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Gazetteers:

(a) National gazetteers

GAZETTEER OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY -  
INTRODUCTION

Paper presented by the Federal Republic of Germany

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## Preface

In 1967 the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Geneva <sup>1)</sup> passed the recommendation that the member countries elaborate gazetteers for their territory according to uniform specifications <sup>2)</sup>.

After the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany, the "Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie" (Institute for Applied Geodesy), had taken over part of the functions of the former "Reichsamt für Landesaufnahme" (Reich Survey Office) and as competent Service undertook, in cooperation with the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and the Federal Minister of the Interior, to compile such a gazetteer. Assisted by numerous institutions of the Federal Republic and of the Länder, the present "Geographisches Namenbuch Bundesrepublik Deutschland" (Gazetteer of the Federal Republic of Germany) has been prepared.

The geographical names used in this book refer in particular to the following groups of topographical features: Populated places, mountains, mountainous regions, rivers, lakes, oceans, bays, islands, and landscapes.

The selection of names has been based on the "Übersichtskarte 1 : 500 000 (General Map 1 : 500 000) World Series 1404".

All names give the following information: Official spelling, geographical and geodetic coordinates. For independent populated places or communities, the number of inhabitants and heights above mean sea level are also indicated. All populated places also show information on their administrative area or -function, their possible cultural and geographical characteristics, as e. g. traffic system, spa function.

Physical-geographical features also show information on their height or dimension, as well as on their affiliation to greater natural units or to water systems.

This additional information exceeds the minimum requirement of the United Nations. However, in the present gazetteer we have included

such data of encyclopedical character since they are indispensable as an important means of generalization in practical mapping.

We have not indicated the pronunciation (international phonetics) of each individual name. But, in the introduction reference has been made to the pronunciation rules in general and to regional and local particularities.

As many of the additional information (mostly for populated places) is subject to continuous or irregular modifications, as e. g. number of inhabitants, administrative affiliation, cultural and geographical characteristics, the gazetteer requires a continuous revision.

A continuous updating, i. e. a constant actuality can only be realized by electronic data processing. Current modifications can be stored in the data file and retrieved and printed at any time. Electronic data processing offers the additional advantage that certain individual features or groups of features can be called separately with their respective data as required.

- 1) United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Geneva, 4 - 22 September 1967
- 2) E/CONF. 53/3 Vol. I: Report of the Conference, III4D, p. 11

## INTRODUCTION

### A. History of the Gazetteer

At the First International Congress for Geographers in Antwerp in 1871, the problematic nature of the spelling of geographical names in national as well as in international use had already been discussed. At that time, the demand was made that each country should compile for its territory a list of populated places in Roman lettering which is officially approved and should be acknowledged by the other countries. This demand has been extended in 1909 to all kinds of geographical names by the First Conference on the Preparation of an International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale.

But only in 1962, after the last United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale in Bonn, could the different initiatives of certain nations be extended to an international level under the protection of the United Nations. In 1967, the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Geneva, followed by a Second Conference in London in 1972, promoted considerably the new development, initiating a fruitful cooperation between the member countries. In Geneva also a United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has been established comprising 16 linguistic/geographical divisions, also with a Dutch-speaking and German-speaking group. These latter two hold meetings in the meantime between the United Nations Conferences in order to prepare the next one.

The First Conference in Geneva in 1967 passed the following recommendation for the presentation of national gazetteers <sup>1)</sup>:

#### RECOMMENDATION E. NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

It is recommended that each names authority produce, and continually revise, appropriate gazetteers of all its standardized geographical names.

It is further recommended that, in addition to the standardized names, each gazetteer include, as a minimum, such information as is necessary for the proper location and identification of the named features.

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In particular, it is recommended that the following be included:

- (a) The kind of feature to which the name applies;
- (b) Precise description of the location and the extent, including a point position reference if possible, of each named feature;
- (c) Provision for the parts of natural features to be additionally defined by reference to the whole and for the names of extended features to be defined as necessary by reference to their constituent parts;
- (d) Such information on administrative or regional areas as is considered necessary and, if possible, reference to a map or chart within which the features lie;
- (e) All officially standardized names for a feature, if there are more than one; and provision for cross-references to be made to names previously used for the same feature.

When national authorities determine it possible, both technically and economically, they may include such information on geographical names as gender, number, definite and indefinite forms, position of stress, tone and pronunciation in the system of the International Phonetic Association and such other linguistic information as may lead to the better understanding and use of names both nationally and internationally.

At the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in London in 1972 the additional resolution has been passed to include also an alphabetical glossary of the most customary designatory terms used with a brief explanation of their meanings in English.

In addition, recommendation has been given by the Conference to those countries who, for the moment, do not dispose of a complete list of all geographical names of their territory, to publish, in the interim, concise lists of their names of geographical entities, including administrative division<sup>2)</sup> which could already be incorporated into the "Geographisches Namenbuch der Erde" (Concise United

Nations Gazetteer of the World), as planned by the United Nations. 3)

In the Federal Republic of Germany, the national efforts on the standardization of geographical names have been started in 1952 by founding a Working Committee "Namengebung und Namensschreibung" (Nomenclature and Spelling of Names) within the scope of the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kartographie" (German Society for Cartography). Following the British example (Permanent Committee on Geographic Names for British Official Use), this Committee has developed into the "Ständiger Ausschuß für die Rechtschreibung geographischer Namen" (Permanent Committee on the Spelling of Geographical Names). After consultations with the responsible governmental authorities in the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, this Committee was established at Bad Godesberg <sup>on 16 January 1959.</sup> In the presence of members of the three states, the Director of the "Institut für Landeskunde" (Institute for Applied Geography), Professor Dr. E. MEYNEN, presided at this meeting. At a later date the name was shortened to "Ständiger Ausschuß für geographische Namen", abbr. "StAgN" (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names).

The most important task of StAgN is to standardize for the German-speaking countries the spelling of geographical names of all parts of the world for official and private use and to publish appropriate lists of geographical names. As a first result of this work, in 1966 the "Duden, Wörterbuch geographischer Namen, Band I: Europa ohne Sowjetunion" (DUDEN, Dictionary of Geographical Names, Volume I: Europe without Soviet Union) was published in cooperation with the Bibliographic Institute at Mannheim. At the end of the year 1973, the Secretariate of StAgN moved from the "Institut für Landeskunde" to the "Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie" in Frankfurt am Main. There, the work on the "Geographisches Namenbuch Bundesrepublik Deutschland" (Gazetteer Federal Republic of Germany) has been resumed. The first task has been to test the use of electronic data processing for the production and updating of gazetteers.

- 1) E/Conf. 53/3 Vol. I: Report of the Conference, III4D, p. 11
- 2) E/CONF. 61/4 Vol. I: Report of the Conference, Resolutions Nos 16 and 35
- 3) Proposal of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the occasion of their Fifth Meeting in New York from 5 to 16 March 1973

## B. Selection and Sources Used

### I. Selection of Geographical Features

The present gazetteer comprises the names of all geographical features of the Federal Republic of Germany, shown on the official "Übersichtskarte (General Map) 1 : 500 000 (ÜK 500) World, Series 1404. In addition, the gazetteer contains those names of independent communes which, due to lack of space, do not appear on the map. Thus, this gazetteer also constitutes a complete list of all communes of the Federal Republic of Germany. It is possible to complete, at a later date, the "Gazetteer Federal Republic of Germany" in such a way that even the geographical names shown on the Topographic Map 1 : 25 000 can be incorporated.

### II. Sources Used

- 1) Sources for the capture of geographical names:  
General Map 1 : 500 000 (TÜK 500) (single sheets and assembly of sheets)  
"Amtliche Gemeindeverzeichnisse" (official lists of communes) of the Länder.
- 2) Documents for the digitizing of geographical and geodetical coordinates of the central points of populated places, mountains and of the geographical centers of landscapes, islands, and lakes:  
General Topographic Map 1 : 200 000 (TÜK 200).
- 3) Sources for the affiliation of geographical-topographical features to the official map series and their sheet numbers:  
Sheet indexes of the official map series of the Federal Republic of Germany from 1 : 25 000 (TK 25) to 1: 1 000 000 (IWK 1 000) scales.
- 4) Sources for the determination of the administrative affiliation and function of populated places:  
Maps of the Länder showing the boundaries of communes.  
Lists showing modifications of boundaries of administrative units caused by regional reforms in the Länder.
- 5) Sources for the number of inhabitants:  
Official list of the Länder containing the communes with their extrapolated population.



- 6) Sources for the determination of cultural, geographical and other characteristics, serving as most important criteria for generalization:

Official map showing the nets of federal autobahns (dual highways) and federal highways in the Federal Republic of Germany  
1 : 750 000.

Handbook of the "Bundesanstalt für Flugsicherung" (Federal Office for Air Traffic Control), annexed maps.

Official list of the communes of the Federal Republic of Germany: Area and population according to natural regional units <sup>1)</sup>.

Official list showing the heights above mean sea level of the centers of communes, as far as existing.

Official lists of sea- and inland ports in the Federal Republic of Germany.

List of spas and health resorts in the Federal Republic of Germany

Official list of hydrographic codes.

- 7) Miscellaneous

For final inspection, the different lists of geographical names were presented to the competent ministry and State Survey Office of the Land concerned, where corrections and supplements have been made. Thus it is guaranteed that all information is of official character.

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1) (according to the "Handbuch der naturräumlichen Gliederung Deutschlands" (Handbook of the structure of Germany by natural regions)), Vol. 2, "Bundesanstalt für Landeskunde und Raumordnung" Bad Godesberg 1953-1962

## C. Arrangement of the Gazetteer

### I. Headwords

The geographical names are listed as main entries or as cross references in alphabetical order in the gazetteer. Both are stressed by bold face types.

#### 1) Main Entries

Main entries are the present official geographical names. Statistical cultural, and geographical information is added.

#### 2) Cross References

As cross references serve second names (e. g. Malchen see Melibocus) and broken entries as Venn, Hohes (see Hohes Venn).

### II. Alphabetical Arrangement

The alphabetical arrangement is made according to the specifications given by the "Fachnormenausschuß des Deutschen Instituts für Normung e. V." (Committee for Technical Standards of the German Institute for Standardization) (FNBü-GA 5007 30-75).

1) The basic letters of the Roman alphabet are arranged as follows:  
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z.

2) The umlaut letters ä, ö, and ü are alphabetized in the same way as a, o, and u.

3) The letter junctions ae, oe, and ue are alphabetized, regardless of their pronunciation, as a+e, o+e, and u+e.

4) The letter ß is alphabetized as ss.

5) Hyphens and spaces have been disregarded for the purpose of alphabetical arrangement (e. g.: Groß-Gerau, Groß Ippenei, Großrosseln).

### III. Pronunciation

#### 1) General Rules

Geographical names are pronounced according to the standard (colloquial) pronunciation.

The individual letters are pronounced in Roman.

The pronunciation is only indicated after the headword when it differs from the general rules of reading German or when doubts may arise.

Examples: Soest (sost), Duisburg (düsburg), Troisdorf (trosdorf), Kues (kus), Cham (kam), Charlottenburg (scharlottenburg), Celle (zelle), Lüchow (lücho), Sylt (sült), Eltville (eltville), Saarlouis (sarlui). As in German the stress lies, in general, on the first syllable, it is only indicated in exceptional cases, e. g. Osnabrück, Bonames, Salzgitter, Kaiserslautern, where the line under a vowel indicates a vowel length, whereas a point under a vowel indicates that the vowel in question is short in pronunciation.

Diphthongs are, in general, pronounced like umlauts (ae = ä, oe = ö, ue = ü).

#### IV. Description of Features

1) Indication of the kind of feature, as municipality or commune, part of a commune, mountain, group of mountains, river, canal, lake, ocean, bay, island, landscape.

2) Location by means of geographical and geodetical coordinates

a) For punctual features, as populated places and mountains, the coordinates of the central points of populated places and mountain peaks are indicated.

b) For linear features as rivers and canals, the coordinates of the mouths or those of the line where they definitely leave the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany are indicated.

c) For areal features as lakes, islands, landscapes, the coordinates of the approximate geographical central point are indicated.

3) Code numbers indicating statistical or geographical units. As to populated places, their relation to the superior administrative unit is indicated.

As to the other geographical features, the geographical and hydrographic code numbers are indicated.

4) Quantitative information as number of inhabitants of communes and heights above mean sea level for populated places (as far as obtainable), mountains and groups of mountains (with their highest elevation).

as well as areas in km<sup>2</sup> (1 km<sup>2</sup> = 0.3861 square miles) of units of natural regions.

#### 5) Qualitative Indications

As to populated places, information on important cultural and geographical qualities, if applicable, is added, as e. g. traffic system function as spa or health resort, etc.

6) Indication of sheet numbers of the official map series of the Federal Republic of Germany at scales from 1 : 25 000 to 1 : 1 000 000

### V. Grammatical Information

As to the physical-geographical features, their name is followed by the grammatical gender in brackets (m = male, f = female, n = neuter). Examples: Feldberg (m.), Elbe (f.), Hohes Venn (n.)  
The plural form is indicated by adding (pl.).

### D. General Documents for the Spelling of Geographical Names in the Federal Republic of Germany

#### I. Legal Foundations

Often the different spelling of equal or homophonic geographical names raises the question of the legal foundations.

The Länder (Federal States) are competent for the official spelling of geographical names. As to independent communes, the official list of communes of the Statistical Office of the Land in question is authoritative. The spelling of all other geographical names is official so far as they are shown on an official map.

#### II. Official Sources

(In the following we only list the source material which is used for the capture of geographical names of the Land of Lower Saxony.)

1. Übersichtskarte 1 : 500 000 (ÜK 500) - World Series 1404, published by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt a. M.
2. Topographische Übersichtskarte (General Topographic Map) 1 : 200 000 (TÜK 200), published by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt a. M.

3. Sheet indexes of the official topographical and general map series of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the Joint Operations Graphic (Ground) 1 : 250 000 (JOG 250) - Series 1501.
4. General Map of Lower Saxony 1 : 500 000, Administrative edition, published by the "Niedersächsisches Landesverwaltungsamt" (Lower Saxon Administration Department) - "Landesvermessung" (Land Survey Office), Hanover 1976.
5. Map 1 : 200 000 showing the boundaries of communes, published by the "Niedersächsisches Landesverwaltungsamt - Landesvermessung", Hanover 1974.
6. Population of the communes as of 1 January 1977 in: "Statistische Berichte" (Statistical Reports), published by "Niedersächsisches Landesverwaltungsamt" - "Statistik" (Statistics), Hanover 1977.
7. Map showing the net of federal autobahns and federal highways 1 : 750 000, as of 1 January 1977, published by the "Bundesminister für Verkehr, Abteilung Straßenbau" (Federal Minister of Transport, Road Construction Department), Bonn 1977.
8. Map of the federal waterways 1 : 1 000 000, published by the "Bundesminister für Verkehr, Abteilung Wasserstraßen" (Department of Waterways), Bonn 1970.
9. Nautical charts No. 98 ("Die Ostsee" - The Baltic Sea) and No. 101 ("Die Nordsee" - The North Sea) 1 : 500 000, published by the "Deutsches Hydrographisches Institut" (German Hydrographic Institute), Hamburg 1964 and 1970.
10. Map of the federal waterways in the coastal region 1 : 500 000, published by the Federal Minister of Transport, Bonn 1964.
11. Flugnavigationsskizze (Air Navigation Chart) 1 : 1 000 000 in: "Luftfahrthandbuch" (Handbook for Air Navigation), Vol. III, published by the "Bundesanstalt für Flugsicherung" (Federal Office for Air Traffic Control) and the "Amt für Flugsicherung der Bundeswehr" (Office for Air Traffic Control of the German Federal Armed Forces), Frankfurt a. M. 1977.
12. "Amtliches Gemeindeverzeichnis der Bundesrepublik Deutschland": "Fläche und Wohnbevölkerung der naturräumlichen Einheiten" (Area and resident population of natural regional units)(pp 60 ff.), published by the Federal Statistical Office, Wiesbaden 1957.

13. List of the code numbers for Lower Saxony, published by the Lower Saxon Minister for Food, Agriculture, and Forestry, Hanover 1975.
14. "Amtliches Verzeichnis der Mittelpunktskoordinaten und Höhen über NN für die Gemeinden Niedersachsens" (Official list of the coordinates of the central points and heights above<sup>mean</sup> sea level for the communes in Lower Saxony), published by the "Niedersächsisches Verwaltungsamt - Landesvermessung", Hanover 1976.
15. List of health resorts and spas in the "Bundeskomentar" (Federal Commentary), Vol. II, in Annex IA of the grant-in-aid rules of Annex No. 7 of the grant-in-aid rules in the version of 15 February 1975 (GMB1., page 109, MinB1Fin. page 134), 16th edition, Stuttgart 1976.

### III. Other Sources

1. 1 : 1 000 000/ Map/of the waterways in West and Central Germany and in the Benelux countries, published by "Globen und Landkarten", Frankfurt a. M.
2. "Westdeutscher Schiffahrts- und Hafenkalender 76" (West German Shipping and Port Calendar 76), published by "Binnenschiffahrtsverlag", Duisburg 1976.

### IV. General Rules for the German Spelling of Geographical Names

In 1966 the general rules for the German spelling of geographical names were elaborated by StAgN and published in the "Duden - Wörterbuch geographischer Namen" (DUDEN Dictionary of Geographical Names), Vol. Europe. They are quoted hereinafter with minor omissions. Since numerous examples given in the Dictionary refer to geographical names of foreign countries, these examples have been replaced by names relating to the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.

"Geographical names are normally not subject to the general spelling rules. They are rather spelled in the officially approved or customar form.

However, in the items mentioned below the German geographical names comply with the general spelling rules, except for individual cases where another officially approved version exists.

1. Capitalization and Spelling with Small Letters

a) Adjectives and participles forming part of geographical names are capitalized. This applies also to the isch-derivatives. Examples: Altes Land; Großer Arber; Deutsche Bucht; Hessisch Lichtenau.

b) Word forms with final letters -er which are derived from geographical names are capitalized.

Examples: Lüneburger Heide; Allgäuer Alpen; Lübecker Bucht; Starnberger See.

2. Use of One Word, Two Words or Hyphen

a) Geographical and other names as determinative element

aa) In general, compounds consisting of a single or compound geographical name or a personal name plus a primary word are written in one word.

Examples: Frankenwald; Chiemsee; Albstadt; Wilhelmshaven.

bb) The hyphen is often used - either in order to improve intelligibility or to emphasize the name - when the geographical name is followed by a compound primary word which forms the determinative element.

Example: Elbe-Seitenkanal.

Where intelligibility is not impaired, writing in one word is preferable.

Example: Weserbergland.

cc) Hyphens are used when the determinative element consists of several geographical names.

Example: Dortmund-Ems-Kanal.

dd) Hyphens are also used when the determinative element consists of several words (abbreviations included).

Example: Friedrich-Wilhelm-Lübke-Koog.

b) Derivatives with final letters -er

aa) Two words are used when the derivatives with final -er of geographical names designate the location.

Examples: Oberpfälzer Wald; Starnberger See; Dammer Berge; Wahner Heide.

Exceptions: Böhmerwald; Siegerland.

bb) There are geographical names with final -er which are no derivatives in the above sense. These names are written in one word in accordance with 2 a) aa).

Examples: Sauerland; Wuppertal.

Where the derivatives with final -er of geographical names designate persons, writing in one word is preferred.

c) Adjectives as determinative elements

aa) Spelling in one word is generally used for compounds consisting of non-inflected adjectives, such as "groß, klein, alt, neu" etc., directions of compass plus geographical names.

Examples: Oberpfalz; Großalmerode; Neustadt; Ostfildern.

On the other hand, official usage prescribes: Groß-Gerau; Neu-Anspach; Klein Nordende.

bb) The hyphen is used with compounds consisting of non-inflected adjectives with final letters -isch which are derived from the names of places, countries and nations plus geographical names.

Example: Hessisch-Oldendorf.

On the other hand, official usage prescribes: Bayerisch Eisenstein.

d) Compounds consisting of geographical names

The hyphen is used when a geographical name is composed of two geographical names.

Examples: Schleswig-Holstein; Idar-Oberstein; Villingen-Schwenningen.