

economic factors that have influenced and still influence the phonemes and the spelling of Cuban toponyms; and to analyse the situation with regard to geographical names — the actual location of the places they designate, their structure and earlier forms, the changes they have undergone, their nature and their basic meaning. In short, we can determine the origin and the evolution of the terms which serve to define, situate and differentiate the various geographical elements that comprise the features of the land and waters of our territory.

Naturally, we realize that the task is not at all easy, that there are countless difficulties inherent in the complex of problems posed in this important Conference and that the objective and subjective phenomena involved are full of infinite subtleties that could lead to certain inaccuracies. Nevertheless, we hope to attack these problems and succeed in resolving them.

Before 1959, no work had been done on toponymy or the standardization of geographical names

as such. It was regarded as of secondary importance and there was only one published index of geographical names contained in the military map of Cuba which had been compiled between 1933 and 1943.

However, important advances were made in this field after the triumph of the Revolution in 1959. A good example of this is the index of names which appears in the "National Atlas of Cuba", an excellent achievement made with the generous co-operation of the Soviet Union. No less important is the work currently being done in the mapping of Cuba by the Cartography, Toponymy and Drafting Group, the population and housing census conducted in Cuba in 1970 (which covered the whole of the country and contains detailed information on toponymy, territorial divisions etc.), and the work of the Institutes of Linguistics and Geography of the Academy of Sciences, the School of Geography of the University of Havana etc.

In other words, substantial progress in this field has been made since 1959.

ACCOUNT OF WORKS ON TOPONYMS IN GREECE

Report presented by Greece*

Since 1833 an official committee on the study of Greek toponyms has been operating under the Ministry of the Interior. Its work consists in studying place names from a historical point of view — whether they are attested in old writings, or are recent formations.

The first task here is to gather all the country's place names (names of towns, villages, mountains, valleys, coastlines, headlands, gulfs, islands, roadsteads, rocks and so forth) as they are given by the people; they must then be transferred on to maps.

A large number of toponyms found in texts or collected from the oral tradition are processed and classified in the archives of the editing centre of the Historical Dictionary of the Modern Greek language, and also in the archives of the Mediaeval Hellenism Research Centre: both are institutions attached to the Academy of Athens.

The Regional Administrative Autonomy Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior has issued a series of 50 volumes, one for each of the country's departments, under the title *Data on the Formation and Evolution of Demes and Communes in Greece since 1912*. The work lists the official name and the popular name of each

commune and the names and population of the populated places which make it up.

The General Statistical Service of Greece has published maps of the country's departments on various scales.

Progress in historical, archaeological and linguistic studies in Greece has contributed considerably to solving the problems raised by our toponyms. It has been shown that a large number of toponyms and geographical terms (gulf, river, mountain, stream, spring etc.) have remained the same from the time of Homer to the present. It is thus possible to observe the continuity of Greek thought through the ages as far as the way in which various places in our territory have been named is concerned.

In a 350-page volume, *Essay on Toponymic and Anthroponymic Studies in Greece, 1833-1962*, the Director of the editing centre of the Academy of Athens' Historical Dictionary of the Modern Greek Language, Dicéos Vayacacos, the author of this report, has published a general bibliography of studies on Greek place- and personal names. Mr. Vayacacos also publishes annually a bibliography of Greek toponymy in *Onoma*, the bulletin of the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences (Louvain). This material offers a guide to everything done in Greece in the field of onomastic studies. Anyone interested in carrying out a study of place names or personal names may find in these bibliographies everything which relates to the subject.

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