

U.N. Group of Experts
on Geographical Names

Working Paper No. 38

Ninth Session
New York, 17-27 February 1981
Agenda Item No. 9

Toponymic Guidelines for Cartography - Sweden

(Submitted by A. Rostvik, Norden Division)

TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR CARTOGRAPHY

Sweden

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I LANGUAGES

1 General remarks

Sweden is in general a unilingual country, Swedish being the only nation-wide language. The minority languages Finnish and Lappish play an important role in the northern parts of Sweden, where geographical names of all three languages occur in the maps.

2 National language

The national language is Swedish written in the Roman/Latin alphabet.

The Swedish alphabet:

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

The letters q Q, w W, and z Z are used in loanwords and archaic spelling (e.g. family names) only. In alphabetical indexes w is treated like v.

The "umlaut letters" ä Ä and ö Ö are always kept apart from a A, o O in alphabetical indexes etc.

Spelling rules for Swedish geographical names

There are no explicit official rules for the spelling of Swedish geographical names. There is, however, a Royal Ordinance of 7th October, 1927, on the spelling of place-names in official documents (SFS 1927:380). This decree stipulates that the principles of the glossary published by the Swedish Academy (Svenska Akademiens ordlista) are to be applied as regards the spelling of place-names in the real property registers and other official documents and publications. The principles of the glossary are not written down but must be deduced from the use of the glossary itself.

Some general rules concerning capitalization might be pointed out, though. One-worded names are always capitalized. In geographical names consisting of more than one word only the first word is capitalized, unless one of the following words is a name itself. Examples: Förenta staterna (The United States /of America/)
Svarta havet (The Black Sea)
but Bortre Indien (Further India)
Mindre Asien (Asia Minor).

Linguistic substrata recognizable in Swedish place-names

A Finnish substratum is reflected in many place-names in the woodlands of middle Sweden due to the language once spoken by Finnish immigrants (in the 16th and 17th centuries). Substrata of all three languages (Finnish, Lappish, Swedish) can still be traced in place-names in the large language contact area in northern Sweden.

Swedish dialects

Various dialects are spoken all over the country, more or less. There are, however, some dialects that differ more strongly from one another and from standard Swedish. This goes, most of all, for the dialects of, respectively, upper Norrland, Jämtland, Dalarna, Gotland and Skåne.

Dialect/standard Swedish in geographical names

The geographical names reflect the various dialects, more in some, less in other regions of the country. This is, for instance, shown by the distribution of the dialect word ryd 'clearing'. In place-names it occurs as -red, -rud, -röd as well as -ryd in accordance with the local form of the element. However, pure dialectal spelling is rather rare, standard Swedish being the normal variant in most names.

3 Minority languages

(a) Finnish

Finnish is a Finno-Ugrian language using the Roman/Latin alphabet. It is spoken by about 40 000 native people in the northernmost parts of Sweden, in the area close to the Finnish border, from the Bothnian

coast northwards. Moreover, Finnish is by far the greatest of the many "modern" immigrant languages in Sweden, being spoken by another about 230 000 people in various parts of the country. In spite of this multitude Finnish is not an official school language. The Finns of northern Sweden have a right, though, to get church service in Finnish once a month.

Geographical names

In the Finnish-speaking areas of northern Sweden Finnish names occur - with Finnish orthography - on official boards and road signs as well as in the official Swedish maps. In the formerly Finnish-speaking areas of middle Sweden many Finnish place-names remain. These names have been adapted to Swedish spelling, though.

The Finnish alphabet:

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

(b) Lappish

Lappish is a Finno-Ugrian language using the Roman/Latin alphabet. It is spoken by about 10 000 native people in an area that includes Lapland and parts of Ångermanland, Jämtland and Härjedalen. In fact, Lappish is not one but several languages, only in Sweden represented by at least three different branches: North Lappish, Lule Lappish and South Lappish.

Lappish is used parallel with Swedish in the so called Lapp school and is taught throughout the Basic school in the Lapp districts. Church service is performed in Lappish by a specially appointed Lapp vicar, who visits the various Lapp communities.

Geographical names

In the Lappish-speaking areas of Sweden Lappish names occur on official signs as well as in the official maps. The spelling of Lappish place-names in the maps is a problem frequently discussed. A modified Lule Lappish orthography, adjusted to the Swedish alphabet, has been used so far. However, at the 10th Nordic Lapp Conference at Arjeplog in 1978 the Lapps of Finland, Norway and Sweden agreed upon a common North Lappish orthography to be applied in North Lapp regions. The National Land Survey of Sweden, responsible for the official maps, has decided to use this orthography for the maps produced from 1981 onwards as regards the regions concerned.

The (new) North Lappish alphabet:

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

The Lule Lappish alphabet:

A a	G g	M m	S s
Á á	H h	N n	T t
B b	I i	Ń ń	U u
D d	J j	O o	V v
E e	K k	P p	Á á
F f	L l	R r	Ä ä

On the whole, the spelling of Lappish place-names in today's Swedish maps is based on the rules for writing Lule Lappish. The letters Á á and Ń ń are not used, however.

II NAMES AUTHORITIES AND NAMES STANDARDIZATION

Several Swedish authorities have the competence to standardize various categories of geographical names. So called administrative names, i.e. names of counties, municipalities (urban and rural districts), parishes and similar units, are standardized by the Swedish government. The local governments are responsible for names of town- and city-quarters, street-names, names of roads, squares, parks etc.

Some of the public-service corporations of the central government settle names of their own offices/stations. Thus names of railway stations, post offices and telegraph offices are standardized by the administrations concerned: The Swedish State Railways (Statens järnvägar, S-105 50 Stockholm) - The Swedish Post Office Administration (Postverket, S-105 00 Stockholm) - The National Swedish Telecommunications Administration (Televerket, S-123 86 Farsta). These three authorities discuss their proposals with one another and with the Institute of Place-Name Research in Uppsala (Ortnamnsarkivet i Uppsala, S:t Johannesgatan 11, S-752 21 Uppsala).

The majority of geographical names is standardized by the National Land Survey of Sweden (Statens lantmäteriverk, S-801 12 Gävle). This goes for all names in the real property registers, for certain names of ("statistically defined") densely populated areas and for the geographical names in the official maps produced by the Land Survey itself.

Proposed measures concerning official Swedish place-names are always referred to the Institute of Place-Name Research in Uppsala for consideration. In other words the Institute functions as an advisory authority on the standardization of place-names.

III SOURCE MATERIAL

1. Maps

The national official maps of Sweden are produced by the National Land Survey. They are

- (a) The Economic Map (General Land Use Map) in 1:10 000 or 1:20 000;
- (b) The Topographic Map in 1:50 000 or 1:100 000;
- (c) The 1:250 000 General Map;
- (d) The 1:1 000 000 General Map.

The Economic Map lies as a ground for the other maps. It consists of about 13 000 sheets and contains about one million place-names. It covers the whole of Sweden except for the north-western mountain areas. The Topographic Map of these areas shows another 100 000 place-names.

2. Gazetteers

There is no official Swedish gazetteer. Svensk ortförteckning is a publication containing certain information on about 130 000 places in Sweden, but it does not have the nature of a gazetteer. It is not a normative but a descriptive list of geographical names.

The National Land Survey is preparing a Swedish gazetteer based on the official maps by using automatic data processing.

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

1. Swedish

The following appellatives mostly occur in the definite form as a last element in place-names. For instance, the word myr, the singular indefinite, is not as frequent as myren, the singular definite, or myrarna, the plural definite (in English 'bog, the bog, the bogs', respectively). For words that are used in the maps in this way the various forms are shown like this: myr, -en, pl. -arna bog; swamp, with the singular indefinite translated.

backe, -n, pl. backarna	hill; slope	fors, -en	rapid; stream
bad, -et, pl. -en	bathing-place	fyr, -en	lighthouse
berg, -et, pl. -en	mountain	gammal-/gamla	old
bo	house; farm	gata, -n	street
bo(da)	shed	grund, -et, pl. -en	sunk rock
borg, -en	castle; fortress	gruva, -n	mine; pit
bro, -n	bridge	gräns, -en	boundary
by, -n	village; hamlet	gård, -en	farm; house; yard
bäck, -en	brook; rivulet	gårde, -t, pl. -na	field; fence
dal, -en, pl. -arna	valley	hage, -n	enclosed pasture
fall, -et, pl. -en	fall	hed, -en	moor; heath
finn-	Finn; Finnish	hem, -met	house; home
fjäll, -et, pl. -en	mountain	holme, -n, pl. holmarna	islet; holm
fjärd, -en	bay	hög, -en, pl. -arna	mound
flygplats	airport	hög-/höga	high
fornlämning	ancient monument	höjd, -en	height; hill

idrottsplats	sports ground	socken	parish
inner-/inre	inner	sta(d)	place; town
järnväg	railway	stor-/stora	big; large; great
kommun	municipality	strand,-en	shore; beach; bank
kulle,-n	hill; mound	ström,-men	stream
kyrka,-n	church	sund,-et	sound
kärr,-et,pl.-en	marsh; swamp; fen	svart-	black
köping	borough	svensk-	Swede; Swedish
land,-et	land; territory	söder-/södra	the south(ern)
lapp-	Lapp; Lappish	tjärn,-en,pl.-arna	small lake
lill-/lilla	small; little	torg,-et	square; market
lund,-en	grove	torp,-et	croft
län	county	träsk,-et	fen; marsh; swamp
mellan-	between	udde,-n	cape; tongue of land
mitt-/mitten-	middle		
mosse,-n	bog	vatten,vattnet	water
myr,-en,pl.-arna	bog; swamp	vik,-en	inlet; bay; gulf
naturreservat	nature reserve	vit-	white
neder-/nedre	lower	väg,-en	road; roadway
norr-/norra	the north(ern)	väster-/västra	the west(ern)
ny-/nya	new	ytter-/yttre	outer
näs,-et	isthmus; neck of land	å,-n	river; stream
park,-en	park	åker,-n	field; tilled land
röd-	red	ås,-en	ridge
sjö,-n,pl.-arna	lake	älv,-en	river
skog,-en	forest; wood	ö,-n	island
skär,-et,pl.-en	rocky islet; skerry	öster-/östra	the east(ern)
slott	castle; palace	över-/övre	upper

2. Finnish

aho	burn-beaten land, that is deserted
ala-/alanen	lower
eno	main river
iso	big, large, great
itä-/itänen	the east(ern)
joki	small river
jänkkä	small bog
koijukko/koivikko	birch wood
koski	rapid
kurkkio	waterfall
kursu	large gorge or narrow, deep and rugged ravine
kuusikko	spruce wood
lahti	creek, inlet, bay (of sea, lake or river)
laki	top of a mountain
lamm/lammi/lamp/lampi	small lake
linkka	waterfall
lompolo	small lake through which a river runs; lake-like widening of a river
länsi	the west(ern)
maa	ground, land
mukka	curve, bend
musta	black
mäg/mäk/mäki	hill
männikkö	pine wood

niemi	ness, cape, peninsula
niva	small rapid in a river
pahta	cliff, rock
palo	burnt area
pikku/peni	small, little
rova	burnt small mountain
saari	island
salmi	marked contraction of a lake, sound between two lakes
so	bog
suanto/suvanto	smoothly flowing stretch in a river
vaara	mountain
valkea	white
vuoma	large bog without trees
väli	between
väylä	main river
yli-/ylinen	upper
ymyräinen	round, circular

3. Lappish (LpL "map" spelling)

alep	upper
alle-	the west(ern)
ape	great expanse of bog
jalkis	smooth
jaure	lake
jákka/jákká	river
járp/járpa	round, circular
kuoika	rapid
kábba/kábbá	hill
kársa	large gorge or narrow, deep and rugged ravine, with or without a river at the bottom
kártje	waterfall
lulle-	the east(ern)
luokta	creek, inlet, bay (of sea, lake or river)
luoppal	small lake through which a river runs; lake-like widening of a river
njarka	ness, cape, peninsula
njavve	small rapid in a river
njira	mountain stream, usually nearly dry but filled with water during rain and the melting of snow
padje-/pajep	upper
pakte	cliff, rock
passe	holy
rieppe	cirque, valley which is difficult to access, with widening recessed bottom, or this recessed bottom part only
rávve	burnt small mountain
savo	smoothly flowing stretch of water in a river
stuor/stuora	big, large
suolo	island
tjappis	black
tjákká/tjákká	summit; mountain top
tjálme	marked contraction of a lake, sound between two lakes
tjárrá	long hill (not very steep, not very narrow); small mountain-ridge
tjárrá	rather flat, usually wide tract high up in the mountains, with little vegetation and long stretches of nothing but gravel and stones

tuolpa	flat, plain
unna	small, little
vagge	large mountain valley
vare	mountain
vielkis	white
vuolep	lower
åive	round-shaped top of a mountain, rounded mountain (only as last part of names of mountains)
ätno	main river

V ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE NATIONAL OFFICIAL MAPS OF SWEDEN

Abbreviation	Decoding	English equivalent
-b.	bäck(en)	brook; rivulet
-b.	berg(et)	mountain
Badpl.	Badplats	bathing-place
-br.	bruk	works; factory
Bv.	Banvaktstuga	lineman's cottage
Bygdeg.	Bygdegård	(rural) community centre
d:a	domsaga	rural judicial circuit (judicial district)
Fabr.	Fabrik	factory; works
f.d.	före detta	formerly
f:g	församling	parish
Flygpl.	Flygplats	airport
Fotb.pl.	Fotbollsplan	football ground
Fritidsg.	Fritidsgård	(youth) recreation centre
Fritidsomr.	Fritidsområde	recreation area
-g.	gård(en)	farm; house; yard
Gla	Gamla	old
-h./-h:na	holme(n)/holmarna	islet/(the) islets; holm/(the) holms
Hemb.g.	Hembygds gård	old homestead museum
h:d	härad	"wapentake" (jurisdictional district)
hpl.	(järnvägs)hållplats	(train-)stop
In.	Inre	inner
-ind.	industri	industry; works
kap.	kapell	chapel
k:n	kommun	municipality
köp.	köping	borough
L.	Lilla	small; little
-m./-m:na	myr(en)/myrarna	bog/(the) bogs; swamp/(the) swamps
Mell.	Mellan	between
Ms	Milstolpe	milestone
.Ms	Minnessten	monument
N.	Norra	the north(ern)
Ned.	Nedre	lower
Pensionärsh.	Pensionärshem	pensioners' home
Po	Postkontor	post office
S.	Södra	the south(ern)
s	samfällt område	jointly-owned area
-sj./-sj:na	sjö(n)/sjöarna	lake/(the) lakes
sk:g	skeppslag	"ship ward" (judicial district)
Skjutb.	Skjutbana	shooting-range
s:n	socken	parish
St.	Stora	big; large; great

-st.	ställe	place
S:t	Sankt	Saint
stn	(järnvägs)station	(railway) station
t.	till(hör)	(belonging) to
Te	Telefon- eller	telephone or
	Telegrafstation	telegraph office
t:g	tingslag	"thing ward" (judicial district)
-tj./-tj:na	tjärn(en)/tjärmarna	small lake/(the) small lakes
V.	Västra	the west(ern)
-v.	vik(en)	bay; inlet; gulf
Vårdh.	Vårdhem	nursing home
Ytt.	Yttre	outer
Ålder.h., Åld.hem	Ålderdomshem	home for the aged
Ö.	Östra	the east(ern)
Öv.	Övre	upper

These guidelines have been prepared at the Institute of Place-Name Research in Uppsala. The National Land Survey has examined the main part of the contents.