultural heritage: Toponymy in Tuscany. A historical, geographical and linguistic enquiry with GIS support.*
- Matteo Massarelli, University of Florence (Italy)  
*Cultural heritage and landscape in Tuscan toponymy with special reference to the West Coast.*
- Nicola Gabellieri, University of Genova (Italy)  
*A changing identity: from an agrarian and manufacturing region to a multi-function territory.*
- Stefano Piastra, University of Bologna (Italy)  
*The Projection Overseas of a Toponym. The Placename 'Ravenna' in the USA.*
- Alessandro Camiz, Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)  
*On the origin and persistence of praedial toponyms in Central Italy.*
- Furio Ciciliot, Savonese Society of National History (Italy)  
*The Historical Toponymy Project: materials for studying a territory.*
- Graziano Ferrari and Gabriele Tarabusi, National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, and Nicola di Novella, Naturalist (Italy)  
*A territory speaking as people: the dialects in place names.*



- Andrea Masturzo, University of Bergamo (Italy)  
*Cartography and toponymy: the denomination of the African territory in Italian colonial experience.*

The Scientific Committee of the symposium was composed of:

- Andrea Cantile, Chair of the UNGEGN Romano-Hellenic Division (Italy);
- Élisabeth Calvarin, Chair of the UNGEGN French-speaking Division (France);
- Laura Cassi, University of Florence, Society for Geographical Studies (Italy);
- Peter Jordan, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms (Austria);
- Helen Kerfoot, Emeritus Scientist Natural Resources Canada, Honorary Chair of the UNGEGN (Canada);
- Leif Nilsson, Uppsala University, Co-Convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural

Heritage (Sweden);

- Alberto Nocentini, University of Florence, Accademia della Crusca (Italy);
- Cosimo Palagiano, Emeritus Professor of the Sapienza - University of Rome, Accademia dei Lincei (Italy);
- Annette C. Torensjö, Lantmäteriet, Co-Convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage (Sweden).

#### **Andrea Cantile**

Chair of Romano-Hellenic Division

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## Division francophone

Forté de ses travaux antérieurs, menés essentiellement par le Québec (Canada) et la France, la division francophone a tenu une réunion en marge de la 28e session du Groupe d'experts des Nations unies pour les noms géographiques (GENUNG) à New York le 30 avril 2014.

Les nombreux participants ont décidé de faire en sorte que la Francophonie participe davantage aux travaux de la Division. Pour ce faire, le bureau a été restructuré autour de la Francophonie, notamment en confiant le secrétariat au Burkina Faso et la vice-présidence au Cameroun, pays qui se voit confier également la responsabilité du Bulletin de liaison de la Division.

Au titre des acquis de la division après la mise en place du nouveau bureau, nous pouvons saluer avec sympathie la sortie du Bulletin d'information toponymique n° 8 le 8 janvier 2015. Ce bulletin est ouvert à tous et toute participation est vivement encouragée. Les contributions et articles peuvent être envoyés à l'adresse suivante < [sodziwa@gmail.com](mailto:sodziwa@gmail.com) >

En outre, depuis la parution du dernier Bulletin, des membres de la Division ont participé à des rencontres internationales :

- l'atelier sur les Noms géographiques, organisé par le Centre national de la cartographie et de la télédétection (CNCT) en collaboration avec le groupe de travail « Formation » du GENUNG, à

Tunis (Tunisie) du 12 au 16 janvier 2015 ;

- la réunion de la division romano-hellénique du GENUNG et le symposium scientifique international sur les Noms de lieux comme Patrimoine culturel immatériel, organisés par l'institut géographique militaire italien (IGMI), à Florence (Italie) du 25 au 27 mars 2015.

Enfin, des actions sont actuellement menées par le Bureau pour élaborer une image du processus de gestion toponymique dans les pays francophones. Pour que l'expérience de chacun puisse bénéficier à tous et que cette approche particulièrement intéressante puisse continuer, chaque pays francophone ou francophile est invité à faire connaître l'activité de son autorité toponymique nationale ou de son organisme responsable de la toponymie, en contactant le secrétaire de la Division à l'adresse suivante < [oi\\_sanon@yahoo.fr](mailto:oi_sanon@yahoo.fr) >

#### **Élisabeth Calvarin**

Présidente de la division francophone

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Latin America Division



**Xxiv Curso Internacional De Nombres Geográficos "José Joaquín Hungría Morell"**

Los nombres geográficos surgen como una necesidad del hombre de identificar todos los elementos que lo rodean, los nombres ayudan a la orientación y en ocasiones caracterizan los valores culturales de los habitantes del lugar y/o región, por lo general los habitantes deciden el nombre que han de dar a su localidad y a los elementos geográficos próximos a ésta: abismos, montañas, valles, desiertos, lagos, calles, plazas.

Considerados en la Ley del Sistema Nacional de Información Estadística y Geográfica, como uno de los componentes de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de México, los Nombres Geográficos, su recopilación, tratamiento y uso requiere un proceso sistematizado de normalización sustentados en las recomendaciones de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas realizadas por el grupo de expertos en el tema.

Estas recomendaciones y las mejores prácticas son abordadas en el Curso Internacional de Nombres Geográficos que el Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia (IPGH) promueve periódicamente entre los países que lo integran.

Desde 1987 se han celebrado 24 Cursos auspiciados por el IPGH, dos ocasiones en México, en 1991 y ahora el XXIV Curso Internacional de Nombres Geográficos "José Joaquín Hungría Morell" se llevó a cabo en las instalaciones del Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) en la Ciudad de Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes, México, del 18 al

22 de agosto del 2014 con el objetivo de brindar a 27 personas de la estructura territorial que participa en las actividades de generación de la información topográfica, el conocimiento que el IPGH trasmite a las naciones latinoamericanas, que permitan mejorar los procesos de recopilación en campo de la información relativa a los nombres geográficos y su tratamiento.

Los instructores cuentan con más de 30 años de experiencia en materia de normalización de nombres geográficos: **Roger L. Payne** Presidente del Grupo de Trabajo de Nombres Geográficos IPGH, **George G. Troop** Jefe de Sección de América Latina (NGA) y **Ramón A. Rivera H.** Profesor de la Universidad Pedagógica de Honduras, quienes compartieron con los participantes su amplios conocimientos y dejaron de manifiesto que México cuenta a través del INEGI con una estructura suficientemente preparada para realizar las tareas de normalización nacional de nombres geográficos y con ello convertirse en la autoridad oficial en la materia.

El Dr. Rodrigo Barrilla Castellanos, felicitó a los instructores y participantes por el éxito del curso y realizó la clausura del mismo.

**Susana Rodríguez Ramos**

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## Norden Division

### News from the Norden Division area

The Danish Place-Name Commission's homepage [www.stednavne.info](http://www.stednavne.info) has been updated using a new webservice, a greater selection of (historical) maps, so that it is easier to follow the spelling historicity of geographical names.

At the turn of 2014-2015, Carl Christian Olsen, long-time member of the Norden Division, retired as Director for Oqaasileriffik/Greenland Language Secretariat after 15 years and as Chairman for Oqaasiliortut/the Language Council for 35 years. We thank Carl Christian for all the years of good cooperation and wish him all the best for the future.

Annette Torenjö and Leif Nilsson of the Norden Division had both been invited to present papers at the symposium *Place names as intangible cultural heritage*, on 26-27 March 2015. In conjunction with the symposium Annette and Leif also attended the meeting of the Romano-Hellenic division as observers.

From 1 April, Peder Gammeltoft has been appointed Head of the Name Research Section at the Department of Nordic Research, University of Copenhagen, for a period of three years.

### Next Norden Division Meeting

The next Norden Division Meeting will be held in Copenhagen on September 12 at the Department of Nordic research, University of Copenhagen in conjunction with the meetings of the Working Groups for Cultural Heritage, Evaluation and Implementation and Publicity and Funding. Unfortunately, the meeting could not be held in Kárášjohka/Karasjok, the centre for Sámi culture in Norway but it is expected that the meeting will be held there in the future.

#### **Peder Gammeltoft**

Chair, Norden Division

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## Portuguese-speaking Division

Aiming at improving and facilitating the standardization of geographical names in Portuguese-speaking countries, The Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG) of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) is currently completing the translation into Portuguese of the UNGEGN "Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names". The Manual was partially translated for training purposes in 2007.

#### **Ana Cristina da Rocha Bérenger Resende**

IBGE - DGC - Coordenação de Cartografia  
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## Africa South Division

Botswana as the interim chair of the division plan to have a meeting with all members in Gaborone, Botswana in July 2015, the purpose being to find out if there is any Geographical Place Names activities going on in their regions and the challenges encountered in their respective countries.

#### **Lucy Phalaagae**

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## From the Working Groups

### Working Group on Country names

The main objective of the Working Group on Country Names (WGCN) is to develop and maintain a list of the names of all countries in the world in the language or languages used in an official capacity within each country, transliterated as needed in a recognized system at the UNGE GN, plus the UN Official country names in the six UN languages, and to present an updated version of this document at each UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN). The WGCN presented an unofficial "working version" of the country names document at the 28<sup>th</sup> Session on UNGE GN in New York in 2014 (W.P.60/12).

The Group held a meeting during the Session, which was attended by 20 participants. The format of the *List of Country Names* document was discussed, but no changes were recommended. Continued cooperation with the Terminology Team of the UN Terminology and Reference Section has helped resolve some minor discrepancies or variations between the WGCN document and the Terminology Team's online database, UNTERM ([unterm.un.org](http://unterm.un.org)). Also discussed was maintenance of the document (E/CONF.101/26) submitted to the 10<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN (2012), which contains links to country names lists prepared by national or other competent authorities. The WGCN requests that any national authority wishing to provide a link to their country names list for the next update of this Working Paper please send that link to the convenors at the e-mail addresses below.

At this meeting the status and of the WGCN was discussed. It was noted that the *List of Country Names* document has attracted occasional controversy, and options on how best to proceed with the work of the Group were debated. The consensus was that the WGCN should continue in the same manner as before, and a suggestion was made that, instead of presenting an unofficial "working version" of the country names document at future UNGE GN sessions, only updates would be provided, and that the full and official document would continue to be presented at UNCSGN conferences.

In early 2015, Mme. Élisabeth Calvarin of France volunteered to serve as co-convenor of the WGCN. The convenor presented this endorsement to the Group, which enthusiastically approved of this action. The Group is very pleased to have the leadership of Mme. Calvarin, who brings a deep wealth of toponymic knowledge and experience.

The Working Group on Country Names invites any interested experts to become a member of the group. Please contact the convenors at the e-mail addresses below if there are any questions.

#### ***Élisabeth Calvarin and Leo Dillon***

Convenors, Working Group on Country Names

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### Working Group on Exonyms

#### **Symposium on place-names changes, Rome [Roma], Italy, 17-18 November 2014**

Languages are promoted by political powers and dependent on them. In a historical dimension they come and go depending on political support. Place names as elements of language are part of this historical fluctuation. Due to their symbolic role as markers of geographical features, territories and space-related identities, they are even more exposed to political change. Already the replacement of the dominant political or cultural force within a given society can result in place-names changes. A recent example is the rise and fall of Communism in Eastern Europe. In addition the commercialisation of our societies has its impact on toponymy. Commercial names replace traditional names

prompting the question, whether place names aren't to be regarded as a part of the cultural heritage and to be protected for this very reason. Inversions of the namespace like in South Africa after the end of the Apartheid regime are certainly caused by a change of dominant political forces. Sometimes new cultural streams and attitudes in an otherwise not so significantly modified society can be sufficient to modify a namespace also quite remarkably like in Canada where strong efforts were made to codify the languages of indigenous peoples and subsequently standardise their place names. Therefore indigenous place names surfaced in public space.

Place-name changes often affect street names and in general names in urban space, since many of them have



commemorative function and are thus closely related to certain historical periods and powers. Names of populated places and especially cities are also frequently subject to name changes due to the prominence of these features and their importance in politics, culture and economy. Special cases are names of administrative units at all spatial levels. They are intimately connected with the dominant political system and accordingly exposed to change.



Castel Sant'Angelo, Rome (Photo: Peter JORDAN 2013)

All these aspects and more were highlighted at the symposium organised by the Joint International Geographical Union (IGU) / International Cartographic Association (ICA) Commission/Working Group on Toponymy and the Italian Academy of Sciences [Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei] in the latter's headquarter, the Villa Farnesina in Rome [Roma], Italy. The persons most engaged in organizing the symposium were Peter JORDAN and Cosimo PALAGIANO.

Well-hosted by the Accademia Nazionale, 53 experts from 20 countries were present and presented 40 papers. They covered **general approaches** (Paul WOODMAN, Joan TORT-DONADA, Přemysl MÁCHA, Riemer REINSMAN, Patrik TÁTRAI & Ágnes ERŐSS, Roman STANI-FERTL, ENZO CAFFARELLI, Jean-Louis VAXELAIRE), **country studies** (Cosimo PALAGIANO, Laura CASSI, Emanuele POLI, María Dolores GORDÓN PERAL & Stefan RUHSTALLER, Małgorzata MANDOLA, Ferjan ORMELING, Peter A. WEENINK, Bogdan SUDIŢU, Ioan NICOLAE & Cezar BUTEREZ, Paulo de MENEZES, Harry RAGHOEBAR, Élisabeth CALVARIN, Fabio LUCCHESI & Massimiliano GRAVA, Francesco ZAN, Saangkyun Yi), **place-names changes in urban space** (Gabriella AMIOTTI, Marisa MALVASI, Gian Paolo SCARATTI, Tiziana BANINI, Matjaž GERŠIČ & Drago Kladnik, Zsombor BARTOS-ELEKES, Wenchuan HUANG, Staffan NYSTRÖM, Mats WAHLBERG, Ammara BEKKOUCHE, Theodorus DU PLESSIS, Joan-Marié STEENKAMP & Theodorus DU PLESSIS, Adyanis COLLAZO ALLEN), **multicultural situations** (Ágnes ERŐSS & Patrik TÁTRAI, József BENEDEK, Raularian RUSU, Ivana ČRLJENKO & Ivan ZUPANČ) and **the impact of specific historical events on place names** (Guido

LUCARNO, Brahim ATOUÏ, Peter KANG, Peter JORDAN).

A selection of these papers will be published in proceedings within the toponymic book series Name & Place (Volume 5), edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN.

It looks as if the young Joint IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy succeeded in attracting an always wider range of geographers and cartographers, and in fostering toponymic research in these fields, as it has been stated in its terms of reference. As the list of presenters above shows it is also in close connection with United Nations Groups of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), and UNGEGN experts form almost the core of this new venture. Next opportunities to join the activities of the Joint Commission/Working Group are:

**IGU Regional Conference, Moscow [Moskva], 17-22**

**August 2015** (Toponymic session in the framework of the conference, call for papers already closed; for detailed information please approach A.A. Герцен <andrulea@mail.ru>)

**Pre-conference symposium (before the International Cartographic Conference) on atlases, toponymy and the history of cartography, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 20-21 August 2015**

(Call for papers already closed; for detailed information please approach Peter Jordan <peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at>)

**International Cartographic Conference (ICC) 2015, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 23-28 August 2015**

(Toponymic session in the framework of the conference, call for papers already closed; for detailed information please approach Ana Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>)

**EuGeo Budapest (Hungary), 30 August – 2**

**September 2015** (Session on "the role of place names in geographical education" in the framework of the conference, call for papers already closed; for detailed information please approach Peter Jordan <peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at>)

**Symposium "Place names, diversity and heritage", Clarens, Free State, South Africa, 17-18**

**September 2015** (Deadline for abstract submission 17 July 2015, for registration 14 August 2015; for detailed information please approach Chrismi Loth <lothc@ufs.ac.za>)

**31<sup>st</sup> IGU Congress, Beijing, 21-25 August 2016**

(Session on "place names as social constructs" in the framework of the conference, call for papers starts after 15 August 2015; for detailed information please approach Peter Jordan <peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at>)

**Peter JORDAN**

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**Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers**

**This Online discussion forum has been updated**

The discussion forum for several issues related to this Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers (WG TDFG) has been updated: <https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Discussion+forum>

As presented at the last UNGEGN Session in 2014 this online discussion forum shall be utilized to investigate three tasks/issues assigned to the WG TDFG:

- **Forum 1 - volunteered geographic information (VGI)/crowd-sourcing** (moderator: Ms. Annette Torenstj, Sweden)
- **Forum 2 - definitions for gazetteers and data types** (moderators: Ms. Laura Kostanski, Australia, and Ms. Vita Strautniece, Latvia)
- **Forum 3 - general feature types/categories** (moderators: Ms. Naima Friha, Tunisia and Mr. Teemu Leskinen, Finland)

You will note that some UNGEGN experts, particularly members of the WG TDFG are already registered.

Please be aware that you can see/view all content of the online discussion forum even without being registered. However, if you would like to comment and contribute, we have to ask that you be registered in order to be identified, e.g. as the UNGEGN expert we know. That is the only reason.

Please keep in mind: the activeness and success of this discussion forum, i.e. how the discussion forum for each item will be used, highly depends on your use and contributions. If you are willing and an interested expert/contributor then a discussion through this forum can be quite dynamic and very helpful. Thus, please, do not hesitate to get in touch with the moderators. The moderators and I are available for any assistance needed. Please see this information as encouragement to participate in the forum.

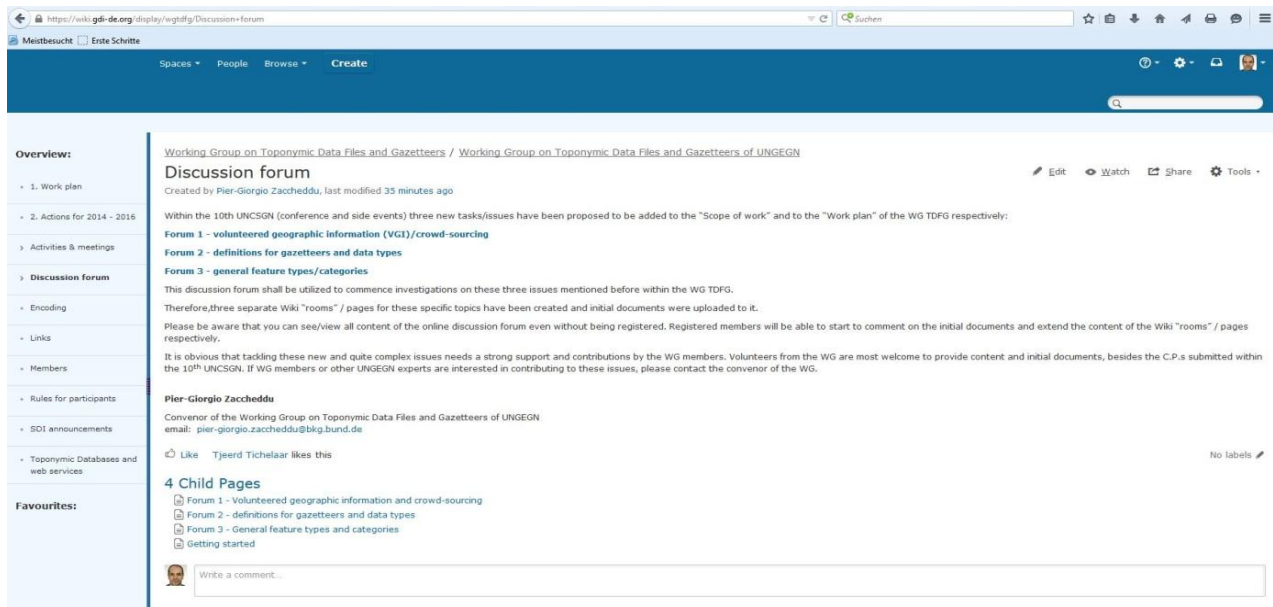
A few things concerning the forum are suggested as follows:

- Rules for participants and information about how to use the discussion forum (wiki software) has been made available through the main site "Getting started": <https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Getting+started>
- If you would like to log-in and contribute to forums 1, 2, 3, please get in touch with one of the aforementioned moderators (or with me). We will provide you with log-in-details (usernames, password)

Come on, give it a try, ask for your log-in details and be active!

**Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu**

Convener of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of UNGEGN  
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(See more comprehensive information about the content of the forum 1 to 3 below.)



• **Forum 1 - volunteered geographic information (VGI)/crowd-sourcing**

(moderators: Ms. Annette Torenjö, Sweden)

As our methods of accessing geographical information change and public interaction with such data becomes more dynamic, national mapping agencies and place-name organisations are looking to take advantage of the willingness of the local population to provide information on location and associated attributes (= Volunteered Geographic Information). The principal identifier of a location is its name and it is with this particular attribute that experts of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGE GN) are concerned.

Experts from several countries have related their experiences in collecting and utilizing crowd-sourced geographical names data (see supporting documentation posted on this forum) and it is clear that there is no single established approach. For example in Sweden, the National Land Survey of Sweden – Lantmäteriet - has turned to crowd-sourcing as a new method of toponymic field collection. Using a specifically-designed mobile phone application, the public was asked to return names data across the city of Gävle which had been chosen as a pilot area. Some interesting initial findings were revealed in a paper "New method of field collection of Place-Names" [see downloadable file in the forum 'Torenjö\_Background+information+on+crowd-sourcing']. In Great Britain, Ordnance Survey has been experimenting with several different means of making use of crowd-sourced names information. Collaboration with the English Project's Location Lingo scheme involved the use of a website to encourage public provision of unofficial or colloquial names; a separate initiative has been developed with the UK coastguard focusing on the collection of locally-used coastal names; and a further project using web-harvesting to extract information from websites through text analysis has also been investigated. Work is ongoing.

In order to assess the effectiveness and value of collecting names using volunteered geographic information, it would be useful to learn of experiences in other countries involved in such methods of geographical names collection.

The following sub-sites have been created within this forum in order to be able to monitor and streamline the discussions properly:

- F1.1 General discussion
- F1.2 Reliability

• **Forum 2 - definitions for gazetteers and data types**

(moderators: Ms. Laura Kostanski, Australia, and Ms. Vita Strautniece, Latvia)

During the Tenth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, (UNCSGN) first session of Technical Committee II (E/CONF.101/57 and Add.1), in August 2012 it was recommended that the WG TDFG may consider

commencing investigations into defining appropriate definitions for gazetteers and data types as this is obviously an issue for the WG TDFG.

[...] Within UNCSGN resolutions and UNGE GN recommendations and policies, and indeed within the wider research literature, there does not appear to be commonly accepted definitions for the terms 'official' and 'unofficial' as they relate to gazetteer data. Rather, there seems to be a proliferation of terminology used to define both the types of data which are incorporated into gazetteers, and the gazetteers themselves- ranging from official and authorized to unofficial and informal.

The need for the officially sanctioned gazetteers to be of a high quality in terms of accuracy and completeness of available data is increasing rapidly, and if we do not meet the needs of our communities, other unofficial providers will do so. We strongly encourage the Member States of UNGE GN to commence the conversation on defining gazetteer and data types with the aim of developing robust definitions and increasing the relevance of the systems we currently maintain. There is potential to expand the scope of official data collection and name approval methods to allow for national gazetteers to incorporate both official and unofficial names which fulfil the information requirements of our communities. [E\_CONF.101\_57\_The Four Faces of Toponymic Gazetteers]

The following sub-sites have been created within this forum in order to be able to monitor and streamline the discussions properly:

- F2.1 Definition and content of gazetteers
- F2.2 Differences between data types

• **Forum 3 - general feature types/categories**

(moderators: Ms. Naima Friha, Tunisia and Mr. Teemu Leskinen, Finland)

This forum was initiated by conference paper Feature Types for Global Gazetteers (Laura Kostanski et al., Australia) submitted to the Technical Committee IV session of the 10th UNCSGN (see attachments).

The paper describes the many challenges of developing global classifications for named features and requests the WG TDFG to further discuss these issues, thus feeding into the larger UN Spatial Data Infrastructure initiative (UNSDI) driven by the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG). The paper should provide a comprehensive introduction and basis for all discussions within this forum.

Three sub-sites have been created in order to better structure the discussions. Each sub-site has a short introduction and some initial questions/topics to be discussed. The sub-sites are:

- F3.1 General discussion
- F3.2 Requirements and use cases
- F3.3 Reference materials and classifications



## Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

### Spanish version of the resolutions database

The Spanish version of the UNCSGN resolutions database is now open and available with English and French versions at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/confGeneral.html>.

The database is being hosted by the portal of the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) of the Republic of Korea, who also provided technical and financial support for the database construction. A full Spanish text of 207 resolutions was provided by the Latin America Division.

### Working Group Meeting, Copenhagen, 10-12 September 2015

The next meeting of the Working Group has been scheduled, jointly with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding in Copenhagen on 10-12 September, 2015. Current working conditions and procedures of UNGEGN will be reviewed and

suggestions to improve its tasks will be made. A specific focus will be placed on evaluating the implementation of resolutions, as discussed at the 28th Session in New York, 2014.

The meeting is open to all UNGEGN experts. Any colleague interested in participating is advised to contact the convenor.

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## Working Group for Publicity and Funding

The next Meeting of the Working Group for Publicity and Funding will be held in Copenhagen on September 12 at the Department of Nordic research, University of Copenhagen on September 10 - 12 together with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the meeting of the Norden Division and the meeting of the Working Group for Cultural Heritage.

### **Peder Gammeltoft**

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## Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

We are glad to inform you that our colleague from Finland, Leila Mattfolk, has agreed to join the group as rapporteur. That means that this WG now has the following structure.

### *Co-Convenors*

Annette Torenjö and Leif Nilsson (Sweden, Norden Division)  
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### *Rapporteur*

Leila Mattfolk (Finland, Norden Division)  
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### **Steering Group**

Peder Gammeltoft; Sungjae Choo; Teemu Leskinen; Naima Friha; Michel Simeu Kamdem; Eman Oriebay.

### **Meetings**

#### Symposia related to the work of the WG

The international symposium "Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage" was arranged in Seoul, November 5-7, 2014 by the National Geographic Information Institute, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation, Republic of Korea. On the same occasion a workshop was moderated by the WG convenor Annette Torenjö: "Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage: Future Researches and Implication for the Standardization of Geographical Names".

The international symposium "Place Names as Intangible Cultural Heritage" was arranged in Florence, Italy, March 26-27, 2015 by the Romano-Hellenic Division in connection with its division meetings. The WG convenors took part in the symposium and – as observers – the division meetings. An abstract of our symposium paper reads as follows.

#### *Place names as intangible cultural heritage – the example of Sweden*

Leif Nilsson and Annette Torenjö

In Swedish state and local government operations 'good practice for place names' is to be observed, as provided in Ch. 1, section 4 of the Swedish Historic Environment Act (*Kulturmiljölagen*). Emphasis is placed on linguistic correctness but even stronger on the importance of preserving place names as a part of the nation's cultural heritage.

This means that place names must be written in compliance with established rules of linguistic correctness and that established place names may not be changed without compelling reasons.

It also means that names in Swedish and in the minority languages Saami, Finnish and Meänkieli shall, as far as

possible, be used in parallel on maps, signposts and other signs in multilingual areas.

This Act is the most important of several relevant prerequisites as regards the status of place names as intangible cultural heritage in Sweden. Another is the fact that Sweden has ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. In the future handling of this convention one obvious issue will be the implementation of UNCSGN Resolution IX/4 Geographical names as intangible cultural heritage. Moreover, the Language Act contains provisions on the Swedish language and the national minority languages.

In our presentation we give three examples of the current situation in Sweden, illustrating various ways of dealing with the threats facing our place names.

In the first case we demonstrate the close connection between a UNESCO world heritage site, The Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland, and the intangible dimension of that cultivated landscape, represented by its vanishing field names.

The second case is focused on the old parish names of Sweden, for a long time in jeopardy but now becoming part of an innovation in the population registration, where more than a thousand parish names – currently out of usage – may play an important part.

The third case deals with the situation in the north of Sweden, where Swedish names exist alongside place names of the minority languages. Several of the Saami languages occur on the UNESCO list of endangered languages, and there is a strong ambition among the authorities concerned to enhance the rendering of Saami place names on maps and in databases.

#### WG meeting

We will arrange a WG meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 9-10, 2015, dealing with aspects of place-names in multilingual areas and aspects of the connection between the tangible and the intangible cultural heritage. If you have any thoughts or ideas in relation to this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

#### **Annette Torenjö and Leif Nilsson**

Co-Convenors

UNEGN Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

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## From the Countries

### Ukraine

#### Toponymy Of The Crimean Peninsula

The particular features of the Crimean toponymy are explained first of all by the specificity of its historical development. During different times there lived here many different nations and their cultures and languages reacted upon each other. Among nations there were Cimmerians, Taurics, Scythians, Greeks, Sarmatians, Goths, Pechenegs, Khazars, Karaites, Krymchaks, Mongols, Tatars, Turks, Russians, Ukrainians. And although many of them had left the historical stage they imprinted themselves in geographical names. The toponymy of the Crimea was being formed by millenia and contains names originating from Iranian, Hellenic and Turkic languages. Finally it was formed in the times of the Crimean Khanate (the 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries). After the Crimean Khanate was annexed by the Russian Empire in 1783 on the territory of the Crimean peninsula Russian place names appeared.

Until now the Crimean toponymy remains the subject of researches and discussions. Toponymic system of the Crimea has multi-layered structure. Among historical layers of the Crimean toponymy for the purposes of discussion there may be distinguished:

- Arian names. In this group European (*Salgir, Kacha, Alma*), Ancient Greek (*Feodosiia*) and Northern Iranian names are to be distinguished (*Khabei, Palakii*)
- Turkic names, many of them are secondary (translation) or phonetic imitation of more ancient names. For example, Crimean Tatar name of the mountain *Aiudag* (in English: *Bear-Mountain*) earlier in Greek it was pronounced as *AIia* (in English: *the Saint* /feminine/).
- Slavic, among other things Russian and Ukrainian, as well slang informal translations or rendering of Crimean Tatar names. For example, *Karasu river* became *Karasevka*, village *Nasypkoi* became *Nasyjnoie*.

During last 250 years the Crimea place names underwent five stages of renaming:

1. The end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.  
The first well-directed renaming of place names took place in the Crimea after its annexation to the Russian Empire. The locality *Ak-Yar* was named *Sevastopol, Ak-Medzhit – Simferopol*, town *Gezlev – Yevpatoriia, Kafa – Feodosia*, Russian version of the ancient Greek name.
2. The second stage of renaming occurred after the Civil War 1918–1920.  
The Soviet Power wanted to immortalize communist leaders and party ideologists in geographical names. Many localities were renamed after Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Rosa Luxemburg. Even *Yalta* was renamed

*Krasnoarmeisk* in December 1922, but eight months later it was renamed *Yalta* again.

- 3-4. The third (1944 – 1945) and the fourth (1948 – early 1960s) stages of renaming were the most large scaled. The first mass changes of place names began in 1944 after deportation of the native Crimean Tatar population from the Crimea. In 1944, October 20 the Regulation of the Crimea Regional Committee «About renaming of localities, rivers and mountains which names were connected with Tatar, Greek and German origin» was adopted. In fulfillment of this Regulation according to the Order of Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR No 621/8 dd. 14 December 1944 eleven out of twenty-six raions and raion capitals changed their names; according to the Order No 619/3 dd. 21 August 1944 the 333 locality names were changed, according to the Order No 745/3 dd. 18 May 1948 the 1062 localities were renamed. So *Karasubazar* was renamed *Belogorsk, Ak-Mechet – Chernomorskoie, Partenit – Frunzenskoie, Koktebel – Planerskoie, Kurman-Kemelchi – Krasnogvardeiskoie* etc. Thereto more than one thousand renamed hydronyms, oronyms, landscape names, street names, railway station names, historical and cultural features names are to be added.

The purpose of these large scaled renaming policy conducted by the Stalin's regime was to get rid of all the names of the Crimean Tatar, Greek, Bulgarian, Armenian, German origin, extinguishing all memory of the deported peoples and destroying the Crimean toponymic system formed for centuries. Renaming of place names was explained by authorities by the fact that historical place names had lost their significance as Crimean Tatars were deported. Registers of renamed localities were made by commissions formed urgently and new names were made up in a hurry. They all were strained, haphazard and cliched. Among new place names the neutral (inert) names were prevalent (*Lugovoie, Stepnoie, Blizhnieie, Dalnieie, Shyrokoie*) or names associated with the Soviet ideology, for example *Pobiednoie, Oktiabrskoie, Sovietskoie, Krasnoie, Pionerskoie, Piatiletka* etc. The significant part of names was composed by commemorative place names (in honor of war heroes, military and party leaders, writers, scientists): *Leninskoie, Chkalovo, Kotovskoie Kirovo, Kuibyshevo, Lomonosovo, Susanino*, and names devoted to the war theme: *Tankovoie, Gvardeiskoie, Geroiskoie, Bastionnoie*. Many villages were named as the local collective farms: «*Oborona strany*» – *Oboronnoie*, «*Krasnoie Znamia*» – *Znamenskoie*. Some names of localities were translated



into Russian from Tatar, Greek or German languages, for example, the name *Ak-Bash* in the translation from Crimean Tatar means «*belaia holova*, in Engl.: *white head*», so the village was renamed *Beloholovoie*, or German name *Maifeld* is translated from German as «*maiskoie polie*, in Engl. *May field*, so the locality was renamed *Maiskoie*. Sometimes the Tatar oikonymes were replaced by consonant Russian names, for example, *Toply* became *Topolevka*, *Nasypkoi* – *Nasyjnoie*, *Ai-Danil* – *Danilovka*, *Barak-Eli* – *Baraki*.

In the middle of 1950s the above mentioned processes were so widespread that the party leadership imposed restriction on the will to eternalize names of revolutionaries and communist leaders on the geographical map. In 1957, September 11, Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR decreed «About improvement of naming of administrative units, localities, enterprises, organizations and other features in honor of government leaders and public persons», which forbade to name the geographical features after leaders and persons when they were alive, and allowed to name the geographical features after their names only after their death and only if these leaders and persons were especially honored. The document pointed out the advisability of renaming localities, institutions and organizations named after alive government leaders. So, in the Crimea were renamed again the localities which were connected with names Budionnyi, Voroshylov, Mokrousov and other alive leaders.

After inclusion of the Crimea in the Ukrainian Socialist Republic in 1954 its government and the Crimean Oblast Executive Board took active part in the renaming of geographical features on the peninsula. In 1958 seventy localities of Crimean Oblast were renamed including settlements formed by collective farms, enterprises, health resorts. On the map of the Crimea Ukrainian names appeared (Ukrainka, Ukrainske, Zoriane, Chervone). In the early 1960s according to the decision of Crimean Oblast Executive Board more than 50 localities were renamed. So during several decades names of some localities were changed twice. Demonstrative may be the history of renaming of the village *Ashaga-Dzhamin*, which according to the Order of Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR dd. Mai 18 1948 was renamed *Gorkovskoie* and then in the period within 1954–1963 *Geroiskoie*.

On the whole from the map of the Crimea about 1400 historical names of localities were disappeared, but due to various reasons it was not succeeded to eliminate historical names completely.

One of the consequences of mass renamings is a very big number of place name doubles on the relatively not large territory of the peninsula, what causes pronounced inconveniences in the work of different services. About

33% of all locality names of the Crimea are toponymic homonyms, they are to be met on the map of the Crimea twice and three times, or even fourthly (*Lugovoie*, *Oktiabrskoie*, *Molochnoie*, *Privolnoie*, *Pushkino*).

5. The fifth stage of renamings took place after return from deportation of Crimean Tatar people in the late 1980s and dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. These renamings were not large scaled but they are very important as it concerns to the return of historical place names which are the part of cultural heritage of Crimean Tatar people: *Koktebel* (former *Planerskoie*), *Partenit* (former *Frunzenskoie*), *Nikita* (former *Botanicheskoe*), *Inkerman* (former *Belokamensk*), village *Sary-Bash* (Pervomaiskiy Rayon, former *Tanino*), *Khodzha Sala* (Bakhchysaraiskiy Rayon).

For today for Autonomous Republic of Crimea such kinds of place names are typical: locality names connected with landscape of the region are the most numerous, on the today Crimea map there are 156 such names: *Berehovoie*, *Zarechnoie*, *Stepnoie*, *Mysovoie*, *Skalistoie* etc.; then follow the locality names derived from people's forenames: *Vladimirovka*, *Ivanovka*, *Mikhailovka*, *Vladislavovka*, *Novonikolaievka*, *Novokonstantinovka*, *Novoaleksandrovka* (130 names), locality names associated with agriculture: *Melnichnoie*, *Molochnoie*, *Hrushevka*, *Urozhainoie* (72 names), commemorative locality names (which honour individuals including Communist party leaders: *Lenine*, *Kirovske*, *Kuibysheve*, *Ordzhonikidze*, *Frunze*, *Pushkine*, *Michurinivka*, *Nekrasove*, *Suvorove*, *Shevchenkove* etc. (67 names); locality names connected with military theme: *Tankovoie*, *Heneralskoie*, *Dozornoie*, *Hvardeiskoie* etc. Numerous are abstract synthetic and sometimes completely meaningless names: *Abrikosovka*, *Kostochkovka*, *Snezhnoie*, *Yarkoie Pole*, *Aprelevka*, *Kocherhino*, *Lechebnoie*, *Lokhovka*, *Rastushcheie* etc.

Very urgent for today is the problem of return of historical toponymy of the Crimea. In the independent Ukraine the first steps aimed at restoration of historical toponymy of the Crimean peninsula were made. The Crimean department of the Institute of Oriental Studies of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine prepared a law project «About restoration of Crimean toponymy changed in 1944–1948». Some Russian and Ukrainian non-governmental associations advocate restoration of historical toponymy of the region. Medzhlis of Crimean Tatar people proposed to create a special commission on restoration of historical toponymy of the region.

On one of the scientific conferences on toponymy of Crimea a map of Sevastopol hydrographer V.A. Zimohliadov was presented which contained more than four thousand locality names of different period of time which have been formed during 28 centuries and originated from 40 languages. The map was prepared in





1996 but it was not published. The well known Crimean local historian and toponymist Ihor Belianskyi compiled 138 manuscript toponymic maps containing different variants of names of geographical features. He found out and saved on the map more than 38000 historical geographical names of Crimea. Unfortunately Ihor Belianskyi came to a tragic end in 2006 and his maps were not published.

On today there have been published some dictionaries and guide books on toponymy of the Crimea.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Crimean historian and local history expert Arsenii Markevich worked on the manuscript «Toponymy of the Crimea». In the 1930s he gave his card-catalogue containing of more than 21,000 cards to the Leningrad Academy of history and material culture.

In 1998 Dictionary of Crimean toponymies "Crimea. Geographical names. The short dictionary" by I. L. Belianskyi., I.N. Lezina, A.V. Superanska was published. A major contribution to the recovery of Crimean historian toponyms is making by researcher Dzheljal Chelebi. In 2007 the first volume of his three-volume dictionary on historical toponymy of the Crimea «Bashtan yazy. Historical toponymy of Crimea» appeared.

In 2010 and 2011 by Simferopol publishing house «Universum» popular science collected books «Toponymy of Crimea 2010» and «Toponymy of Crimea 2011» were published where works by Belianskyi, linguist A. Shaposhnikova and other researchers of Crimean toponymy were presented.

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## France

### **Le patrimoine toponymique d'Île-de-France**

Imaginons qu'un Francilien habite Paris et travaille à Saint-Mandé (Val-de-Marne). Après une journée bien remplie, il aura envie d'aller se promener au bois de Vincennes. Ces noms lui servent de repère. Mais se doute-t-il qu'ils délivrent aussi un message ? Cet usager des transports en commun sera-t-il sensible à la beauté qu'ils renferment ?

Si vous le voulez bien, accompagnons notre voyageur dans cette étude qui a pour ambition de faire découvrir, de faire aimer et de faire partager la langue française et les langues de France à travers son patrimoine linguistique particulier – un trésor – que l'on nomme « toponymie ».

D'emblée, tentons une réponse à notre voyageur qui s'interroge sur l'apparente similitude des noms « France » et « Île de France ». Reportons-nous au Moyen-Âge où, pour écrire un nom, soit il était écrit comme l'écrivain l'entendait, soit, le cas le plus courant, il était latinisé. Dans le haut Moyen-Âge, *Francia* désignait l'ensemble des territoires soumis aux Mérovingiens et signifiait « pays des Francs », du nom d'une des tribus germaniques qui envahirent la Gaule au v<sup>e</sup> siècle après J.-C. *Francia* va devenir *Regnum Francorum* dans les documents médiévaux pour nommer le

domaine capétien, et cette expression prendra deux sens : un sens large avec le *roialme de France* des Capétiens, et qui poursuivra son chemin jusqu'à devenir la « France » telle que nous la connaissons, et un sens étroit de *Pays de France*, compris comme un *pagus*, c'est-à-dire la « contrée » désignant le berceau primitif de la dynastie, limité par la Seine, l'Oise, l'Aisne et la Marne. De là une sorte d'« île » et l'origine de l'expression « Île de France », attestée en 1387. Les villages qui la composent comportent un élément suffixal révélateur, et l'on connaît encore aujourd'hui des lieux traditionnellement appelés ...-en-France. Un village, célèbre par l'aéroport qu'il supporte, Roissy-en-France.

L'administration de 1976 s'est emparée de l'expression en la faisant devenir une des Régions du découpage administratif de la France, et les gestionnaires, reprenant les noms de « Seine, Marne, Oise », la marquent par des traits d'union pour signifier son caractère administratif aux contours strictement délimités – huit départements –, formant les huit branches de l'étoile de son logo.

L'adjectif dérivé, francilien, désigne toute personne habitant l'Île-de-France. Ce terme, admis par l'Académie française le 22 janvier 1986, a été créé par le père



fondateur de la région Île-de-France et président de l'association des maires de France, feu Michel Giraud. Le terme « francilien », tiré d'un dialecte de langue d'oïl parlé autrefois en Île-de-France, le francien, s'est appliqué aux habitants et à une rame automotrice de dernière génération, et aussi au réseau de trains de banlieue sous la forme « Transilien », et, au féminin, à un ensemble de voies rapides contournant Paris, la Francilienne.

Ces termes s'intègrent dans la langue française. Tout comme celui du bon vieux « métro », apocope de « métropolitain », adjectif substantivé tiré de l'expression « chemin de fer métropolitain », qui définit un transport en commun, le plus souvent souterrain, donc mystérieux, les noms de lieux où vit notre ami voyageur ont aussi un sens, une histoire ; ils ont été créés par ceux qui en avaient besoin pour dénommer ce qui leur est nécessaire : rues, quartiers, lotissements, etc. Notre voyageur va découvrir qu'ils naissent, vivent, évoluent, meurent, renaissent, subissent l'érosion inéluctable de leur forme selon l'usage que lui, vous, moi, nous tous en faisons.

Notre voyageur habite le cœur de l'Île-de-France, Paris. Dans ses *Commentaires sur la guerre des Gaules*, César mentionne les *Parisii* comme peuple celtique qui avait pour capitale *Lutecia*, sise sur une île de la Seine, nommée plus tard (en 1834 de par la création, sur la voie romaine du *cardo maximus*, d'une rue éponyme) « île de la Cité », qui se couvrit de maisons à la fin du XII<sup>e</sup> siècle, lorsque la cathédrale Notre-Dame fut construite. Autour de l'île, ce sont des marais que suggère justement *Lutecia*, qui viendrait du radical celtique archaïque *luco* désignant des « marais », et que nous révèle encore aujourd'hui le quartier du Marais.

Retenons le fait que l'administration romaine a laissé la transition linguistique se faire sans protester et l'on sait qu'à partir du III<sup>e</sup> siècle, le nom des chefs-lieux des tribus gauloises est remplacé par le nom des peuples qui les occupent. Ainsi, *Lutecia* est abandonné au profit de *Parisii civitas*, qui deviendra Paris, et sera surnommée par la suite, familièrement par ses habitants « Paname », ou avec fierté la « ville Lumière » par ses gestionnaires.

En outre, les Romains, une fois leur conquête achevée, ne cherchèrent pas à faire disparaître le vocabulaire gaulois, mais ils traduisirent. Par exemple, *Briva Isarae*, toponyme hybride formé du nom de rivière pré-indoeuropéen *Is-ara* l'« Oise » et du mot commun gaulois *briva* « passage à gué, pont », est le nom d'un vieil oppidum situé au franchissement de l'Oise par une voie antique. Avec les Romains, il devient *Pontem Isarae* « le pont de l'Oise », qui évoluera en *Pons Isarae* en 864, puis en Pontoise (Val-d'Oise). Le pont est l'élément fondateur de la commune.

Cela dit, notre ami part de son domicile parisien, prend le RéseauExpressRégional Ligne A (la plus ancienne [1969], celle qui transporte un million et demi de voyageurs par jour) pour aller vers l'Est parisien, et voit s'égrainer des

stations qui évoquent et entremêlent les vies d'hier et d'aujourd'hui.

Tout en restant rive droite, le RER de notre ami quitte Paris et entre dans le Val-de-Marne.

- Vincennes : proche de Paris, est célèbre par son château-fort royal, à l'origine de la fondation de la ville. La forteresse, dont le donjon est le plus haut d'Europe (52 m), fut érigée du XIV<sup>e</sup> au XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle, au milieu d'une forêt, dont il ne reste plus que le bois, administré par la ville de Paris. Le nom d'origine, *Vilcenna*, comporte le suffixe gaulois *-enna*, soulignant les noms de forêt. Ce que nous nommons « bois de Vincennes » signifierait de façon redondante « bois de la forêt d'un certain Gaulois nommé, peut-être, Villo ou Vilco ». Louis VII, amateur de chasse, choisit cette forêt pour y faire aménager un pavillon de chasse, qui prit le nom de la forêt, et devint le château primitif qui, à son tour, servit de résidence royale à saint Louis, qui rendait la justice sous un chêne voisin. Le château-fort que nous connaissons fut construit sous Charles V. Il servit de prison sous Louis XI et jusqu'en 1784. Maintenant, il abrite les archives de l'armée.

Rendu à la gare de Vincennes, notre ami longe à pieds la ligne du RER et arrive à Saint-Mandé, aujourd'hui dans le département du Val-de-Marne, hier dans le département de la Seine (Paris et la petite couronne). Intéressons-nous donc aux noms des cours d'eau. Des noms très précieux qui viennent des temps préceltiques, et que nous ont transmis ou adaptés les Gaulois, puis les Romains. Dans ses *Commentaires*, Jules César note *Sequana* pour la Seine. Grâce aux recherches onomastiques, la racine *sek-w*, transcrite en latin *sequ*, serait d'origine pré-indoeuropéenne. Elle évolue sous les Mérovingiens en *Segona*, *Sigona* avec la syllabe centrale non accentuée qui, au fil du temps, s'efface pour donner « Seine », dont le sens reste obscur. Quant à la Marne, citée par César sous la forme *Matrona*, nous sommes sûrs de son origine celtique parce que le premier élément *matra* est un mot gaulois signifiant « mère » et le Glossaire gaulois-latin (retrouvé par Endlicher dans la région de Vienne, au sud de Lyon) note le suffixe *-ona*, *-onna*, c'est-à-dire *flumen*, dans le nom de nombreux cours d'eau. À ces époques anciennes, les cours d'eau sont très souvent divinisés et dédiés à la déesse-mère.

Aujourd'hui, l'administration en a repris certains dans la composition des noms de département : si le département de la Seine a disparu, celui du Val-de-Marne a été créé par le député-maire de Nogent-sur-Marne, feu Roland Nungesser, à la place de la proposition « Seine-et-Bièvre ». Notons que le confluent de la Seine et de la Marne inspira au sculpteur Nicolas Coustou, en 1712, une statue représentant les deux fleuves enlacés, aujourd'hui exposée Cour Marly, au musée du Louvre.

Ces noms de cours d'eau nous laissent entrevoir l'apport des racines préceltiques productives. L'une d'elles, la racine *kal* ou *kar* avec le sens de « pierre, rocher » puis « abri sous



roche », d'où « lieu d'habitation », a servi à former de nombreux toponymes parce qu'elle s'est transmise dans le vocabulaire celtique. Des mots du vocabulaire d'aujourd'hui en sont dérivés, tels calanque ou chalet. D'autres se sont figés en noms de lieux, tel Charenton (Val-de-Marne).

Tout en pressentant l'extraordinaire patrimoine culturel que recouvrent les noms géographiques, notre voyageur est arrivé à son lieu de travail, Saint-Mandé.

Ce nom nous fait aborder le terrain de la toponymie chrétienne. Au début du VI<sup>e</sup> siècle, on prit l'habitude de nommer les lieux, à partir du latin, à l'aide du nom d'un saint ou du mot commun des lieux de culte.

La dévotion populaire ou la volonté de l'Église se manifestent :

- dans le culte des saints. En France, un très grand nombre de communes commémore un saint personnage. La nomenclature de Paris et d'Île-de-France ont leur part de représentation, dans les noms de communes, de monuments ou de rues, avec saint Martin (évêque de Tours et évangéliste de la Gaule), saint Pierre (1<sup>er</sup> évêque de Rome), saint Germain (évêque de Paris), saint Denis (évêque fondateur du diocèse de Paris), etc. La Vierge et les saintes ne sont pas oubliées : Notre Dame, sainte Geneviève (patronne de Paris), etc.
- dans le mot commun désignant des lieux de culte, tels l'église, la chapelle, l'oratoire, ou, moins connu ou plus discret, la celle, c'est-à-dire la cellule d'un ermite.
  - o L'emploi de ce mot-ci en toponymie a donné « Sceaux ». Vers 1120, on relève l'expression au pluriel *apud Cellas*, puis *Ceaux*. La graphie actuelle de la commune a été influencée par un mot du vocabulaire courant, le « sceau ».
  - o Par ailleurs, le monastère, qui évolue en *montier* ou *moutier*, a produit le diminutif *monasteriolum*, désignant un « petit monastère », pour aboutir à Montreuil. Les habitants actuels de la commune la surnomment à juste titre la « seconde ville malienne au monde après Bamako », ou avec humour « Mali-sous-Bois » ou « Bamako-sur-Seine » même si cette dernière ne coule pas sur place. 10 % de la population de la ville est malienne ou d'origine malienne.
  - o La chapelle n'est pas en reste. Au Moyen Âge, le village de La Chapelle, sur la route reliant la basilique Saint-Denis à Paris, est devenu un quartier de Paris. Il doit son nom à l'ancien village de La Chapelle-Sainte-Geneviève (où la sainte serait venu souvent prier), devenu La Chapelle-Saint-Denis et réuni à Paris par décret impérial en 1860 sous le nom de La Chapelle. La cité, l'impasse, la place, le boulevard et la rue lui doivent leur nom.
  - o Citée dès 1540 et jusqu'en 1860, une croix de l'Évangile était dressée au nord-est de La Chapelle. La croix donna son nom à un chemin, nommé

« chemin de la Croix-de-l'Évangile ». C'est la dernière croix de carrefour de Paris.

Les croix de carrefour, souvent monumentales, situées à la croisée des routes, où l'on fait naturellement halte, avaient leur utilité : elles portent des noms par lesquels les habitants peuvent s'en servir comme repère. D'ailleurs, il en existe encore partout en France et en Europe.

En 1868, on réalisa la fusion de la rue d'Aubervilliers et du chemin dont on garda une partie du nom pour nommer la nouvelle rue « rue de l'Évangile », voie publique de Paris. Cette rue impressionne les écrivains, Marcel Aymé dans son recueil *Derrière chez Martin* en 1938, Jules Romains dans son roman *Les Hommes de bonne volonté*, Alexandre Arnoux dans *Rue de l'Évangile*, et les réalisateurs de films, Marcel Carné avec *Les Portes de la nuit* en 1946.

Pour décembre 2015, il fut envisagé de nommer la future gare du RER E « Évangile » en raison de sa situation à proximité de la rue de l'Évangile. Finalement, le syndicat des transports d'Île-de-France décida en 2011 que le nom de la gare rende hommage à Rosa Parks (1913 - 2005), figure emblématique de la lutte contre la ségrégation raciale aux États-Unis.

Notre voyageur, sa curiosité éveillée, commence à se rendre compte que naturellement, depuis la nuit des temps, nous nommons les êtres, les choses, tout ce qui nous entoure. De ce fait, un nom renferme un trésor d'histoire et il se demande comment les noms ont pu subir de telles transformations. Peut-être faut-il lui dire que c'est sous une forme exclusivement orale que les noms de lieux se sont introduits et maintenus dans l'usage. L'écriture s'est emparée d'eux plus tard, lentement et s'est superposée à l'usage parlé. Il a fallu l'importance de certaines localités, la situation privilégiée de certains lieux, pour que les historiens et les géographes en fassent mention. Au fur et à mesure, du remplacement de la « coutume » par le texte, les grandes administrations ont enregistré, consigné, sur les documents officiels, tous les noms dont ils ont eu connaissance et que l'usage a implanté en des endroits, des lieux bien précis.

Qu'ont fait les noms de lieux ? Ils ont suivi le rythme de la langue. Un nom de lieu est une forme de langue, un mot formé, comme tous les autres, de voyelles et de consonnes, et soumis aux lois de la phonétique et de l'évolution phonétique. Dérivant surtout du latin ou du latin médiéval (roman) et du vieux français, les noms comme *fontana* « fontaine » augmenté du suffixe collectif en -ai et en -oi voient leurs finales devenir -ay, -oy, -ais ou -ois. Les « Fontenay », « Fontenoy » s'expliquent par la prononciation du français qui écrivait -ai et prononce /oi/. De nos jours, nous disons encore « asseyez-vous » ou « assoyez-vous ».



Pendant le trajet de retour, notre ami voyageur songe à sa ville natale nommée Plaisir, sise dans les Yvelines – nom tiré du nom primitif de la forêt de Rambouillet, l'antique *Aquilina silva*, aboutissant au XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle à Yveline, sans s ! L'origine de Plaisir est attestée en 775 sous la forme *Placicio*, qui devient en 1162 *Plesiz*, pour aboutir en 1236 à *Plessiaci vulgo Plaisii*, expression dont on ne retient que le mot final, qui est une altération du terme dialectal féodal « plessis » signifiant « enclos formé de branches entrelacées ». Cet ancien plessis, oublié, fut remotivé en Plaisir.

Eu égard à d'autres régions de France, la toponymie d'Île-de-France est considérée comme étant dans une zone linguistique simple, ne présentant pas vraiment de difficulté dialectale parce qu'on retrouve dans la composition de très nombreux lieux-dits des termes génériques, le plus souvent d'origine rurale, appartenant au français ancien, qui se sont naturellement transmis dans le français standard. Et pourtant, le champnier, contraction de champetier, en ancien français « place vague, cour », se retrouve sous la forme fâcheuse de « chantier », parce que le sens se perd. Il est urgent de conserver la graphie du setier, terme très fréquent, qui est une mesure agraire équivalant à environ 40 ares. Ce mot vient du latin *sextarius* 6<sup>e</sup> et n'a aucun rapport avec le chiffre 7, que la malheureuse variante septier, non conforme à l'étymologie, laisse entendre.

Certains termes peuvent donner lieu à des graphies erronées, à éviter, tels le bos, prononcé le /bo/, que l'on n'écrit surtout pas « le beau », désigne « le bois » ; la none, avec un seul n (avec deux n, ce serait une religieuse !) « 4<sup>e</sup> partie du jour » ; le crot, que l'on n'écrit pas croc, « creux, trou ». Pour faire bon poids, bonne mesure, n'oublions pas l'essart et non pas essard, et son apocope le sart ne se confond pas avec le cerf ! Tout comme le vau « petit val » qui n'est pas un veau ! On saura bien qu'un marchais est un « petit marais », la noue, une « petite vallée humide », le plessis, une « clôture de haies en branchages entrelacés », la remise, un « taillis, fourré » et la veuve, un « lieu humide », du bas-latin *vovae*.

Après ce florilège de mots hauts en couleur et en saveur, trésor d'une langue pleine de charme, il importe de sauvegarder et de respecter ces termes authentiques, français et de langues régionales.

Pour l'heure, notre ami sourit aux noms qu'il utilise quotidiennement. Il entrevoit une clef qui lui ouvre la description du lieu nommé, la personne qui l'a nommé, la culture de la personne qui l'a nommé, un vouloir commémoratif, l'inspiration du lieu ou du moment. Ainsi, un nom de lieu, c'est un mot qui se moule dans le vocabulaire, qui s'intègre dans la grammaire de sa propre langue. Plus besoin de souffler à notre ami qu'un nom ne naît pas du hasard, mais d'un besoin, qu'il évolue, qu'il a des usages, qu'il vient des hommes.

Les noms de lieux sont une identification par des mots convenus de l'espace dans lequel on vit. Les générations

passent, les langages évoluent. Les noms donnés aux lieux ne suivent pas toujours l'évolution du langage, à un moment donné, ils cessent d'être employés pour ce qu'ils signifient, se figent pour ne plus désigner qu'un lieu et un seul. Ce sont dès lors des noms propres, composé généralement d'un élément générique (qui identifie l'entité géographique : mont, lac, bois...) et d'un élément spécifique (qui personnalise l'entité : mot, adjectif, ou patronyme...) et que l'orthographe signale par une majuscule.

Le merveilleux, c'est que nous avons tous le privilège de participer à cette passionnante aventure qu'est la toponymie – en la pratiquant naturellement avec nos noms, nos lectures, nos déplacements, quand on écrit, ou quand on parle. Ces noms qui lui semblaient mystérieux ont retrouvé l'éclat de la vie. Nous lui avons démontré que chaque toponyme a une histoire qui devrait pouvoir se reconstituer dans le temps (à travers les attestations livrées par les documents du passé) et dans l'espace (en prenant en considération les données de la géographie et de la nature), en relation avec la vie des hommes – avec sa vie.

Certes, le toponyme localise, distingue, mais aussi il évoque, anime. Donner un nom à un lieu, le nommer, c'est le reconnaître, c'est l'animer, c'est lui donner une âme.

Le toponyme, ce mot rempli d'humanité – cœur d'un lieu et d'une langue à un temps T – est un mot du langage. Il est à préserver, il est à transmettre. Il mérite le respect. Nous tirons là des enseignements qui soulignent invariablement l'insoupçonnable richesse du patrimoine linguistique que forment les noms de lieux. Nous avons apprécié, j'espère ! le sens et les mots régionaux représentés dans les noms de lieux, érodés, déformés, décrivant le plus souvent le paysage et les pratiques des habitants ; ils sont là, témoins fragiles d'un riche patrimoine culturel, à sauvegarder, à connaître et à faire reconnaître dans un projet de valorisation et de sauvegarde conforme à la convention de 2003 de l'Unesco sur la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel.

La visite de notre ami auprès des noms géographiques lui a permis de se rendre compte qu'un nom géographique – un toponyme – est un témoin discret du patrimoine culturel national, qu'il est à conserver et à sauvegarder dans de bonnes conditions, afin de le faire rayonner.

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## Egypt

### Report of the Seventh Conference of Arab experts in geographical names (7<sup>th</sup> ACGN) Royal Jordanian Geographic Center, Amman, Jordan, 10-13 November 2014

**Participants:** Delegates from 13 Arab countries (Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Palestine, Lebanon, Libya) participated in the conference including Arab experts in geographical names, representative of the Arab League, heads of Arab institutions of geographical names, chairpersons of institutions working in cartography and geographic information in all Arab countries, professors, researchers in the field of languages, professors, researchers in phonology, students, and interested geographers of Jordanian universities.

#### The objectives of the conference:

The conference aimed to activate the joint Arab action on the following areas:

- Standardization of Arabic geographical names.
- Creation of a unified Arabic geographical names gazetteer.
- Maintaining Arab geographical names as Arabic cultural heritage and preventing changes and extinction.
- The establishment of education workshops and exchange of experiences in the field of geographical names and geographical information.
- Implementation of the Arabic and international resolutions related to the collection, standardization and maintenance of geographical names.

#### Agenda of the conference:

- Naming and numbering in the Arab countries.
- The activities of Member States in the field of geographical names.
- Geographical names in the cultural and civilizational, historical and social heritage.
- Judaization of geographical names.
- Gazetteers of geographical names.
- Activities of Committees of Arab division.
- Awareness and education in the field of geographical names.
- Geographical Names and modern techniques.
- Map of the sky and the names of the stars.

#### Conference Papers :

1. [Accurate Base map for Urban Projects using H.R. Stereo Satellite Imagery](#) . Jordan
2. [Names of Navigational stars in "Alorjosp in fixed planets book "](#) , M. A. Al-Wardat and H. M. Al-Naimiy, UAE
3. [Naming and numbering works - Aqaba Special Economic Zone](#), Jordan
4. [Naming and numbering in the Land and Survey Department](#), Jordan
5. [Egyptian Geographical Names gazetteer, Eman Oriebiy](#), Egypt
6. [Greater Amman Municipality - the naming and numbering system](#) ,Jordan
7. [About linguistic meanings of the names of cities, villages and basins in Jordan](#), Jordan
8. [Geographic information system and its relationship to geographical names](#), Jordan.
9. [Geographic names mentioned in the Torah in Jordan](#),



- Jordan.
10. [Hashemi reconstruction and the role of the Ministry of Awqaf](#). Jordan
  11. [Naming and numbering in Palestine](#), Palestine
  12. [Arabian Gulf and throughout history names](#), Mahmud Malkawi, Jordan
  13. [Geographic Names Judaization](#), Jordan
  14. [Registration of the cultural and natural sites on the World Heritage List](#), Jordan
  15. [Judaization of geographical names in Palestine](#).
  16. [Judaization of names in Jerusalem old town and its surround](#), Palestine
  17. [Efforts of Saudi Arabia on standardizing Geographical Names](#), Saudi Arabia
  18. [Map of the Church](#), Jordan
  19. [Draft resolutions](#), Lebanon
  20. [Roses and thorns in the Geographic Names](#). Jordan
  21. [Moon geography and Arab nozzles on its surface](#). Jordan
  22. [Map of the planets and stars](#), Jordan.
  23. [Map of the sky](#). Jordan
  24. [The names of places in Zarqa and its role in documenting the depth of human settlement and the history of the province through ages](#), Jordan
  25. [Recommendations of the Conference](#), ADEGN

**Recommendations of the conference:**

The detailed recommendations are available at the following link

[http://www.rjgc.gov.jo/Page\\_Images/seventh%20conference%20of%20arab%20experts%20on%20geographical%20names/25.pdf](http://www.rjgc.gov.jo/Page_Images/seventh%20conference%20of%20arab%20experts%20on%20geographical%20names/25.pdf)

Summary of 15 recommendations and resolutions emanated from the conference:

1. Declared that the conference convened legally.
2. Recommended that all Arab countries establish permanent national bodies for the unification of geographical names.
3. The preservation of cultural heritage of Arab place names.
4. Recommended that all Arab countries create geodatabase of Arabic geographical names.
5. Holding periodic meetings of working committees.
6. Recommended that all Arab countries raise awareness about the importance of geographical names.
7. Recommends that all Arab countries follow up the implementation of the unified Arabic Romanization system.
8. Coordination and cooperation: recommended the need to cooperate with the Arab Union for Astronomy and Space Sciences and the Arab Union for space and institutions, unions and other relevant organizations that are involved in geographical names.
9. Recommended that all Arab countries apply the Arabic division system.

10. Recommended that all Arab experts enrich the division's web site with their research and activities.
11. The Conference considered the significant correlation between geographical names and other sciences, and to take advantage of sciences in the field of geographical names, such as GIS, space science and astronomy.
12. Follow-up to the decisions of the division and conferences.
13. The 8<sup>th</sup> ACGN is to be held in Saudi Arabia during the first half of year 2016.
14. Election of a new administrative committee of the Division as follows:

**Chair :** Dr. Mohamed Awny Al-Kaswna (Jordan)

**First Vice-chair :** Dr. Abd-Allah Ben Naser AL-wilee (Saudi Arabia)

**Second Vice-chair :** Mrs. Naima Feriha (Tunisia).

**Third Vice-chair :** Mr. Khaled Al-Malhy (UAE)

**Arab league Commissioner :** Maroun Khuraish (Lebanon)

**Editor :** Eng. Yousuf AL-Nabhany (Oman)

**Reporter :** Mr. Ibrahim Al-Gaber (Jordan)

15. Expression of the feelings of thanks and gratitude.

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Photo of Participants on (7th ACGN) November 2014



## Poland

### Polish edition of "Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names"

"Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names" has been prepared by the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Terminology, with Professor Naftali Kadmon as convenor and general editor of the publication. The Working Group developed "Glossary" in the English version – it was presented at the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in New York on 13-22 January 1998. On the basis of this publication the first Polish translation was prepared. It was made by Jerzy Kondracki and issued by the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography in 1998. In this Polish edition numerous changes and additions to the original English text were introduced.

In 2002, during the Eight United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the next version of "Glossary" was presented, with entries in six official languages of the United Nations (with minor changes to the English text in relation to the 1998 edition). In 2007, the "Addendum" was published, in which some definition were changed and few terms were added.

The new Polish edition of "Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names" was prepared by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland (Komisja Standaryzacji Nazw Geograficznych poza Granicami Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej) and published by the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography (Główny Urząd Geodezji i Kartografii) in 2014. This is a new translation of the English version of "Glossary"

from 2002, which was made by Mark Lukasik. No significant changes and additions were introduced to this edition in relation to the English version, as it had been done in the case of the first Polish translation of 1998 – the original wording of the definitions and descriptions of introduction notes were retained. The Polish version of "Glossary" consists of 375 entries, out of which 237 are entries with definitions and 138 are cross-reference entries. Entries are numbered and arranged in alphabetical order with respect to the English terms, then their Polish counterparts are given (omitted, however, for the most cross-reference entries) and Polish translations of definitions. After the main dictionary body the Polish-English index of terms was placed. All this means, that in this way the arrangement adopted in the original "Glossary" for the other official languages of the UN (ie. French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Arabic) was strictly preserved – therefore, the Polish version could be regarded as an extension of the UNGEGN "Glossary" for another language. The translation of "Addendum", adopted by the UNGEGN in 2007, is also enclosed as an attachment. In this addendum 6 definitions were changed as well as 17 new entries were added, which involve 8 entries with definitions and 9 cross-reference entries.

The publication is available in PDF format on the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland:

[http://ksng.qugik.gov.pl/pliki/glossary\\_of\\_terms\\_PL.pdf](http://ksng.qugik.gov.pl/pliki/glossary_of_terms_PL.pdf).

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## Argentina

### New Argentine Republic Geographic Atlas "International Map Year"

The publishing of the new "Argentine Republic Geographic Atlas", the Argentine National Geographic Institute (IGN) is trying to fill a void related to this type of publications. Said atlas was thoroughly thought, developed, designed and printed by the IGN staff. Even though it contains geographic information for the general public, it is primarily aimed at becoming into an important tool for teachers and pupils of all levels in the Argentine teaching system.

In the first part of the Atlas, we can find a brief summary of the history of cartography in the world and in Argentina,

putting an emphasis in the cartography produced by the IGN.

As cartography is a basic communicational resource to represent spatial phenomena, we tried to favor not only teachers but also students, as we believe this Atlas, and mainly the chapter devoted to current cartography, may solve an information gap in said subject. For this purpose the new processes for the production of satellite maps and the official cartography are shown. The processing of information related to the progress of spatial data infrastructure (SDI) or geographic information systems (GIS) are just some aspects that show the reader some innovative items intended for those who need to understand and know more about spatial issues.



Furthermore, a profusion of line maps and satellite images emphasizes the clear and easy identification of the natural or anthropic features. The digital elevation model adds a new perspective to visualize the ground. The information related to the political, economical, social, physical, environmental and meteorological aspects, among others, are listed by jurisdictions and are introduced by using different communicational resources. Besides, icons, infograms, graphs, profiles, thematic maps and images are added to allow a fast visual interpretation of the represented phenomena, apart from introducing information as numeric data (volumes, percentages, etc.) as charts, tables or text blocks.

At the section related to maps of the whole world, some world maps (physical, political or thematic), continental maps, regional blocks, etc. have been added so the reader may have a broad vision of the geopolitical standing of the Argentine Republic within the current global context.

Besides, satellite maps have an outstanding place by emphasizing the "top-down" view, so we can see different characteristics of the ground surface that cannot be seen on maps, like colors, shapes, textures, shadows, etc.; this way we can visualize the different land coverages and uses.

A glossary has been added with the definition of geographic terms that can be found in the Atlas, and in some cases we can see a photo and the cartographical sign representing a feature in the official cartography.

In the last part of the Atlas, the reader can find a list of more than 5,000 alphabetically arranged place names related to human settlements, man-made or natural features used in the Atlas maps together with the geographic coordinates and the page numbers they can be found.

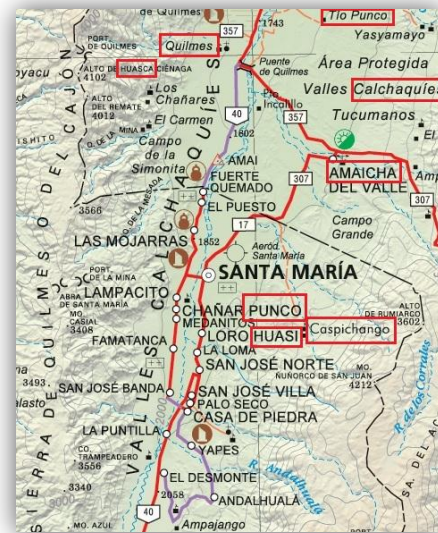
There is a section named "TOPONYMY. THE NAMES OF PLACES", where the reader can find the meaning of the word "toponymy", its fields of study, how it is related to cartography and cartosemiotics; it is also mentioned how place names are recorded through cartography, together with an inventory, the way to make them known and, most important, their validation

"TOPONYMY OF ORIGINAL INHABITANTS IN THE OFFICIAL CARTOGRAPHY", we tried to rescue the original names of the features related to cultural processes of the original inhabitants through time. It is also explained how the Spanish conquerors mainly used the names of saints, kings or colonizing authorities as place names when they made the maps of the Americas.

But not all the names given to features were kept through time, as some were later changed by names related to the original cultures taking into account the mixture between the local original names and the Spanish terms. At present certain place names are being revised and, in most cases, both terms are mentioned: the ones given by the Spanish

conquerors and the ones linked to the original cultures. This mixture of names has been kept along years in the historic cartographic series, in which some names have mixed up becoming hybrid, and some others have remained unchanged through time.

As an example of the place names related to the original cultures in the official cartography, we show a section of the 1:500,000 scale map in the northwestern part of Argentina, where the origin of some of them is described:



**500K Argentine Republic Atlas – Section Sheet B26. 1:500,000 scale, Argentine IGN-CONAE. Published 2010.**

- TÍO PUNCO:** door of sand
- QUILMES;** "kilme", "kil" = plural, "me" = ethnic origin
- HUASCA:** "waska" = whip, branch used as a rope
- CALCHAQUÍES:** "calchaqui" = brave indian
- AMAICHA:** from the lowlands
- PUNCO:** door
- CASPICHANGO:** soft stick

As a conclusion to this brief contribution to the knowledge of place names, we believe that their preservation in the official cartography, mainly the ones coming from the original cultures, is an important step to preserve the cultural heritage of a given society.

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## Nuevo Atlas Geográfico De La República Argentina En El "Año Internacional Del Mapa"

Con la edición del nuevo "Atlas Geográfico de la República Argentina", el Instituto Geográfico Nacional busca llenar un vacío editorial en relación a este tipo de publicación. Dicho producto fue pensado, desarrollado, diseñado e impreso en su totalidad por personal del IGN; y si bien contiene información que está dirigida al público en general, apunta principalmente a que se convierta en una importante herramienta para docentes y alumnos de todos los niveles del sistema educativo argentino.

En la primera parte del Atlas se incorporó una síntesis de la historia de la cartografía en el mundo en general y de la Argentina en particular, haciendo hincapié en la producida por el IGN.

Entendiendo que la cartografía es un recurso comunicacional básico para la representación de los fenómenos espaciales, se buscó privilegiar a aquellos lectores, tanto docentes como alumnos del sistema educativo, ya que creemos que este Atlas y en especial el capítulo dedicado a la cartografía de hoy, pueden salvar una carencia informativa en dicha temática. Es así, que se muestran los nuevos procesos para la confección de cartas satelitales y de la cartografía oficial. El tratamiento de la información relativa a los avances en la infraestructura de datos espaciales (IDE) o en los sistemas de información geográfica (SIG), son solo algunos aspectos que sumergen al lector en aspectos innovadores para quienes necesitan entender y conocer más acerca de los temas espaciales.

Asimismo, sobresale el uso de mapas e imágenes satelitales, que permiten identificar a partir de su lectura fácil y clara, los diferentes elementos, sean éstos naturales o antrópicos. El modelo digital de elevación incorpora una nueva perspectiva desde donde poder visualizar el terreno.

La información de aspectos políticos, económicos, sociales, físicos, ambientales y meteorológicos, entre otros, y que aparecen ordenados por jurisdicciones, están presentados mediante la utilización de diferentes recursos comunicacionales. Además, a la presentación de información en forma de datos numéricos (volúmenes, porcentajes, etc.) en cuadros o tablas, así como también en bloques de textos, se incorporan iconos, infogramas, gráficos, perfiles, mapas temáticos e imágenes que permiten una rápida interpretación visual del fenómeno representado. En el apartado dedicado al desarrollo de mapas relacionados con el mundo, se han incluido planisferios – físicos, políticos o temáticos -, mapas continentales, de bloques regionales, etc., que permiten brindar una visión de la posición geopolítica de la República Argentina dentro del contexto mundial actual.

Además, se le ha asignado un lugar de privilegio al uso de los mapas satelitales resaltando esta visión del espacio "desde arriba", apreciándose así, características de la superficie

terrestre que en los mapas no se pueden observar, como colores, formas, texturas, sombras, etc., que muestran las distintas coberturas y usos del suelo del territorio.

Como un nuevo aporte a la lectura cartográfica, se ha incorporado un glosario con la definición de los términos geográficos que se encuentran en el Atlas, acompañado en algunos casos, con una foto y el signo cartográfico con el cual se representa en accidente en la cartografía oficial.

En la última parte de la obra, se incluye un listado con más de 5.000 topónimos de asentamientos humanos, accidentes físicos y antrópicos que figuran en los mapas del Atlas, ordenado alfabéticamente y con sus correspondientes coordenadas geográficas y las páginas donde se encuentra.

Se ha consignado un apartado con el título "LA TOPONIMIA. LOS NOMBRES DE LOS LUGARES", donde se incorporan definiciones sobre qué es la toponimia, los campos de estudio que la tratan, su relación con la cartografía y la semiótica cartográfica; haciéndose referencia como es que a través de la cartografía se registran los topónimos, estableciéndose en la misma, una forma de inventario, una manera de darlos a conocer, y sobre todo, su propia validación.

En el apartado "TOPONIMIA DE LOS PUEBLOS ORIGINARIOS EN LA CARTOGRAFÍA OFICIAL", se ha buscado mostrar como de alguna manera, la cartografía rescata a la toponimia de los accidentes geográficos que enmarcaron los procesos culturales de los pueblos originarios a través del tiempo. Contamos como los conquistadores españoles en la confección de los mapas de América, en sus viajes de colonización, designaron principalmente a santos, reyes o autoridades colonizadoras.

Aunque no todas las denominaciones de los accidentes geográficos tuvieron el mismo destino: algunos de ellos luego fueron bautizados con nombres relacionados a las culturas de la región en función de cómo se asociaba la lengua local a los vocablos españoles. Incluso, en la actualidad, existe una revisión de ciertos topónimos, y en mucho de los casos, se consignan ambos: el otorgado por los colonizadores y el vinculado con la cultura de los pueblos originarios. Esta comunión de nombres ha permanecido a lo largo de los años en las series cartográficas históricas, donde en muchos casos, se han mezclado términos, haciéndose híbridos, y en otros, han permanecido invariables en el tiempo.

Como muestra de la distribución de los topónimos impuestos por los pueblos originarios que han quedado plasmados en la cartografía oficial, se muestra un sector de la carta a escala 1:500 000 de la zona noroeste del país, donde se describe el origen de algunos de ellos:



Atlas ARGENTINA 500K – Recorte Hoja B26 escala 1:500 000, IGN – CONAE, EDICIÓN 2010.

**TÍO PUNCO:** puerta de la arena

**QUILMES;** "kilme", "ki"= pluralidad, "me"= origen étnico

**HUASCA:** "waska"= látigo, ramal que sirve de cuerda

**CALCHAQUÍES:** "calchaqui"= indio bravo

**AMAICHA:** del bajo

**PUNCO:** puerta

**CASPICHANGO:** palo tierno

A modo de cierre de esta pequeña contribución al conocimientos de los nombres geográficos, creemos que es un paso importante el de preservar la toponimia, en especial la de los pueblos originarios en la cartografía oficial, como parte del patrimonio cultural de una sociedad.

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**Mozambique**

**Standardization of Geographical Names Spelling in Mozambique**

**I. Introduction**

The article discusses the spelling used in the standardization of geographical names in Mozambique at a time when the Mozambican government is working on the revision and replacement of place names, the adequacy of it's writing to standardized spelling in order to reflect the pronunciation of speakers of the language source, as well as the reality of the sovereignty of the country. In this paper we will discuss the standardization of the writing of geographical names in Mozambique.

Since ancient times humans attribute names to humans as to places. This action allows for a coexistence of communities in their daily lives (Menezes et al 2006).

**2. Literature Review**

**Spelling** - a technique of spoken language by signs (signs) graphics (Houaiss and Salles 2001

Baptista s/d);

**Two different spellings:** phonetic spelling and etymological spelling (Ferreira 2010 and Abausse 2005); **Phonetic Spelling** - Each sound corresponds to a letter or group of letters and only one letter or group of letters corresponds to a single tone.

- (1)
  - a. [S] → / s /  
liso 'eye' (Gitonga)  
sombo 'clother's' (Gitonga)
  - b. [Z] → / z /  
kuzama 'try' (Xichangana)  
Zambana 'potato' (Xichangana)

**Etymological Spelling** - The same sound can correspond to several letters and each letter or group of letters may correspond to different sounds, depending on the history, grammar and traditional uses see:

- (2)
  - a. [S] → / s /, / ss / / ç /  
'saco' bag, ossos 'bone', açúcar 'sugar'  
(portuguese language)



- b. [Z] → / s /, / z /, / x /  
 casa 'home' zebra 'zebra' Exame 'examination'  
 (portuguese language)

**Standardization** (also known as normalization) is the development and implementation of technical standards (Rodrigues Dias 2007 and 2011);

**Toponymy** - historical and linguistic study of the origin of places (Casseb-Galvão and Ribeiro 2007 Quintino 2009 and Menezes et al 2010).

**Geographic name** - name of a place or a geographical feature, which defines and delimits a cultural area of a people (IBGE Furtado 1959 and 2011);

**Endoname** - that foreign geographical name, that when spelled in national publications obey his original script.

**Exoname** - that foreign geographical name written differently from the official spelling of the source language.

**Mozambican languages** - Bantu languages spoken in Mozambique, regardless of whether cross-border or not, as mother tongues inhabitants of at least an entire city (Ngunga 2010).

### 3. Standardization of Geographical Names Spelling in Mozambique

Standardization of geographical names takes into account the location, the historical component, and semantics of a name, respecting the tradition that is the transmission or delivery of values from one generation to another (Casseb-Galvão and Ribeiro 2007). Ngunga (2010) affirm that, is necessary to write well the geographical name of our land.

#### Endoname & Exoname

As we state in chapter 2, an endoname is that geographical name when spelled in the spelling of their original language, while exoname is the geographical name registered differently spelling in the source language, we in this sub-chapter, we analyze the spelling of geographical names in Mozambique.

Before, observe the table of some endonames and exonames of geographical names in Mozambique.

Table 1- exonames and endonames of geographical names in Mozambique

| No. | Exoname (portuguese)  | Endoname (bantu) | Geographical name Category                 |
|-----|---|------------------|--|
| 1.  | Gurué <sup>1</sup> / Guruè <sup>2</sup>                           | Guruwe           | District of Zambezia province              |
| 2.  | Inhazónia <sup>4</sup> /Nhazónia <sup>3</sup>                     | Nyadzoniya       | Administrative post of Manica district     |
| 3.  | Pungué <sup>1</sup> /Pungoé <sup>3</sup>                          | Phungwe          | River in Mozambique                        |
| 4.  | Chokówè <sup>1</sup> /Chokwé <sup>3</sup> / Chokwe <sup>4</sup>   | KaXokwe          | District of Gaza province                  |
| 5.  | Vilankulo <sup>1</sup> /Vilanculos <sup>5</sup>                   | KaVilankulu      | District of Inhambane province             |
| 6.  | Montepuez <sup>1</sup> /Montepuéz <sup>3</sup>                    | N'thipwehi       | District of Cabo Delgado province          |
| 7.  | Molócuè <sup>1</sup> /Molocué <sup>5</sup> / Molocue <sup>5</sup> | Molokhwe         | District of Zambezia province              |
| 8.  | Gorongue <sup>1</sup>   | Gurungurwe       | Mount of Manica district                   |
| 9.  | Inhatouco <sup>1</sup> /Nhatoco <sup>4</sup>                      | Nyatokwe         | River of Inharrime ditrict                 |
| 10. | Ulonguè <sup>1</sup> / Ulongue <sup>2</sup> /Ulongué <sup>4</sup> | Kulongwe         | Headquarters of Angónia district           |
| 11. | Domué <sup>1</sup> / Domue <sup>2</sup> /Dómuè <sup>4</sup>       | KuDomwe          | Administrative post of Angónia district    |
| 12. | Cóbuè <sup>1</sup> / Cobué <sup>3</sup>                           | KuKobwe          | Administrative post of Lago                |
| 13. | Magué <sup>1</sup> / Mágoè <sup>4</sup> , Magoé <sup>5</sup>      | KuMagwe          | District of Tete province                  |
| 14. | Mahimelane <sup>2</sup>   | KaMayimelani     | Administrative post of Inhassouro district |

<sup>1</sup> INDE (2013). Atlas de Moçambique,

<sup>2</sup> MAE (2004). Perfil dos Dirigentes dos Órgãos Locais;

<sup>3</sup> PORTO EDITORA (2009). Mapas de Moçambique;

<sup>4</sup> RAFAEL (2002). Dicionário Toponímico;

<sup>5</sup> PILILÃO (1989). Evolução e Divisão Territorial de Moçambique.



The spelling of exonym, in Table 1, show some hesitation, because the Portuguese are used various ways to represent the sounds in the pronunciation of geographical names, for example, the tone and the semi vocalization uses diacritics without any rule or standard way to represent these phonological and phonetic manifestations that no less common in Portuguese, as following:

- (3) a. Gurué / Gúruè [guruwe]  
 b. Púnguè / Pungwe [phuŋgWe]  
 c. Chokwe / Chokwe / Chokwe [ʃo: kWe]

The high and low accents that appear in (4.a, b, c.) in the Portuguese spelling, is an attempt to represent the long vowel of the penultimate syllable of the word, which is predictable in some languages as Changana, vowels sequence representation. In (3.b) we have the geographical name with two ways of spelling in an attempt to represent the sequence of vowels "u" and "e" and the tone. In (3.c) we have three ways of writing the geographical name in an attempt to represent the spelling of Portuguese long vowel and tone.

In other cases of geographical names, the attempt to write the name in Portuguese is difficult in representing some achievements that leads to omission or substitution, as can be shown by the following examples:

- (4) a. Mahimelane (Portuguese language)  
 b. KaMayimelani (Citshwa language)  
 (5) a. Gorongué (Portuguese)  
 b. Gurungurwe (Ndau language)

In the examples (4.a, 5.a) we have geographical names written in the spelling of the Portuguese language. In (4.b, 5.b), geographical names are written in the spelling of the source language or bantu language. Examples (a) have an etymological spelling, while the examples (b) have a phonetic spelling.

In the process of writing in Portuguese geographic names originating from the Bantu languages, those beginning with a palatal nasal consonant, many are plus a vowel "i" at the beginning of the word, as can indicate the following examples:

- (6) a. Inhatoco / Inhatouco (Portuguese language)  
 b. Nyatokwe (Cicopi language)  
 (7) a. Inhazonia (Portuguese language)  
 b. Nyadzoniya (Cimanyika language)

Geographical names (6.a and 7.a) beginning with a vowel "i" plus the spelling of the Portuguese language to avoid the palatal nasal consonant [ɲ] that is the initial sound of the word in the source language. In (6.b and 7.b) geographical name start with the palatal nasal consonant, as they are written in the spelling of the source language (national languages).

#### 4. Importance of Geographic Names Standardization

The standardization of spelling geographical names has many benefits for a country. Trade and the provision of essential services become more efficient both nationally and internationally. For example, facilitating the expansion of product or service depends on the existence of a standardized name, for a country that uses a different alphabet, or had many places with more than one name in different languages, one officiates and other used by beneficiaries community name's. Think of the difficulty of distributing food quickly in the area impacted by natural disasters, the floods in Mozambique, if names are known by several names and have been registered with different names in the various legal documents and foreign maps, in different languages. When this happens, humanitarian organizations, the media and local administrators do not share the same frame of reference. By standardizing the spelling of geographic names one avoids the misunderstanding of the name and the existence of several names for one place.

The lack of an effective standardization, which notes the spelling of the source language of the geographical name, can create some constraints to highlight the following:

- Loss of cultural mosaic - the geographical names written in Portuguese can lead to cultural break of people, in the sense that the geographical name is used to make prayers to ancestors or the gods, at the time of recall should be recall the correct name and if so not happen the ceremony does not give desired effect. For example, evoke Inhazónia instead of Nyadzoniya, Inhatokwe instead of Nyatokwe.
- Loss of identity - for example, residents of Manica district know the Gurungurwe lot, but in textbooks is written Gorongué, this situation makes the children and residents of the area are unaware of the Gorongué name.
- Loss and tampering of the history of a people, for example, the geographical name Montepuez, for example, comes to create speculation about its origin, whereas it is a word composed of monte 'hill' + Puez, that is a hill called Puez while it is a name of Emakhuwa language, N'thipwehi which means you spell that, in an attempt to represent the Portuguese spelling is written Montepuez. Because of this Portuguese version of the name, the history of that place has been badly told, considering that there existed a mountain called Puez.

The standardization of geographical names in the spelling of the source language in Mozambique to remedy the problem hesitation in writing of the names because the spelling of Bantu languages are standardized according to the sounds produced by the language in this way, we



maintain a set of values ethnic, etymological, historical for future generations geographically referenced and set in a temporal context. As happened in South Africa, some cities no longer have colonial names, for example, Ellisras → Lephallale (2002); Messina → Musina (2003); Nelspruit → Mbombela (October 2009); Pietersburg → Polokwane (2003); Schoemansdal → Kamatsamo (2005); Stanger → KwaDukuza (2006); Potgietersrus (1954) → Mokopane (2003).

## 5. Conclusion

This objective of this work is to analyze the standardization of spelling of geographical names in Mozambique. Having reached this part we can conclude that many geographical names of Mozambique correspond to the Mozambican languages that are written in Portuguese. Often the spelling used is very different for the same name, example, Mague/ Mágoè in some cases we get to add or remove some sounds, for example, Inhazónia/Nhazonia, these omissions and hesitations in writing of geographical names are due to the fact that the Portuguese did not accommodate certain sequences of sounds that occur in the Bantu languages, for example, the Portuguese cannot fit in spelling names as Nyatokwe, Nyazónia, Guruwe, Kulongwe, Magwe, Mayimelani. Thereafter we propose that the names should be standardized spelling in the source language.

Regarding the importance of standardizing geographical names in the source language, we conclude that whatever passing through the facilitation of trade and the provision of essential services becomes more efficient both nationally and internationally, enabling the distribution of food quickly in the area impacted by disasters natural, the case of floods in Mozambique, as the country still have places with more than one name in different languages, one official one and others used by beneficiary community humanitarian organizations, the media and local administrators do not share the same frame reference. The standardization of spelling geographical names, avoids misunderstanding of the names and the existence of several names for one place. The standardization of geographical names in the original language allows the maintenance of the cultural mosaic whereas geographical names written in Portuguese can lead to a cultural break of people; maintenance of identity, culture and the history of a people.

Finally I mean to say that I enjoyed to do this study very much, hence I promise to continue to work and encourage other scholars to study geographical names, in particular in Mozambique.

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## Tunisia

### Regional Workshop on geographical names: the design of a road map for Tunisia

In the context of implementing the requirements of the Decree No.1299 issued on 26 February 2013, fixing the creation of a National Committee of Toponymy in Tunisia (NCT), the Tunisian Government, through its National Centre for Cartography and Remote Sensing, organized in collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts (UNGEGN) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) a workshop on geographical names, from 12-16 January 2015.

Attended by 19 participants representing 11 ministries and public sectors, the workshop was conducted by the UNGEGN trainers Ms Helen Kerfoot, Madame Elisabeth Calvarin, Mr Ferjan Ormeling and Mr Brahim Atoui. The UNGEGN experts Ms Lucy Phalaagae, from Botswana, and Mr. Amor Sanon from Burkina Faso, also attended the workshop. Considerable encouragement from Ms Cecille Blake and her colleagues from the UNGEGN secretariat as well as a valuable financial support from UNSD were provided. To all of them the Tunisian Government is expressing its high appreciation and gratitude.

The programme of the workshop had 3 main sessions:

- training;
- fieldwork and;
- technical assistance, to draw a road map for the NCT upcoming activities.

The opening ceremony of the workshop was made by his Excellency the Minister of National Defence, President of the National Committee of Toponymy and the closing ceremony by his executive assistant. During the addresses, many thanks were dedicated to all those who contributed to enable the organization of this event, especially UNSD and UNGEGN.



*Group at the closing ceremony*

The training session included lectures on geographical names issues and the experiences of some countries in the field such as Canada, the Netherlands, France and the African countries present at the workshop, namely Algeria, Burkina, Botswana, and Tunisia. During the session, opportunity was also given to UNGEGN, the Task team for Africa and the IGN France International to present their contributions in promoting the geographical names in Africa.

The fieldwork, held on 14<sup>th</sup> January, coincided with the national commemorative holiday of the 2011 Tunisian revolution. The fieldwork was conducted by Mme Elisabeth Calvarin and took place in the region of Ghar El Melh, situated 50kms from the capital Tunis, in the North East of the country.

Ghar El Melh is a rich historical area where many civilizations have followed and left prestigious monuments as well as a large toponymic diversity witnessing to the rich cultural heritage in the region. During the collection of names and investigations about their historical and cultural evolution, we were assisted by the local delegate of the town of Ghar El Melh and by experts from the National Institute of Patrimony who helped to get into the depth of the cultural value of geographical names in the region. Regarding the drawing of the road map, the members of the committee who acquired quite enough knowledge about geographical names issues during the preceding training days provided by the UNGEGN trainers were able to draw by themselves the road map of their upcoming activities in the field.

Based on the Decree that created the NCT, a "brain storming" session was initiated which resulted in several interesting proposals to better orient the future work of the committee. The participants were divided in 3 groups to tackle the following issues:

1. Mandate and functioning of the national committee of toponymy: Among the recommendations made by these groups was the creation of sub committees,
2. Principles and Guidelines for naming places in Tunisia (14 principles on places naming were proposed),
3. Communication and data dissemination.

Two others meetings have followed the workshop to finalize the road map. Resulting from the meetings, the following 5 sub-committees were created with chairs and members nominated and will be in charge of tackling different issues. In addition detailed tasks for each sub-committee with deadlines were defined. The official nomination of the sub-committees by Decision of the Minister of National Defence, with reference to Article 8 of the Decree, is in progress.



1. **Sub-committee 1:** Legislation and Naming Principles,
2. **Sub-committee 2:** Toponymy standardization and Glossary of terminology,
3. **Sub-committee 3:** Toponymic data files and databases,
4. **Sub-committee 4:** Communication/awareness raising and data dissemination,
5. **Sub-committee 5:** International relations/cooperation and capacity building.

In order to get an idea about the status of the toponymy in Tunisia and the collection of the existing toponymic data, a detailed survey (questionnaire) was prepared by the committee and sent to all the ministries and members of the NCT. Feedback have already been received from some of them.

Meanwhile, some tasks conducted by the sub-committees are in progress with respect to proposals made by the UNGE GN experts during the workshop, such as: the creation of a website for the committee; the establishment of a toponymic flyer summarising the purpose of the national committee of toponymy, the benefit of geographical names standardization, the role of UNGE GN in promoting standardization issues, etc... This document is to be distributed to raise awareness about the importance of geographical names standardization.

In parallel, using the existing geographical names patrimony mainly through cartography, the National Centre for

Cartography and Remote Sensing, the main producer of maps in the country, is conducting the establishment of a toponymic database with a primary focus on how to solve the toponymic issues particularly at the spelling level.

In conclusion, besides raising awareness and reaching out to decision makers who were highly impressed by the importance of the standardization issues and their role in preserving the country cultural heritage, the workshop was certainly useful to initiate the work of the committee who got more familiar with the geographical names issues, a completely new domain for almost all of them. Such a knowledge and sharing of experience will help them while performing their forthcoming tasks, either as chair or members of the above mentioned sub-committees. As it has likely helped the colleagues from the African countries who participated to the workshop as experts in charge of re-vitalizing their national committees to "adjust" their work agenda accordingly and share their common experiences. Furthermore, the chair of the Task Team for Africa in collaboration with the other participating UNGE GN experts will get inspired from the conducted workshop to draw a wider road map for the benefit of the African countries that have many common concerns.

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## Republic of Korea

### **International Workshop on *Place Names to the Public***

The National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) of the Republic of Korea holds an international workshop on toponymy, titled *Place Names to the Public*, in Jeju Island, 8-10 October 2015. The workshop will be a part of the 20<sup>th</sup> UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific organized by NGII in the same place, 5-9 October.

Place names are in nature very close to everyday life. Moreover, the widespread spatial information technologies and advent of mobile gadgets have made place names indispensable to the public in contemporary life. Despite ever-growing significance of place names, it is evaluated; the value of place names and the importance of studying and managing them are not well perceived by the public. This workshop is designed to deal with the topic of how to communicate with and call attention to the general public with place names. To accomplish the purpose, several sub-

topics will be discussed, such as publicizing toponymic research and management, measuring brand asset of place names, systematizing place names education, cooperating with the media.

Anybody who has interests in participating is advised to contact Mr. Sungjae Choo.

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## Lithuania

### Place Names in the National Geoportal of Lithuania

#### 1. Introduction

In Europe, societies grow increasingly concerned about preservation of intangible national cultural heritage, of which place names are an important part. In Lithuania, the community of geographers began discussions about preservation of extinct place names in 2014.

National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture ([www.nzt.lt](http://www.nzt.lt)) is responsible for spatial data and cartography at national level. At the end of 2014, a project started with the purpose to collect and manage all the place names and make them available in a single system. As an outcome, the Toponymy Dataset and service for the territory of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter TDS) with a set of tools for management of place names was created. It is available for the users of the National Geoportal of Lithuania ([geoportal.lt](http://geoportal.lt)) and free of charge.

#### 2. Rationale for a single national TDS

The place names identify particular geographical objects. As time passes, some of those objects disappear, whereas others change restructured. The place names of such objects may vanish or become distorted in spoken language, unless information about them is collected in easily accessible form. There are many reasons of changes and loss of place names. In the last century the place names for the territory of Lithuanian had mainly changed because of the changes of the landscape due to mass collectivization, land reclamation, land occupation and Sovietization. Now the place names change and disappear because of depopulation. Many villages in Lithuania face the danger of extinction due to ageing population and emigration. The government eventually made decisions concerning the merger and abolishment of very small settlements. According to the statistics of the State Enterprise "Centre of Registers", over the past five years 240 villages in Lithuania were removed from the national register. Change rates of street names are even higher.

There are quite a number of objects (minor rivulets, lakes, ponds, boulders, islands, monuments, etc.) that are not stored in the state registers and cadasters. Information about these objects and their place names is not systematically collected due to their characteristics (such as small size and lack of importance). Historical place names available from different data sources (place

name dictionaries, local history resources in libraries, the church metrics, etc.) are poorly linked to map locations or not linked at all. Besides that, some objects do not have names or the official name is too long or unacceptable for other reasons. People often give those objects alternative names. For example: the residents of Kaunas and the guests of the city started calling The Simonas Daukantas pedestrian bridge over the Nemunas river "Kairys bridge" after the impressive flight of the pilot Jurgis Kairys under this bridge. Therefore it is important to create conditions for correct use of the place names in the press, radio, television, Internet and spoken language.

The TDS is needed as (a) a single dataset where the official place names from various sources are collected; (b) as a dataset of unofficial place names; and (c) as a dataset, where the names of extinct geographic objects can be stored.

#### 3. TDS Data and Structure

Data from different data sources is provided to the TDS where data are restructured, filtered and subsequently provided to the users via National Geoportal (Fig. 1).

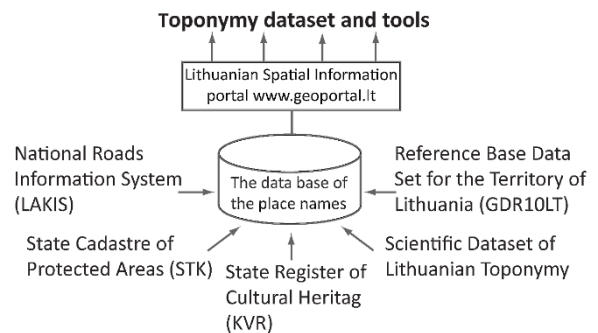


Fig. 1 Data flows that create the TDS

The TDS can be expanded in order to include data from other data sources as soon corresponding agreements with the data providers are signed.

The users working with the Set of Place Names Dataset use geographic information system capabilities. The place name objects are represented by point, line, and area features. The objects are grouped by their type. The attribute information is collected in accordance with the European spatial information infrastructure (INSPIRE) *Geographical Names* data specification



requirements. The TDS data is available online as an interactive service with its own environment in the map browser of the national geoportal at [www.geoportal.lt/map](http://www.geoportal.lt/map). The registered users have access to several tools to work with the place names of Lithuania.

### 3.1 TDS Tools and Services

The users can search for place names by entering a search phrase in the *Search* dialog box or by drawing the graphical extent on the map. The place names that meet the search criteria can be viewed on the map. Additional information about the objects can be identified and is continuously augmented. If the user notices missing or incorrect place name, he (she) can report the error by means of special tools. The manager of the primary data source is then informed. There is a separate working environment for place name normalization and approbation by the representatives of an authorized organization. New environment for registering extinct place names is under development.

Place name web service can be shared with other private and organizational users.

### 3.2 TDS Use Cases

TDS can be useful in various situations. When the user specifies an extent around the analyzed object (for example, the street, residential area, company, etc.) in the map, it is easy to find all the place names that exist or have existed in this territory. It is helpful when there is a need for an idea what place name could be given to a newly established or to an unnamed geographical object.

When the user draws an extent around the analyzed object in the map and enters a search phrase in the Search box, he (she) can find all the place names that are conjugated to the place name of this object in the territory. For example, by drawing the extent of 500 meter radius around the lake Pusne (Moletai district), the Pusne village can be found whose name could be derived from the name of this lake.

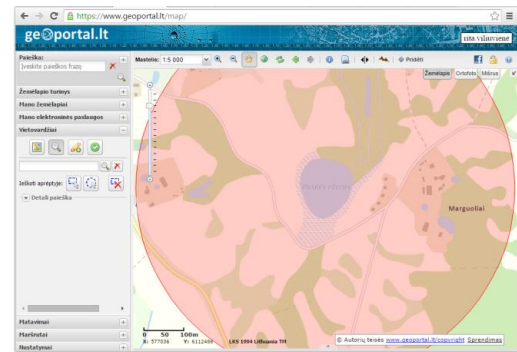


Fig. 2 Location of hydronyms near the analyzed lake.

When the user searches for objects (for example, the mills, hospitals, etc.) that exist or have existed in the territory, he (she) needs to enter an appropriate search phrase in the *Search* box. For example, under the name *Malūno g.*, *Ligoninės g.* the user can find all the objects with such a name in the territory. To go further into the matter, analysis of the search results like the *Torkleris mill*, the *Vizanskis mill* can support issues related, for example, investigation into Jewish history in Virbalis town (Vilkaviškis district) in Lithuania.

The user can expand the capabilities of the TDS by creating mashup maps from the National Geoportal data. For example, in order to locate old place names more accurately in the territory of Vilnius, the capital, the user can add an ortophotographic map of Vilnius in 1944 in the background.

## 4. Conclusion

There are several Internet resources where place name datasets for the territory of Lithuania are provided. The quality of the data is not uniform. The National Geoportal is the best place for integration of data from different data providers and for consistent collection of the place names of Lithuania. Besides that, place names of the objects that are not stored in the official registers and cadasters can be collected in the TDS. The working environment of the TDS offers the possibility to search, analyze, normalize and use the place names in both traditional and creative, new ways.

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## Indonesia

### Latest activities at Indonesia's Geospatial Information Agency

Indonesia's Geospatial Information Agency (*Badan Informasi Geospasial*) held a meeting of members of the National Team for the Standardization of Placenames on 14 April 2015 to discuss the planned finalization and distribution of its Technical Manual for Gathering Data on Manmade Placenames (*Pedoman Teknis Inventerisasi Nama Rupabumi unsur Buatan*). This is part of the development of the National Gazetteer.

The National Team for the Standardization of Placenames includes senior officials and technical experts from a number of national agencies, departments and universities, including: the Geospatial Information Agency itself, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Marine and Coastal Affairs, the Topographic Directorate of the Army, the Hydro-oceanographic Directorate of the Navy, Universitas Indonesia, and the Bandung Institute of Technology. The use of the Manual to guide data gathering on manmade place names is an important step towards understanding a highly complex situation with names based on hundreds of local languages, and also the popularity of using foreign names for the built environment. The finalized Manual is expected to be ready for distribution to the teams in the provinces by May when they will use the procedures described in it to perform their inventory of local placenames.

### New National Toponymy Organization

A new national toponymy organization, *Komunitas Toponimi Indonesia* (The Indonesian Toponymy Community) was established on 15 January 2015 to bring together those interested in the study of toponymy in Indonesia and to help develop the scientific field of toponymy in Indonesia. Apart from that, it is hoped that knowledge about toponymy will become more widely available to help the preservation of local place names and in the process help conserve the country's cultural heritage.

The organization was initiated by a group of lecturers at *Universitas Indonesia* coming from a variety of disciplines including linguistics, literature, philology, history, archaeology, psychology and geography. Membership is open to all those interested in toponymy. The organization is currently planning to begin holding national seminars on toponymy biannually, the first to take place in 2016.

Indonesia is an archipelagic country with a long history. Members of the organization have begun an ambitious five year multi-disciplinary research project that will study the country's maritime culture through the place names of historic ports throughout the archipelago. It will focus each year on a different area. The first year will be on Java island, the second on Sumatra, the third in Kalimantan and Sulawesi, the fourth in the Moluccas and Papua, and the fifth in Bali and Nusa Tenggara. The research will use five types of data, (1) Chinese historical records from the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. about voyages of the Javanese; (2) 11<sup>th</sup> century stone inscriptions describing sea ports; (3) 14<sup>th</sup> century manuscripts in old Javanese and old Balinese which describe ports and their activities; (4) travel accounts written by Portuguese seafarers journeys to Indonesia; and (5) 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch mercantile records and notes during their colonial occupation of Indonesia.

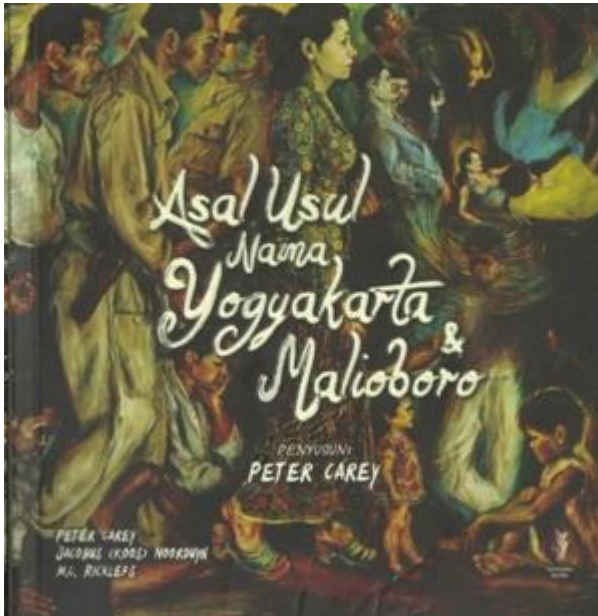
### News of Current Toponymic Research

As part of its efforts at promoting geographical names as cultural heritage, the Department of Linguistics in the Faculty of the Humanities at *Universitas Indonesia* is currently supervising two post-graduate research projects on toponymy. The first is an analysis of the names of 75 stations that are found on a busy commuter line that serves Jakarta and its conurbation linking the cities of Bogor, Depok, Tangerang, and Bekasi. The rail network developed during an important period in Indonesian history from the late colonial period to the present and these station names reflect the changes that have taken place in the development during that time of one of the world's largest cities. The interview data is analyzed using the methods of etymology and semiotics. The research should be completed by the end of 2015. The second research aims to reconstruct the extent of the territory of the ancient Mataram Kingdom through studying the place names in areas under Mataram control as recorded on 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century stone inscriptions and manuscripts. The analysis of these names looks at the relationship between the sounds and word structure (morphophonemic) and word meaning (semantic) features to determine their location. This will be used to produce a geospatial map and a topographic map showing the reconstructed extent of the ancient Mataram Kingdom. The research is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.



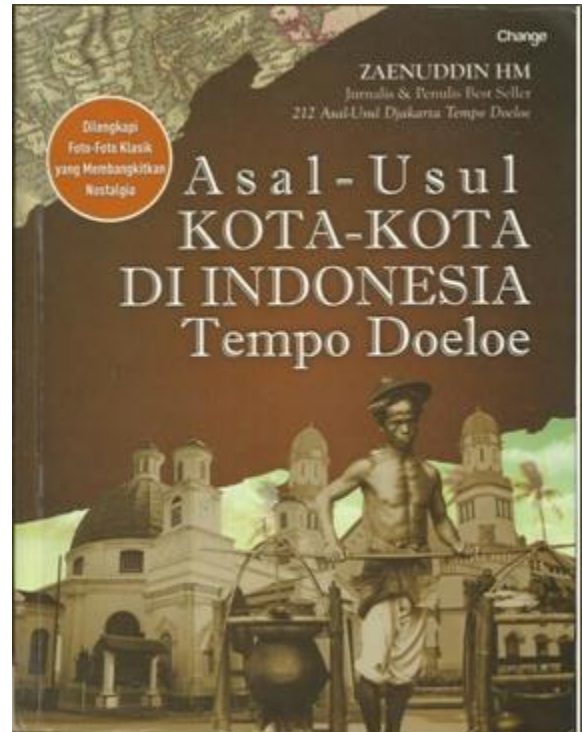
### Review of books on toponymy recently published in Indonesia

Review of Carey, Peter. Ed. 2015. *Usul Nama Yogyakarta & Malioboro*. Jakarta: Komunitas Bambu. ISBN: 978-602-9402-62-9. Authors: Peter Carey; Jacobus Noorduyn; Merle Calvin Ricklefs.



This book, edited by Oxford University historian Peter Carey, and with contributions from him and authors Jacobus Noorduyn and Merle Calvin Ricklefs, discusses two place names with links to Indonesian history. One of the places is Yogyakarta which is both a city and a province and links to the historic Mataram kingdom. The origins of the name are disputed. Noordyn explains the name Yogyakarta suggests that it comes from the Old Javanese word *yogya* while Carey, following Ricklefs, sees it coming from the Sanskrit word *ayodhya*. The other place, Malioboro, is a present day street name in the city of Yogyakarta. There are a number of popular stories about its origin, one of which is that it derives from the name of John Churchill, First Duke of Marlborough (1650-1722). Carey dismisses this, suggesting that Malioboro is most likely to have derived from the Sanskrit word *mâlyabhârin* which means 'decorated with flower garlands' being a reference to the use of garlands during royal processions on the street.

Review of Zaenuddin, H. M. 2015. *Asal-Usul Kota-Kota di Indonesia Tempo Doeloe*. [Origins of Historical City Place Names in Indonesia]. Jakarta: Penerbit Change. 612 pages. ISBN: 978-602-1139-30-1.



This book analyzes the names of 97 cities across all the provinces of Indonesia. It shows how Indonesia's history, with its precolonial past and its contacts with Portuguese, British, Dutch and Japanese colonial occupiers, and also its rich ethnolinguistic diversity is reflected in its place names. The research for the etymologies is based on old manuscripts, historical records, folk tales, myths, and legends. The city place names are shown to derive from a variety of things such as tree names, prominent people, aspects of the natural world, important events during different kingdoms, characteristics of ethnic groups, and local philosophical concepts.

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## Viet Nam

### Geographical Names in International Integration

A tendency of Globalization is that people travel more and more – and move and settle in all parts of the world. They go abroad for studying, working and tourism. Everyday abroad, they communicate and exchange knowledge with local people - so they have to use geographical names, such as asking about the way or talking about places.

If your pronunciation of geographical names is wrong, you may not be able to find the way to the place that you want or local people cannot understand what place you are talking about.

The same thing happens with foreigners who are living in your country. If in an emergency, you cannot help them find the way if their pronunciation of geographical names of your country is wrong.

The foreigners, who are living in Viet Nam, cannot use the World Map that was published by Viet Nam. The reason is that Vietnamese call other countries' names in their own way which only Vietnamese understand. There are many examples, such as: instead of call USA, UK, GERMANY, FRANCE, RUSSIAN... Vietnamese call MỸ, ANH, ĐỨC, PHÁP, NGA...or the name of a country could be written differently, such as: ACGIANGTIN /ACHENTINA/AC HEN TI NA, ITALY/ITALIA/I TA LI...

The following points describe the reasons for this:

1. Before the introduction of Latin script Vietnamese use Nôm script, that is a pictographic script, almost similar to Chinese script. At that time, Vietnamese language was influenced very much by Chinese (Hán) and it was called Hán - Nôm language. Vietnamese forms of other countries' names generally follow the Chinese system but instead of transcription they are translations of the meaning of sound, for example, Ý ĐẠI LỢI, PHI LUẬT TÂN... instead of ITALY, PHILIPPINES..

Similarly, Chinese geographical names are named in the same way, for example, BẮC KINH, THƯỢNG HẢI... Instead of BEIJING, SHANGHAI...

2. When European Evangelists came to Viet Nam, they used Latin script to record the sound of Vietnamese language. During more than 80 years as a French

colony, Vietnamese was influenced by the French way of naming geographical names, such as: ACGIANGTIN, VACSOVI ... instead of ACHENTINA, VASAW...

3. Up to now, no Nation Committee on Geographical names has been established in Viet Nam, so every ministry, province has their own regulation for writing and transcribing geographical names, for example, Béc Linh, Béc - Linh, Béc Lanh, Berlin...
4. Vietnamese is a monosyllabic language, whereas a lot of other languages are polysyllabic one, so it is rather difficult to just transcribe, for example, people can write either Ac Hen Ti Na or Achentina in Viet Nam.

On the other hand, there are many diacritic marks in Vietnamese, so it is not easy for foreigners to pronounce geographical names exactly.

For a better international integration for Vietnamese, in term of toponymy, the following steps are necessary:

- To establish the National Committee on Geographical Names as soon as possible. This Committee is the highest office to guide ministries, and provinces to standardize geographical names, following the regulations of UNGEGN and toponymy; to publish a gazetteer of Vietnamese and International geographical names to establish unity for the country and to submit to UNGEGN for worldwide distribution.
- On maps and multi-media beside the given geographical names it is most sensible to also state the standardized geographical names in brackets.
- To use standardized geographical names in all schoolbooks and to teach standardized names from primary school levels for the next generation to integrate more easily internationally.

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## Some remarks on place-name and trade mark

### 1. Role of place-name in the human life

In his work entitled *Vietnamese Place-name Studies* H., Social Science Publishing House, 2006), Assoc. Prof. Ph. D. Le Trung Hoa wrote: "The place-name is a name of a natural terrain, a building, an administrative unity or a territorial area... which owns a function non-existent to a noun or nominal syntagme, it is the *individualization* of object" (p. 47). The information value of place-name attached to the trade mark is just the *individualization of products series* attached to its name or production place as its manufacturing address.

It is remarkable that at one time, the *information value of the place-name* spreads among the masses of people by folk-songs indicating famous production place-name for every product.

Nowadays, the *value of product origin* is certificated by place-name registered on a product and it just indicates (partially) the quality in comparison with the products with the same trade mark but manufactured in another production address (es).

If it is not prohibited by local laws or its producer has not yet registered trade mark certification, the production name could be borrowed by another (to differentiate from production brand under its licence). . So on, the consumer must distinguish the place-name which is only trade mark and not its production place.

### 2. Place names and trade marks

#### 2.1. Role of place- name attached to trade marks

The *place-name* could just be *the name of service business place*, as at Hanoi, there is a Guest house named *Sơn La*, a restaurant named *Đông Dương* (Indochina); on the menu at the inn, the place-name indicates not production place of the dish but it becomes a specialty which attract the customers: *cơm lam* (glutinous rice cooked in bamboo by grilling) named *Pắc Bó*, *bún bò* (rice vermicelli with beef) named *Huế*, noodle named *Quảng, nem* named *Saigon*,... At Hồ Chí Minh City, there are *phở* named *Hanoi*, vermicelli with beef named *Huế*...The *phở* named *Nam Định* is made not only in Hanoi but also in other province as Lai Châu City,...However, at both the Lai Châu and Sơn La Cities, there are the Hostel named *Hanoi*,...

Today, the joined *Nam Hà* province has been again separated in two provinces, but the old name of the NAMHA Pharmaceutical Joint Stock Company (at n. 415 Hàn Thuyên road, Nam Định City) has not been

changed. The oriental Medicine Pharmacy *Kính Bắc* stand at n. 263 lande of market Khâm Thiên, Hanoi.

On the *name of educational establishments*, Lạng Sơn province conserves the old place-name toward its *Việt Bắc* Secondary School (established in 1947, by decision of the Vietnamese Education Ministry). At Tuyên Quang province, the *Tân Trào* University has recently been established, at Km 6, Trung Môn commune, Yên Sơn district ...

The place-name can be used also as a *product name*. For example, for a long time, all products of Thăng Long Tobacco Factory (Hanoi), were qualified – in correspondence with price – by conventional place-names as brands : *Điện Biên, Tam Đảo* and *Trường Sơn* was the inferior while at the other tobacco factories, their products are ranged in conventional correspondence by other place names as brands: *Sông Cầu, Tam Thanh, Nhị Thanh*.

In this case, the quality of service or products depends on the convention of the suppliers or producers. So that, the place-names differ from one another conventionally and the consumers must accept self-imposed it.

*The value of merchandise origin* begins with the nomination of production place specialized in (some) concrete lines, as brick (at) *Bát Tràng* village, tile (at) *Đáp Cầu* (town), pottery (at) *Mường Chanh* (commune), porcelain (at) *Hải Dương* (city), porcelain (at) *Móng Cái* (town), silk (at) *Hà Đông* old province)... and theses place-names become famous with these special products.

Perhaps the place-name(s) attachment to trade mark(s) has been made with the view to indicate soil with meteorological conditions favorable to "delicious goods and quaint things" widespread fame over its area for all the country: As cereal attached to the name of terrain where are cultivated the rice liked by the Vietnamese people: at the delta, famous is the flavored variety of rice (cultivated at) *Hải Hậu* (district), then at the North West region, the "glutinous rice of *Tứ Lệ* (village), and the plain rice of *Mường Lò* (area)" become special dishes. The essence of every special good is attached strictly to the place-name in the area: In the Lạng Sơn province, there is the persimmon (named by) *Lạng* (in abbreviation), the plum (cultivated at) *Thất Khê* (town), and the roasted duck of *Thất Khê* (town), peach of *Mẫu Sơn*



(mountain), the mandarin of *Bắc Sơn* (district), the tea of *Bình Giả* (district), the tea of *Hội Hoan* (commune), the soya curd of *Na Sầm* (town),...

Since a long time, the Hanoi people leave a good name for the basil of *Láng* (village), the pomelo of *Diễn* (village), then in the North Viet Nam, there are another pomelo of *Đoan Hùng*, together with the orange of *Bố Hạ*, the one of *Xã Đoài* or the one of *Vinh* with its particular fragrance but all are very sweet, contrary to the one of *Hải Dương* (sour orange); delicious is the litchi of *Thanh Hà* (district), and recently abundant is the one of *Lục Ngạn* (district)... On the beverage, there are the spirit (distilled at the) village of *Vân*, the tea of *Thái Nguyên*, the one of *Phú Thọ*, the coffee of *Buôn Ma Thuột*,... On the sauce, there are the fish sauces with different place-names: *Phú Quốc*, *Phan Thiết*, *Cát Hải*, the soy sauce of *Bần*,

A place-name attached to a trade mark is also to be considered when the products with the same name (of unique producer agency) are *manufactured* at different places (areas or countries).

In this case, the merchandise is also valued by its *certificate of origin* (c/o). For example, the same article (indicated by its mark) of one Japanese company will be considered as guaranteed in high quality by consumers, if it is *made in Japan*, but its price is always very expensive (accessible with difficulty towards the people which earns less middle income). In the time, the merchandise with the same trade mark is considered unequal in quality by consumers but always with a lower price, if it originates from another country as indicated on its wrapping or design.

*To give equivocal view in indicating the place-name where the product is produced the merchandisers aims intentionally at exchanging fraudulently a best product for a good one, or at least provoking their embarrassment. The indicating on wrapping or publicity of merchandise the manufacturing address by equivocal geographical instruction could play a confidence trick on swindle fools. Consequently, the consumers could make a mistake. For example: an itinerant dealer cries one's wares in a casual way that it is the mango of Thailand or the grape of America... when these fruits are not imported from these countries in reality.*

The consumers startle evidently when in Hanoi, there are not yet the head cabbage but in Hochiminh City supermarket, there are within the "clean vegetable" the head cabbage from *Hanoi*, next to the potato from *Đà Lạt*, the garlic from *Lý Sơn*

(island),... This is also an opportunity favorable to the cheating.

## 2.2 Some recommendations to protect the place-name attached to trade mark

At first, to protect the monopoly of one's product, the producer must register the trade mark with the responsible organs, thus resisting all the dishonest actions which could harm one's prestige. The place-name, particularly in foreign languages, is easy to imitate, i. e. with writing rather like to up-to-standard product (to play a confidence trick on costumers with few knowledge of foreign languages)

However, one is not completely home free after the registration of the e-trademark, but the producer must always find to protect the monopoly of his trade mark, resist all cheating efforts, when every merchandise coming from various origins, by economic integration, from various areas around the world.

For the consumers, there is often a recommendation to be "a smart consumer!" i.e. Become the one knows differentiate the quality of merchandise, by the place-name in or on product: an element non less important, but it could be in exact or ambiguous writing (unintentionally or intentionally to give equivocal views).

## 2.3 Responsibilities

The producer, the consumer and social public opinion must appreciate objectively the quality of merchandise, also by the place-name attached to every product as an element of trade mark.

The producer must pay attention to protect one's trade mark: not only the name of product but also its origin: manufacturing place-name. In particular when one's merchandise is sold abroad (controllable with difficulty, by expensive dispenses).

The consumer is often recommended to know differentiate the place-name written on every product, in mind to pay by truth value of merchandise.

The social opinion must denounce the equivocal actions to ambiguous writings, to dupe the consumer by his little knowledge on place-name manufacturing origin. Here stand out in relief the role of the Association for Consumer Protection.



In addition, but very important is the role of the authorities in market management and in appraising the quality of products. If it is intentionally mendacious, we require an indispensable juridical intervention.

### 3. Conclusion

In development, Viet Nam enters deeply into integration with its near area and the world, our market has been opened: the merchandise is not only from our own country but of various origins. The geographical instruction has an important role in exportation and importation. In other terms, the role of place-name attached to trade mark become more

and more attractive in particular, because it is not only formal, but determine also quality of merchandise (even of domestic goods).

This are some preliminary remarks to appreciate objectively the quality of products, by place-name, a non less important element attached to the trade mark of the goods.

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## Botswana

### Geographical Names Activities

The established interim committee continues to hold monthly meetings to address the issue of the resuscitation of the Botswana Place Names Commission. So far the committee has done amendments to the proposed Cabinet Memo and submitted to the Ministry for assessment. Plans are underway to organise training for this committee on Geographical Place Names in June 2015.

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## Special Projects and News Items



*UNSD Delegation visit to the CNCT-Tunisia*

### The Third High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management and the UN-GGIM-Africa Meeting

I would like to start by expressing my sincere thanks to the UN Statistics Division and to UNGEGN for having given me the opportunity to attend the 3rd High Level Forum (HLF) on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) and The UN-GGIM-Africa meeting and to recall the importance and role of the UNGEGN in promoting geographical names, as an integral part of geospatial information. These two important events allowed me also to learn about the participating countries' concerns on the need for standardizing and sharing geospatial information including geographical names.

#### UN-GGIM Third High Level Forum – Beijing, China

Held in Beijing-China, from 22 to 24 October 2014, the 3rd HLF on GGIM was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division and the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China (NASG). The overarching theme of the Forum was '**Sustainable Development with Geospatial Information**'.

Around 300 participants representing 44 countries including representatives from the United Nations, international organizations and the private sector participated in the Forum.

Five thematic sessions brought attention on the role of the geospatial information in supporting local, regional and sustainable development initiatives and covered the following issues:

1. Geospatial Information for the Post-2015 Development Agenda,
2. Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements,
3. Climate Change and Disaster Mitigation,
4. Science, Technology and Innovation to Measure and Monitor Progress and
5. Working Together Across Borders and Regions.

The discussions tackled different issues related to geospatial information management, including data standards; data sharing; the role of effective and coherent geospatial data in merging sustainable development sources like the land and water, cadastre, urban planning, climate change and disaster risk mitigation, geodetic network; use of volunteered geospatial information and crowd sourced information, and contribution from scientific community, private and public geospatial data producers, to raise the awareness of decisions makers about the importance of geospatial information.

The role of the United Nations and particularly the UN-GGIM in setting a global framework, mechanisms for the promotion of the sustainable development initiatives and ensuring the need for coordination at the national level and across borders to produce and share precise and standardized geospatial information were also discussed. My participation in the 3rdHLF, as a panellist in session 1 of the Forum, titled "Geospatial information for the Post -2015 Development agenda- Local to National perspectives", gave me the opportunity to provide an overview about the ongoing national project on the establishment of a Tunisian national geospatial infrastructure, and to gain benefit of similar experiences from the other participating countries for which sustainable development is a common issue.

Geospatial information infrastructures issues were the core of discussions at the High-level Forum, which gathered leading personalities, including heads of mapping authorities. Given that geographical names are an integral component of this information infrastructure, it was an opportunity for me to make a statement about the role of geographical names in support of sustainable development, as well as make the link between UNGEGN and UN-GGIM and their contribution to promote geospatial information in general and geographical names in particular.





At the end of the Forum, the "Beijing Declaration" declaration was adopted.

The presentation, statement and Declaration are available on: <http://ggim.un.org/3rd%20HLF.html>

### **UN-GGIM Africa, Tunis, Tunisia**

Organized in parallel with StatCom-Africa by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the UN-GGIM regional meeting for Africa meeting took place in Tunis, Tunisia from 10-12 December 2014. The meeting was attended by over 30 participants including 15 delegates from the following African countries: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia as well as observers from international organizations including the African Union Commission (AUC), the ECA and the United Nations GGIM Secretariat/United Nations Statistical Division.

UN-GGIM-Africa is replacing the previous Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology and its geo-information subcommittee (CODIST-Geo) with the expectation that this new body functions with the same governance mechanism and achieve the goals as those of the former CODIST-Geo.

The main objective of the UN-GGIM Africa meeting was to discuss how to set this regional body to be in charge of coordinating UN-GGIM activities in Africa in concordance with international mechanisms, and to draw a road map outlining the action plan of its relevant responsibilities, taking into account institutional, technical, legal and economic aspects.

During the meeting, Member States were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and provide a short statement on the situation regarding geospatial information management in their respective countries. This activity provided a general overview on the status of geospatial information in Africa, with respect to other regions in the world.

With regard to regional initiatives, representatives from the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGE GN), the African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF), the Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB) Project and the African Group on Earth Observations System of Systems (AfriGEOSS) delivered presentations on the

activities of their respective groups.

As UNGE GN's representative, I made a presentation highlighting the mission of UNGE GN, its structure, the different issues UNGE GN is tackling, as well as its role in the standardization of geographic names in the world and particularly in Africa. The presentation was also an opportunity to make a call to ECA, the United Nations and all relevant parties present to assist the geographical names progress in Africa and to include the topic of geographical names in UN-GGIM-Africa meetings.

The presentation is available on:

<http://ggim.un.org/knowledgebase/KnowledgebaseArticle50199.aspx>

The role of UNGE GN was mentioned while talking about the important bodies like SALB that are expected to contribute to UN-GGIM-Africa development. Such bodies although they are acting as separate entities or projects in their own right, the incorporation of their efforts and full support should be given.

The meeting was mainly dedicated to the process of the formal creation of UN-GGIM- Africa which should start with the formation of a transitional bureau. Other activities carried out regarding the establishment of UN-GGIM-Africa were the identification of priority working group themes and leaders, and formulating a recommendation to UN-GGIM-5 and the Conference of Ministers via StatCom Africa.

The meeting ended by the adoption of the following Resolution on the establishment of UN-GGIM-Africa: ***"Declare the creation of the African Caucus of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management initiative, so-called UN-GGIM: Africa, with ECA as Secretariat of the entity"***.

In parallel to the meeting of UN-GGIM Africa, Mr Stefan Schweinfest and Mr Amor Laaribi from the UNSD visited the National Centre for Cartography and Remote Sensing.

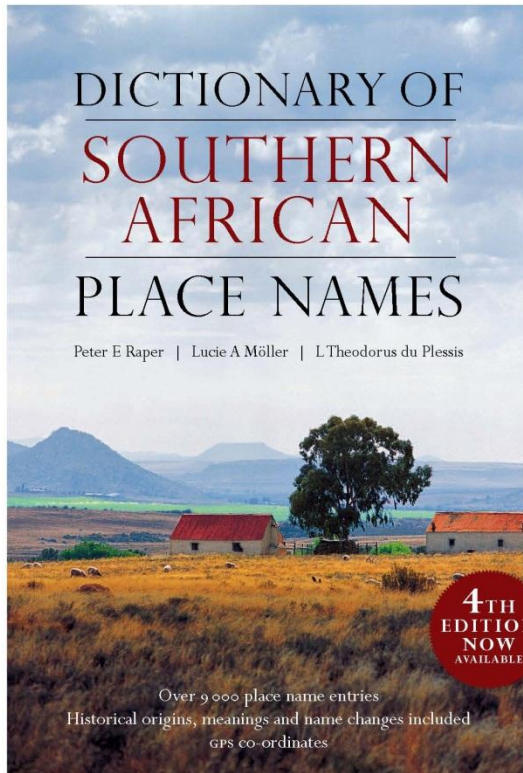
### ***Naima Friha***

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## Publications



The place names of a people constitute a very important part of the language of that people.

They sometimes preserve words and elements no longer current in that language and, as in the case of the Bushmen (San) and Khoikhoi in South Africa, constitute a major part of the surviving vocabulary of that people. Although place names generally originate in a specific language, they are used by speakers of other languages as well, and become part of the vocabulary of the receiving or adopting language, albeit sometimes in a form adapted to the phonological and orthographic systems of that language. The place names of a country thus constitute a commonly shared vocabulary of all the people of that country and are a national asset. Clearly this linguistic heritage is priceless and should be cherished and preserved. Place names also constitute an essential part of the cultural heritage of a nation. They reflect aspects of history, of agricultural, domestic, economic, humanitarian, industrial, military, political, scientific, sporting and other activities; they honour the heroes and leaders of the people, and commemorate important events; they reflect the beliefs, values, fears and aspirations of the people; and they embody words for and references to the flora, fauna, climatology, geology, hydrography, topography and every other aspect of the country in which the people live. The oldest names in southern Africa are those of the San and Khoikhoi, and those of the indigenous Bantu peoples. From the second half of the 15th century, Portuguese, Dutch, English, French, German and other names were given. The evolution of

Afrikaans further enriched the geographical nomenclature. Settlement, colonisation and immigration, particularly as a result of the exploitation of metal and mineral resources, and of urban and industrial development, added names from Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Indian and other languages. Cultural and biological interaction between these different peoples resulted in the widespread transfer of cultural traits from one society to the other (Elphick 1985: 23). This interaction involved language contact and language shift, affecting also the toponymic landscape of the region. Some existing names were replaced and new names were given; some names were translated (wholly or in part); hybrid forms, with part of the name in one language and another part in a different language, came into being. Moreover, some individual places came to bear more than one name, bestowed by different language groups. It also happened that many names were spelt in different ways by different people and at different times. Many existing names were retained, but adapted to the language systems of the newcomers. As Pettman (1931: 10) points out: Subsequent occupants of the territory have frequently taken over the place names from those they dispossessed, but in so doing — their meaning being unknown to them — they have accommodated them in sound and form to words that were known to them; others have been translated into the language of the newcomers; others, like worn coins, have had their distinctive features so nearly effaced by phonetic abrasion that only the most patient and careful examination will serve to ascertain what those distinctive features were, while some appear to be beyond recovery.

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A

Z

**Aakaap** (NC 2922 BB; 29:12:33S, 22:55:29E; -29.209167, 22.92472). Bushman name of **Rietfontein**, station of the London Missionary Society, established in 1801 by William Anderson (1769-1852) and Johannes Jacobus Kicherer (1775-1825). Also recorded as *Au'kaap*, *A'okaap*, the name is said to mean 'reed fountain', the Afrikaans *Rietfontein*, 'reed fountain', is thus a translation of the indigenous name. The first component is comparable to the /Nǁke (S2) /a, 'reed', cognate with the Nama *sub*, 'reed'; the second component is comparable to the /Nǁu/en (S6) /a, also /kha, 'spring', to the Auen (N1) /ha, 'spring', and the Auen (N2) /un/ha, 'mountain spring'. The final consonant *p* of the variants *Aakaap*, *Au'kaap*, *A'okaap* is the Khoikhoi masculine singular ending.

**Aalwynkop** (MP 2628 DA; 26:39:08S, 28:31:58E; -26.652222, 28.532778). Hill 5 km west of Balfour and 20 km south-east of Heidelberg. The name is of Afrikaans origin and means 'aloe hillock'.

**Aalwynpoort** (EC 3325 BR; 33:09:27S, 25:55:40E; -33.1575, 25.92778). Railway siding between Kommadagga and Saltair, 22 km north-west of Alicedale on the route to Cookhouse. Afrikaans for 'aloe pass', the name refers to *Aloe africana*, or 'Uitenhage aloes' as they are commonly known, growing in a ravine there.

**Aams** (Nam 2418 AC; 24:20:00S, 18:24:00E; -24.333333, 18.4). Khoikhoi name of **Stampriet**. It is derived either from the Nama *sa*, 'reed', *-ham*, 'tramp flat, stamp', from trampling the reeds in order to reach the spring; or from *sa*, 'reed dance', *-ham*, 'stamp (on the ground)', indicating the place where the reed-dance was stamped.

**Aan de Doorns** (WC 3319 DA; 33:41:58S, 19:29:24E; -33.69944, 19.49). Settlement on the **Nuy River**, some 7 km south-east of Worcester. The name is Dutch for 'on the thorns', 'at the thorns'. Considering that the component *Dooms* refers to the river on which the settlement is situated, and that the river also bears the name of *Nuy*, it seems likely that *Dooms* and *Nuy* are

-30.30083, 27.085). Town at the foot of the Aasvoëlberg, 200 km south-east of Bloemfontein and 72 km south of Wepener. It was founded on the farm Verliesfontein in 1816 and named in honour of Johanna Sibella Brand, née Zastron, wife of President Brand of the Orange Free State.

**Zebediela** (Lam 2429 CB; 24:31:54S, 29:28:11E; -24.53167, 29.46972). Alternative (older) name of the **Mkumpi**. It gave its name to a famous citrus estate. The name is said to be derived from the nickname *Sebitiela*, of the Northern Ndebele Chief Mankobe or Mamokobe, who was friendly towards white settlers at a time of general hostility, and to mean 'diplomat' or 'peacemaker', 'one that pacifies'. Another derivation is 'the one who consals', referring to cattle-owners who sought refuge in his village. Some sources state that Sebitiela was the father of Mamokobe.

**Zebra** (WC 3322 CD; 33:45:48S, 22:18:56E; -33.76333, 22.31556). Railway siding 20 km south-south-east of Oudtshoorn and 25 km north-north-east of George. Takes its name from the Cape Mountain Zebra, *Equus zebra*, formerly abundant from the south-western Cape to Cradock, later found only near Oudtshoorn and Cradock, mostly on private property, and in the Mountain Zebra National Park 14 km south-west of Cradock.

**Zebra Mountains** (Nam 1713 AB; 17:00:00S, 13:00:00E). Mountain range extending north-west and south-east for about 48 km, situated between the Karene, Omuhonga and Otjitanga rivers in Kaokoland. Named after its striped appearance caused by ironstone ridges alternating with declivities in which pale-coloured vegetation occurs.

**Zeekeerlief** (WC 3418 BA; 34:03:39S, 18:30:19E; -34.06083, 18.50528). Largest of the marshes on the Cape Flats, south of Grassy Park and Lotus River and east of Retreat. Dutch for 'hippopotamus marsh', the name was given by Jan van Riebeeck because *Hippopotamus amphibius* were seen there.

**Zeerust** (NW 2526 CA; 25:32:13S, 26:04:36E;



## In Memoriam

### Dick Randall 1925-2015

Dr. Richard R. Randall, former Executive Secretary of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) passed away at the age of 89 on Saturday, March 14, 2015 in Washington, DC. Dr. Randall received degrees in Geography from the George Washington University in 1948 and 1949, a PhD in Geography from Clark University in 1955, and he studied geography at the University of Graz (Austria) in 1953-54 as a Fulbright scholar. Dr. Randall worked for the Central Intelligence Agency from 1955 to 1961, first as an editor in its Geography Division and later as an Eastern European specialist. In 1961 he became the Washington representative for Rand McNally and Company. In 1969 he designed the first series of maps showing the world's oceans and water bodies for inclusion in its major world atlas, the Cosmopolitan Atlas. From 1973 until his retirement in 1993, he worked as Geographer for the Defense Mapping Agency (now the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency) and served as the Executive Secretary of the BGN. He remained an active member of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, the American Geographical Society, the Association of American Geographers, the Cosmos Club, and the Explorers Club.

Dr. Randall was active in the UNGEKN for many years, first participating in the Sixth Session of UNGEKN in New York (1975), serving as Editor-at-large for the Editorial Committee at the 3rd UN Conference in Athens (1977), the Editor-in-Chief of the 4th Conference in Geneva (1982), Chairman of the USA/Canada Division at the 5th Conference in Montreal (1987), and was First Vice President at the 6th Conference in New York (1992). He also served as the Convenor, Working Group on Undersea and Maritime Features (1975-1984). This position drew him into a close and long-term working relationship with, and later a member of, the International Hydrographic Organization's (IHO) General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) (1978-1993).



Dr. Randall's last UNGEKN participation was as an invited observer at the 9th Conference in New York (2007). In 2001 Dr. Randall's book "Place Names: How They Define the World and More" was published. Drawing from his life's experience, he explored how place names influence many aspects of people's lives and shape the way people view the world around them. He demonstrated how place names have become essential elements of our everyday vocabulary, and are ingredients of music and literature. He explored the political importance of place names in military and diplomatic matters and described various disputed and controversial location names.

#### **Trent Palmer**

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## Upcoming Meetings of Groups Associated with Geographical Names

### IGU Regional Conference

17-22 August 2015  
Moscow, Russia

### Pre-conference symposium

20-21 August 2015  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

### 31<sup>st</sup> IGU Congress

21-25 August 2016  
Beijing, China

### International Cartographic Conference (ICC) 2015

23-28 August 2015  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

### EuGeo Budapest (Hungary)

30 August – 2 September 2015  
Budapest, Hungary

### Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

9-10 September, 2015  
Copenhagen, Denmark

### Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

10-12 September 2015  
Copenhagen, Denmark

### Working Group on Publication and Funding meeting

10-12 September 2015  
Copenhagen, Denmark

### Norden Division Meeting


12 September 2015  
Copenhagen, Denmark

### Symposium "Place names, diversity and heritage"

17-18 September 2015  
Clarens, Free State, South Africa

### International workshop on toponymy, titled "Place Names to the Public"

8-10 October 2015  
Jeju Island, Republic of Korea



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