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TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHY

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The following lines contain a sample of  
Toponymic Guidelines for International Cartography  
as suggested in the Circular No 2, 12.Dec.1977, of  
the Chairman of the UNGEGN.

Toponymic Guidelines for International Cartography

Austria

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I Languages

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(1) General remarks

Austria is in general a unilingual country, German being the only nation-wide official language. Minority languages play a very subordinate role and are of regional and local importance only.

(2) National language

The national language is German in its standard form written in the Roman alphabet ("Lateinschrift"). German script ("Deutsche Schrift"), historically a graphic variant of the Roman script, is seldom used now. It never occurs in modern maps and official gazetteers so that it can be disregarded here.

The German alphabet:

A a	H h	O o	U u
B b	I i	P p	V v
C c	J j	Q q	W w
D d	K k	R r	X x
E e	L l	S s	Y y
F f	M m	T t	Z z
G g	N n		

In addition to the normal alphabetical sequence there exist the so-called "umlaut letters" ä Ä, ö Ö, ü Ü and ß ("scharfes s") without a corresponding upper case letter. In capitalized words ß is substituted, as a rule, by SS. In alphabetical indexes and gazetteers the umlaut letters generally are treated like the

corresponding simple letters a, o, u, and ß is treated like ss. But different procedures may also be found, especially in older publications, e.g. ä, ö, ü treated like ae, oe, ue.

### Spelling rules for German geographical names

The rules given below are officially used by the Survey of Austria (Landesaufnahme) since 1969 and are generally in concordance with those in current use in the other German speaking countries.

"Geographical names are normally not subject to the general spelling rules. They are, rather, spelled in the officially approved or customary form. However, in the following respects the German geographical names comply with the general spelling rules except for individual cases where another officially approved version exists.

#### 1. Capitalization

- a) Adjectives and particles forming part of geographical names are capitalized. This also holds true for the -isch derivative.  
Examples: Großer Priel; Hohe Tauern; Großes Walsertal; Mährische Thaya; Steirische Kalkspitze.
- b) Word forms with final -er which are derived from geographical names are capitalized.  
Examples: Gurktaler Alpen; Wiener Becken; Millstätter See.

#### 2. Use of one word, two words or hyphen

- a) Geographical and other names as determinative elements.
  - α) Generally, compounds consisting of a single or compound geographical name or a personal name plus a primary word are written in one word.  
Examples: Karwendelgebirge; Glocknergruppe; Eberhardsbach; Leopoldsberg.
  - β) The hyphen is often used - either in order to improve intelligibility or to emphasize the name - when the geographical name is followed by a compound primary word which forms the determinative element.  
Example: Großglockner-Hochalpenstraße.  
Where intelligibility is not impaired, writing in one word is preferable.  
Example: Alpenvorland.
  - γ) Hyphens are used when the determinative element consists of several geographical names.  
Example: Donau-Oder-Kanal.
  - δ) Hyphens are moreover used when the determinative element consists of several words.  
Example: Otto-Ludwig-Haus.

b) Derivatives with final -er.

- α) Two words are used when the derivatives with final -er of geographical names designate the location. Examples: Zillertaler Alpen; Neumarkter Sattel; Tuxer Joch; Ziersdorfer Bach; Lunzer See. Exceptions: Böhmerwald, Wienerwald.
- β) There are geographical names with final -er which are not derivatives in the above sense. These names are written solid in accordance with 2 a. Examples: Glocknergruppe; Brennerpaß. Where the derivatives with final -er of geographical names designate persons writing in one word is preferred. Example: Jägerkapelle; Lunzerkreuz (after a peasant by the name of "Lunzer"); Steinerscharte (after a mountaineer by the name of "Steiner").
- γ) If the syllable -er is attached to a geographical name ending in -ee, only two e's are written. Examples: Altausseer See; Egelseer Bach.

c) Adjectives as determinative elements.

- α) Spelling in one word is generally used for compounds consisting of noninflected adjectives such as "groß, klein, alt, neu" or points of the compass plus geographical names. Examples: Mitteleuropa; Osttirol; Obersteiermark; Niederösterreich; Großglockner; Hochkar. On the other hand official usage prescribes: Groß-Nonndorf; Klein-Ulrichschlag; Alt-Urfahr.
- β) The hyphen is used with compounds consisting of uninflected adjectives ending in -isch which are derived from the names of places, countries and peoples plus geographical names. Example: Steirisch-Tauchen. On the other hand official usage prescribes: Kroatisch Minihof; Steirisch Laßnitz; Windisch Bleiberg.

d) Compounds consisting of geographical names.

The hyphen is used when a geographical name is composed of two geographical names. Examples: Rudolfshaus-Fünfhaus; Wünschendorf-Pirching."

Linguistic substrata recognizable in German place names of Austria

Whereas a thorough research may bring to light pre-Celtic, Celtic and (in Burgenland) Hungarian origins of German place names two linguistic substrata are recognizable even by the layman, i.e. a Romance substratum, especially in Vorarlberg and the Tyrol and a Slavic substratum in the eastern of the country.

## German dialects

Two main German dialects are spoken in Austria, (1) the Alemannic dialect in Vorarlberg and the adjacent parts of the Tyrol, The Bavarian dialect in the rest of the country. There is a great deal of regional and local variations within these two main dialects.

## Dialect/ standard German

The geographical names reflect to a certain degree the regional and local dialects, especially in those provinces where the social status of the dialect is comparatively high which is the case especially in Vorarlberg and Tyrol; although even in these provinces pure dialectal spelling are rather rare.

The names of inhabited places often show obsolete spellings and/or reflect older phonetic conditions whereas the other geographical names mostly are adapted to modern spelling rules.

## (3) Minority languages

### (a) Slovenian

Slovenian is a Slavic language of the southern group using the Roman alphabet. It is spoken beside German in the southern border district of Carinthia. Slovenian is used in school and church service and has an official standing in the communes and the local courts of the bilingual area.

#### Geographical Names

Inhabited places with a considerable portion of Slovenian speaking population are designated by official boards on the road side showing the place names in German and Slovenian, whereas the official gazetteer of Austria and the official Austrian Map 1:50 000 disregard the Slovenian name variants.

Names of geographical-topographical objects other than inhabited places generally are entered by the Survey of Austria into the official maps in a form corresponding to German spelling rules, although translations from Slovenian into German are forbidden. The names must be written as they are spoken by the local population, but the sounds are represented in writing in accordance with German not Slovenian writing and reading conventions.

An exception is made in the comparatively rare cases where a geographical name consists of more than one separately spoken Slovenian word. Such syntactical units (mostly noun plus adjective) are written according to Slovenian spelling rules, using the diacritical marks of this language.

The Slovenian alphabet:

A a	G g	M m	Š š
B b	H h	N n	T t
Č č	I i	O o	U u
Ĉ ĉ	J j	P p	V v
D d	K k	R r	Z z
E e	L l	S s	Ž ž
F f			

(b) Burgenland Croatian

Burgenland Croatian is spoken in isolated villages or groups of villages throughout the Burgenland province. It is a Slavic language of the southern group closely related to Serbo-Croatian (Croato-Serbian). The written standard at present is not very stable. The differences to Serbo-Croatian relate to phonetics, grammatical structure and semantics. The alphabet is identical with the Roman alphabet of Serbo-Croatian. Burgenland Croatian is used in school and church service.

Geographical names

The Croatian names of inhabited places are not in official use. The official gazetteer as well as the official maps contain only the corresponding German names. The Austrian Map 1:50000 represents a limited number of Croatian names other than inhabited place names but mostly in a Germanized spelling whereas the cadastral maps of Croatian speaking or bilingual villages make ample use of Croatian field names in their original spelling.

The Burgenland Croatian alphabet:

A a	E e	Lj lj	Š š
B b	F f	M m	T t
Č č	G g	N n	U u
Ĉ ĉ	H h	Nj nj	V v
Ĉ ĉ	I i	O o	Z z
D d	J j	P p	Ž ž
Dž dž	K k	R r	
Đ đ	L l	S s	

(c) Hungarian

Hungarian is spoken in two small isolated areas in central and southern Burgenland. It is a Finno-Ugrian language using the Roman alphabet. The language is used in school and church service.

## Geographical names

The Hungarian name forms of inhabited places are not official and therefore not shown in the official gazetteer and in official maps. Also the geographical names other than inhabited place names do not occur in the Austrian Map 1:50 000 because of the small area of this minority language. But the cadastral maps of Hungarian speaking or bilingual villages contain Hungarian field names in Hungarian spelling mostly together with the corresponding German names.

### The Hungarian alphabet:

A a, Á á	G g	N n	T t
B b	Gy gy	Ny ny	Ty ty
C c	H h	O o, Ó ó	U u, Ú ú
Cs cs	Í í, Í í	Ö ö, Ő ő	Ü ü, Ű ű
D d	J j	P p	V v
Dz dz	K k	R r	Y y
Dzs dzs	L l	S s	Z z
Ee É é	Ly ly	Sz sz	Zs zs
F f	M m		

Note: Former Cz cz is replaced now by Cc.

### (d) Czech

Czech is a minority language of Austria. But the language, being spoken by a small urban minority (Vienna) only, has no practical importance for geographical names. The existing Czech geographical names are exonyms and of historical and linguistic interest only.

## II Names authorities and names standardization

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In consequence to the federal structure of Austria the legal situation is rather complicated. For the purposes of international cartography the following statements will suffice:

The names of inhabited places of all categories are standardized. They are published by the federal authority

Österreichisches Statistisches Zentralamt,  
Heldenplatz, Neue Burg, A-1010 Wien (Vienna).

The geographical names other than inhabited place names, i.e. the names of mountains, hills, valleys, rivers, lakes, glaciers, woods etc. etc. are officially collected and published in maps by the federal authority

Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen (Landesaufnahme),  
Krotenthallergasse 3, A-1080 Wien (Vienna).

The standardization of these names is in progress but not yet concluded. Nevertheless, the names of the official Austrian Map 1:50 000 are to be regarded as official names in so far as they form part of an official publication.

These two official agencies concerned with the publication of geographical names are assisted in their work by boards on geographical names: For Austria as a whole:

Abteilung für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde der Öster-  
Österreichischen Kartographischen Kommission in der  
Österreichischen Geographischen Gesellschaft  
Karl Schweighofergasse 3, A-1071 Wien (Vienna).

For the provinces of Austria:

Burgenland: Burgenländische Nomenklaturkommission beim Amte  
der Burgenländischen Landesregierung - Landesarchiv,  
Freiheitsplatz 1, A-7001 Eisenstadt

Salzburg: Salzburger Ortsnamenkommission beim Salzburger In-  
stitut für Raumforschung, Postfach 2, A-5033 Salzburg

Styria: Steirische Ortsnamenkommission beim Steiermärkischen  
Landesarchiv, Bürgergasse 2 A, A-8010 Graz

Tyrol: Tiroler Nomenklaturkommission, Amt der Tiroler  
Landesregierung, Tiroler Landesarchiv, Herrng.1,  
A-6010 Innsbruck

Vorarlberg: Vorarlberger Nomenklaturkommission im Amte der Vor-  
arlberger Landesregierung, Montforstr. 12,  
6 900 Bregenz

Vienna: Wiener Nomenklaturkommission im Wiener Stadt- und  
Landesarchiv, Magistrat der Stadt Wien, Abt. 8,  
Rathaus, A-1082 Wien

### III Source Material

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#### 1. Maps

Österreichische Karte 1:50 000, ed. by the Bundesamt für Eich-  
und Vermessungswesen (Landesaufnahme), 213 sheets, Wien (Vienna)  
1962 - 1979.

From the total of 213 sheets 157 contain standardized names.  
As older editions are replaced in short intervals and as every  
revised edition contains standardized names standardization of  
all geographical names as shown in this map will be finished  
within the next decade.

#### 2. Gazetteers

Official:

Örtsverzeichnis 1971, edited by the Österreichisches Statisti-  
sches Zentralamt, 9 vol., Wien (Vienna) 1974-1977. The gazetteer  
is constantly revised and published every ten years.

Private:

Geographisches Namenbuch von Österreich, Forschungen zur Theoretischen Kartographie, vol. 3, ed. by J. Breu, Wien (Vienna) 1975. This gazetteer gives a selection of the official geographical names of Austria, especially for international use. The introduction contains (in German and English) a detailed description of the fundamentals of the Standardization of Geographical Names in Austria, explanatory remarks on pronunciation, source material, German spelling rules etc. The pronunciation is given with each headword by means of the symbols of the International Phonetic Association Alphabet. A glossary of geographical appellatives is annexed.

IV Glossary of appellatives, adjectives and other words necessary for the understanding of maps and cadastral plans:

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1. German

For a more detailed glossary see J. Breu: Geographisches Namenbuch von Österreich, Wien (Vienna) 1975.

Ache	running water	Forsthaus	forester's house
Alm	alpine pasture	Friedhof	cemetery
Alp(e)	alpine pasture	Gasthof	inn
alt	old	Gebirge	mountains, group
an	at		of vineyards
Au	flood plain	Gletscher	glacier
auf	on, upon	Graben	narrow valley,
Bach	rivulet, brook		bed of controlled
Berg	mountain		brook
Bergwerk	mine	groß	large, great
Bichl	hill	Gscheid	water shed
Bründl	drinking-water	Hart	wood, forest
	spring	Haufen	river island
Brunn(en)	drinking-water	Heide	flat, usually sandy,
	spring		uncultivated land
Bühel	hill	hintere	hinder, rear
Burg	castle	Hof	homestead
Denkmal	monument	Höhle	cave
deutsch	German	Holz	wood
Dorf	village	Horn	mountain peak
Eck	mountain crest,	Hütte	hut
	hill crest	im	in the
Eisenbahn	railway	in	in
Fabrik	works	Joch	high pass
Feld	field	Kanal	canal
Fels(en)	rock	Kapelle	chapel
Ferner	glacier	Kar	cirque
Fluß	river	Kees	glacier

Kirche	church	Schutzhütte	alpine sheltering hut
Klamm	gorge		
klein	small, little	schwarz	black
Kloster	monastery	See	lake
Kofel	cone- or dome-shaped mountain	Spitz	mountain peak, peninsula
Kogel	dome-shaped mountain	Stadt	town, city
Kreuz	cross	Steig	foot path
kroatisch	Croatian	Stein	rock, peak
Lacke	puddle, small lake	Steinbruch	quarry
Seite	slope	Straße	road
Lueg	cave, den	Sumpf	swamp
Markt	market	Tal	valley
Maierhof	farm	Tauern	mountain pass
mitt(l)ere	middle	Teich	pond
Moor	swamp	Trate	pasture land
Moos	swampland	über	above
Mugel	hill	untere	low
Mühle	mill	Ursprung	source of river
neu	new	vordere	fore
Nock	mountain, crag	Wald	wood, forest
obere	upper	Warte	outlook-tower
Paß	mountain pass	Wasserfall	water-fall
Quelle	spring	Weg	path, track
Remise	patch of wood	Weide	pasture
Reut	cleared land	Weiler	hamlet
Rohr	reed, swamp	Weingarten	vineyard
Sattel	mountain pass	weiß	white
Scharte	narrow high-alpin pass	Werd	island
Schloß	castle, manor-house	Wiese	meadow
Schroffen	craggy rock	Wildbach	fast-running brook
Schutzhaus	alpine refuge	windisch	Slovenian
		Wirtshaus	inn
		zwischen	between

## 2. Slovenian

bel	white	most	bridge
bistrica	fast-running brook	na	at
črn	black	nov	new
dolina	valley	planina	alpine pasture
dolnji	lower	polje	field
gora	mountain	potok	brook
gorica	hill	pri	near, at
gornji	upper	slovenski	Slovenian
grad	castle	spodnji	lower
jezero	lake	srednji	middle, central
križ	cross	star	old
majhen	small, little	svet	saint
		v	in
		velik	large, great

ves	village	vrh	summit, mountain
vrata	gate	zgornji	upper

### 3. Burgenland Croatian

bijel	white	loza	wood
borovićje	juniper grove	malen	small, little
brig	hill	marof	farm
cesta	road, way	meja	boundary
crikva	church	na	at
dolnji	lower	nimski	German
draga	dale, dell	now	new
dubrava	grove, wood	paša	pasture
gaj	grove	polje	field
glavica	summit of a hill	potok	brook
gora	mountain	pri	at
gornji	upper	ravnica	flat ground
grba	hill	selo	village
grm	bush, shrub	sirok	broad
hrvatski	Croatian	sridnji	middle, central
jarak	ditch, narrow	star	old
jezero	lake	tratina	lawn, grass
kod	at	u	in
kratak	short	va	in
krc	cleared land	velik	large, great
		vrt	garden

### 4. Hungarian

alsó	lower	kert	garden
berek	grove	kis	small, little
csatorna	canal	kő	stone
csúcs	summit	közép	middle, central
domb	hill	kút	well
dűlő	balk, strip of arable land	liget	wood along water-course
egyház	church	magyar	Hungarian
ér	small brook	mezo	meadow, field
erdő	wood	nagy	large, great
falu	village	német	German
fehér	white	ó	old
fekete	black	patak	brook, rivulet
felső	upper	puszta	farm
föld	field	rét	meadow
forrás	spring, well	sár	swamp
gödör	pit	sík	flat
halom	hill	telek	piece of land
hegy	mountain	templom	church
hely	place, site	tó	lake
homok	sand	új	new
horvát	Croatian	víz	water, water
kereszt	cross	völgy	course valley