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Dutch and German Speaking Division

Report for the Netherlands, 1989-1991, submitted by F.J.Ormeling

Gazetteers

On November 6th, 1991, the last of a series of province atlases of the Netherlands was published by Wolters-Noordhoff Atlas Productions, Groningen. These province atlases consist of topographic maps at the scale 1:25 000, and together present a full coverage of the Netherlands with the exception of part of its new 12th province, Flevoland.

These province atlases contain gazetteers of the individual provinces, and these gazetteers have been combined into one 1:25 000 names database. This one can be obtained for scientific purposes from Wolters-Noordhoff Atlas Productions, PO Box 58, 9700 MB, Groningen.

Next to the names, it contains object codes, local coordinates and administrative data.

Eventually, after processing, this database will be for sale from Topografische Dienst (PO Box 115, 7800 AC Emmen) who already sells the names database from its 1:50 000 topomap series, and from its 1:250 000 topomap series, both in hard copy and file format. To the Wolters-Noordhoff 1:25 000 file UTM coordinates, object codes, sheet and edition numbers will be added.

List of country names

The Dutch Language Union (Nederlandse Taalunie), a joint body empowered by the governments of Belgium and the Netherlands to deal with all Dutch language matters, has received a list of country names from its ad-hoc commission charged with the production of such a list (Chaired by Prof. Blok), and is now studying it prior to approving it officially and implementing it for official use.

List of exonyms

A proposal for the production of a list of exonyms, in standardised orthography, by the same ad-hoc commission is being considered by the Dutch Language Union as well.

Minority Names

In Friesland, the one province in the Netherlands mainly populated by the Frisian-speaking minority, a joint programme for both changing dutch name versions on maps and signposts and in official texts back into their Frisian versions is gaining momentum. This is being reflected by new editions of the large scale Topographic map of the Netherlands, and by new topographic atlases derived from them.