

Group of Experts on
Geographical Names

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WORKING PAPER

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Item No. 5 of the
Provisional Agenda*

REPORT OF THE DUTCH AND GERMAN SPEAKING DIVISION
OF THE U.N. GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

(submitted by the Division Chairman, J. Breu, Austria)

Since the Fourth U.N. Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names the Division has held the following 3 sessions:

- (1) 14 September 1982, Genève, Switzerland
- (2) 29 November 1983, Frankfurt am Main, Federal Republic of Germany
- (3) 22 May 1984, Frankfurt am Main, Federal Republic of Germany

The Chairmen have been:

- (1) 14/9/1982 - 29/11/1983: H. Liedtke, Federal Republic of Germany
- (2) Since 29/11/1983: J. Breu, Austria

During the meetings all questions as stated in the Report of the Fourth U.N. Conference, vol.1, were discussed.

Within the member countries the following activities have taken place:

Austria:

- (1) Carrying on of the systematic standardization of all names as contained in the official Austrian Map 1:50 000 in co-operation between the Survey of Austria (Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen), the semi-official board on geographical names on federal level (Abteilung für kartographische Ortsnamenkunde der Österreichischen kartographischen Kommission in der Österreichischen Geographischen Gesellschaft) and the provincial toponymic committees.

- (2) Preparation of a new gazetteer of Austrian place names based on the results of the census of 1981 by the Central Austrian Statistical Office (Österreichisches Statistisches Zentralamt).
- (3) Correspondence of the co-ordinator of the "Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors" with experts of member countries of the U.N.
- (4) Preparation of editing of a special issue of World Cartography, dedicated to names standardization by Mr. J. Breu.
- (5) Mr. O. Back has published an exhaustive treatise on exonyms on strictly linguistic principles: Übersetzbare Eigennamen — Eine synchronische Untersuchung von interlingualer Allonymie und Exonymie. Österreichische Namenforschung, Special Series 5, Salzburg 1983. 130 pp.

Federal Republic of Germany:

- (1) Finalizing of the map and list of the names of regions and mountains of the Federal Republic of Germany by Mr. H. Liedtke within the framework of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (Ständiger Ausschuß für geographische Namen, StAGN).
- (2) Mr. R. Böhme has contributed to the "Guidelines for Establishing a National Geographical Names Authority and Planning a Standardization Program" prepared by D.J. Orth (U.S.A.), which will be presented to the 11th Session of UNGEGN.
- (3) Elaboration within the framework of StAGN of a list of geographical names given to features in the Antarctic region by expeditions of Germany and after 1945 of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- (4) Considerations to a revision of the Gazetteer "Geographisches Namenbuch Bundesrepublik Deutschland".
- (5) Initiative to establishing names authorities of the Länder of the Federal Republic.
- (6) Mr. E. Meynen has edited a bibliography which is of great importance for the future work of UNGEGN: Gazetteers and Glossaries of Geographical Names of the Member-Countries of the U.N., Bibliography 1946 - 1976. Wiesbaden (Publishing House Franz Steiner) 1984. 518 pp.

German Democratic Republic:

- (1) Regular continuation of all activities of names standardization. (CWP. 17)
- (2) The long established courses on the problems of the standardization of geographical names within the Section Geodesy and Cartography of the Technical University Dresden have been held regularly.

Netherlands:

- (1) It is planned to edit an index to the official Topographical Map of the Netherlands, containing all geographical names. But it must be stated that the names of this map series have not yet been standardized.
- (2) Mr. D.P. Blok has studied the subject "Research and experiments in assisting in name pronunciation". His results are submitted to this meeting as a Working Paper.
- (3) Mr. F.J. Ormeling sen. as Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses on Toponymy has made great efforts to continue the project of "Training Courses" which has begun successfully at Cisarua, Indonesia in 1982. Discussions are taking place with the United Nations and Tunisia on the possibility of a seminar in Tunis in spring 1985.
- (4) Mr. F.J. Ormeling jun. has published his fundamental study: Minority Toponyms on Maps - The Rendering of Linguistic Minority Toponyms on Topographic Maps of Western Europe. Utrechtse Geografische Studies No.30. Utrecht 1983. 262 pp., 73 figures, 36 tables.

Switzerland:

Continuation of names standardization within the program of the revision of the official large scale maps of the country (Carte nationale de la Suisse 1:25 000, Carte nationale de la Suisse 1:50 000) by the Service topographique Fédéral Wabern - Berne.

Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN)

The StAGN functions as a co-ordinating committee between the German speaking countries Austria, Federal Republic of Germany, and Switzerland.

Amongst the many common activities the following may be mentioned:

- (1) Continuation of work on the Gazetteer of the World, the first volume of which, Europe (without the Soviet Union), has been published by the Bibliographisches Institut, Mannheim, under the title: Duden — Wörterbuch geographischer Namen, Europa (ohne Sowjetunion). The manuscript of a 2nd volume covering North and South America has been concluded and preliminary work for further volumes and for a revision of the volume Europe has been done.
- (2) Continuous revision of the German language list of the Names of Countries, Adjectives of Nationality and Designations of Cityzens.