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REPORT OF THE NORDEN DIVISION

Submitted by E.M. Närhi, Chairman of the Norden Division

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## REPORT OF THE NORDEN DIVISION

Submitted by E.M. Närhi  
Chairman of the Division

### Meetings

The division held a meeting in Gävle, Sweden, on April 10 - 11, 1989. The meeting was attended by 6 participants from Sweden, 3 from Norway, 1 from Denmark, and 4 from Finland. The following items were discussed: collaboration for the correspondence of names on maps and charts, problems in the usage of the Lappish orthography when ~~computerizing names, means and methods of disseminating information~~ about UNGEGN and its recommendations, and the status of toponymic data bases in the Nordic countries. Furthermore the decision was made to convene the Division meeting shortly after each UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, and at the meeting to elect the chairman of the division for the period until the following conference. Since Mr. Allan Rostvik from Sweden, who had conscientiously acted as the chairman of the division for eleven years desired to withdraw from the chairmanship, Ms. Eeva Maria Närhi from Finland was elected to be the new chairman.

A Nordic symposium on current issues with regard to place name management was held on March 8 - 10, 1988 in Gothenburg, Sweden, and the 15th NORNA-symposium on "Place Names and Early Settlement History" was arranged on June 9 - 11, 1988 in Hamar, Norway.

The 5th Norwegian conference on name research was held in Oslo on November 18, 1988. The main theme of the conference was the standardization of place names. The proceedings of the conference will be published 1989.

### National standardization, field collection of place names, and training courses

#### Denmark

Cooperation with Danmarks Statistik (Denmarks Statistical Bureau) and Geodætisk Institut (The Geodetic Institute), which, after amalgamation with Søkortarkivet (the Hydrographic Department) and Matrikeldirektoratet (the Land Registry Office) has changed its name to Kort- og Matrikelstyrelsen (the National Survey of Cadastra), has been intensified since 1987. This increased cooperation means that the names of municipalities and parishes etc. will henceforward appear with uniform spellings in the publications of the Institutes.

#### Finland

Since the 13th Session of UNGEGN, Montreal 1987, 613 sheets of the Finnish Basic Map (1:20 000), 1 sheet (1:50 000) and 1 sheet (1:100 000) have been updated and all names on those (approximately 143 000 names) revised. 510 sheets consisted only Finnish, 32 sheets only Swedish, 32 sheets Finnish and Lappish, and 41 Finnish and Swedish names.

The field collection of place names in 1987 and 1988 brought in 39 500 entries. The collection will be continued during summer 1989 in 27 villages.

Two training courses in name collection have been arranged for students every year. The courses generally last 2 - 3 weeks. Moreover, a few condensed courses in planning names for the roads, streets, and districts of new urban areas have been arranged for municipal civil servants.

#### Norway

Field collection of place names is going on in different regions of the country as a result of toponymic courses organized by the universities and colleges. A new registration form for the computerizing of place names has recently been worked out by the National Committee on Name Research. This aims at providing a comprehensive national data base of all Norwegian place names.

### Gazetteers and toponymic data files

#### Denmark

The list of place names in Fortegnelse over Stednavne i Amterne Øst for Lillebælt (The Amts to the East of the Little Belt) have been read by an optical character-reader and transferred to magnetic tape. There are as yet no concrete plans for the publication of one comprehensive list of authorized Danish place names, but a list of corrections to the two volumes already published is in preparation.

#### Norway

In Norway the State Office of Cartography has intensified its work with a computerized national gazetteer comprising all the names (approximately 450 000) on the M711 map series (1:50 000). In cooperation with the Norwegian Defense Mapping Agency, the State Office of Cartography will publish a gazetteer of the place names in Southern Norway south of 62 degree latitude in 1990.

#### Sweden

The toponymic data base for the topographic map (1:50 000) contains approximately 450 000 place names.

#### Finland

The toponymic data base for the topographic map (1:1 600 000) contains 1 250 names of inhabited places and 250 names of natural features in Finland, in addition 250 names from the neighbouring countries. The map is also available in digital form. It will be updated annually. The road map of Finland GT 1:200 000 is also in preparation in digital form, and it will be completed in two years. Its toponymic data base will contain 40 000 names. A digital topographic map 1:50 000 is also in preparation, and it is estimated that it will be completed in ten years.

### Toponymic guidelines and lists of names

The Toponymic Guidelines for Sweden are under revision, but the new edition will not be finished before the UNGEGN meeting in May.

The Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages published in the autumn 1987 a list of country names in Finnish, Swedish, English, and French: Maiden nimet suomeksi, ruotsiksi, englanniksi ja ranskaksi, 102 p.

The Norwegian Language Council is preparing a list of historical

names and a list of foreign geographical names (exonyms and endonyms) to be used in Norway.

Names authorities

**Denmark**

Stednavneudvalget (The place-name commission) has held four plenary meetings since May 1987. The business dealt with at these meetings has been concerned with the correct spelling of place names and the standardization of names.

**Norway**

On 14 April 1989 the Norwegian government proposed a new law for the standardization and treatment of geographical names in Norway. The proposal is expected to be discussed in Parliament in the near future.

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