



Newsletter

— United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

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Message from the Chairman

Dear UNGEGN Experts,

I welcome this opportunity of communicating with you again, and of wishing you everything of the best for the remainder of 1998.

Delegates to the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in New York in January expressed the need for a second edition of the publication *United Nations Documents on Geographical Names*. I am pleased to report that the preparation of this book is progressing favourably. When the resolutions adopted at the Conference have been ratified by the United Nations Economic and Social Council, they will be incorporated in this publication.

As regards the publication of *Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors*, I wish to remind experts why resolution 7 of the Sixth Conference recommended that they be published in combined volumes.

Some Guidelines prepared in years gone by were published in the Technical Papers volumes of the Conferences, and some in *World Cartography*. It has become difficult, especially for cartographers and others who are not UNGEGN experts, to determine in which volume specific Guidelines were published, and in many cases those volumes are now out of print. Furthermore, an editor or other person who requires more than one country's Guidelines, has great difficulty in finding them and acquiring them. Recommendation of Resolution 7(b) of the Sixth Conference recommends that the Guidelines be published in *World Cartography*, but it is United Nations policy not to republish anything which was published before, so that Guidelines in volumes now out of print would be completely inaccessible. The intention is thus to make all Guidelines available, in the same volume, as a source of reference to those who need them.

The Guidelines of each country will, of course,

appear under the name of the expert(s) who prepared and wrote them. Authors of Guidelines are invited to provide me with an indication of their qualifications and/or position, title, or brief *curriculum vitae* for inclusion. Where applicable or desired, the national or other authority which officially approved the Guidelines will be indicated as well.

I thank those experts who gave me the diskettes (and paper copy) of their countries' Guidelines in New York, and those who sent them to me, and I look forward to receiving the other Guidelines in due course. I intend including in the combined volumes also those Guidelines which were published some time ago and have never needed revising, but which are no longer easily and readily accessible to those who need them.

A number of Guidelines are in the process of preparation or revision, and will be submitted in due course. At this stage it is uncertain how quickly the first combined volume can be published. There should be more clarity by the end of September, since by that time my visit to Windhoek to advise the Namibian Government on the establishment of a national geographical names authority will be over, as will the sixth UNGEGN training course on geographical names (July) and the 10th Southern African Names Congress (September).

Experts are reminded of my new address, namely:

Names Research Institute
P.O. Box 26582
GEZINA
0031
SOUTH AFRICA

With best wishes
Yours sincerely,

Peter E. Raper
South Africa

Message from the Vice-Chair

I am following up the resolution from the Seventh Conference dealing with access to and archiving of technical papers. During the coming months I will start to gather information on the documents from UN conferences and UNGEGN sessions, as well as the various occasional papers contributed by experts and delegates. My aim is to develop a spread sheet or data base of this material, indicating some of the locations where the various items can be found. Further steps will involve looking at possibilities of scanning these documents, and finding a means of storage which would make all the materials more readily and inexpensively available to those working with the standardization of geographical names.

If I do not contact you individually, I will keep you posted of progress, through the *UNGEGN Newsletter*. Information, suggestions, comments, etc. are, of course, welcomed from any expert.

e-mail: hkerfoot@NRCan.gc.ca

Helen Kerfoot
Canada

In Memoriam

Dr. Meredith F. Burrill

With the death of Dr. Meredith Frederic Burrill on 5 October 1997 in Washington, D.C., the world of geographic names lost perhaps its most effective and ardent missionary. His early career as a geographer with a Ph.D. brought him a variety of assignments, including teaching at the University of Oklahoma. When the US entered World War II, he was hired to direct programs of a new government office in Washington, D.C. created to produce place names written in the Roman alphabet to support military operations in many areas, especially the Far East. Shortly afterward, Dr. Burrill was also appointed the Executive Secretary of the reestablished US the US Board on Geographic Names, first created in 1890 but inactive for several years prior to the war.

Under his management, the staff of the combined offices working on names grew to about 175 experts in cartography, geography, languages, and linguistics. Their work was prodigious. For example, they converted many hundreds of thousands of names from various oriental writing systems to Roman-alphabet versions for application on military maps and charts. The need for place names was recognized again soon after the end of the war, and the Board was reorganized. Dr. Burrill was reappointed the new Board's Executive Secretary and its work continued at an impressive scale.. In addition to responsibilities for domestic and foreign names programs, he was involved in Board advisory committees to provide names of undersea and Antarctic features, and in subjects related to a variety of relevant concerns, including the creation of romanization systems.

Dr. Burrill was active in a number of professional organizations and served as president or held other offices. For example, he was president of the American Name Society in 1955 and the Association of American Geographers in 1966.

He also was a major force in United Nations programs on names. Under his guidance, in close collaboration with a handful of experts from other countries who first convened in 1955, the UN began a se-

ries of international technical sessions and conferences. He served as the president of the first UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Switzerland in 1967, and was active in conferences in 1972 and 1977 (even after his retirement in 1973 at which time he continued to serve as chairman of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names). During his career, he showed an admirable ability to develop close ties among nations otherwise occupied with Cold War politics. He also submitted many reports relating not only to the work of the Board as it could apply to other national programs but also to guidelines designed to enhance overall UN efforts.

Dr. Burrill had many skills. He successfully occupied several positions that required a sharp sense of the connectivity of the different themes that comprise geographic names, or toponymy. He was an effective writer and speaker. His career illustrated an ability to work with people representing a variety of disciplines so their combined expertise could be focussed on names programs. Another tribute to him is the fact that the Board continues to meet the requirements of members representing 9 organizations with a staff of some 35 experts working on foreign areas and 9 experts on domestic issues. Fulfilling a desire he expressed many years ago, Board experts are now collaborating with comparable organizations in a growing number of countries.

It was my privilege to succeed Dr. Burrill as Executive Secretary of the Board and its Foreign Names Committee in 1973 and to work with him on many occasions until my retirement in 1993. During those years and afterwards, I enjoyed a relationship with him that brought me many personal and professional benefits. And I know many others had the same experience. Let's raise a glass to our friend and colleague, Dr. Burrill!

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Betty Didcoct Burrill, two children, two grandsons, and five great grandchildren.

Dr. Richard Rainier Randall
United States

Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the First Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

Mr. Meredith F. Burrill, who, unfortunately, passed away in 1997, was one of the original founders of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and President of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which was held in Geneva in 1967. The following is an article that Mr. Burrill had written in 1992.

The 1967 United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Its Origins and Some of Its Legacy

by
Meredith F. Burrill
Executive Secretary Emeritus
U.S. Board of Geographic Names
August 1992

A third of a century has elapsed since the United Nations circulated to its members states the 1958 proposed program of standardization of geographic names. We are now having a part in the resulting ongoing international undertaking. The program has already identified major goals and focal points for immediate attention. It has amassed a great amount of information. It has provided international communication with answers to many questions. It has demonstrated that people with different backgrounds can work together toward solutions for complex problems, problems that have elements in common for all people and unique elements for every group. How did we get this far?

The first thing necessary for international standardization is for many countries to want it, to see a need for it, and to agree on how to start. Let us take a quick look at how the need for geographic name standardization was perceived and how the United Nations

got into the act. Perception, and actions based on it, took a long time. Until World War II the number of names seen to need standardization was not large. Neither was the manpower and other resources for processing them. The problem had been recognized at the first international geographical congress in Amsterdam in 1871, and useful rules were adopted, but for decades efforts were directed largely to searching for a universal alphabet. Some alphabet and some rules did some good, such as the IPA, RGS, and the Roman alphabet rule, but none approached the worldwide task. There were official names-standardization agencies in only a few countries and their staffs and accumulated files were small.

What really caused the perceived need to balloon was the use of large scale maps for World War II. The US Board of Geographic Names was jolted into activity in 1943 by an immediate requirement for romanizing names by the millions from Asiatic languages. Scientific linguists joined the BGN staff at this point; some are here today.

When the United States government started to build a file of information on all areas of the world, it became obvious that names problems were causing confusion. As a consequence, the BGN edited the names on every map and every piece of written material in that file. The process accumulated both large names files and expertise. When the files became large, gazetteers replaced editing. A sampling of name density on maps showed that the world total was in the billions. Obviously an international effort would be required over time. There would have to be an international program.

Early in the 1940s there was evidence that international cooperation was feasible. The United States and United Kingdom resolved their differences in romanizing Cyrillic by jointly adopting the system that

could be applied mechanically, making mass production possible. Names in the Antarctic that had been the subject of bitter controversy was agreed to by agreement on a clear, reasonable policy. The formula matched kinds of features with kinds of explorers. The BGN provided other countries with all the information it had on the facts relative to the naming and offered to reconsider any name if someone else had better information. Antarctic names soon became the most agreed upon ones in the world. How was this experience to be shared with the rest of the world?

People would have to get together and find out how to do it. Support was sought and was forthcoming from many organizations for the idea of the United Nations as the focal point of international cooperation. The International Congress of Onomastic Sciences in 1957 made a formal request to the United Nations to convene a conference and launch a program looking toward international standardization. The United Nations requested the Executive Secretary of BGN to draft a program for circulation to all member states for comment. Comments being favorable, the United Nations invited member states to send experts to meet and lay out the kinds of problems that any country would have to deal with in standardizing its own names. The experts were asked, further, whether a full scale international conference would be useful. The experts assembled in 1960, prepared the requested report, and recommended a conference. The report was duly circulated and commented upon; many countries said they would come. The United Nations asked the experts to help organize such a conference to be held in Geneva in 1967 and issued invitations.

The 1967 Conference was different in four ways from any before it:

(1) It was the first conference of world-wide scope devoted entirely to the subject;

(2) It was attended principally by professional name standardizers, people technically competent in the subject and associated with official national name standardizing bodies or with international organizations having a stake in the matter;

(3) It was preceded by preparatory meetings, discussion, world-wide circulation of proposals for study and comment by governments, followed by collation

and circulation of comments received; and

(4) It was deliberately designed to facilitate world-wide exchange of national experience with the problems of standardization, the identification of the extent and degree of consensus and of differences, the exploration of steps to further extend the consensus, and the development of international machinery for international cooperation.

Papers at the 1967 Conference consisted of more than 80 documents which were distributed, studied, and referred to. Governments were asked particularly to send the people most closely concerned with geographic name standardizations, and did. Expertise was drawn upon wherever it was to be found. More than 80% of those attending were professional and technical people, concerned in practical ways with the matters discussed and were able to draw upon experience.

At the 1967 Conference attention was directed continuously at the subject for three weeks; ramifications were explored at length; arguments were presented and weighed, accepted or rebutted; revised and incorporated into new positions; alternatives were compared and a consensus developed point by point. The deliberate structuring of the meetings to facilitate this contributed in no small measure to the successful outcome.

Pronunciation was finally eliminated as an obstacle by acknowledging that uniform pronunciation is not possible, but that accepting pronunciation variation makes possible the acceptance of uniform writing within a given writing system. This in turn made feasible the international acceptance of uniform writing within a given writing system. This in turn makes feasible the international acceptance of nationally standardized written names.

When one starts from this simple conceptual base and goes about the business of national standardizing and international accepting, things rapidly become more complicated. It was the basic purpose of the Conference to illuminate these complications. The specific objectives of the Conference were:

Objective 1. Acknowledgment that nationally standardized names are the proper basis for international standardization and that an international alphabet is not.

Objective 2. Development of a greater willingness

on the part of each country to take account, in its domestic programme, of the problems that other countries might encounter in receiving and assimilating those geographical names for their own use. This would mean that the donor country would provide all the elements of the original scripts and other linguistic details necessary for proper conversion into other scripts.

Objective 3. Comparison of problems and programmes of various countries.

Objective 4. Identification of topics, areas and categories of names which merit immediate study, and formulation of principles relating to international standardization.

Objective 5. Formulation of principles applying to the transfer from one writing system to another.

Objective 6. Consideration to be given to the establishment of systems for international standardization based on the Cyrillic alphabet and the Arabic alphabet.

Objective 7. Identification and discussion of categories of names of features extending beyond the sovereignty of a single country, e.g. oceans.

Objective 8. Development of machinery for international exchange of information.

Objective 9. Proposals for the establishment of a programme of regional conferences or working groups to operate after the Geneva Conference.

Objective 10. Promotion of the establishment of names standardization bodies in all countries.

These objectives were essentially achieved and, since final answers on all questions were not expected, progress was registered on nearly every matter considered, and plans for making more progress were agreed upon.

The discussions were organized under four committees. Since the committees did not meet at the same time, all participants could participate in all discussions. Special working and drafting groups were formed by volunteers. Each committee developed a series of resolutions in assigned subject areas. All actions by the Conference were unanimously approved. It is indicative of the enthusiastic spirit of cooperation generated at the Conference that the two resolutions considered most important related to the continuance

of the momentum that had been gained. The first resolution called for the establishment of a United Nations permanent committee of geographical names experts "to provide for continuous coordination and liaison among nations to further the standardization of geographical names and to encourage the formation of regional groups..." An ad hoc group was set up to function ad interim. The second resolution recommended the convening of a second Conference.

These two resolutions came before ECOSOC at its spring meeting in May 1968, and were approved in slightly altered form. The group of names experts set up in Geneva was to include participants from major world linguistic/geographic groups, and the group was requested to continue to carry out the proposed functions. The Secretary General was asked to consult with the group relative to holding the second conference in 1971.

The 1967 Conference demonstrated the ability and readiness of the professional community to cooperate. Most of the problems on which a consensus could not be reached were referred to the subsequently titled Group of Experts for further exploration. In a paper on the Conference, a member of the Soviet delegation commented that one could not expect that such an important problem as the standardization of geographic names, full of contradictions and unexpected difficulties, could be solved by a single conference. He noted the resolution of the problem would require the work of all countries and a time period of many decades, but he added it was important that the participants of the Conference could come to an understanding on certain principles, inform each other about the state of research and progress, establish contacts, and plan future projects.

Dr. Richard Rainier Randall
United States

Ptolemy - The First UNGEGN Toponymist

We are approaching the end of the second millennium. Let us go back to the beginning of the first, and even before that, to a time when Greek Alexandria was the cultural capital of the world. The present paper is intended to build a bridge between antiquity and the present, and, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, to demonstrate the continuity of our vocation.

Definition of an Expert on Geographical Names

What constitutes an expert on geographical names? He — or she — should, of course, be a good toponymist, i.e. a person dealing proficiently with geographical names and their standardization. Experience in 'active' geography would be expected, as well as a knowledge of linguistics and an interest in history; and a very important component in his or her training would be a solid background in cartography. Furthermore, administrative experience would be of value, especially in the handling of both data and people. And why all these qualifications? Because a member of UNGEGN is required to do a multi-faceted job. He (and, to make this presentation gender-independent, the 'she' will henceforth be implied) must treat and standardize toponyms. So let me open this discourse by briefly reviewing the qualifications of a model UNGEGN member in these different fields, and then examine whether and to what extent they applied to Ptolemy — the subject of this paper.

Geographical knowledge comes handy when one has to take into consideration the physical and human conditions under which a name is born, or exists, or changes.

Linguistics and phonetics must be applied in such a wide range of conditions and situations that it is difficult to enumerate them all. Let us just mention the problems encountered in the transformation of geographical names from one language into another through translation and by exonymization; or in the conversion from one script or writing system into another via transcription or transliteration. A sense of *history* is of importance because many geographical names resemble living organisms: they are born, but

often do not remain constant and, through time, change in form, whether spoken, written or both. In the end some of them die, but if they are lucky they may even be resurrected — as are many biblical place names in present-day Israel. Perhaps an order of precedence must be established, just like among people of different rank, social status or income! This is a situation found in some multilingual countries such as Belgium, Switzerland and South Africa.

Furthermore, geographical names are no aspatial objects: they exist in four-dimensional space. Each named feature on Earth has three geometrical coordinates and one of time. The geometrical coordinates can be ordinary geographical ones of latitude and longitude, or the X-Y coordinates of a plane-rectangular framework such as the UTM grid or any other national or local coordinate net. To these must be added elevation, i.e. height referred to mean sea level. An understanding of the basic concepts of *geodesy* is thus required.

Why was *cartography* mentioned as a further requirement? Because geographical names can be stored in different ways, the most important and prevalent ones being name lists such as name indexes and gazetteers — and maps. The toponymist inserting a name in a map must be conversant with the relevant cartographic procedures and methods in order to correctly encode this information graphically and convey it to the map reader.

So *toponymy* is the theory and practice of dealing with geographical names, including their standardization, is an interdisciplinary topic.

The Scientific Background

Claudios Ptolemaios, usually called Ptolemy in English, came into the learned atmosphere of Greek Alexandria at the end of the first century. While we know much about his work, most of which has been preserved to this day, we know very little about his person. It is probably true to say that his activity as a collector, compiler and editor was of even greater significance than his activity as an originator. But this might lead to underestimating his wide-ranging talents. I wish to evaluate some of his work and its results

without going too deeply into the controversial question of what was really his own contribution and what was influenced by him and probably — or at least perhaps — performed by others. There are so many editions of his work; in many cases if not in most the later editor added some of his own ideas or updated information, whether correct or wrong, and so a brief paper cannot cover them all. I shall simply try to summarize, and stress what seem to me, as a cartographer and toponymist, to be the most important aspects of his wide-ranging work which was one of the most notable and influential ever to be performed. So before describing Ptolemy's work in geography, cartography and toponymy, I must mention at least some of his achievements in other spheres of science, mainly those that have a direct bearing on his accomplishments in the earth sciences and geographical names.

Ptolemy's greatest acclaim to fame was his work in astronomy, which came to be known both in the East and in the West as the *Almagest*. Ptolemy also was a mathematician, well trained in both branches of contemporary mathematical science, namely geometry and arithmetic. Here he did important original work, as demonstrated in his book 'Analemma'. In another work, the 'Planisphaerium', he dealt with the projections of three-dimensional bodies onto a plane, using as a focal point an extreme point of the body. Applied to the graphic representation of the Earth, this is the Stereographic projection, which is still in widespread use today: it serves among others as the complement to the well-known UTM or Universal Transverse Mercator Projection for the polar areas where the cylindrical transverse UTM projection is impractical.

Ptolemy also did work in physics, in connection with optics for star observations such as those needed for determining the position of points and names on earth.

The *Geographia*

I now come to the second great and extensive work on which Ptolemy's fame rests, second in importance only to the *Almagest*, and it, too, had far-reaching implications. This is the 'Geōgraphikē hyphēgēsis' or 'Guide to the description of the Earth', which became later known simply as the '*Geographia*', and later still as the '*Cosmographia*'. Alexandrine science had

accepted the Greek image of a spherical Earth, but had still to struggle with the three questions of (a) its extent, or rather that of its populated regions; (b) its graphic representation on a plane surface; and (c) the placement of thousands of geographical names. In other words, the construction of maps had to be solved. In the *Geographia*, Ptolemy addressed all three issues.

One can distinguish between two distinct parts of the *Geographia* as it is known to us, namely the text, originally in Greek, and the maps. Whereas the Greek text with all the geographical names was preserved and brought from Byzantium to Italy, being translated there into Latin — this text was not accompanied by original maps. Any maps which Ptolemy himself may have drawn were lost. They were reconstructed during the Renaissance purely with the help of the geographical names, and then reproduced continuously with geographical improvements (which today we would call updating), until about 1730.

I recognize three aspects of Ptolemy's integrative work as reflected in the *Geographia*: the geographical, the cartographic and the toponymic. So first: Ptolemy's work as a geographer. In evaluating this we must exercise some care. We do not know much about his travels, except those in North Africa and Upper Egypt. He had to rely chiefly on geographical information supplied to him by others. That most of his informants (some of whom must have lived before his time) were reliable can be seen by just looking at the information contained in the *Geographia*, and especially at the maps which were based on it and added later. In his introduction to the *Geographia*, and also in the name lists, he makes a distinction based on the reliability of the position given for his data.

The *Geographia* consisted of 8 parts or books. In Book I, with 24 chapters, Ptolemy provides his definition of geography, methods of collecting names and other data and their evaluation, followed by a detailed critique of map-making methods.

Ptolemy the Cartographer

So we come to the great Alexandrine's role as a cartographer. Cartography includes the collecting of geographically-referenced data, that is, data with quantitative coordinates and not only names. Furthermore it entails editing, graphic designing the map and, of

course, displaying the data. Viewed in this light, we recognize that Ptolemy's work in geography would today be regarded as topographic cartography (not as thematic mapping), and him as being a cartographer. Two important aspects still had to be dealt with. One was the major problem of cartographic projections, a projection being defined as a method of transferring geographical locations from the spherical Earth to the flat sheet of paper. The other was how, in practice, the map was to be made. He addressed them both in Book I of the *Geographia*. The second problem related to the graphic representation of the Earth in a plane as recognized by Ptolemy concerned the division of the world map into separate sheets of relatively large scale and greater detail compared with the world map. Ptolemy, who addressed this problem in Book VIII, was the first person known to have produced what we now call an atlas, that is, a collection of maps of uniform size, bound together in book form, but differing widely in map scale. But the name 'atlas' for a book of maps was first used by Gerardus Mercator in the middle of the 16th century.

Eight Thousand Geographical Names and the First-Ever Geographical Gazetteer Books II to VII of the *Geographia* include a list of some 8,100 named locations around the known or inhabited world. It is this extensive list of names which enabled two tasks to be performed. Firstly, it led to the reconstruction of his maps in the Renaissance, as mentioned above. And secondly it enables one to evaluate the accuracy of the information on which he based his work. Of course, for both these tasks to be performed, a geographical framework had to be devised in which the positions could be quantitatively defined. And this framework too was provided by Ptolemy. This framework was the geographical graticule, the name given to the net of imaginary parallels of latitude and the meridians of longitude which we still use today.

One of the important functions of today's UNGEGN is encouraging and supporting the production of geographical gazetteers. According to the Glossary of Toponymic Terminology [3] a gazetteer is defined as a "list of toponyms in alphabetical or other sequential order, with an indication of their location and preferably including variant names, type of topo-

graphic feature and other defining or descriptive information". This is, of course, a modern definition listing present-day requirements. It may therefore come as a surprise how nearly Ptolemy anticipated such needs.

The ordered list of some 8,100 geographical names which constitutes Books II to VII of the *Geographia* is the first-ever example of a true geographical gazetteer. How is it organized, and which items of information — or, in modern terms, which data fields — does it contain?

Since Ptolemy assumed that the reader would look for a name within a certain defined geographical area, he arranged his list not alphabetically but in another "sequential order" (see definition above), with the separate maps constituting the first level of sorting. Within each map section of the list, the names are arranged according to geographical areas or political units as a second level of sorting.

And now we must turn to the contents of the name list which is really a toponymic data base. Primarily, which types of geographical features does it contain? The predominant items are, quite naturally, inhabited places: cities, towns and even villages. Further we find names of physical geographical regions as well as of political divisions and of peoples and tribes, often constituting the headings of "paragraphs" as explained above. Very sensibly, physiographic point features are included, such as the mouths of rivers and river confluences, heads of promontories and other geographically identifiable objects. Mountains are also found in the list, as are lakes, usually denoted by a representative point within their circumference.

The second issue to be examined in connection with the contents of the name list is again one in which Ptolemy preceded our work in UNGEGN today. This concerns the items of information appended to each entry in the name list.

Naturally, the main item is the geographical name itself. In the original this appeared in Greek — either as a Greek exonym or in conversion from the source language or script into Greek writing. This proves the fact that Ptolemy must have been an expert in the conversion of geographical names, too. If the original name conveyed to him was in a script other than Greek, it had to be transliterated; we might call this operation

toponymic hellenization or perhaps grecization, the counterpart of today's romanization. In many cases, if not in most, this was not enough: Greek exonyms had to be substituted for endonyms.

The second item of information in the list was the location of the referenced object. And it is here that Ptolemy really did pioneering work. We know of numerous lists of geographical names in antiquity more or less strictly organized or arranged. Thus, a very detailed list of Hebrew names of populated places and some physiographic features delineating the borders of ancient Israel and its division into tribal areas some 3000 years ago is included in the Old Testament in the Book of Joshua, chapters 15 to 17, where the names can be found today in any Bible. Sources of names, albeit dispersed and unstructured, can be found even much earlier, e.g. in the Egyptian Tell el-Amarna tablets of the 15th cent. BC. But Ptolemy was the first to systematically indicate the location of his 8,100 names with the aid of coordinates — something we learned from him, and today regard as a normal requirement of any gazetteer.

It was the coordinates in Ptolemy's name list which enabled cartographers in the Renaissance to reconstruct the missing maps. In one of my courses at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem I ask my students to reconstruct the map of Israel only from the tabular data in the *Geographia*, as it might have been done in the past, i.e. just from the geographical names and their coordinates.

Summing up

If we permit ourselves to judge — or criticize — Ptolemy's work in toponymy (or in any other of the numerous spheres in which he was active and productive), we should remember that we do so with the benefit of hindsight. What should be done (and the present writer tries to do this) is to remember that all human achievements must be viewed in the light of their contemporary level of knowledge and technology. One cannot simply say "Here Ptolemy erred"; one must turn the statement into a question and ask "Could Ptolemy, in the light of existing possibilities, have arrived at a better solution?". The great Alexandrine Greek was confronted — basically — by the same limitations facing all toponymists and cartographers of all ages,

including our own: he had to rely on "informants". After all, no living person is able to check on his own all geographical names in the world. So one has to find the best and most reliable sources available. This is something every toponymist under training is taught, and participants in UNGEGN training courses and seminars will remember it from their field exercises. Although it is known from the records of his astronomical observations that Ptolemy did travel, he was, as keeper of the great library at Alexandria, tied to his post much if not most of the time. While we are far from comparing the two, his problem was well illustrated by the Geographer in Antoine de St. Exupéry's book *The Little Prince*.

Thus we arrive at the summing up. We do not know whether a sense of history was among Ptolemy's qualifications, but at least he was acquainted with the history of his profession. We have demonstrated his competence in all other domains demanded of a UN toponymist. He was a great innovator and originator in world geography, but particularly in cartography and toponymy. He was the author of a most innovative composition — original as much in its content as in its form — an "atlas" with a gazetteer of geographical names. He was indeed the first 'quantitative' toponymist.

So if we expand the acronym UNGEGN into "Un-Nationalistic Greek Expert on Geographical Names" we finally justify the title of this paper. My presenting it here should be regarded as a token of my esteem and admiration for this illustrious scholar and scientist to whom I owe much of the basis of my professions of cartography and toponymy.

(The oral presentation of this paper at the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names on January 20th, 1998, was accompanied by a number of slides showing some of Ptolemy's work).

Naftali Kadmon
Emeritus Professor of Cartography
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

Nasser Khosrow and Istakhiri: Iranian Geographers Engaged in Toponymy

Nasser Khosrow

Abu Mo'ain Hamidoddin Nasser Khosrow Ghabadiyani Marvzi, known as "the Hojjatt-e-Khorassan" was born at Ghabadiyan Marv in 394 A.H (after Hijra = 1003 D.C) and died in 481 A.H (1088 D.C) at Yamgan Badakhshan. He learned the prevailing and common sciences of his era as he was young and he enjoyed a clear logic in his tongue and literary talent in poems and mental shrewdness in the perception of problems.

First he worked in the court of Mahmud Ghaznavi and Masoud Ghaznavi. He left the administrative and secretarial works of the Royals in 437 A.H (1045 D.C) and spent travelling seven years to Makkah (Hejaz), Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt. The result of his travelling was the precious book of "Safar Nameh" (Travelling accounts of Nasser Khosrow) which he wrote in 444 A.H. (1052 D.C).

His travelling began from Marv on the 23rd Sha'ban 437 A.H (1045 D.C) and one year later, after passing different cities which he mentioned in his book, he reached Bait- ul-Moghaddas in 438 A.H. (1046 D.C). Nasser went from Qods to Makkah and from there to Madinah and once again through Syria to Qods. He then traveled via sea to Salehiyeh and Egypt. Again from Egypt he went to Gholzom by sea and Bandar Jar which is situated parallel to Madinah; he went on pilgrimage to Madinah and Makkah and returned by the same route. Then he departed via the Nile river to Asyut and Akhmim and Qos and Aswan and Sudan. He returned to Makkah again and stayed there for six months. From Makkah he proceeded to the land of Bani Savad and Basrah and from there by ship and narrowly passing Abadan reached the Persian Gulf. After that, via Bandar Mahroban he set out to Arjan, Lurdegan and Esfahhan. Finally, on Tuesday, 26th Jamadi ul Akher 444 A.H. (1052 D.C), he completed his nearly seven-year travelling.

The result of his travelling for nearly seven years are the precious daily notes of his observations and of

what he heard during the travelling. After returning, demonstrating that his thinking was very clear, unambiguous, reserved and farsighted, he arranged his daily notes, into the form of a ketab "Safar Nameh". This book is full of salient information on the then known parts of the flourishing Islamic world in the second half of 5th Century containing deeds and traits, behaviors, beliefs and traditions of the different peoples including 750 geographical names for villages, persons and places.

Nasser Khosrow took notes of his observations and of what he heard from the beginning of his travelling, and these vast and varied notes contain many various topics and include distances, geographical features and locations of cities and villages, area demography, prevailing handicrafts, reports on local religious and scientific personalities as well as on local governors, on the quality of agricultural and outstanding agricultural products and on the quantity of each product and their preservation, on the fortifications of cities and on various public buildings such as hospitals, Karvansars, bazaars, Masjedjam's and on their maintenance, on the standard of living and on the general welfare. Furthermore, it should be noted that he is one of the early researchers who engaged himself in an extensive study of toponymy which is demonstrated clearly in his describing of 750 geographical names.

In addition of being a great traveler, he is also known as a distinguished and salient Iranian poet, religious scholar and author. He left behind several works which are still illuminating in the Persian literature, some of which is listed as follows:

1. Divan of poems including elegies and fragments;
2. Masnavi sa'adat Nameh and Roshani Nameh Manzum;
3. Zadol Mosaferin;
4. Khane Akhavan;
5. Six chapters of Verses of Roshana'i Nameh Nasr;
6. Goshayesh and Rahayesh;
7. Bostan ul - 'Oghol;

8. Lisan ul 'Alem;
9. 'Aja'eb ul San'eh;
10. Ekhtiyar ul Emam and Ekhtiyar Iman;
11. Jam'ul Hekmatain written in the name of Amir Badakhshan Amir Shamsul Din Abul Ma'ali Ali ebne Asad ebne Hares.

Istakhari

Abu Eshagh Ebarahim ebn-e Mohammad Farsi Istakhri known as "Karkhi" was born and educated at Istakhr Fars and becoming a learned man, he went to many places as a traveller and established himself as a great geographer. The result of his geographical investigations were two books known as "Sagar al-Akalim" and "al - Masalik wal Mamalik" which were written in the manner of Abu Zeyd Balkhi and from a comparative study of his books, one could conclude that he first wrote "Suwar al Akalim" and then completing it with full accounts of his findings in geography, he renamed this revised new book as "al-Masalik wal Mamalik".

Istakhri, upon his observations and hearings, like Batlamyuse (Ptolemy) divided the world into seven continents (Eqlim). His works are highly distinguished as the pillar of geographical research in Islam and were

used as a reference by later scholars in geography. He traveled to many Islamic countries including numerous Arabic countries and Andulos.

He divided the Islamic realms into twenty territories: the Arab territory, the Maghreb territory, Darya-e-Pars, the Egypt territory, the Sham (Syria) territory, Darya-e-Rum, the Jazireh territory, the 'Iraq territory, the Pars territory, the Kerman territory, the Khuzestan territory, Armenistan, Aran, Azerbaijan, Kuhestan, Tabarestan and Daylam, Darya-e-Khazar, and Khorasan.

Istakhri gave in his books full account of the natural features, the geographical situation, distances and on existing roads in each realm and also, like Balkhi, he provided colour and black-and-white maps in his book. He died in 346 A.H. (957D.C). In addition, it is worthy to note that Istakhri's book, "al-Masalik wal Mamalik," is indeed on the toponymical studies in which he described rigidly the name and location of each town, city, country, territory, continent (Eqlim) and the distances between them.

Hamid Malmirian
Islamic Republic of Iran

Ibn Battutah, the Great Moroccan Traveller

During the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in New York, January 1998 Mr. Tazi, Morocco, presented document E/CONF.91/CPR.35 on the exploits and great contributions of the accomplished, respected, and revered scholar and geographer, Ibn Battutah. He travelled extensively from Tangiers throughout North Africa, the Middle East, India, and China, then returning to Morocco. He wrote eloquently of his travels and observations. His written accounts are lucid and reflect keen observations establishing him as an extraordinary geographer and toponymist. His important observations and analyses have been shared among the world's major cultures, and his work has been rendered into more than 20 languages. He was the first to properly transcribe many geographical names, and cited more than 1,000 names. His work is noted for its high degree of credibility. He also visited southern Europe and other parts of western Africa as well.

Unfortunately, the full text of this document is not available to the Secretariat in digital form. It might be included in one of the next issues of the Newsletter.

From Headquarters

Addresses of Experts on Geographical Names

Repeatedly the Secretariat has been asked by Experts of the Group that the list of addresses of all experts be inserted into the *Newsletter*. We hope that this list will facilitate communication between Experts. The Secretariat is using this list to send out Newsletters and other mailings. Please remember: the list is only useful, if it is kept up to date and to do that, we need your help. Whenever you see a wrong or outdated entry for your own name and/or for the one of colleagues whom you know, please do not hold it back for yourself - send the correction to the Secretariat!

More and more Experts will be receiving and working with e-mail. This is the best, fastest and most convenient method of communication in the future.

Impressum

The *Newsletter of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN Newsletter)* is issued approximately twice a year by the Secretariat of the Group. The Secretariat is established within the Statistical Division, Department for Economic and Social Affairs (STAT/DESA), Secretariat of the United Nations. It publishes contributions/reports from the Experts of the Group, its Linguistic/Geographical Division and its Working Groups.

Contributions for the *Newsletter* can only be considered when they are made available in digital form. They should be sent to the following address:

Secretariat of the Group of Experts
on Geographical Names
Room DC - 2 - 1662
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Tel.: INT-1-212-963-8564
Fax: INT- 1 212-963-0623
e-mail: stabe@un.org
and: javier@un.org

As soon as you get your e-mail - address, let the Secretariat have it!

The Secretariat of the United Nations Group of Experts may be contacted by e-mail: stabe@un.org and javier@un.org as well as by fax: INT-1-212-963-0623.

Mailing List for Experts on Geographical Names

Algeria

Atoui Brahim
Chef du Laboratoire de Toponymie
Institut National de Cartographie
123 Rue Tripoli-Hussein Dey
Alger. 160-40
Algeria
Fax: (2) 23.43.81

Albania

Mr. Ergjin Samimi
Director
Geographic Studies Center
RR "Toptani" Nr. 11, Tirana
Albania
Fax: 355-42 279-85

Australia

Mr. Brian Goodchild
Secretary, Committee for Geographical Names
c/o Department of Land Administration
Cathedral Avenue
Perth, Western Australia 6000

Mr. John Parker
Surveyor General of Victoria
Chairman, Committee for
Geographical Names for Australia
5th Floor, 436 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne, 3000
Fax: 61-3-96039006
E-mail: John.Parker@osg.vic.gov.au

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Mr. Brian Burbidge,
Executive Officer
Intergovernmental Committee on Survey
and Mapping
Secretary of the Committee for
Geographical Names
P.O. Box 2, Belconnen ACT 2616
Australia
E-mail: icam@auslig.gov.au

Austria

Ms. Isolde Hausner
Academy of Sciences
Oesterreichische Akademie der
Wissenschaften
Institut fuer Oesterreichische Dialekt-
und Namenlexika
Postgasse 7-9/II
A-1010, Wien
Austria
Tel: INT-43-1-5158-1494
Fax: INT-43-1-5158-1495
E-mail: Isolde.Hausner@oeaw.ac.at

Mr. Roman Stani-Fertl
Member of the AKC,
Hauptstrasse 118/10
A-3420 Kritzendorf
Austria
Tel: INT-43-2243-31520

Mr. Peter Jordan
Austrian Institute of Eastern and
Southeastern European Studies
Josefsplatz 6
A1010 Wien
Austria
Tel: INT-43-1-512-1895-41
Fax: INT-43-1-512-1895-53

Mr. Helmut Desoye
Austrian Central Statistical Office
Hintere Zollamtsstrasse 2b
A-1033 Vienna
Austria
Tel.: INT-43-1-71128-7393
Fax: INT-43-1-71128-7088

Mr. Josef Breu
Hackenberggasse 29/8/4
A-1190 Wien, Austria

Azerbaijan

Mr. Adil Sultan Oqli
Chief
National Surveying and Mapping
Administration
370108 Baki Qanclar Dostlugu
Kucasi 70, Azerbaijan

Bahrain

Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Abdulla
Assistant Professor
University of Bahrain
P.O. Box 32038
Bahrain

Belgium

Mme. Kathleen Van Doren
Chef du Service Information et
Toponymie
Director de la Formation
Institut géographique national
Abbaye de la Cambre 13
B-1000 Bruxelles
Belgium
Fax: 32-2-629-8212
Tel: 32-2-629-8421
e-mail: kvd@ngi.be or:
bernard.groetembriel@ping.be

Botswana

Mr. Bruson Baroka Morebodi
Director
The Department of Surveys
Pibas 0037
Gaborone
Botswana

Brazil

Ms. Sonia Terron
Brazilian Institute of Geography
and Statistics-IBGE
Avenida Brasil, 15671
Rio de Janeiro
Brazil 21241-051

Brunei Darussalam

Mr. PG. HJ Matusin bin PG HJ
Matasan
Deputy Surveyor General
Survey Department, Ministry of
Development
Bandar Seri Begawan 2070
Brunei Darussalam

Mr. Zainuddin bin Haji Mohd Noor
Chief, Photogrammetrist
Survey Department, Ministry of
Development
2070 Brunei Darussalam

Bulgaria

Mr. Ivan Katzarsky
Director
Ministry of Regional Construction
Dept. of Cadastre and Geodesy
Kiril i metodi St., 17-19
BG-1202 Sofia
Bulgaria
Fax: 359-2-872-517

Canada

Dr. Andre Lapierre
Chair, Advisory Committee on
Toponymy
Research
Canadian Permanent Committee on
Geographical Names
634-615 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada, KIA OE9

Mr. Jean Poirier
2753, rue de Valcourt
Sainte-Foy, QC G1V 1V9
Canada
Commission de toponymie du Quebec
1245, Chemin Sainte-Foy, Bureau 240
Quebec, Canada, GIS 4P2

Ms. Helen Kerfoot
C/O Geographical Names, Geomatics
Canada,
4 Tunis Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada, K1Z 7R5
Tel: 1-613-992-3405 (Office)
Tel.: 1-613-722-9795 (Home)
Fax: 1-613-943-8282
e-mail: hkerfoot@NRCan.gc.ca

Mr. Henri Dorion
1354, rue Montpellier
Sainte-Foy, QC,
Canada G1S 4P2
E-Mail: hdorion@multim.com

Mr. Anthony Price
Canadian Permanent Committee
on Geographical Names
10, rue Sainte-Anne, C.P. 833
Québec, QC G1R 4S7,
Canada

Mr. Alain Vallières
Director General
Commission de toponymie de Québec
Canada
1060, rue Louis-Alexandre-Taschereau 4^e
Québec, Canada G1R 5V8
Tel: 9-1-418-644-2392
Fax: 9-1-418-644-9466
E-mail: topo@toponymie.gouv.gc.ca

Mme Nicole René
Présidente, Commission de
toponymie du Québec
Edifice Marie-Guyart, Aile René-
Lévesque
1060, rue Louis-Alexandre-Taschereau
Québec QC G1R 5V8
Canada

Mrs. Kathleen O'Brien
CPCGN Secretariat
634 -615 Booth Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0E9
Canada

Mrs. Jocelyne Revie
CPCGN Secretariat
634-615 Booth Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E9
Canada

China

Ms. XING Weilin
Senior Editor
China Cartographic Publishing House
No. 3 Baizhifang Xijie
Xuanwu District
Beijing, China 100054
Tel: 08610-6353-4931-2088 (or-2093)
Fax: 08610-6352-9403

Mr. Du Xiangming
Director,
Research Institute of Toponymy
National Bureau of
Surveying & Mapping
P.O.B. 100039
16 Beitaiping Lu
Beijing, Peoples Republic of China
Fax: 9-011-86-10-6821-8654

Mr. Song Jiucheng
Department of Administrative
Division and Geographical Names
Management
Ministry of Civil Affairs
147 Beiheyang Dajie
Beijing, Peoples Republic of China

Mr. Wang Jitong
Director
China Institute of Toponymy
147 Beiheyang Dajie Beijing
Peoples Republic of China 100721
Fax: 9-011-86-10 6513-5544 ext. 3142

Mr. Zhao Xiaoyang
Researcher of China Institute of
Toponymy
147 Beiheyang Dajie, Beijing
Peoples Republic China 100721
Fax: 9-011-86-10 6513-55-44 ext. 3142

Mr. GOU Haibo
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
No. 2 Chao-Yang-Men-Nam Da-jie
Beijing, Peoples Republic of China
Fax: 9-011-86-10-659-63209

Mr. Jin Ergang
General Director of Administration and
Geographical Names Management
Division of Ministry of Civil Affairs
147 Beiheyang Dajie
Beijing, Peoples Republic of China
Fax: 9-011-86-10 6513-5544 ext. 3142

Mr. Genliang Chen
Division of Administrative &
Geographical Names
Ministry of Civil Affairs
Beijing, Peoples Republic of China

Croatia

Ms. Jadranka Buljat
Editor, Lexicographical Institute
Leksikografski Zavod Miroslav Krleža
Frankopanska 26
10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Fax: 9-011-385-1 48 00 399
Tel: 48-00-397

Cyprus

Mr. Andreas Kotsonis
Director
Department of Lands & Survey
Nicosia
Cyprus

Mr. Andreas Papastavrou
President
Committee for the Standardization of
Geographical Names
Ministry of Education and Culture
Nicosia
Cyprus
Fax: 9-011-357-2-443-515

Mr. Prodromos Vasileiou
Nicosia, Cyprus
President of the Cyprus Permanent
Committee
for the Standardization of Geographical
Names
AISPOPOU 15aglangia 2113
Lefkosia (Nicosia)
Cyprus
Fax: 9-011-357-2-496-183

Mr. Menelaos Christodoulou
Director of Thesaurus Linguae
Cypriae Graecae
P.O Box 8165 Lefkosia
Cyprus
Tel; 02-384-887
Fax: 02-371-244

Czech Republic

Mr. Pavel Bohác
Secretary-in-Chief of the Commission on
Geographical Names of the
Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping,,
and Cadastre Zememěrický
úřad (Land Survey Office)
170 00 Praha 7
Kostelní 42
Czech Republic
Fax: 420-2-382-233

Ms. Silvia Seitzova
Expert for Geographical Names
Geodetický a Kartografický ústav
Chulmeckého 4
827 45 Bratislava
Czechia

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Mr. Lim Jong Gag
Geodesie Department,
National Bureau of
Surveying and Cartography

Mr. Kim Jae Song, National Group on
the Standardization of
Geographical Names

Denmark

Ms. Birte Laulund Hjorth Pedersen
Assistant Professor
Institute of Onomastics
University of Copenhagen
Copenhagen
Denmark

El Salvador

Sr. Reynaldo Antonio Medina Guzman
Organizar Y Evaluar
en Relación a los
nombres Geograficos
El Salvador

Sr. Enrique de la O Lemus
Organizar Y Evaluar
en Relación a los
nombres Geograficos
El Salvador

Estonia

Mr. Peeter Päll
Head, Department of Grammar
Institut of the Estonian Language
Estonian Academy of Sciences
Roosikrantsi 6
EE-0100 Tallinn
Estonia
Fax: 372-641-1443
E-mail: peeter@eki.ee

Mr. Malle Hunt
Estonian National Maritime Board
Head of Editing and Publishing Division
Lighthouse and Hydrographic Dept.
Lasnamäe Str. 48
EE0014, Tallinn
Estonia
Fax: 6-205-606
e-mail: malle.hunt@adam.enmb.ee

Mr. Elvi Sepp
Ministry of Internal Affairs of Estonia
Secretary of the Council of Geographical
Names
P1KK Street 57 Tallinn
Estonia, EE000A
Fax: (372) 6125-101
E-mail: elvis@sisemin.gov.ee

Egypt

Mr. Mohamed Mosaad Ibrahim
Chairman, Egyptian Survey Authority
P.O. box 63
Orman, Giza 12612
Egypt

Mr. Mohamed Atef Abdel Moneim
General Director of Topographic
Mapping
Egyptian Survey Authority
P.O Box 63, Giza 12612
Egypt

Finland

Ms. Sirkka Paikkala
Special Advisor
Name Planning and Guidance
Research Institute for the Languages of
Finland
Sörnäisten Rantatie 25
FIN-00521, Helsinki
Finland
Tel: 358-9-7315-233
Fax: 358-9-731-5355
e-mail: Sirkka.Paikkala@domlang.fi

Mr. Kerkko Hakulinen
Chief Editor
Geographical Society of Finland
Susitie 27 as. 9
FIN-00800 Helsinki
Finland
Tel: 781-607

Mr. Jorma Marttinen
Chief Engineer
National Land Survey of Finland
P.O., Box 84
FIN-00521 Helsinki
Finland
Tel: 358-20541-5050
Fax: 358-20541-5595
E-mail: jorma.marHinen@nls.fi

Ms. Eeva Maria Narhi
Kylätie 26A4
FIN-00320 Helsinki
Finland

France

Ms. Sylvie Lejeune
Service de l'information topographique
Institut Geographique National
Commission de toponymie
2 avenue Pasteur
94165-Sainte Mandé
France
Fax: (33) 01.43.98.84.48
E-mail: Sylvie.Lejeune@ign.fr

Mr. Pierre Planques
President de la
Commission IGN de toponymie
Institut Geographique National
Commission de Toponymie
2 avenue Pasteur
94165-Sainte Mandé
France
Tel; 331-43-988-347
Fax: 331-43-988-403
E-Mail: pierre-planques@ign.fr

Germany

Mr. Hermann-Josef Pass
Federal Armed Forces Geographic Office
Frauenberger Strasse 250
Mercator-Kaserne
D-53879 Euskirchen
Germany

Dr. Erfried Haack
Sewanstr. 148
D-10319
Berlin
Germany

Mr. Bernd E. Beinstein
Secretary
Staendiger Ausschuss fuer geographische
Namen (STAGN)
Richard-Strauss-Allee 11
D-60 598 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
Tel: 49-69-6333-317
Fax: 49-69-6333-441
e-mail: beinstein@ifag.de

Mr. Jörn Sievers
Chairman
Staendiger Ausschuss für geographische
Namen (STAGN)
Richard-Strauss-Allee 11
D-60598 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
e-MAIL: sievers@ifag.de
Fax: 9-011-49-69-441
Tel; 49-69-6333-313

Greece

Mr. Athanasios Palikaris
Director, Hydrography Division
Head, Cartography Division
Hellenic Hydrographic Service
TGW 1040
Athens, Greece

Mr. Ioannis Papaioannou
Consultant to the Hellenic Navy
Hydrographic Service
Ministry of Defence
Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service
TGN 1040
Athens, Greece
Fax: 30-1-6517811
Tel: 30-1-652-0401
E-Mail: hydrose@ath.forthnet.gr

Mr. Alexandria Ioannidou
Linguist, Consultant to the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Akadimias 1
Athens, Greece
Fax: 99-011-301-362-5027

Mr. Emmanuel Gounaris
Expert. Coordinator for the
Standardization of Geographical names
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, B1
Athens, Academias 3
Greece
Fax: 9-011-30-1-362-5725

Mr. Vassilios Moutsoglou
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Athens, Greece
Tel: 3622-522
Fax: 3625-725

Mr. Georgios Makridis
Officer (Lt. Colonel) in
Greek Army Geographical Service
Likiou Str. 43
15341 -Athens
Greece

Guinea

Mr. Aminatou Diallo
Director
Institut de Cartographie et de
topographie
B.P. 3602
Guinea

Mr. Abdoul Goudoussi Diallo
Dean
Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences
Conakry University
P.O. Box 1147
Guinea

Honduras

Ramón Rivera
Instructor of the Pan American Institute
of Geography and History (PAIGH)
P.O. Box 15059 Colonia Kennedy
Tegucigalpa, Honduras, C.A.
Fax: 9-011-504-31-1257

Hungary

Mr. Béla Pokoly
Secretary of Hungarian Commission on
Geographical Names
Ministry of Agriculture
Dept. of Lands & Mapping
M-1860 Budapest 55
P.O. Box 1, HU-1860
Hungary
Fax: (36) 302-0408

Iran

Mr. Hamid Malmiran
Director of National Geographical
Organization
Shariati Ave. Mo'Allem Street
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: 0098-21-8499-60
Tel: 0098-21-845471

Mr. Soleyman Roshan Ghias
National Geographic Organization
Shariati Ave.
P.O. Box 16765/3358
Teheran, Iran

Mr. Mehdi Khalilabadi
National Geographical Organization
Shariati Ave.
P.O. Box 16765/3358
Teheran, Iran

Mr. Mohammad Esmail Nourian
Director
Dept. of Frontiers Affairs & Acquisition
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Teheran, Iran

Mr. Naser Mohamadi
National Geographical Organization
Moalem Street
Shariati Avenue
Tehran, Iran
Fax: 0098-21-84-9960

Mr. Asad Ardalan
Legal Expert
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Teheran, Iran
Fax: 311-6412

Mr. Mehrdad Mohsenin
First Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Teheran, Iran

Mr. Mehdi Modiri
Deputy Director of National Geographi-
cal Organization
Shariaty Ave.
Moallem St.
Tehran, Iran

Mr. Mohammad Hossain Abdollahy
Nikabady
Expert of Geographic Names in N.G.O
Shariat Ave. Moalem St.
P.O. Box 16765-3358
Tehran, Iran

Ireland

Mr. Donall Mac Giolla Easpaig
Higher Placenames Officer
Ordnance Survey Office
Phoenix Park
Dublin 8
Ireland
Fax: 9-011-353-1-820-4156
Tel: 82-06-100

Israel

Mr. Naftali Kadmon
Professor Emeritus, the
Hebrew University
of Jerusalem
Department of Geography
91905, Jerusalem
Israel
Fax: 563-1625-582-0549
Tel: 563-1625-588-3018

Mr. David Kornbluth
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Jerusalem 93143
Israel

Italy

Mr. Allesandro Toniolo (Retired)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Via Capecelatro 87
20148 Milano
Italy

Mr. Sabato Rainone
Chief of Cartographic Section on Italian
Defense General Staff
MOD Italy-Stato Maggiore Della Difesa
Via XX Settembre 11
00187 Rotia
Italy
Fax: 39-6-4691-2483
Tel: 39-6-46912-116

Mr. Maurizio Pampaloni
Chief of Research of Italian
Geographic Military Institute-Florence
Istituto Geografico Militare
Via Cesare Battisti n.10
50122-Firenzi
Italy
Tel: 277-51
Fax: 282-272

Jamaica

Mr. Lee Roy Bulgin
Director of Surveys
Survey Department
Kingston
Jamaica

Mr. Stennett McLean
Chief Cartographer
Survey Department
Kingston
Jamaica

Japan

Mr. Junichi Kaneko
Head of Map Source Material Division
Map Management Department
Kitasato 1, Tsukuba-Shi
Ibrak-Ken, 305
Japan

Mr. Hiromichi Maruyama
Head, Topographic Division, Topo-
graphic Dept.
Geographical Institute
Ministry of Construction
Kitasato-1, Tsukuba-Shi
Ibarabi-Ken, Japan 305
Fax: 81-298-64-1803
E-Mail: Maruyama@gsi-mc.go.jp

Mr. Takekazu Akagiri
Director of Cartographic Division
Geographical Survey Institute
#305 Kitazato 1, Tsukuba-Shi
Ibaraki-ken 305, Japan
Tel: 0298-64-1111
Fax: 0298-64-1805
E-mail: Akagiri@gsi.mc.go.jp

Jordan

Mr. Ibrahim Zoqurti
Chairman of Geographical Names
Committee
Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre,
Al Jubayha
P.O. Box 414
Amman, Jordan
Fax: 847-694

Mr. Husam Jamil
Surveying Researcher
Royal Jordanian Geographic Center
P.O. Box 20214
Amman, Jordan

Latvia

Mr. Jurgis KAVACS
Chief, Specialist of Toponymic Section of
State Land Service of Latvia
Researcher of Latvian University
11 Novembra Krastmala 31
RTGA lv-1050
Latvia

Mr. Vita STRAUTNIECE
Head of Toponymic Division
State Land Service
11 Novembra Krastmala 31
Riga, Latvia
LV-1050

Mr. Zinta Goba
Researcher
Scientific Laboratory of Regional
Geography and Toponymy
University of Latvia
Raina Bulv 19
Riga, LV 1586
Latvia

Libya

Mr. Ahmed Fawzi Ben Faid
Director-General, Survey Department
P.B. 600
Tripoli, Libya
Fax: 00218-21-833031

Mr. Mohamed Wafa
Chef du Department Cartographique
Survey Dept.
P.O. Box 600
Tripoli, Libya
Fax: 00218-21-833-039

Malaysia

Mr. Dato' Abdul Majid bin Mohamed
Director General
Dept. of Survey & Mapping
Jalan Semarak
50578 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Tel: 9-011-60-3-295-2311
FAX: 9-011-60-3-293-3618
E-MAIL: *kpup@po.jaring.my*

Mexico

Mr. Cristobal Morales Béjar
Subdirector de Operacion
Direccion General de Geografia
INEGI
Prol. Heroe de Nacozari
#2301 Sur
Puerta 6. Mezzanine C.P. 20290
Aguascalientes, AGS
Mexico

Moldova

Mr. Anatol Eremia
Toponymy Research Coordinator
Dept. of Cartography and Toponymy
Research
Institute of Linguistics
Academy of Sciences Str. 31 August
1989
Institute of Linguistics
2012 Chisinau
Moldova

Morocco

Mr. Abdelhadi Tazi
Membre de l'
Academie du Royaume du Maroc
Directeur de l'Institut Universitaire
de Recherche Scientifique
Villa Baghdad Q. Souissi
Art Ourir Souissi
Rabat, Morocco
Fax: 9-011-212-7-75-51-01

Mr. Mohamed Alahian
Chef de Service de la Documentation
Cartographique
Division de la Cartographie
31 Avenue Moulay Hassan
Rabat, Maroc
00-212-770-51-91

Mr. Hamid Ouzzine
Chef du Service de Topographie
Générale
Division de la Cartographie
31, Avenue Moulay Hassan
Rabat, Maroc
FAX: 00-212-70-51-91

Mozambique

Mr. Luis Abrahamo
Chief of Cartography Division
Dinageca
Josina Machel No. 537
C.P. No. 288, Maputo
Mozambique
Tel; 011-2581-302-555-6
Fax: 421-460

Netherlands

Mr. Ferjan Ormeling
Professor, Utrecht University
Faculty of Geographical Sciences
Cartography Department
P.O. Box 80115
3508 TC Utrecht
The Netherlands
Fax: INT-31-30-254-0604/253-1385
Tel: INT-31-30-253-1373/253-4341
E-mail: *Ormeling@frw.ruu.nl*

New Zealand

Mr. Tony Bevin
Surveyor-General
Land Information New Zealand
Chairman
New Zealand Names Board
CPO Box 5501
Wellington, New Zealand
E-mail: *Tony@pt.linz.govt.nz*

Mr.W.A. Robertson
Home address: (Robertson)
3 Eskdale Road
Papakouhai
Porirua
New Zealand

Nigeria

Mr. Mohammad Yahaya
Surveyor-General of the Federation
Federal Surveys Department
PMB 12596
Lagos, Nigeria
Tel: 2633059

Mr. Ganiyu Oyeneye
Assistant Director
P.M.B. 12596
Lagos, Nigeria
Tel: 263-3059

Mr. Esther Adebisi
Deputy Surveyor-General of the
Federation
Federal Surveys Department
P.M.B. 12596
Lagos, Nigeria
Tel: 2633059

Mr. Mohammed Nadu Yahaya
Surveyor-General of Nigeria
Federal Survey Department
Federal Ministry of Works and Housing
Area 10, Garki, Abuja
Nigeria
Tel: 011-234-9-263-2923
Fax: 011-234-9-234-6364
E-Mail: *Vlartey@OAU.NET*

Norway

Mr. Botolv Helleland
Senior Lecturer
Ministry of Cultural Affairs
Section of Name Research
P.O. Box 1011 Blindern
No. 0315 Oslo
Norway

Oman

Mr. Taimur Khalifa Al Said
Director
National Survey Authority
P.O. Box 113
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Mr. Nasser Al-Harthy
Director
National Survey Authority
MOD NSA
P.O. Box 113CP 113
Muscat, Oman
Tel: 968-312230
Fax: 968-312443

Pakistan

Muhammad Ilyas Choudhary
Director Eastern Circle
Survey of Pakistan Lahore
65 Industrial Area
Township Lahore
Pakistan
Fax: 051-453-960 (RAWALPINDI)

Perú

Gerardo Luis Pérez del Aguila
General Director of Cartography
Asesor de la Dirección de Fronteras y
Límites
Av. Aramburú 1198 Surquillo
Lima, Perú
Fax: 14-75-98-10
9-011-51-14-75-98-10

Mr. Jose Herrera
Jefe del Instituto Geografico Nacional
del Peru
Av. Aramburi 1198
Lima 34, Peru
Tel: 475-3085
Fax: 475-3075
E-Mail: *postmast@ignperu.gob.pe*

Mr. Juan Quine
Director General of Geografía
Instituto Geográfico Nacional
Av. Aromburu 1198. Lima 34
Peru

Poland

Mr. Jerzy Kondracki
President of the Commission of the
Standardization of Geographical Names
Warsaw University
Krakowskie, Predmiescie 30
Warsaw
Poland
Tel: 620-03-81-631
Fax: 6206-221

Ms. Izabella Krauze-Tomczyk
Head Office of Geodesy and Cartogra-
phy
Department of Cartography and
Photogrammetry
PL-00 926 Warszawa, Wspólna2
Poland
Fax: 48-22-628-32-06

Portugal

Ms. Maria de Calderia Magallanes
R. Silva Carvalho 13
1 Piso E. Lisboa
Portugal

Qatar

Mr. Yousuf Ebrahim
Head of Street and Area Naming Section
Civil Engineer
P.O. Box 19157
Doha, Qatar

Republic of Korea

Mr. Lee Ki-Suk
Professor
Dept. of Geography Education
Seoul National University
Seoul, Korea 151-742
Fax: 82-2-871-9167
e-mail: *LEEKiSukplaza.SNU.ac.kr*
Tel: 880-7720

Mr. Jin Hyun Kim
President
Seoul University
Seoul, Korea
Tel: 244-3325
Fax: 210-2121

Romania

Mr. Serban Dragomirescu
Scientific Secretary
Romanian Academy
Calea Victoriei 125,
71102 Bucuresti 22
Romania
Fax: 312-02-09

Mr. Alexandrina Stanciu
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Bucharest, Romania

Mr. Marian Rotaru
Head, Military Topographic Department
B-dul 1 Mai, nr. 124-126
Sector-1, Bucuresti
Romania
Fax: 0040-1-666-3370

Mr. Traian Narcis Constantinescu
Expert of Government
National Office for Cadastre, Geodesy
and Cartography
Bucharest, Street: Splaiul Indep[en]dentei
No. 202A.
National Office for Cadastre
Geodesy and Cartography
Tel: 222-60-25, 617.37.33 Fax:
222.52.24

Russia

Mr. Vladimir Boginskiy
Chief of Cartographic Dept.
Central Research Institute of Geodesy
Air Survey and Cartography
Onezhskdja, 26
Moscow 125413 R.F.
Russia
Fax: 9-011-7-095-456-9531

Mr. Dmitry Subbotin
Third Secretary, Legal Dept
Division of Boundary and Cartography
Foreign Ministry
Azbat 54/52 Moscow, Russia
Tel: 241-28.25
Fax: 241.11.66

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Soleman S. Al-Robaishy
Deputy Minister of Petroleum and
Mineral Resources, Aerial Survey
P.O. Box 247
Riyadh 11191, Saudi Arabia

Mr. Abdullah Al-Shahrani
Geographic Names Section-Manager
MSD
P.O. Box 87918
Riyadh 11652
Saudi Arabia
Fax: 96614563048

Mr. Eid M. Al-Motairi
Geographic Names Section -MSD
P.O. Box 87918
Riyadh 11652
Saudi Arabia
Fax: 966-145-63048

Mr. Ass'ad S. Abdo
Professor, Dept. of Geography
Faculty of Arts, King Saud University
P.O. Box 94662, Riyadh 11614
Saudi Arabia
Fax: (01) 4665378
e-mail: 105320.2256@compuserve.com,
or
F10G016@KSU.EDU.SA

Mr. Morayyea Al-Shahrani

Director of Military
Survey Department
P.O. Box 87918
Riyadh 11652, Saudi Arabia
Fax: 966-14563048

Slovak Republic

Mr. Imrich Horňanský
President
Authority of Geodesy and Cartography
Stromová 1
SK-83386 Bratislava
Slovak Republic
Tel: INT-42-17-374-742 OR INT-42-
17-370-4242
FAX: INT-42-17-374-742

Ms. Mária Kováčová
Secretary of the Geographical Names
Commission
Geodetic and Cartographic Institute
Bratislava
Chlumeckého ul.c.4
SK-827 45 Bratislava
Slovak Republic
Tel: INT-421-7-234-822
FAX: INT-421-7-522-7511
E-mail: zaki.gku@netlab.sk

Slovenia

Ms. Ema Pogorelčnik
Surveying and Mapping Authority of the
Republic of Slovenia
Čaranovičeva ul 12
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Fax: 386-61-178-48-34
e-mail: em.pogorelcnik@gu.sigov.mail.si

Dr. Milan Orožen Adamič
Scientific Research Center of the Slovene
Academy of Sciences and Arts
Anton Melik Institute of Geography
Gospodka 13
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Tel: 125-60-68
Fax: 386-61-12-55-253
E-mail: Milan@zec.sazu.si

South Africa

Mr. Peter E. Raper
Chairman
National Place Names Committee
Names Research Institute
P.O. Box 26582
0031 Gezina
Pretoria,
South Africa
Tel: 9-011-27-12-302-2164
Fax: 12-326-5362
e-mail: LAMOLLER@silwane.hsra.ac.za

Ms. Lucie Alida Möller
Secretary, Africa South Division
Names Research Institute
P.O. Box 26582
0031 Gezina
Pretoria
Tel: 011-27-12-302-2164
Fax: 12-326-5362 or 12-302-2149
e-mail: LAMOLLER@silwane.hsra.ac.za

Spain

Mr. José Cruz Almeida
Jefe del Servicio de Documentación
Instituto Geográfico Nacional
c/o General Ibañez de Ibero 3
28003, Madrid
Spain

Mr. Cesareo Sanz
Jefe de Sección de Cartografía Básica
General Ibañez de 1600 No. 3
Spain

Suriname

Mr. R.H. Wong Fong Sang
Chairman of the Suriname Cartographic
Commission
Dr. Sophie Redmondstraat 131
Paramaribo
Suriname

Sweden

Mr. Hans Ringstam
National Land Survey of Sweden
SE-80182 Gävle
Sweden
Fax: 9-011-46-26-654095
Tel: 633.000
E-Mail: hans.ringstam@lm.se

Mr. Leif Nilsson
Place-Name Consultant
P.O. Box 135
SE-75104 Uppsala
Sweden
Tel: 9-011-46-18-652-171
Fax: 9-011-46-18-652-165
E-mail: Leif.Nilsson@oau.uu.se

Switzerland

Mr. Jean-Claude Stotzer
Adjoint Scientifique
Office fédéral de topographie
Seftigenstrasse 264
CH-3084 Wabern
Switzerland
Fax: 41-31-963-24-59
Tel: 41-31-963-2111
E-Mail: Jean-Claude.Stotzer@lt.admin.ch

Mr. Ernst Spiess
Professor for Cartography
Langacher Strasse 4B
CH-8127 Forch
Switzerland
Tel: INT-41-1-980-0825
E-Mail: espiess@promovis.ch
Switzerland
Fax: 41-1-633-11-53

Syria

Mr. Maruwan Soukar
Manager of Public
Relations in the General Establishment
of Surveying
P.O. Box 309Y
Damascus, Syria

Mr. Mohame Hassan Idriss
General Director of the General
Establishment of Surveying
P.O. Box 309Y
Damascus, Syria

Mr. Imad el Din Mousli
Expert in Geographical Names
Prof., Geographical Section
Damascus, University
through: Permanent Mission of the
Syrian Arab Republic to the United
Nations
820 Second Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017

Thailand

Mr. M.G. Pinit Thawaornkul
Deputy Director
Royal Thai Survey Department
Kulyanamitri Road
Bangkok 10200 Thailand

Mr. Anan Phunsanong
Chairman of National Committee on
Geographical Names of Thailand
Royal Thai Survey Department
Thanon Kanlaya Na Mairi
Bangkok 10200
Thailand

Mr. Raht Unchaiya
Director of Geography Division
Royal Thai Survey Department
Kanlayanamitri Road
Bangkok, 10200
Fax: 662-221-2884

Mr. Saad Sngasaeng
Deputy Director of Survey Department
Royal Thai Survey Department
Rajinee Road, Bangkok
Thailand, 10200
Fax: 662-221-2884

Mrs. Wanarat Thothong
Chief of Photogrammetry Sub-Division
Surveying and Mapping Division
National Committee on
Geographical Names
Land Development Department
Paholyotin Rd, Charuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Fax: 66-2-5612-947
E-Mail: wanarata@mozart.inet.co.th

Mr. Wiboon Rattanapornwong
Sub-Division of General Administration
Chief Bureau of Provincial Affairs
Department of Local Administration
Ministry of Interior
Adsadang Rd,
Bangkok, Thailand 10200
Fax: 662-2214850

Mr. Kat Chandee
Chief, Academic and Training Section
Royal Thai Survey Department,
Ministry of Defense
Kulyanamitri Road
Bangkok, Thailand

The Former Yugoslavia
Republic of Macedonia

Mr. Blagoja Markoski
Institut of Geography
Faculty of Natural Science and
Mathematics
Gazi Baba, b.b.
91 000 Skopje
c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Macedonia "Dame Gruev"
St. No. 4 & 6
91000 Skopje, Macedonia
Fax: 389-91-11 57 90

Turkey

Mr. Naci Gorur
Professor at the
Technical University of Istanbul
ITU Maden Fakultesi
80626 Ayazaga
Istanbul, Turkey

Mr. Ali Kaplan
Department of Navigation,
Hydrography, and Oceanography of
Turkey
Seyir, Hidrografi ve Osinografi
Dairesi Bosknligo
81647 Gubuklu-Istanbul, Turkey

Mr. Metin Tuncel
Professor of Geography
Istanbul University
Selami Gesme, Lalezar Sakagi No. 8/9
Kadikay, Istanbul
Turkey

Ukraine

Ms. Oksana Liubarets
Head of Dept. of Geographical Names
Main Administration of Geodesy
Cartography & Cadastre
54 Poudrenko Street
Kiev 253094, Ukraine

Mr. Anatoly Bondar
Director-General
Main Administration of Geodesy,
Cartography and Cadastre of the
Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
54 Popudrenka Street
Kiev 253094
Ukraine
Fax: 380-44-573-4213
Tel: 559-7389

Mr. Leonid Kzynysky
National Council on Geographical Names
54 Popudrenka Str.
Kiev 253064
Ukraine
Fax: 543-42-13

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Mohammad Mansour
Head of Gazetter Research Project
P.O. Box 16121
Al-Ain, Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates
971-7-6656-88

United Kingdom

Mrs. Caroline Burgess
Research Assistant
Permanent Committee on
Geographical Names
1 Kensington Gore
London, SW7 2AR
United Kingdom
Tel: 9-011-44-171-591-3120
Fax: 9-011-44-171-591-3127
e-mail: cburgess@pcgn.u.net.com

Mr. P.J. Woodman
Secretary
Permanent Committee on Geographical
Names
Royal Geographical Society
1 Kensington Gore
London, SW7, 2AR
United Kingdom
Fax: 0171-591-3127
Tel: 0171-591-3120
E-MAIL: pwoodman@pcgn.u-net.com

Ms. Juliette Moore
Research Assistant
Permanent Committee on
Geographical Names
c/o The Royal Geographical Society
1 Kensington Gore
London SW 7 2AR
United Kingdom
E-Mail: jmoore@pcgn.u-net.com
Fax: 0171-591-3127

Mr. Roger Marsden
Military Survey
Elmwood Ave.
Feltham, Middx, TW13 7AF
United Kingdom
Fax: 9-011-44-181-818-2612

United States

Mr. Roger L. Payne
Executive Secretary
U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, VA 22090-0523
e-mail: RPAYNE@USGS.GOV

Mr. Richard Randall (Retired expert)
3514 Québec Street
Washington, D.C. 20016
e-mail: R3Randall@aol.com

Mr. Gerd Quinting
Scientist Linguist
National Imagery and Mapping Agency
(NIMA)
4600 Sangamore Road
Bethesda, MD 20816-5003
Fax: 301-227-5515

Mr. Bradford Thomas
Office of the Geographer
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Randall Flynn
Executive Secretary for Foreign Names
U.S. Board on Geographic Names
National Imagery and Mapping Agency
(NIMA)
Bethesda, MD 20816-5003
Fax: 9-1-301-227-5515
E-MAIL: flynnre@nima.mil

Mr. Yohannis Abate
Geographer Foreign Names Committee
United States Board on
Geographic Names
National Imagery and Mapping Agency
(NIMA)
4600 Sangamore Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20816-5003
U.S.A.
Fax: 301-227-5515

Mr. Charles M. Heyda
Scientific Linguist
Foreign Names Committee of the
U.S. Board on Geographic Names
National Imagery and Mapping Agency
(NIMA)
4600 Sangamore Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20816-5003
U.S.A.
Fax: 301-227-5515

Mr. Joel L. Morrison
Chairman
U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Chief, Geography Division
U.S. Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233-7400
Fax: (310) 457-4710
E-mail: Joel.MORRISON@census.gov

Mr. Leo Dillon
Cartographer
U.S. Dept. of State
Washington, D.C. 20520-6510
Tel: 1-202-647-2156
Fax: 1-202-647-0504

MS. Alice T.M. Rechlin
The Geographer
Cartography Division
National Geographic Society
Washington, D.C. 20036

Mr. Richard Witmer
Chief, Geographer
U.S. Geological Survey
Mail Stop 516
Tel: 1-703-648-5747
Fax: 1-703-648-5792
E-Mail: rwitmer@usgs.gov

Mr. Lou Yost
Deputy Chief
Geographic Names Office
MS 523
USGS National Center
Reston, VA
Tel: 1-703-648-4552
Fax: 1-703-648-4165
E-Mail: yost@usgs.gov

Venezuela

Ms. Isabel Ortiz
Miembro del Grupo de Investigadores
del Departamento de Limit, y Nombres
geograficos
Servicion Autonomo de geografia y
Cartografia Nacional
Camejo 3er piso, Ofic. 301 Caracas
Distrito Federal Venezuela
Venezuela

Zimbabwe

Mr. D.S. Tevera
Department of Geography
University of Zimbabwe
Harare
Zimbabwe

Other Personalities Interested In the Work on the Standardization of Geo- graphical Names

Mr. Miklos Pinther
Chief, Cartographic Section
Library and Publications Division
Department of Public Information
United Nations
Room L-172
Fax: (1-212) 963-3742

Mr. Nigel Cassar
Chief, Documentation,
Reference and Terminology Section
Translation and Editorial Division
Department of General Assembly Affairs
and Conference Services
United Nations
Room S-1153-B
Tel: INT:1-212-963-6785
Fax: INT-1-212-963-9162

Mr. Ime Soto-Lacateli
General Dynamics
16250 Technology Drive
San Diego
Mail Stop 6136-P
San Diego, CA 92127

CNIIGAIC Library
Federal Service of Geodesy and
Cartography of Russia
117801 GSP-7, Moscow, V-218
Russia

Mr. Thomas E. Leavey
Directeur General
Union Postale Universel
Bureau International
Case postale
CH-3000 Bern 15
Switzerland
Tel: 9-011-41-31-350-3111
Fax: 9-011-41-31-350-3110 or 3113

Ms. Edith Lechner
Secretariat of the International Organiza-
tion for Standardization (ISO)
Burggrafenstrasse 6 (DIN)
D-10787 Berlin
Germany
Tel: INT-49-30-2601-2860
Fax: INT-49-30-2601-1231

GDE Systems, Inc.
P.O. Box 509008
San Diego, CA 92150-9008

Mr. Nathaniel Abelson
54 East 91 St.
New York, N.Y. 10128-1350
Tel: (212) 722-7534
Fax: (212) 722-7534

From the Divisions

Chairpersons of the Geographical/Linguistic Divisions*

* only those Divisions for which a chairperson has been elected.

Africa South Division:	Mr. P. E. Raper
Arabic Division:	Mr. A. Tazi
Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division:	Mr. J.R. Parker
Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic):	Mr. N.H. Malmirian
China Division:	Mr. Wang Jitong
Dutch and German-speaking Division:	Mr. J. Sievers
East Central and South-East Europe Division:	Mr. B. Pokoly
Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division:	Mr. V. Boginskiy
East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic):	Mr. N. Kadmon
Norden Division:	Mr. H. Ringstam
Romano-Hellenic Division:	Ms. S. Lejeune
U.S.A./Canada Division:	Ms. H. Kerfoot & Mr. R.L. Payne

East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic)

During the course of the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names the delegation of Cyprus, Mr. Prodromos Vassiliou and Mr. Menelaos Christodoulou, requested that Cyprus be accepted as a member of the East Mediterranean Division. According to the statutes of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, a country can be a member of more than one linguistic-geographical division as long as it does not change the linguistic-geographical character of the division(s) concerned. Israel and Cyprus share not only a geographical space defined by the name of the Divi-

sion, but also toponymic characteristics and problems. Both countries are multilingual and multiscriptual besides their local non-Roman script, English is widely used and official maps are printed also in romanized editions. Israel has some Greek elements in its place names, while in Cyprus a number of Biblical toponyms can be found. Both countries have a toponymic tradition which goes back thousands of years. Chairman of the Division is Prof. Naftali Kadmon, Israel.

Naftali Kadmon
Israel

Division Romano-Hellénique

Canada

soumis par Helen Kerfoot, Secrétaire exécutive
du CPCNG

Site Web de la Commission de toponymie du Québec

(<http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca>)

Depuis le mois d'avril, il est maintenant possible de consulter les toponymes et odonymes officiels du Québec via le site Web de cet organisme. Ainsi, on peut interroger près de 200 000 noms de lieux officiels et 18 000 variantes provenant de la base de données *Topos*. On retrouve pour chaque nom de lieu les informations suivantes : l'entité géographique, le nom de la municipalité, de la municipalité régionale de comté et de la région administrative où se situe le lieu ainsi que les coordonnées géographiques et le numéro de feuillet cartographique. De plus, trois niveaux de cartes, selon différentes échelles, sont disponibles pour localiser les toponymes, excluant toutefois les odonymes.

Glossaire de la terminologie toponymique

(version française de : *Glossary of Toponymic Terminology* du Professeur Naftali Kadmon, Groupe de travail sur la terminologie toponymique, Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques). Ce document en français de 37 pages qui fournit la définition des termes et expressions reliés au domaine des noms géographiques est maintenant disponible sous format papier et aussi sur le site Web de la Commission de toponymie du Québec.

Ponts toponymiques France-Canada

La première rédaction des 234 fiches, retraçant l'historique d'autant de noms de lieux identiques relevés à la fois en France et au Canada, dans la province du Québec, est maintenant complétée. Bon nombre de ces fiches ont même été revues et commentées par les organismes des pays responsables de ce projet. De plus, des discussions ont été entreprises en ce qui a trait à l'édition de cette future publication, abondamment illustrée, qui devrait être disponible au printemps 1999.

Supplément cumulatif 1997 au Répertoire toponymique du Québec 1987

(en vente aux Publications du Québec* : 44,95 \$CAN, taxe en sus)

Ce document contient les 23 662 toponymes officialisés (excluant les odonymes) par la Commission de toponymie du Québec entre le 1^{er} janvier 1987 et le 31 décembre 1997. Il s'agit d'un ouvrage essentiel pour compléter le Répertoire toponymique du Québec publié en 1987. Conçu suivant le modèle du Répertoire de base, il comprend un chapitre préliminaire sur les modalités de son utilisation. Ce chapitre inclut une description des principales activités de l'organisme, une synthèse des règles d'écriture toponymique ainsi qu'une définition des types d'entités géographiques utilisés dans le Répertoire et son Supplément.

Orientations de recherche en toponymie québécoise

par Henri Dorion, Jean-Yves Dugas avec la collaboration de Yolande Morency. Propositions de projets de recherche susceptibles d'apporter des contributions tant à la théorie qu'à la pratique de l'onomastique, 1997, 58 pages. Publication gratuite disponible sur demande à la Commission.

Cédérom multimédia *Noms et lieux du Québec, Si chaque lieu m'était conté* (configuration : cédérom hybride Macintosh et IBM sous Windows, en vente aux Publications du Québec* : 54,95 \$CAN, taxes en sus) Dans la foulée du dictionnaire illustré *Noms et lieux du Québec* que la Commission de toponymie du Québec a publié en 1994, une version sur cédérom a été produite en 1997. Il s'agit d'une réalisation conjointe de la Commission de toponymie du Québec, des Publications du Québec et de la firme Micro-Intel. Ce cédérom multimédia fait découvrir l'origine de plus de 6 000 noms de lieux. Autant de rubriques où l'on retrouve des données historiques, géographiques, économiques et linguistiques. *Noms et lieux du Québec* contient une information objective, sérieuse souvent divertissante sur la petite et le grande histoire du Québec. En plus de pouvoir effectuer des recherches traditionnelles, on peut accéder à 6 000 lieux du

Québec grâce aux 14 thèmes servant en quelque sorte de guide dans le cédérom (exemples : l'aspect des lieux, le monde du froid et de l'hiver, les lieux d'intérêt touristique, les nations autochtones, les curiosités, etc). Une carte géographique interactive couvrant tout le territoire québécois permet de localiser chaque nom et chaque lieu. Plus de 600 photos en couleurs accompagnent les rubriques du dictionnaire. Des ambiances sonores variées complètent une expérience multimédia enrichissante. Tiré à 2 000 exemplaires, dans un premier temps, ce cédérom est distribué au Québec par les Publications du Québec pour le grand public tandis que la distribution pour le milieu scolaire est réservée à la firme Micro-Intel via la maison Diffusion Multi-Média. Des négociations sont présentement en cours avec différents distributeurs européens concernant la diffusion de ce produit. Près de 600 copies de ce cédérom ont été vendues jusqu'à maintenant et, au cours des prochains mois, il est prévu de diffuser largement ce produit auprès de la clientèle du monde de l'enseignement en vue de la prochaine année scolaire.

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Canada
Téléphone: +514-671-3888
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Par Internet : <http://doc.gouv.qc.ca>

Helen Kerfoot
Canada

French-speaking Division

The Nineteenth Session of the Group of Experts made a recommendation (WP No. 4) to the Seventh Conference to establish a French-speaking Division.

The Seventh Conference adopted Resolution 1 endorsing this recommendation of the Group. The following countries will participate in the work of the French-speaking Division:

- Belgium
- Benin
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Cote d'Ivoire
- France
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Luxembourg
- Mali
- Monaco
- Romania
- Switzerland

Contact and proposed Chair:

Mme. Kathleen Van Doren
Directeur de formation
Institut géographique national
Abbaye de la Cambre 13
B-1000 Bruxelles Belgique
Tel: (32) 02-629.84.21
Fax: (32) 02-629-82.12
E-mail: kvd@ngi.be

Secretariat

Convenors of the Working Groups

Working Group on Romanization Systems:	Mr. P. Päll
Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy:	Mr. F. Ormeling
Working Group on Toponymic Terminology:	Mr. N. Kadmon
Working Group on Country Names:	Ms. S. Lejeune
Working Group on Publicity and Funding:	Mr. J. Parker
Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers:	Mr. R. Flynn
Co-ordinator for Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors:	Mr. P. Raper

Working Group on Toponymic Terminology

Terms of reference:

1. Completing the translation of the Glossary into the 5 other official languages of the United Nations.
2. Bringing up all 5 translations to the standard of version 4 of the glossary.
3. Collating all six translations in a unified and uniformly-numbered multilingual glossary.
4. Periodically review the glossary by adding, deleting or changing terms as required by changing knowledge and technology.

N.B. The above is based on Resolution No. 11 of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Groupe de travail sur les noms de pays

(Working Group on Country Names)

Composition: Ms. Caroline Burgess (Royaume - Uni)
Mr. Serban Dragomirescu (Roumanie),
membre correspondant
Mr. Charles Heyda (U.S.A.)
Ms. Sylvie Lejeune (France),
Coordonnateur
Ms. Juliette Moore (Royaume - Uni)
Mr. Peeter Päll (Estonie)
Ms. Izabella Krauze-Tomczyk (Pologne)
Mr. Paul Woodman (Royaume - Uni)

Mandate

Le groupe de travail sur les noms de pays du monde est chargé de l'établissement et de la mise à jour de la liste des noms de pays reconnus par la communauté internationale, dans leurs formes courte et longue, dans leur(s) langue(s) officielle(s) romanis[é]e(s), ainsi que dans les trois langues de travail du GENUNG.

Working Group on Romanization Systems

Convenor: Mr. P. Päll (Estonia)

Members: Mr. A. Abdo (Saudi Arabia)
Mr. B. Atoui (Algeria)
Ms. C. Burgess (United Kingdom)
Mr. R. Flynn (United States)
Mr. C. Heyda (United States)
Mr. N. Kadmon (Israel)
Ms. J. Moore (United Kingdom)
Mr. G. Quinting (United States)
Mr. A. Toniolo (Italy)
Mr. P. Woodman (United Kingdom)

Canada

The Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN) celebrated 100 years of a national names authority in Canada, 1897-1997. In order to make the Committee and the geographical naming process and standardization better known to the general public and to schools, several activities were undertaken during the year to promote this work.

- The CPCGN published the first edition of the bilingual *Concise Gazetteer of Canada / Répertoire toponymique concis du Canada* (47 000 records with feature type, province/territory, in some cases a further level of administrative or geographical division, coordinates to minutes, National Topographic System map sheet).
- As guest speaker, Henri Dorion presented a bilingual public lecture, *Geographical names of Canada: historical treasure chest / La toponymie canadienne, un coffre au trésor historique*, which was jointly sponsored by the CPCGN and The Royal Canadian Geographical Society.
- Lead by Parks Canada, the National Archives and Natural Resources Canada, the CPCGN staged a major exhibit illustrating influences on naming the Canadian landscape, *Every name tells a story: 100 years of official place naming in Canada / À chaque nom son histoire : 100 ans d'appellations officielles de noms de lieux au Canada*. The exhibit was on display for three months in the National Archives, and for a short time in Natural Resources Canada; it will be made available for the International Cartographic Conference in Ottawa in 1999. In the meantime some of the material is available on the GeoNames web site (see below).
- The CPCGN video, *What's in a toponym? The story of Canada's geographical names / La toponymie : mémoire des lieux*, was reissued and copies were distributed free of charge to 100 schools across Canada.

- A special edition of *Canoma* was completed to include articles on geographical names authorities in the provinces and territories, as well as articles about the history of geographical naming in Canada. Manuscripts were prepared on aspects of the history of the Committee and key individuals who had participated, and a series of articles on names was written for government newsletters.
- A third (cumulative) edition of *Aboriginal geographical names of Canada: an annotated bibliography / La toponymie autochtone du Canada : une bibliographie annotée* was completed and now provides 1450 Canadian and 290 non-Canadian entries to users.
- The Canadian Geographical Names web site was upgraded, both with improved ways of querying the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base, and with extra information on the origins of names for the educational users.
- The Strategic Plan of the CPCGN has been revised and lays out the mandate, responsibilities and core activity areas for the Committee, as well as provide information on the Order in Council and the CPCGN advisory committees.
- In promoting the work of the CPCGN, we found that media interest grew during the year, with interviews being provided for radio, television, and newspaper articles of general public interest.
- To the annual meeting of the CPCGN, we invited a number of guests who could benefit from the meeting being held in Ottawa, to learn more about the Canadian names standardization processes.

You can visit our GeoNames web site at
<http://geonames.NRCan.gc.ca> (English)
<http://toponymes.RNCan.gc.ca> (French)

New publications on indigenous names in

northwestern Canada:

- *Guzagi K'ugé' Our Language Book: Nouns Kaska, Mountain Slavey and Sekani.*
by Patrick Moore (1997)
Kaska Tribal Council, Arctic Star Printing, Yukon.
[ISBN 0-9682022-0-9]
- *Dákeyi (Our Country) (CD-ROM)*
by Yukon Native Language Bureau (1997)
available from Yukon College, Box 2799,
Whitehorse YN Y1A 5K4
[ISBN 1-55242-000-0]

For further information contact the:

CPCGN Secretariat
615 Booth Street - Room 634
Ottawa ON K1A 0E9 Canada
fax : + 613-943-8282

Voir aussi la contribution du Canada à la Division
romano-héllénique

Helen Kerfoot
Executive Secretary, CPCGN

Japan

Several Departments of the Government of Japan have co-operated to prepare the First National Geographical Name Gazetteer of Japan. This book was ready before the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, in January 1998.

Unfortunately a delay in the shipment of the books to the Conference made it impossible to distribute them during the Conference; they arrived in New York a few days after its closure.

Therefore, it was decided to attach the Gazetteer to this *Newsletter*.

If you have questions or comments on this Gazetteer, kindly address them to Mr. Akagiri, Japan, whose address, fax, and e-mail you will find in the List of Addresses in this *Newsletter*.

Secretariat

Finland

In February 1997, the municipalities of Finland were grouped into 20 administrative provinces (Finnish *maakunta*, Swedish *landskap*). In September 1997, the regional administration of the state was divided into 6 counties (fi *lääni*, sv *län*). In January 1998, during the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, some names of the new administrative provinces were still unratified. On the 26th of February 1998, the Finnish Government decided the names of the new administrative provinces, and some already proposed names were changed. These had the numbers 5, 7, and 11 in the "Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors: Finland" (E/CONF. 91/L.17, p. 17).

Traditionally, the terms *lääni* (sv *län*) have been translated into English with the word *county*, and the term *maakunta* (sv *landskap*) with the word *province*. Since the beginning of the 1980s, the Ministry of Interior uses the term *province* instead of the former *county* and, later, the term *region* instead of the former *province*.

The English equivalents of the names of the new provinces (formerly *counties*) are given here in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry of Interior (29 April 1997):

1. Etelä-Suomen lääni fi, Södra Finlands län sv, Province of Southern Finland en
2. Länsi-Suomen lääni fi, Västra Finlands län sv, Province of Western Finland en
3. Itä-Suomen lääni fi, Östra Finlands län sv, Province of Eastern Finland en
4. Oulun lääni fi, Uleåborgs län sv, Province of Oulu en
5. Lapin lääni fi, Lapplands län sv, Province of Lapland en
6. Ålands län sv, Ahvenanmaan lääni fi, Province of Åland en

The administrative divisions of Finland with their Finnish and Swedish names are shown on the map on page 33. The donor-recommended English equivalents of the names of the 20 regions (formerly *provinces*) are still being discussed.

Sirkka Paikkala,
Special Adviser (Onomastic Planning and Guidance),
Research Institute for the Languages of Finland

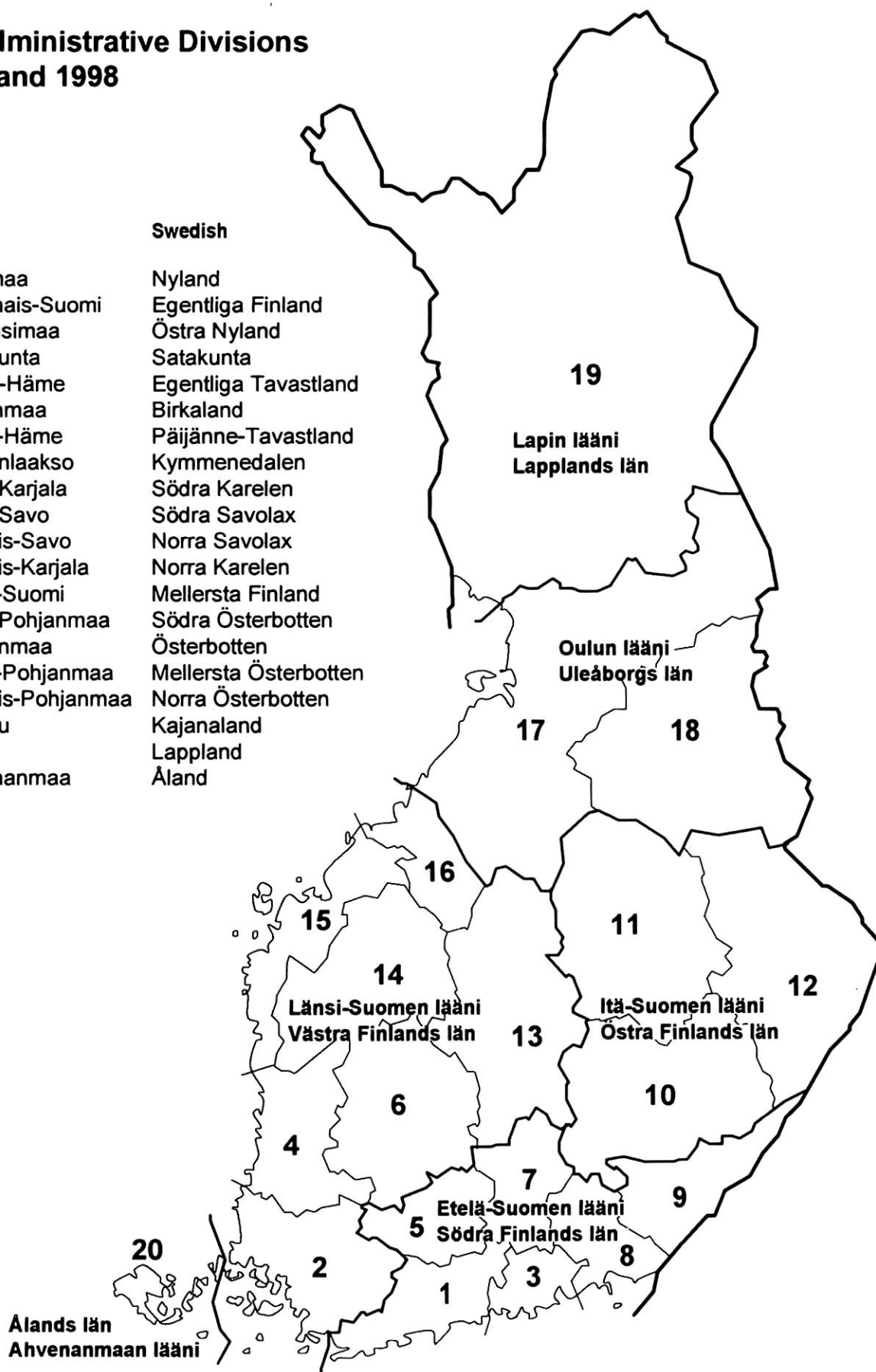
The Administrative Divisions of Finland 1998

Finnish

1. Uusimaa
2. Varsinais-Suomi
3. Itä-Uusimaa
4. Satakunta
5. Kanta-Häme
6. Pirkanmaa
7. Päijät-Häme
8. Kymenlaakso
9. Etelä-Karjala
10. Etelä-Savo
11. Pohjois-Savo
12. Pohjois-Karjala
13. Keski-Suomi
14. Etelä-Pohjanmaa
15. Pohjanmaa
16. Keski-Pohjanmaa
17. Pohjois-Pohjanmaa
18. Kainuu
19. Lappi
20. Ahvenanmaa

Swedish

- Nyland
- Egentliga Finland
- Östra Nyland
- Satakunta
- Egentliga Tavastland
- Birkaland
- Päijänne-Tavastland
- Kymmenedalen
- Södra Karelen
- Södra Savolax
- Norra Savolax
- Norra Karelen
- Mellersta Finland
- Södra Österbotten
- Österbotten
- Mellersta Österbotten
- Norra Österbotten
- Kajanaland
- Lappland
- Åland



Training Courses, Symposia, & Other Meetings

The Twentieth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences in Santiago de Compostella, Spain

On the occasion of the meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS), February 20th to 23rd in Santiago de Compostela it was announced that the 20th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences will be held from 20th to 25th September 1999 in Santiago de Compostela/Spain. This date had to be chosen mainly for reasons of traditional summer vacations during July and August in Spain (as it is normal in all south-European countries), so that absolutely no infrastructure for an event like an international scientific congress could be available during these months. Moreover, 1999 will be declared as „holy year in Santiago“, so that accommodations will be limited during July and August.

The organizers and the BoD made all efforts to reach a compromise and shift the congress to the 3rd week of September, in order to offer participants from all parts of the world, especially from North America, the possibility for their attendancy.

The representative of the organization committee of the University of Santiago presented the scientific programme, which contains the following sections:

1 Place Names

1.1 Relations between Personal Names and Place Names

1.2 Standardization of Place Names

- 2 Naming Systems, especially in intercultural comparison
- 3 Theory of Names and Terminology
- 4 Socio-Onomastics
- 5 The other names
- 6 „Nomen et gens“
- 7 Etymology and Lexicography
- 8 Onomastics and Literature
- 9 Onomastics and Law
- 10 Research Projects and Bibliographical Information.

It is to be regarded with great interest, that this congress for the first time opens the possibility to present papers on all aspects of names standardization in an own subsection (1.2.). The organizers of the congress as well as the Board of Directors of ICOS invite all experts in the field of the standardization of geographical names to attend the congress and to hold lectures on this item.

The first circular with further information on this congress will be sent out in March 1988.

Isolde Hausner
Austria

Naming of Extraterrestrial Features

Until 1987 there was close cooperation between the UNGEGN Working Group on Extraterrestrial Features and IAU Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WGPSN). The UNGEGN working group was dissolved in 1987 and thereafter there was very little contact between the Group of Experts and the WGPSN. The present president of WGPSN is the Norwegian Kaare Aksnes at the University of Oslo (he succeeded Harold Masursky from the United States in 1991). Professor Aksnes has furnished me with some information about the work of WGPSN. He welcomes a closer contact between the two bodies. The easiest way to get information about names and naming of extraterrestrial features is to search following Internet address:

<http://www.flag.wr.usgs.gov/USGSFlag/Space/nomen/nomen.html>.

The Board of WGPSB consists of, in addition to the president, 7 members (4 from the United States, 2 from Russia and 1 from the United Kingdom). There are 6 subgroups dealing with different extraterrestrial areas: 1. Lunar nomenclature, 2. Mercury nomenclature, 3. Venus nomenclature, 4. Mars nomenclature, 5. Small bodies nomenclature, 6. Outer solar system nomenclature.

The following information is downloaded from the Web site of WGPSN:

Planetary nomenclature, like terrestrial nomenclature, is used to uniquely identify a feature on the surface of a planet or satellite so that the feature can be easily located, described, and discussed.

When images are first obtained of the surface of a planet or satellite, a theme for naming features is

chosen and a few important features are named, usually by members of the appropriate IAU task group. Later, as higher resolution images and maps become available, additional features are named, usually at the request of investigators mapping or describing specific surfaces, features, or geologic formations. However, anyone—either scientist or layman—may suggest a name or ask that a specific feature be named. Names considered appropriate by a task group are submitted to the WGPSN, which meets once a year. The WGPSN transmits its list of recommended names to the yearly meeting of the IAU's Executive Committee, which checks the names for conformity to IAU standards. Successful candidate names are then presented for adoption to the IAU's General Assembly, which meets triennially. A name is not considered to be official—that is, "adopted"—until the General Assembly has given its approval. Names approved by the Executive Committee, but not yet adopted by the General Assembly, are given "provisional" status. Provisional names may be published, so long as their status is noted in the publication.

Suggestions for naming a specific feature or requests that a specific name be used should be sent to the president of the WGPSN or to the chairman of the appropriate task group (see Appendixes 1 and 2 of this volume) or to the U.S. Geological Survey, Branch of Astrogeology, Rm. 409, 2255 N. Gemini Drive, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001, or by e-mail; jblue@flagmail.wr.usgs.gov.

Botolv Helleland
Norway

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info@imagic.u-net.com
<http://www.imagic.u-net.com/>