A gazetteer of Finnish Exonyms*

Submitted by Finland

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In March 2013, the Institute for the Languages of Finland (ILF) published a book setting out exonyms used in Finnish.

The main contents of the book is presented in three tables. Table 1 contains around 2,500 standardized Finnish names for foreign places (Finnish exonyms) with corresponding local names (endonyms) and their feature type, location and language code. It also includes the corresponding English names and in many cases corresponding names in other languages, most often French and German. Table 2 presents all endonyms and their English names from Table 1 in alphabetical order and gives their Finnish equivalents. Table 3 explains the language codes of the endonyms and which romanization system has been used for names originally spelled in scripts other than the Roman alphabet.

The book also summarizes the rules by which the Finnish exonyms have been standardized; it gives an overview of how these rules came about, it enumerates the UN resolutions concerning exonyms, and it provides a list of earlier dictionaries and gazetteers that focus on the Finnish spelling of foreign place names.

The book is essentially a guide for Finnish journalists, translators, teachers and other professionals who use names for foreign places in their work. For the practical purposes of the book, a Finnish exonym is understood as a name for a place located outside Finland that is written differently from the corresponding endonym or – if the place (for example a river) has more than one exonym – at least one of its endonyms.

The book will also be made available on the Internet.
