Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
Geneva, 24 August–14 September 1982
Item 5 (e) of the provisional agenda*

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

TOPOGRAPHIC GUIDELINES FOR CARTOGRAPHY – DENMARK

Paper presented by the Norden Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

* E/CONF.74/1.

82-16566 0397g (E) /...
1. Languages

1. General remarks

Denmark is practically speaking a unilingual country and Danish is the national language. In the south of Jutland, however, German occurs as a minority language and German name-forms are to be found on some older maps, mainly such as were produced outside Denmark in the period before South Jutland was reunited with Denmark in 1920. No account is given of maps covering Greenland and the Faroe Islands, since these countries, although within the kingdom of Denmark, are self-governing communities.

2. The national language

The national language is Danish and it is written in the Roman alphabet.

The Danish alphabet:

Aa  Kk  Uu  Vv  Ww  Xx
Bb  Ll
Cc  Mm
Dd  Nn
Ee  Oo
Ff  Pp
Gg  Qq
Hh  Rr
Ii  Jj  Ss

The letters Cc, Qq, Ww, Xx, Zz only occur in loanwords, in family names or in archaic spellings. In alphabetical indices distinction is not generally made between Vv and Ww.

The mutated letters Åå and Öö are always kept apart from Aa and Oo respectively in alphabetical indices. On maps from the earlier part of the present century Öö is sometimes written Öö.
Aâ was introduced in 1948 as a symbol for Aa aa. Aâ and Aa aa, when representing Aâ, are now always placed at the end of the alphabet.

The orthography of Danish place-names

There are no explicit official regulations for the spelling of Danish place-names, which are expected to abide by the regulations for the spelling of the general vocabulary contained in the orthographical instructions in Retskrivningsordbog (Orthographical Dictionary), published by the Danish Language Commission (Dansk Sprognævn) Copenhagen 1955.

These codify, with particular reference to place-names, the rules for the use of capital letters at the beginning of words. All names which are written as one word are to begin with a capital letter. In two-element place-names both elements should normally begin with a capital (Højbro Plads) but the second element may begin with a small letter (Nørreport station), although the latter possibility is seldom met within maps and indices. In place-names which consist of three or more elements, the first and last should begin with a capital letter, while the remaining elements can begin with either a capital letter or a small one, depending on their significance (Frederik den Syvendes Kanal). Hyphens are employed when two place-names are linked together to denote one locality (Holme-Olstrup, Tørring-Uldum).

Linguistic substrata recognizable in Danish place-names

In two of the southern Danish islands there are ten place-names of Slav origin ending in -itse. German versions of the original Danish place-names in South Jutland have not taken root.

Danish dialects

Several dialects, which differ greatly from each other, are, or were, spoken in Denmark. The dialects which now differ most from the standard language spoken in Copenhagen
and the provincial towns are the dialect of Bornholm and the North-, West- and South-Jutlandic dialects.

**Dialect/Standard Danish in place-names**

In their present form the Danish place-names reflect the various dialects to a certain degree. Thus, a final vowel has often been lost from Jutlandic names (Salling, a peninsula in North Jutland, as compared with Sallinge, a village in Fyn); -rød (as, e.g., in Hillerød in Sjælland) and -roj (as, e.g., in Egero in South Jutland) reflect differing dialectal developments of the same Old Danish appellative rud 'clearing'. Pure dialect spellings only occur sporadically.

**Minority language**

The mother-tongue of approximately 25,000 Danes in South Jutland is German but the German name-forms which correspond to a number of place-names in the region are not found on maps.

**II. Name authorities and the standardization of names**

The place-name committee (Stednavneudvalget), which is composed of 1 representative from the Ministry for Cultural Affairs (chairman), 1 from the Postal Services, 1 from the Geodetic Institute, 1 from the public archives, 1 from the Danish Language Commission, 2 from the county boroughs and local councils, and 3 from the Institute for Name Research at the University of Copenhagen, is charged with the task of determining "the orthography of names of localities for which there is a practical (cartographical, postal, local etc.) need for an approved orthographical form". The term locality embraces a number of natural features, all settlements which consist of at least two independent units, whatever their valuation, and individual settlement-units of more than 20 tdr. hartkorn (a valuation). The committee is also authorized to
determine the orthography of names of individual settlement units of less than 20 tdr. hartkorn (a valuation) if it is desired that such forms should be registred, together with those of newly-coined or changed names of the above-mentioned categories of locality. The right to authorize orthographical forms for the names of the above-mentioned types of locality rests with the Minister of Cultural Affairs, under whom the place-name committee belongs. The authorized name-forms must be employed by all state authorities.

The Institute for Name Research at the University of Copenhagen acts as secretariat for the place-name committee and gives advice on the orthography of names for which no authorized form exists. In addition, the Institute can be consulted free of charge on both scholarly and practical problems connected with place- and personal names.

The work of the place-name committee and its relationship to the Institute for Name Research at the University of Copenhagen are stipulated in Order no. 396 of 14th August 1978 from the Ministry of Education.

Names of public streets, roads, squares etc. belong under the individual councils.

III. Source Material

1. Maps

Official maps (topographical maps) of Denmark are produced by the Geodetic Institute, Rigsdagsgården 7, 1218 Kobenhavn K.

The most important maps are
Denmark 1:25000 (the basic topographical map).
Denmark 1:50000
Denmark 1:100000
and in addition there are a number of maps on smaller scales, as well as maps of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

The map at the scale of 1:25000 consists of 405 sheets, which contain approximately 100,000 names. The Geodetic Institute is under an obligation to use the orthographical forms autho-
rized by the Minister for Cultural affairs. The large-scale maps in particular contain a large number of names which do not meet the requirements for authorization but these, too, abide by the general regulations for the spelling of place-names. Charts at different scales and sailing directions are published by The Royal Danish Hydrographic Office, Esplanaden 19, 1263 Copenhagen K.

2. Orthographical lists, gazetteers

Since 1932 the place-name committee has published lists of authorised name-spellings in the individual counties (amter). The second edition of the list of names in the counties east of Lillebælt was published in 1978, while the names from the rest of the country (Jutland) are expected to appear in a new edition in 1984. The Geodetic Institute map at the scale of 1:100000 is also published in book-form and this contains a gazetteer of all the place-names appearing on the map (approximately 25,000). At intervals the Post Office publishes new editions of Postadressebogen (The postal-address book), which contains approximately 65,000 names. The index to Trap: Danmark, 5th edition, Copenhagen 1968) contains approximately 55,000 names.

IV. Glossary of appellatives, adjectives and other words necessary for understanding the maps

The following list contains the appellatives which appear on more recent maps, together with the most commonly occurring of the words used for distinguishing from each other otherwise identical names.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Akademi</th>
<th>Academy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akvarium</td>
<td>Aquarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amtsgård</td>
<td>County Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

/...
Andagtskors  Devotional Cross
Anstalt  Institution
Arboret  Arboretum
Atomforsøgsstation  Atomic Research Station
Badeanstalt  Public Baths
Bautasten  Menhir
Botanisk Have  Botanical Gardens
Brunkulsleje  Lignite Field
Bryggeri  Brewery
Bystavne  Village Meeting-place
Børnehjem  Children's Home
Båke  Beacon
Containerhavn  Container Terminal
Cyklebane  Cycle-racing Track
Dambrug  Fishing Farm
Deccastation  Decca Station
Dyrehave  Deer Park
Dyreskueplads  Cattle show area
Dyse  Barrow
Ebbevej  Ebb Causeway
Fabrik  Factory
Fagskole  Technical School
Feriehjem  Holiday Home
Feriekoloni  Holiday Settlement
Fiskerihavn  Fishing Harbour
Fjerkrefarm  Poultry Farm
Flydedok  Floating Dock
Flyveplads  Airfield
Forbrændingsanstalt  Refuse Disposal Plant
Forsorgshjem  Approved School
Forsøgsård  Experimental Farm
Forsøgsstation  Research Station
Frihavn  Tax-Free Port
Friluftsteater  Open-air Theatre
Fuglereservat  Bird Sanctuary
Fundsted  Site of (archaeolog.) find
Fyr  Light
Fyr(tårn)  Lighthouse
Pyrskib
Fængsel
Færg
Færg (bil)
Færg (bil, sæson)
Færg (bil- og jernbane)
Færg (jernbane)
Færg (person)
Færg (person, sæson)
Færgehavn
Pæstningsanlæg, oldtids
Galopbane
Gasværk
Glasværk
Godsstation
Gokartbane
Golfbane
Gymnastikhøjskole
Hal
Havn
Hellekiste
Helleristning
Hospital
Hotel
Højskole
Kalkbrud
Kalkværk
Kapel
Kilde
Kirke
Klitplanterbolig
Kloster
Kommunegård
Kommunekontor
Kondibane
Kraftværk
Krematorium
Krigergrav
Krucefiks
Light-vessel
Prison
Ferry
Ferry (car)
Ferry (car seasonal)
Ferry (car and railway)
Ferry (railway)
Ferry (passenger)
Ferry (passenger seasonal)
Ferry Port
Fortification, ancient
Race-course
Gas-works
Glassworks
Goods-station
Gocart Track
Golf course
Physical Education College
Covered Court
Harbour, Port
Stone Cist
Rock Carving
Hospital
Hotel
High School
Limestone Quarry
Lime Works
Chapel
Spring
Church
Dune-planter's House
Convent, Monastery
Local Government
Local Government Offices
Jogging Track
Power Station
Crematorium
Wargrave
Crucifix
/...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Danish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kulturhus</td>
<td>Cultural Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuranstalt</td>
<td>Sanatorium, Hydro Spa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurbad</td>
<td>Training Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kursuscenter</td>
<td>Kitchen Midden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Køkkenmødding</td>
<td>Landing Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landingsplads</td>
<td>Camping-ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lejrplads</td>
<td>Loran Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loranstation</td>
<td>Radio Beacon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luftfyr</td>
<td>Yachting Harbour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lystbådehavn</td>
<td>Health Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lægecenter</td>
<td>Educational Establishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Læreanstalt</td>
<td>Marina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina</td>
<td>Mast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mast</td>
<td>Dairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mejeri</td>
<td>Milestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milesten</td>
<td>Monument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mindesmærke</td>
<td>Moler Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molerværk</td>
<td>Mosque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moske</td>
<td>Motel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motel</td>
<td>Motor-racing Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorbane</td>
<td>Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum</td>
<td>Veteran-Railway Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museumsbane</td>
<td>National Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationalpark</td>
<td>Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naturreservat</td>
<td>Observatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observatorium</td>
<td>Ancient Settlement Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldtidsboplads</td>
<td>Ancient Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oltidsvej</td>
<td>Oil Port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliehavn</td>
<td>Oil Refinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olieraffinaderi</td>
<td>Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Fur Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelsdyrfarm</td>
<td>Old People's Holme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plejehjem</td>
<td>Gantry Crane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portalkran</td>
<td>Pumping Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pumpstation</td>
<td>Pyrolysis Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrolyseværk</td>
<td>Radio Beacon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiofyr</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Redningstation, sø
Redningstелефon
Refugium
Rekonvalæscenthjem
Rekrationshjem
Rensningsanlæg
Restaurant
Revalideringscenter
Revalideringshjem
Ruin
Ruin, Oldtids
Runesten
Rose
Rådhus
Sanatorium
Savværk
Seminarium
Silo
Skanse
Skiibssætning
Skibsvarft
Skole
Skovfogedbolig
Skovriderbolig
Skydebane
Slot
Stadion
Station
Stenbrud
Sygehus
Synagoge
Teglvark
Teknisk Højskole
Teknologisk Institut
Telemast
Teletårn

Lifeboat Station, sea
Emergency Telephone
Retreat
Convalescent Home
Rest Home
Sewage Treatment Plant
Restaurant
Rehabilitation Centre
Rehabilitation Home
Ruin
Ruin, ancient
Runicstone
Cairn
Town-hall
Sanatorium
Sawmill
College of Education
Silo
Entrenchment
Ship-shaped Stone-setting
Shipyard
School
Forester's Lodge
Chief Forester's Lodge
Shooting-range
Castle
Stadium
Station
Quarry
Hospital
Synagogue
Brick-works
Technical University
Technological Institute
Telegraph Mast
Telegraph Tower

/...
Tennisbane  
Terminal  
Terrarium  
Tingsted (historisk)  
Toldsted  
Trafikhavn  
Transformer  
Transformerstation  
Travbane  
Udsigtstårn  
Ungdomshjem  
Universitet  
Vandbeholder  
Vandmølle  
Vandrerhjem  
Vandtårn  
Vandværk  
Varmevark  
Vejrølle  
Vildtbanepæl  
Vildtreservat  
Voldsled  
Zoologisk Have  

Tennis Court  
Terminal  
Vivarium  
Thingsted (historical)  
Custom-house  
Port  
Transformer  
Transformer sub-station  
Trotting Track  
Observation Tower  
Approved School  
University  
Water Tank  
Water Mill  
Youth Hostel  
Water Tower  
Waterworks  
District Heating Station  
Windmill  
Game Preserves Post  
Game Preserve  
Motte  
Zoological Gardens

V. Abbreviations used in the maps

Bj  
Bjerg  
Hill  
Gde  
Gårde  
Farms  
Gl  
Gammel (-le)  
Old  
K  
Kirke  
Church  
Komm  
Kommune  
Municipality  
Kommk  
Kommunekontor  
Municipality Office  
L1  
Lille  
Little, Small  
Ml  
Mølle  
Mill  
Nr  
Nørre  
North, Northern  
Pt  
Plantage  
Plantation (of trees)  
Rednst  
Redningsstation  
Lifeboat Station
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restr</td>
<td>Restaurant</td>
<td>Skovfb</td>
<td>Forester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skovrdb</td>
<td>Skovfogedbolig</td>
<td>Skt</td>
<td>Chief Forester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr</td>
<td>Sønder</td>
<td>St</td>
<td>Saint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St</td>
<td>Store</td>
<td>Stby</td>
<td>South, Southern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stn</td>
<td>Stationsby</td>
<td>Tg1v</td>
<td>Big, Large, Great</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trb</td>
<td>Trinbræt</td>
<td>Traf</td>
<td>Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trsf</td>
<td>Transformer</td>
<td>Trsfst</td>
<td>Railway Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandv</td>
<td>Vandværk</td>
<td>Wml</td>
<td>Brick-works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vr</td>
<td>Vester</td>
<td>Ør</td>
<td>Halt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Transformer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Transformer Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Waterworks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Water Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>West, Western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>East, Eastern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>