

**Twenty-ninth session
Bangkok, Thailand, 25 – 29 April 2016**

Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda

Activities Relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Old German Place-Name Gazetteer of Austria and South Tyrol

Submitted by Austria*

* Prepared by Isolde Hausner (Austria), Austrian Board on Geographical Names

Old German Place-Name Gazetteer of Austria and South Tyrol

[Altdeutsches Namenbuch. Die Überlieferung der Ortsnamen in Österreich und Südtirol von den Anfängen bis 1200]

Edited by the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Corpus Linguistics and Text Technology. Vienna 1989-2014.

This historical-philological place-name gazetteer comprises the historical and linguistic data of all Austrian and South Tyrolian (Province of Bolzano/Bozen) place names, i.e. the names of populated places, mountains, fields and water bodies, noted in historical sources from the beginnings of their recording in the 7th/8th century until the year 1200.

Articles: about 8,500, including extinct and unidentified names

Historical records: about 50,000

Bibliography/literature: about 800 entries

Bibliography/sources: about 800 entries

2 volumes (1,483 pages): Vol. 1 (A – M), Vol. 2 (N – Z, bibliographies, registers)

Entries are arranged in alphabetical order with the following structure: the lemma is the standardized name of the place with its administrative affiliation, followed by a comprehensive records chapter and an etymology. A concise etymology was elaborated by a team of experts in Romance, Slavonic and German languages. The collations of the spellings of the historical records on the originals in domestic and foreign archives, the inclusion of a considerable historical secondary literature for correct age determination of the source material and for identification of individual historical records provide a profound basis for linguistic and historical analysis of the names. Comprehensive lists of place names (arranged according to different source languages), of historical sources and secondary literature conclude the gazetteer.

Austria is located at the interface of the three big language families of Europe, the Slavonian, Romance and Germanic languages, which left their traces in the toponymic inventory of the country. Toponyms witness colonisation by a variety of peoples and during different settlement periods and are thus part of Austria's and South Tyrol's intangible cultural heritage.

Geographical names and their cultural legacy gain international attention, see, e.g., Resolution VIII/9 [2002] of the 8th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names: *Geographical names as cultural heritage*: „...Urges countries that have not already done so, to undertake both the systematic collection of geographical names and the promotion of a greater understanding among the wider public of the significance of inherited geographical names with respect to local, regional and national heritage and identity...” More than ever is the focus on the whole spectrum of cultural-historical potential that comes to light by historical-linguistic analysis of toponyms. The UNESCO World Report 2009 refers to geographical names as intangible cultural heritage: “...*The naming of geographic features of the landscape ensures a sense of connection to place and the histories linked to it.*”

Also the Alpine Convention in its declaration „Population and culture“ (2006) calls for the “...*recognition of the importance and the value of the toponymic heritage (especially of place and field names) in the Alpine space also with regard to their cultural-historical significance and appreciation...*” [„...*Anerkennung der Bedeutung und des Werts des*

toponymischen Erbes (insbesondere Orts- und Flurnamen) im Alpenraum auch im Hinblick auf seine kulturhistorische Bedeutung sowie seine Aufwertung...].