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Toponymic Guidelines for International Cartography - Finland

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Toponymic Guidelines for International CartographyFinland

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I LANGUAGES(1) General Remarks

Finland is a bilingual country. The official languages are Finnish, which is spoken by about 4,465,000 of the country's inhabitants as their mother tongue, and Swedish spoken by about 300,000 inhabitants (6,4 %) as their mother tongue. In addition to these official languages, three different Lappish languages are spoken in Finland. Although these do not possess official status, they nevertheless play an important part as languages in their own right.

All languages spoken in Finland are written in the Roman alphabet.

(2) The Principal Language - Finnish

In its written form, Finnish is phonetic. Each sound has its own written symbol and each symbol corresponds to one sound only. In the standard written form of names, however, there are two noteworthy exceptions: 1) n preceding k is pronounced ŋ: for instance, Helsinki ☺: helsinki; the geminate ŋ is written ng: for instance, Helsingin ☺: helsingin. 2) The determinative element ending in e in compound words is followed by the duplication of the initial consonant of the following element, e.g. Konnevesi ☺: konnevesi.

The stress in Finnish is invariably on the first syllable. This is not marked in the written language.

The Finnish alphabet

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

Original Finnish words do not contain the following letters: b, c, f, q, x, z, å.

The vowels ä, ö and y represent independent sounds and should be distinguished from the vowels a, o and u. Each of these vowels has its own place in the alphabet.

So-called vowel harmony is natural to Finnish. The vowels a, o and u function in strict opposition to ä, ö and y (= ü) and cannot be used in the same non-compound word. The vowels e and i, on the other hand, are neutral and can be used in combination with either of the vowel groups mentioned above.

Vowel and consonant lengths are significant. Two letters are used to represent the written form of long vowels and consonants, e.g.

Tullisaari j : tullisa:ri.

There are 18 diphthongs in Finnish, namely: ai, oi, ui, ei, äi, öi, yi; au, ou, eu, iu; iy, äy, öy, ey; uo, ie, yö.

Spelling rules for Finnish geographical names

The following rules are applied in the writing of place names, for instance, in the maps compiled by the National Board of Survey, in linguistically checked reference works and in other literary usage, wherever these are concerned with Finnish place names or exonyms used in Finnish.

1. Capitalization

Place names always begin with a capital letter. If the proper noun element occurs in the middle of the place name, it is written with a capital initial.

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

a) Place names written as one word

Generally speaking, place names are written as one word.

Examples are: Pyhäjärvi, Tornionjokilaaksø, Sibeliuksenkatu, Mannerheimintie, Cookinsalmi, Bengalinlahti, Keltainenmeri.

Artefacts with a genitive determinative expressing place are written separately, that is to say, words which designate a place that has been created as the result of human activity. Examples of this are: Saimaan kanava, Bonnevillen pato.

b) Hyphenated place names

If the basic element of the place name is a single proper noun (i.e. not a compound word), the determinative element is invariably connected with it by means of a hyphen. Examples are: Etelä-Savo, Etu-Töölö, Iso-Britannia, Uusi-Guinea.

The hyphen is also used for compound names formed from parallel proper nouns. Examples of this are the historical names, Ruotsi-Suomi, Itävalta-Unkari.

Furthermore, the uninflected determinative element (substantives or prefixes, such as Ala-, Ylä-, Etu-, Taka-, Keski-, Väli-) is connected with the compound name, which itself constitutes the basic element, by means of a hyphen. Examples are: Etelä-Konnevesi, Itä-Päijänteentie, Ala-Itävalta.

If the place name contains a proper noun written with a hyphen as a determinative element, e.g. Iso-Antti, Etelä-Kiina, then the appellative, which constitutes the basic element, is written separately. Examples are: Ison-Antin tie, Etelä-Kiinan meri.

c) Place names written as word combinations

If the basic element of the name is a compound word, whether proper noun or appellative, and the determinative element is an inflected adjective or the genitive of a proper noun, then the name is written as two words. Examples are: Iso Ahvenlampi, Iso Roobertinkatu, Pienet Sundasaaret, Kuolan niemimaa.

If the determinative element comprises forename and surname or other word combinations of a corresponding kind, then the place name is written as separate words. The following are examples of this: Minna Canthin katu, Prinssi Edwardin saari.

In official usage, one encounters rare exceptions to the above-mentioned rules, e.g. Ylitornio. Such exceptions existed in the language prior to the establishment of Finnish in its present written form. They are generally well-known names, and it was not considered necessary to change them to conform with later spelling practices.

Linguistic substrata recognizable in Finnish place names in Finland

Lappish substrata, sometimes difficult, sometimes easy to identify, can be found throughout Finland, with the exception of the Swedish-speaking areas of the country. It is also possible to identify a

rather large number of substrata of Swedish origin in present-day Finnish language areas and, on the other hand, substrata of Finnish origin in Swedish-speaking areas.

Finnish Dialects

It is customary to divide the dialects spoken in Finland into two groups: the western and the eastern dialects. These dialects do not differ radically either from each other or from the standard language.

Dialect / standard Finnish in geographical names

Regional and local dialects are reflected to a certain extent in normalized place names, although the standard written form of names conforms throughout the country to the same general linguistic rules. The local colour of place names is preserved in local dialect words and in certain characteristic morphological features, although, on the other hand, the phonological special features of dialects are not generally found in normalized names.

(3) Minority languages

a) Swedish

Swedish, a Germanic language that belongs to the Indo-European family, is another official language in Finland. A community is considered bilingual if the Swedish/Finnish speakers constitute at least ten per cent of the inhabitants or 5,000 persons. Unilingual Swedish-speaking or bilingual communities exist along the coasts of the Gulf of Finland and the Gulf of Bothnia. Ahvenanmaa (the Oland Islands) is exclusively Swedish-speaking.

Geographical names

In bilingual areas, place names are marked on maps, road and street signs and on signs of a similar nature in both languages, the language of the majority being placed first. In unilingual

areas, the name of the minority language may also be marked, particularly on maps, provided that there is sufficient space for this.

The Swedish alphabet used in Finland is the same as that used in Sweden.

Spelling rules governing Swedish geographical names in Finland are the same as those used in Sweden.

b) Lappish

Lappish is a Finno-Ugrian language, which uses the Roman alphabet. Three different Lappish languages are spoken in Finland, namely, North Lappish, Inari Lappish and Scolt Lappish. Altogether, approximately 2,300 (0.05 %) of the people of Finland speak Lappish as their mother tongue. Of these, about 400 speak Inari Lappish and approximately the same number Scolt Lappish.

Lappish does not have the status of an official language in Finland. The Lutheran Church, however, has long used Lappish to meet the needs of its Lappish-speaking members. Since the 1950s, the Lappish language has been taught in schools in the northernmost municipalities of Finland - Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki.

Geographical names

In the maps compiled by the National Board of Survey covering the Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki districts, North Lappish place names appear alone or alongside Finnish language place names. Inari Lappish place names appear on maps covering the area of the Inari municipality either or alongside North Lappish and Finnish names. Scolt Lappish names do not appear on maps covering the area of present-day Finland.

The new North Lappish alphabet

The Nordic Sami Council decided to adopt in Finland,

Sweden and Norway a common new orthography, which took effect from 1.7.1979. In maps prepared in Finland, attempts are being made to implement the new orthography in all maps that are being produced of Lappish language areas. The North Lappish alphabet is as follows:

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

II NAMES, AUTHORITIES AND NAME STANDARDIZATION

Specific laws relating to names in Finland apply solely to surnames and first names. There is no specific law covering place names. The statutes applicable to the so-called administrative place names are to be found in various laws. The power of decision for so called administrative names in various categories belongs to the various administrative bodies and authorities. The right and the responsibility for providing normative recommendations for place names belong to the Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages, to the Onomastic Division for Finnish geographical names and the Swedish Language Division for Swedish geographical names. Normative recommendations take account of linguistic questions, questions of cultural history, local tradition and the practical demands of everyday life.

Decisions affecting the names of municipalities are made by the Finnish government. The planning and construction department of the Ministry for Internal Affairs (address: Hallituskatu 4, 00170 Helsinki 17) decides on the names for planned

areas (e.g. districts of towns, streets, squares, parks etc.), although the administrative authorities for each municipality put forward suggestions of their own. The National Board of Survey (address: Kirkkokatu 3, 00170 Helsinki 17) is the deciding body in matters relating to village names. The provincial national survey offices, which come under the aegis of the National Board of Survey, decide on matters relating to the names of farms and proprietiers.

The various central organizations have the right to decide on the names relating to their own sphere of activities. Thus, the National Board of Post and Telecommunications (address: Mannerheimintie 11, 00100 Helsinki 10) decides on the names of post offices, telegraph offices and public telephone centres. The State Railways Board (address: Vilhonkatu 13, 00100 Helsinki 10) decides on the names of railway stations etc. The National Road and Civil Engineering Board (Eteläesplanadi 4, 00130 Helsinki 13) decides on the names appearing on road signs.

The body primarily responsible for the standardization of map names is the National Board of Survey.

The Onomastic Division of the Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages (address: Liisankatu 16 A 2, 00170 Helsinki 17) and the Swedish Language Division of the same organization (address: Fabianinkatu 7, 00130 Helsinki 13) act as expert bodies in matters relating to the standardization of place names by providing reports on place names for the benefit of the above-mentioned administrative bodies and authorities, and by checking the names on maps prepared by the National Board of Survey.

III SOURCE MATERIAL

1. Maps

The official maps of Finland are prepared by the National Board

of Survey. The following constitute the most important of them:

- (a) The Basic and Topographic Map (1:20 000)
- (b) The Topographic Map (1:100 000)
- (c) The Motoring Road Map GT (1:250 000)
- (d) Fennia. Finland in Maps (1:250 000) with an index of 9,000 place names
- (e) General Map (1:400 000) with an index of 8,000 place names
- (f) The Postal Map of Finland (1:800 000) with an index of 14,000 place names
- (g) General Map (1:1 000 000)

The Basic Map constitutes the basis for the other maps. The Basic and Topographic Map consists of 3,712 sheets altogether. A Basic Map sheet covers an area of 10 km by 10 km. The Basic Map contains about 750,000 place names altogether. These are all checked from the linguistic point of view.

2. Gazetteers

There are no official Finnish place name gazetteers. The largest Finnish place name index is Posti- ja lennätinlaitoksen osoitehakemisto (The Address Index of the National Board of Post and Telecommunications) (Helsinki 1968), which contains approximately 60,000 place names. The names in the index are not normalized. The place name indexes of the maps mentioned above are best suited for international use.

IV GLOSSARY OF APPELLATIVES, ADJECTIVES AND OTHER WORDS NECESSARY FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF MAPS

1. Finnish

aapa		marshland
aho		glade, (burn-beaten) clearing, meadow
alai(nen)-	ali(nen)-	lower, under, nether
alho		dell, dale

apaja	haul, fishing ground
aukko	opening
eno	stream, river
etelä, -inen	south, southern
harju	ridge
iso	large, great
itä, -inen	east, eastern
joki	river
jänkä, jänkkä	marsh, bog, swamp, mire
järvi	lake
kaakko, -inen, -is	south-east
kallio	rock, cliff
kanava	canal
kangas	heath, moor
kansallispuisto	national park
kari	(rock-)reef, shoal
kartano	(country) estate
kaupunki	town
keidas	peat-moor, marshland
kero	(rounded) fjeld
keski-	central, middle
kirkko	church
kivi	stone, boulder
koillinen, koillis-	north-east
korpi	wilderness, fen
koski	rapids
kumpu	hill, hillock
kunta	parish, municipality
kuru	gorge, gully
kuusikko	spruce wood
kylä	village
köngäs	cataract, cascade, waterfall
laakso	valley
lahti	bay, gulf
laki	summit, top, height
lampi, lammi	pond, pool
lehto	grove, coppice, copse
leveä	broad, wide
linna	castle
lompolo, lommol	tarn
lounas, lounainen,	south-west
lounais-	
luode, luoteis-	north-west
luoma	rivulet
luonnonpuisto	nature park, reservation
luoto	(rocky) islet, rock
lähde	spring
länsi, läntinen	west, western
lääni	province, county
maa	land, earth, country

maantie	road
meri	sea
metsä	wood, forest
muotka	isthmus
musta	black
mutka, mukka	curve, crook, bend; meander
mylly	mill
mäki	hill, slope
neva	(treeless) marsh, fen, bog
niemi	cape, point
niitty, niittu	meadow
niva	(fast-flowing) stream, current
nummi	moor
oja	ditch, brook
paljakka	fjeld
pelto	field
pieni, pikku	small
pitkä	long
pohja	bottom; ground, base
pohja, pohjo/inen, -is	north, northern
polku	path
puoli	side
puro	brook, stream
pää	head, point, end
ranta	shore, bank, beach
rauma	sound, straits
rautatie	railway
rimpi, rimmi	morass, fen
rinne	slope, declivity, descent
saari	island
saaristo	archipelago
saha	saw
salmi	straits, sound
salo	wilderness, a big island
selkä	back; ridge; open water
seutu	region, locality
silta	bridge
suo	swamp, marsh, bog
suu	mouth, estuary
suuri	large, big, great
suvanto	still (or stagnant) water, broad
tehdas	factory
tekojärvi	reservoir
tunturi	fell, duottar
törmä	bank, hillside
uusi	new
vaara	(wooded) hill, arctic hill-country

valkama	haven
valkea, valkia	white
vanha	old
vesi	water, large lake
viita	coppice, thicket
virta	stream, flow
vuoma	marsh(land), swamp
vuono	fiord
vuori	mountain, hill
vähä	small
väli-	middle
ylä(inen)-, yli(nen)-	upper

2. Swedish

The vocabulary used by Swedish-speaking Finns does not differ essentially from that used in Sweden.

3. Lappish

ávzi	canyon, gorge
badje-	upper
bálggis	path
bealdu	field
boaris, boares-	old
buolža	ridge
čahppad, čahppes-	black
čoalbmi	strait, sound
čohkka	peak
davvi, davve-	north, northern
dievva	hill, slope
duottar	fell, fjeld
eana	land, earth, country
eadnu	stream, flow
eatnangeaidnu	road
gaska-	central, middle
gávpot	town
geadgi	stone, boulder
geavnnis	cataract, waterfall
gilli	village, hamlet
govdat, govda-	broad, wide
guhkki, guhkes-	long
guoika	rapids
gurra	gorge, gully
jávri	lake
jeaggi	marsh, bog, swamp, mire
johka	river

liedna	province, county
lulli	south, southern
luokta	bay, gulf
luoppal	tarn, pond
máddi	south, southern
muotki	isthmus
njárga	cape, point
njávvi	fast-slowing stream, current
nuorti, nuorte-	east, eastern
oaiivi	top of fjeld
savu	still water, broad
stuoris, stuorra-	large, great
suolu	island
unni, unna	small
vággi	valley
várri	(wooded) hill, arctic hill-country
vuopmi	valley
vuolle-, vuollasas	lower, under, nether
vuotna	fiord
vuovdi	wood, forest