



UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

# NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 25

May 2002

## Inside this issue:

### ▪ Preface

Message from the Chairman 1  
Message from the Vice-Chair 2

### ▪ News from Headquarters

From the Secretariat 3

### ▪ In Memoriam

H.A.G. Lewis 4  
J.-P. Drolet 5

### ▪ Honours

### ▪ The Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names 8

### ▪ From the Divisions

French-Speaking Division 10  
Norden Division 11  
Romano-Hellenic Division 13

### ▪ From the Working Groups

Working Group on Country Names 16

### ▪ From the Countries

Azerbaijan 17  
Canada 19  
United States 20

### ▪ Meetings

Geonames 2001. International Workshop on exonyms 22

#### **No. 25, May 2002**

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Newsletter (ISSN 1014-798) is published by Statistics Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries

**NEW !!!**

**UNGEEN website:**

<http://esa.un.org/unsd/geoinfo>

---

## Impressum

UNGEEN  
**NEWSLETTER**

The *Newsletter of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEEN Newsletter)* is issued approximately twice a year by the Secretariat of the Group. The Secretariat is established within the Statistics Division (UNSD), Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Secretariat of the United Nations. It publishes contributions/reports from the Experts of the Group, its Linguistic/Geographical Divisions and its Working Groups. Contributions for the Newsletter can only be considered when they are made available in digital form. They should be sent to the following address:

Secretariat of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names  
Room DC2-1640  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Tel: 212 963 3042 or: 212 963 5951

Fax: 212 963 9851

E-mail: [Javier@un.org](mailto:Javier@un.org)  
and [Laaribi@un.org](mailto:Laaribi@un.org)

### Message from the Chairman

Dear UNGEGN Experts

I am pleased to note that UNGEGN Divisions and Working Groups, individual countries, and related bodies, have been very active in the field of the standardization of geographical names. I look forward to Reports and other documents in this regard which are to be submitted to the Eighth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names to be held in Berlin.

The past five years have seen dramatic progress in technological advances which have a direct bearing on the work of UNGEGN and the standardization of geographical names. Never before has there been the opportunities for co-operation and the implementation of standardized geographical names, which now exist. However, the challenge remains for those countries which have not yet exercised their sovereign prerogative of

standardizing their geographical names, to do so.

With this in mind, I would therefore like to take this opportunity of urging Governments, especially those of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin-America, to participate in the forthcoming Eighth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

For technical and economic reasons the publication of United Nations Documents on Geographical Names has been delayed. It therefore seems to be advisable to include in that publication the latest versions of the various documents, which will be presented to and adopted by the forthcoming Conference, as well as those resolutions which will be adopted there.

The first edition of United Nations Documents on Geographical Names has been translated into Arabic by Mr. Nasser Al Harthy (Sultanate of

Oman). This will be extremely valuable in Arabic-speaking countries. At the Seventh UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in New York in 1998, relevant UNGEGN Experts kindly undertook to translate the United Nations Documents on Geographical Names also into Chinese, French and Spanish. I look forward eagerly to these translations, for they will serve to facilitate the standardization of geographical names in the countries where those languages are spoken.

I thank all colleagues, Experts, officers and the Secretariat for their continuing dedication to the essential work of UNGEGN and the standardization of geographical names.

With kindest regards

**Peter E. Raper**  
*Chairman, UNGEGN*

## Message from the Vice-Chair

We are looking forward to convening the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Berlin in August 2002. By now everyone should be aware of the relevant dates (UNGEGN: August 26 and September 6; UN Conference: August 27 – September 5) and should have seen the Note Verbale and some preliminary documentation. In addition, our host, the Government of Germany, has mailed information packages about local arrangements in Berlin. If you have any doubts concerning details of the Conference or UNGEGN sessions, please contact the UNGEGN Secretariat (Mr. Amor Laaribi: laaribi@un.org or fax: +212-953-9851).

The UNGEGN website is now launched at <http://esa.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/> (see Note from the UNGEGN Secretariat in this Newsletter). During the coming months this site will be used to

provide further information and access to documents relevant to the Conference and Session in Berlin.

Currently UNGEGN is seeking closer ties with the International Organization for Standardization, in accordance with resolution 13 of the Seventh Conference. Our application for Class A Liaison status with ISO/TC211 is being considered at their plenary session in May. I would particularly like to thank Randall Flynn (Convenor of the Working Group on Gazetteers and Toponymic Data Files) for his initiative with this proposal.

Several UNGEGN divisions and working groups have held meetings since the last UNGEGN meeting in January 2000, and as well there have been special sessions organized (for instance those hosted by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division on data bases and exonyms in 2000 and 2001). These exchanges of ideas and information should provide an

excellent base for discussion of the issues that face us. Understanding the social and economic realities of the world and balancing them with the fast moving technological changes are in themselves a challenge – but they also provide a scenario that offers great opportunities for us in the field of geographical names standardization.

If you have ideas on ways to facilitate the smooth running of the Conference, please do not hesitate to offer them to Mr. Amor Laaribi at the UNGEGN Secretariat.

I look forward to seeing you all in Berlin in August, and express my thanks to Amor Laaribi and Jenny Javier for their continuing valued support of UNGEGN activities.

**Helen Kerfoot**  
*Vice-Chair, UNGEGN*  
*Natural Resources Canada*  
*Ottawa, Canada*  
*hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca*

## News from the Headquarters

### From the Secretariat

Dear UNGEGN experts

The Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in New York, 13-22 January 1998, recommended that the UNGEGN secretariat establish an UNGEGN website (see Resolution 9, Vol. I. Report of the Conference). I am pleased to inform you that the UNGEGN web site is now a reality. You can visit it at: <http://esa.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/>

The UNGEGN secretariat with assistance from Ms Helen Kerfoot, UNGEGN Vice-Chair, developed this website aiming to provide, on behalf of UNGEGN, a focal point for timely dissemination of material on the standardization of geographical names in an easily accessed and easily used web site, in as many UN languages as possible. The specific aims are (i) to provide content information on UNCSGN and UNGEGN activities, access to documents of UNCSGN and UNGEGN, special material, such as the UNGEGN brochure, and UNGEGN Newsletter, links to authoritative websites relevant to geographical names standardization (Divisions,

Working Groups, Individual member states, UN cartographic information, Other pertinent sites that are identified, e.g. ISO, IHO...), contact information for UNGEGN Secretariat and various UNGEGN activities, (ii) to update the web site in a timely way, and (iii) to encourage member states and other bodies to link to the UNGEGN website.

Fortunately, Internet allows us to enhance the content and the look of the website as we will at any time. Therefore, we seek your comments and suggestions in order to improve the content of this first version (for the look, we are constrained to comply with the design of the United Nations Statistics Division website). We plan to make a presentation on the UNGEGN website and discuss its content in detail during the Eighth Conference in Berlin 2002. Information on the Conference is provided either by this Newsletter (see latest news from the Federal Republic of Germany, host of the conference) or by the UNGEGN website.

The publication of the Glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names, compiled under the leadership of Naftali Kadmon, Convenor of the

Working Group on Toponymic Terminology, is now in final stages. The multi-language volume will be ready for distribution at the Conference in Berlin.

I take this opportunity to encourage all of you to send to us, before June 15, your contributions to the 8th Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, to be held in Berlin, in conjunction with the 21st UNGEGN Session, from 26 August to 6 September 2002.

Please note that credentials for participants (via your Permanent Mission to United Nations in New York) and documents for the Conference must be sent to the UNGEGN Secretariat, rather to offices of the Government of Germany.

I look forward to meeting you in Berlin.

**Amor Laaribi**

*UNEGN Secretariat  
United Nations Statistics Division  
Two UN Plaza, DC2-1640  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: (212) 963 3042  
Fax: (212) 963 9851  
E-mail: [Laaribi@un.org](mailto:Laaribi@un.org)*

# IN MEMORIAM

## Herbert A.G. Lewis OBE (1912-2002)

Bunny Lewis, one of the world's leading military geographers and a founding member of the UNGEGN, died on 27th January 2002 aged 89. Born in Devonport, England, he spent the early years of his professional life in Intelligence during the Second World War prior to joining the UK Directorate of Military Survey. In that organisation his linguistic and cartographic skills were utilised in putting to maximum use the vast collection of maps and related data held at the Ministry of Defence, where he eventually became chief map research officer.

On the international front, Bunny Lewis advised governmental, intelligence and military establishments around the world on the importance and use of maps. As the UK's principal spokesman on military

geography within NATO, he set about persuading the post-war military mapping agencies of Western Europe to accept single Romanization systems for Russian, Bulgarian and Greek, a first step towards NATO standardization of names.

In 1950 Bunny Lewis joined the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use (PCGN), eventually becoming its chairman from 1981 to 1997. A decade later, he became a consultant on the Times Atlas of the World, initiating a long association with the Edinburgh-based firm of cartographic publishers, John Bartholomew & Son Ltd.

Many Distinguished Experts of the UNGEGN will remember Bunny Lewis's role as a founding member of the UNGEGN

leading up to its first meeting in 1960. In 1972 he was President of the Second UN Conference held in London and in 1977, 1982 and 1987 he chaired the Gazetteers/data files Committee at the UN Conferences held in Athens, Geneva and Montréal.

Awarded an OBE in 1972, Bunny Lewis went on to receive the British Cartographic Society's prestigious Silver Medal and an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society for his contribution to cartography. Remembered as a fine raconteur who enjoyed good company, he is survived by four children and his second wife Doreen, whom he married in 1978.

**David Munro**  
*London, United Kingdom*

## Jean-Paul Drolet (1918-2001)

Jean-Paul Drolet, a former Chair of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN), died in Ottawa on August 14, 2001 at the age of 83. As the longest-serving Chair of Canada's national names authority, he provided strong leadership from 1964 to 1988.

A legacy of Dr. Drolet to the work of the Canadian Committee was his contribution to international activities. He led the Canadian delegations to the first four United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Geneva 1967, London 1972, Athens 1977, and Geneva 1982). In 1987, Dr. Drolet was responsible for the Fifth Conference being held at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montréal. He invited the United Nations to Canada, was responsible for the preparations, and was the elected President of the Conference. Dr. Drolet was very aware of the economic and

social benefits attributable to the development of national names authorities, and the technical and cultural duality of toponymy.

Jean-Paul Drolet was born in Québec on July 15, 1918. His studies took him to Université Laval and Columbia University, New York, from where he earned a BA, a BSc, and an MSc, all in mining engineering and mineral economics. This field of endeavour was to become his life-long pursuit and passion, and in recognition of his achievements he would later receive honorary doctorates from McGill and Laurentian universities.

During his career, Jean-Paul Drolet advanced from mineral prospector to mining company manager and founder of mining-related communities (Gagnon and Port-Cartier in Quebec). In 1964 he joined the federal department of Energy, Mines and Resources, and as an Assistant Deputy Minister was appointed Chair of the CPCGN.

During the three decades he led the Committee, significant progress was made, for example, in provincial/territorial responsibilities, toponymic fieldwork, language and Aboriginal issues, data base development, and information dissemination.

Jean-Paul Drolet's personal interest in naming was clear from his contributions to national and international standardization, his involvement with the naming of streets in Port-Cartier, and his authorship of *All about mineral choronymy* (1982). Dr. Drolet contributed substantially to the work and stature of Canada's national names authority, through his enthusiasm, his sense of purpose, his appreciation of the history and geography of Canada, and his support for United Nations goals.

**Helen Kerfoot**  
*Ottawa, Canada*

## Honours

The Chairman of the UNGEGN, Dr Peter E. Raper, has just been awarded the Medal of Honour by the South African Academy for Arts and Science (Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns) for his work on geographical names at national and international level.

Dr Raper has been an UNGEGN Expert since 1984. He has been the Chairman of UNGEGN since 1991, having been re-elected twice, and was elected President of the Seventh UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York, 1998).

He initiated the establishment of the Africa South Division by resolution 1 of the Sixth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York, 1992) after addressing a special session on geographical names at the UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa in Ethiopia, and with the support of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. At a meeting of the Division attended by experts from Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland, he was elected Chairman of the Division, a position he still holds.

In order to publicize the UNGEGN and promote the standardization of geographical names at national and international level, he has, in addition to chairing UNGEGN Sessions,

- Initiated and co-presented seven United Nations training courses on geographical names in Southern Africa;
- Presented lectures and papers at congresses and symposia in eleven countries, namely Canada, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Japan, Korea, Namibia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, and Swaziland;
- Published articles in *Name Studies: an International Handbook of Onomastics* (Berlin and New York, Walter de Gruyter, 1995); *You Name It: Perpectives on Onomastic Research* (Helsinki, 1997), and in *Names*, the journal of the American Name Society; *Nomina Africana*, journal of the Names Society of Southern Africa, and *Onoma*, journal of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences;
- Prepared the publication *United Nations Documents on Geographical Names* (Pretoria, 1996), which was

purchased in some sixty countries and has been translated into Arabic by Mr Nasser Al Harthy (Sultanate of Oman);

- Prepared for publication a second, greatly expanded edition of *United Nations Documents on Geographical Names* which, after updating on the basis of decisions taken at Working Group meetings, will go to press;
- Participated, together with Ms Helen Kerfoot, Vice-Chair of UNGEGN, in the meeting of the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) in Rome, March 2001;
- Participated in the meetings in London (May 2001) of the UNGEGN Working Groups on Romanization Systems and Country Names.

Dr Raper is the President of the Names Society of Southern Africa, and member of the American Name Society, the Canadian Society for the Study of Names, and the International Council of Onomastic Studies. He was Head of the Onomastic Research Centre from 1970 to 1993, and has subsequently been Director of the Names Research Institute. He was a member of



the National Place Names Committee of South Africa from 1972, and was its chairman from 1972, and was its chairman from 1972, and was its chairman from 1996 until it was superseded by the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC) in 1998. Dr Raper is a member of the SAGNC, and was Chairman of the Working Forum on Geographical Names which advised the South African Government on the establishment of the SAGNC in accordance with United Nations resolutions. He was awarded a Medal of Honour jointly by the Genootskap vir Afrikaanse Volkskunde (Association for Afrikaans Folklore) and the Afrikaanse Taal- en Kultuurvereniging (Society for Afrikaans Language and Culture) in 1977, and was the recipient in 1982 of the P.M. Robbertse Medal of the Human Sciences Research Council for the promotion of the study of names.

Submitted by  
**Dr Lucie A. Möller**  
*Secretary of the Africa South Division*

# **Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

## **Latest news from the Federal Republic of Germany, host of the:**

**Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN)**

**27 August – 5 September 2002**

**and the**

**Twenty-first Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

**26 August and 6 September 2002**

The venue will be the Conference Centre of the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, located in the city center of Berlin (*Auswärtiges Amt, 1 Werderscher Markt*).

The Organizing Committee for the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Germany has been very busy during the last months. The Conference site on the premises of the Foreign Office in Berlin has been visited with representatives from the United Nations New York. The committee discussed conference related matters with representatives from the Foreign Office and from the Ministry of the Interior.

Contractual arrangements were made with a Professional Conference Organizer (PCO)

regarding technical and logistical preparations. Please take into consideration that other events are being held in Berlin at the same time as the Conference, resulting in much demand for hotel accommodation. An early booking, therefore, is highly recommended. If you need any help in arranging your accommodation in Berlin, also at low budget rate, please do not hesitate to contact our Professional Conference Organizer

• CPO HANSER SERVICE

Paulsborner Str. 44

D-14193 Berlin

Phone: +49 30 300 669 0

Fax: +49 30 305 73 91

e-mail: berlin@cpo-

hanser.de

The PCO will also offer a touristic programme for accompanying persons.

The preparations for the Technical Exhibitions in the

framework of the 8th UNCSGN, including a Topical Exhibition, a Country Exhibition and a Commercial Exhibition, are going well. In Berlin there will be presented, amongst others, examples of the origin and the historical development of geographical names, the influence on publications, maps, and audio-visual media and the importance of standardization of geographical names in a digital environment as well as shall countries have the possibility to present the most important products on the subject of geographical names.

Furthermore, Technical Excursions will be organized to

- the multilingual Sorbian region (31 August 2002);
- the historical and cultural centre of Potsdam (1 September 2002);

- the Berlin State Library – Prussian Cultural Heritage (31 August 2002).

Young professionals from Developing Countries working or plan to work in Geographic Names Authorities of their countries will have a chance to participate in a Training Course in Toponymy (12 August – 6 September 2002), for two weeks before the Conference in The Netherlands and in Germany and including the two weeks' participation at the UN Conference and UNGEGN Session in Berlin. The filled in Application Forms are currently arriving and we will shortly decide on the participations in the course.

If you have other inquiries about the Conference matters, please feel free to contact

• Mr. Bernd E. Beinstein  
Federal Agency for  
Cartography and Geodesy  
Richard-Strauss-Allee 11  
D-60598 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany  
Phone: +49 69 63 33 317  
Fax: +49 69 63 14 90 531  
e-mail: beinstein@ifag.de

Further information about the conference and the supporting programme may be obtained from the internet:  
[www.bkg.bund.de/un-conference2002/geonames.htm](http://www.bkg.bund.de/un-conference2002/geonames.htm)

It will be worthwhile to come to Germany in August 2002 and to participate in the Conference.

Welcome to Berlin!

**Dr. Joern Sievers**

*Chairman*

*Organizing Committee of the Federal Ministry of Interior*

*8th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*

*c/o Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy*

*Richard-Strauss-Allee 11  
60 598 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany*

*Phone: +49-69-6333-313*

*Fax: +49-69-631 49 05 21*

*e-mail: sievers@ifag.de*

### La Division francophone du GENUNG

Depuis le dernier « newsletter » (n°24-juillet 2001), la division francophone a poursuivi la mise en œuvre de son programme de travail, en mettant plus particulièrement l'accent sur les actions n°7 et n°10.

Action n°7 : liste ou atlas d'exonymes français  
Rappelons que le but de cette action est d'établir et de mettre à disposition du public et des spécialistes une liste d'exonymes français aussi normalisés que possible. Tous les exonymes ont vocation à figurer dans cette liste. Cependant, vu l'ampleur du travail, une telle liste ne pourra s'enrichir que graduellement après avoir commencé par les noms les plus utiles et les plus

utilisés : pays, capitales, fleuves, montagnes, divisions administratives, villes, rivières, ...

Dans la pratique, cette liste (consultable sur le web) sera un extrait d'une base de données en cours d'élaboration entre le Québec (Canada) et la France. Deux missions d'experts ont eu lieu (la première fin novembre 2001 au Québec, la deuxième début janvier 2002 en France) pour mettre au point les principales modalités pratiques : structure de la base, processus de validation des exonymes, etc... Tout n'est pas réglé à l'heure actuelle, mais les choses avancent bien. Les maîtres d'œuvre de cette action sont la Commission de Toponymie du Québec (Canada)

et la Commission de Toponymie de l'IGN (France).

Action n°10 : Financement de certaines participations  
Les démarches en vue de favoriser la participation de divers pays francophones à la conférence de Berlin (août-septembre 2002) ont été faites auprès des instances de la Francophonie. Un accord de principe nous a été donné : si tout n'est pas encore réglé, nous avons donc de bons espoirs de voir s'élargir prochainement l'audience traditionnelle des travaux du GENUNG.

**Pierre PLANQUES**  
*Le président de la division*

# Norden Division

## The Norwegian Place Name Act after 10 Years in Operation

The Norwegian Place Name Act was passed on 18 May 1990 and came into force on 1 July 1991. Thus it has been in operation for a little over ten years. Last year an Evaluation Committee suggested a series of amendments to the act, which still have to be regarded by the National Assembly (Stortinget). In the travaux préparatoires it says that the purpose of the Act is "that place-names in the realm shall together constitute a consistent body of names and that place-names shall be cared for as part of our cultural heritage". However, the Act only applies to the written forms of place-names in public use, and provides rules for how these forms shall be determined and by whom, and who is required to use the written forms so adopted. In the decade that has passed since the statute came into operation, wishes have been expressed in several quarters that the Act ought also to cover the protection of inherited place-names. For a couple of years the Evaluation Committee has been working on an evaluation of the Act, and it has in accordance with wishes expressed by different parties proposed the insertion of a new section relating to the

protection of place-names, inter alia with a view to abrogating the present right to change the names of old real properties. It is uncertain when any such amendment may come into effect.

The most important rules in the Place Name Act may be divided into two groups. The first concerns rules for the way in which place-names are written. Here the principle applies that one takes one's point of departure in the inherited local pronunciation but otherwise follows the spelling principles of Bokmål and Nynorsk. Certain dialectal features may be reproduced, and to a certain degree one shall take account of time-honoured written forms. Saami names shall be written in accordance with the spelling rules of the three Saami languages (North, South and Lule Saami), while Kvenish (Finnish) names in Northern Norway shall be written in accordance with Finnish orthographic principles. Decisions on the spelling are made by the body that is responsible for the name-bearer. For most inherited place-names, including the names of single-

holdings, the State Mapping Authority has the power of decision. When it comes to the names of single holdings, consideration shall be given, with certain limitations, to the views of the landowner. Names that are laid down under the Act shall be entered in a central register of names (SSR), which is administered by the State Mapping Authority. The register contains 850,000 names, but of these until now fewer than 100,000 have been laid down under the Act. The rest are what are called approved names, i.e. names that were to be found on maps or were in other public use before the Act started to apply in 1991. In the longer term the plan is to go through all the "approved" names of which, in accordance with the standardisation rules in the Act, it is appropriate to change the spelling.

The second group of rules in the Place Name Act concern the organising of the consultancy apparatus and the procedure for the handling of business. Norway is divided into five consultancy areas, one for each of the four universities (Oslo,

Bergen, Trondheim, Tromsø), and in addition one for Saami and one for Kvenish (Finnish) names. Each area has two name consultants and a secretary in a half-time or full-time post. When a name case is to be dealt with, the body with the power of decision, e.g. the State Mapping Authority, shall send the matter to the regional name consultancy service for a provisional recommendation on the spelling. After this the local authority and other parties consulted will receive the matter for comment, and then the matter will be sent back to the name consultancy service for final recommendation and forwarding to the decision-making body. This procedure ensures good academic and at the same time democratic treatment of name cases, but is lengthy and resource-intensive. The Evaluation Committee has recommended some simplification here.

As is apparent from what has been said, Norway has allocated major resources for dealing with

business under the Place Name Act. Nevertheless there are many public bodies, not least the local authorities, which do not make very much use of the consultancy apparatus. Many decisions have been made around this country in accordance with the statute. The cause of this is lack of knowledge about the statute, a lack of resources with which to comply with it, and in addition a certain dislike of the standardisation rules. All the roughly 430 municipal authorities have their own committees for name cases, and as a rule a great deal of weight is placed on cultural aspects in the choice of names, but not seldom one sees that the spelling breaks with the provisions of the Act. One can also see that English influence has spread over the last few decades, especially when it comes to the names of private establishments, e.g. the shopping centres Oslo City in Oslo and City Syd in Trondheim. Generally speaking one can say that two tendencies make

themselves felt in municipal naming, one with the urbane and international as its ideal, and one with the rural and homely as its ideal. Name care seen as name protection concurs primarily with the latter out of consideration for the notion that it is important to take care of the local naming tradition.

**Address of the Norwegian Geographical Names Standardization Authority:**

Statens Kartverk/The Norwegian Mapping Authority  
Landkartdivisjonen/The Land Map Division  
Kartverksveien  
No-3500 Hønefoss  
Tel: (++ 47) 321-18-265  
Fax: (++ 47) 321-18-101, or

Nils Jørgen Gaasvik  
nils.jorgen.gaasvik@statkart.no  
Nils Jørgen Gaasvik  
Statens kartverk Sør-Trøndelag  
Statens hus  
No-7468 TRONDHEIM  
Tel: (++ 47) 731-99-523  
Fax: (++ 47) 731-99-521

---

**Addresses of the Geographical Names Standardization Authorities of Sweden and Denmark:**

**Sweden:**

Lantmäteriverket / National Land Survey of Sweden  
SE-801 82 GÄVLE  
SWEDEN  
Tel: +46 26 63 30 00  
Fax: +46 26 68 75 94  
Internet: www.lm.se

c/o Hans Ringstam

Lantmäteriverket / National Land Survey of Sweden  
Tel +46 26 63 36 53  
Fax: +46 26 68 75 94  
-----

**Denmark:**

Stednavneudvalget/The Place-Name Commission  
Secretariate:

Institut for Navneforskning/Institute of Name Research  
Københavns Universitet/University of Copenhagen  
Njalsgade 80  
DK - 2300 København S  
Denmark  
Tlf.: (+45) 35 32 85 61  
Fax: (+45) 35 32 85 68  
E-mail: navneforskning@hum.ku.dk

# Romano-Hellenic Division

Romano-Hellenic Division Meeting 2001  
Athens, Greece, 10-13 October 2001

## Report of the Meeting

1. According to the decisions of the year 2000 meeting of the UNGEGN Romano – Hellenic Division (RHD), which was held in Firenze (Florence) 6-7 July 2000, the 2001 meeting of the RHD took place in Athina (Athens), 10-13 October 2001. The meeting was kindly hosted by the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by 17 experts from Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Spain.

### Officers of the Meeting

3. In tune with the decisions taken during the 20th UNGEGN meeting, the Officers for the Athina (Athens) 2001 RHD meeting were:

Chairman: Mr. Salvatore Arca  
Vice Chairman: Mr. Athanasios Pallikaris  
Rapporteur: Mr. Giannis Papaioannou

### Opening of the session

4. Mr. A. Dendoulis, Deputy Director of D1 Division of the

Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, welcomed the experts of RHD and wished them every success and fruitful work. In response, Chairman Mr. S. Arca thanked for the warm hospitality and the very good organization of the meeting. Interpreting the opinion of all the experts, he stressed their great pleasure for having had the honor to be in Athina (Athens), the cradle of romano-hellenic culture.

### Adoption of the agenda

5. The circulated provisional agenda for the 2001 RHD meeting was adopted, with the inclusion of the new item: 'Phonetic representation in transliterated geographical names', proposed by Mr. Papapavlou and unanimously accepted by all the experts.

### National standardization on geographical names in the RHD

6. Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

Mr. Vasileiou presented the report of Cyprus (Doc. No 3a/1).

Mr. Cantile presented the report of Italy (Doc. No 3a/3). Mr. Pallikaris informed the experts that the valid version of toponymic guidelines is that presented during the 20th session of the UNGEGN (New York, January 2000) as working paper No 90. Mr. Papapavlou asked if the pronunciation of Italian names is represented with different ways in the written form, depending on different geographical areas. Mr. Cantile replied that official written form is the only one existing.

7. National gazetteers

The Chairman presented a concise gazetteer of Italian geographical names (Doc. No 3b/1). Mr. Vasileiou noted that information about the national gazetteers (concise and complete) of Cyprus was given during the presentation of the report of Cyprus (Doc. No 3a/1). Mr. Pallikaris informed the experts that the concise gazetteer of Greece presented during the UNGEGN 20th session (New York, January 2000) as working paper No 91 is still valid. A new

edition of this gazetteer will be prepared and presented during the next UN Conference on Geographical Names in Berlin 2002. Mrs. Azcárate informed the experts that a concise gazetteer of Spain will be prepared and presented during the next UN Conference (Berlin, 2002).

#### 8. Administrative structure of national name authorities

The Chairman stressed the importance of this subject considering the need of the UN members to have precise information concerning their activity on the standardization of geographical names. Mr. Pallikaris stated that in Greece there is no governmental agency for the centralized function of collection, registration and standardization of all types of geographical names. However, according to the type of toponym (inhabited places, geographical features, odonyms etc), standardization is accomplished by the work of a number of different authorities and coordinating bodies as described in the toponymic guidelines of Greece. A Working Group for the Standardization of Geographical Names, consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and governmental cartographic organizations, has been established in order to study the status, structure and function of a National Committee on Geographical Names and propose amendments to existing national legislation for the enhancement of the

recommendations of the UN for the Standardization of Geographical Names. Another task of this Working Group is the promotion of the co-ordination of the various national authorities, currently involved in the standardization of geographical names, according to existing laws and practice that will continue until this legislation is revised. Mr. Cantile stated that in Italy there is no central authority for geographical names. The power of decision for administrative names, in different categories, belongs to the region according to a decree of the President of the Italian Republic. In particular as for the national territorial areas where the norms concerning the protection of the historical linguistic minorities are applied, the Municipal Councils have got the faculty to approve the adoption of toponyms related to the local uses and traditions, which can be employed in addition to the official toponyms. Mrs. Azcárate presented the administrative division of Spain (Doc. No 3c/1).

#### 9. Treatment of names in multilingual areas

The Chairman recalled the UN resolution No 4 of the 1st Conference. Mr. Cantile stated that in Italy a law regarding the historical and linguistic minorities has been issued. This law containing norms, concerning the protection of the historical linguistic minorities, has established the protection of the culture and the language of the

Albanian, Catalan, German, Greek, Slovenian, Croatian and of those speaking French, French – Provençal, Friulan, Ladin, Occitan and Sardinian. Mrs. Azcárate explained the different situation of multilingual officialdom in Spain. There are communities in which there is a second official language, besides Spanish, and communities where the second language, traditional but not official, is protected. In any case, the competences related with geographical names belong to each of the autonomous communities.

#### Exonyms

10. The Chairman recalled the UN resolution No 28 of the 2nd Conference and No 18 of the 3rd Conference. Mr. Orrù presented an illustration named L'UNIVERSO prepared by Professor Sandro Toniolo (Doc. No 4/2).

#### Multilingual Glossary

11. The Chairman stressed that the multilingual glossary is a very significant project on which all the experts of the division should concentrate their joint efforts. Mr. Orrù presented the 3rd edition of the publication containing geographical terms in Italian, English and French (Doc. No 5/1) and asked the other experts to provide the corresponding geographical terms in their language. Mr. Papaioannou noted that the corresponding Greek version of the terms has been disseminated during the 2000 meeting in



Firenze (Florence). Mrs. Azcárate presented the Spanish version of the publication, which contains terms in Spanish, English, French and Italian (Doc. No 5/2).

### **UNGEGN Brochure**

12. Drafts of the UNGEGN brochure in the Greek (Doc. No 6/1), Italian (Doc. No 6/2) and Spanish (Doc. No 6/3) languages were presented to the meeting. It was decided that the brochure must comply with all the languages of the Division. All the material except for the text and the publisher (photos, charts, maps etc) should be kept as it is in the original version.

### **Phonetic representation in transliterated Geographical Names**

13. Mr. Papapavlou asked if there is any initiative taken within the UNGEGN concerning the adoption of phonetic representation in transliterated geographical names. Mr. Pallikaris and Mr. Vasileiou replied that there is no resolution of UN regarding this matter and suggested that Mr. Papapavlou could present a study to the Cypriot and Greek experts for consideration.

### **Next Meeting**

14. Following the suggestion of the Chairman it was decided

that the next meeting of the RHD will be held in conjunction with the 8th UN Conference (Berlin, 2002).

### **Other matters**

15. The Chairman suggested that the report of the meeting should be included in the next UNGEGN Newsletter. The experts unanimously agreed on the proposal.

16. The RHD experts do express their most sincere thanks to the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Greek experts for the hospitality offered and for the efficient organization of the meeting. Besides they address their best wishes to Mr. Gounaris for a quick recover.

## From the Working Groups

### Groupe de Travail du GENUNG sur les Noms de Pays

Compte rendu de la réunion de Londres (14-15 mai 2001)

Suite à une invitation du PCGN, le groupe de Travail sur les Noms de Pays a tenu une réunion à Londres, les 14 et 15 mai 2001.

Ont participé à cette réunion Mme Caroline Burgess (Royaume-Uni), Mr Leo Dillon et Mr Charles Heyda (États-Unis), Mme Sylvie Lejeune (France), Mr Georges Makridis (Grèce), Mr David Munro (Royaume-Uni), Mr Peeter Päll (Estonie), Mr Peter Raper (Afrique du Sud), Mr Alessandro Toniolo (Italie), Mr Paul Woodman (Royaume-Uni).

La réunion avait pour but de mettre à jour la liste présentée en 1998, en particulier pour ce qui concerne les noms locaux officiels, en vue d'une refonte complète à présenter à la Conférence de Berlin, en 2002. A cette occasion, le Groupe a mené une réflexion très utile et féconde sur le but de ses travaux et sur la finalité de cette liste.

Les participants se sont en effet posé la question de la finalité de la liste dans sa présentation actuelle : si la recherche des formes locales constitue bien l'objectif prioritaire du groupe de travail, la fonction de la deuxième partie du tableau, qui donne les noms dans les trois langues de travail du GENUNG, pose

problème, en raison des fréquentes divergences entre les formes mentionnées et celles publiées dans le Bulletin de terminologie des Nations Unies n°347 ; le projet d'y ajouter les formes russes proposées par Mme Krauze-Tomczyk contribuerait à accentuer ces divergences. L'objectif initial de cette partie était d'indiquer les formes recommandées par les experts pour les usages nationaux anglais, espagnol et français, et d'obtenir si possible une prise en compte de ces noms dans les publications de l'ONU. Toutefois, ainsi que l'a rappelé le président du GENUNG, Mr Raper, les travaux du Groupe d'experts doivent servir de support aux recommandations des Nations Unies, et se conformer à ses décisions. Dans la mesure où le groupe de travail espère que cette liste sera publiée par le Secrétariat des Nations Unies, et éventuellement implantée sur un site Web, il n'est pas souhaitable que les noms de la deuxième partie des tableaux soient différents de ceux publiés dans le Bulletin de terminologie n°347. Helen Kerfoot a rapporté que ce problème avait également été évoqué lors d'une réunion avec la direction de la section

cartographique des Nations Unies, qui a déploré l'existence de nombreux documents différents à ce sujet, et qui a souhaité une réduction de ces divergences, dans la mesure où la liste de l'ONU constitue la « bible » pour son usage cartographique.

Enfin, les participants ont estimé qu'il fallait conserver l'indication des formes usitées au niveau national, à titre d'information.

En conclusion, une nouvelle présentation est adoptée, à savoir :

- la première partie est inchangée, les écritures locales (arabe, cyrillique etc) seront données chaque fois que possible.

- la deuxième partie comportera les noms du Bulletin de terminologie des Nations Unies (BTNU), dans les trois langues de travail du GENUNG ; le PCGN examinera la possibilité d'y ajouter les formes russes.

- une troisième partie est créée, qui comprendra les divergences acceptées par le groupe de travail ; Mr Heyda a suggéré que cette partie soit intitulée « Name used by a national authority »

- la quatrième partie, « Notes », demeure inchangée

**Sylvie Lejeune**

*Coordonnateur du groupe de travail*

### Azerbaijan

#### Information about the work on standardization of geographical names in Azerbaijan republic

Experts of the State Committee for Land and Cartography (SCLC) in cooperation with experts of other state organizations continue work on standardization of geographical names. Gradual integration of Azerbaijan into world economy, an exploitation of off – shore oil – gas fields with substantial foreign investment and development of other branches of economy as well lead to growth of significance of geographical names in Azerbaijan.

According to Presidential Decree since August 2001 all clerical works including the work on standardization of geographical names conducted in Roman alphabet. A draft law version of geographical names in Azerbaijan Republic has been prepared by the leading experts of SCLC and presented to Parliament “ Milli Medjlis “ for discussions.

Parallel with establishment of legislative basis for geographical names creation of the national program for geographical names is on the way. By this program planned:

1. Creation of digital database of geographical names.
2. Use of the list containing full and short forms of names of

the countries and territories of the world in official languages UN in order to create a database of geographical names for the foreign countries and territories.

3. Establishment of the state organization for the national standardization of geographical names.

4. Establishment of the national automated systems for the data processing of geographical names and study of work technology concerning the geographical names of those in USA and Russia.

First time after the independence, in 2001, a draft version of the list of settlements of Azerbaijan has been prepared together with the experts from Parliament. In this version settlements were distributed by two principles:

- 1) By administrative – technical order;
- 2) In alphabetical order.

Besides, characters (city, town or village) of all settlements were shown these. Currently the work is proceeding and as a result it is planned to publish official book of Parliament called “Administrative – technical division of Azerbaijan Republic ”

Normative – legislative acts of Parliament concerning settlement names still have some deficiencies. Plotting of changes on the map usually lead difficulties, as settlement names are not accompanied by graphic attachments. We have not made yet maps in Azeri language. Until now we don't have coordinates of border point turnings of many settlements and administrative borders, especially in densely populated areas. This all leads to certain difficulties in plotting of settlement names on the maps.

The work for compilation and digitalization of geographical names has already been started in 2001, based on maps of scale of 1: 50000. It is well known that before the independence the maps of scale of 1: 50000 have only been printed in Russian language.

Therefore, all compiled geographical names are in Russian language accompanied by its Azeri version. For the data digitalization, geographic coordinates of the first letter of geographical names were written out in front of those places on the maps of scale 1 : 50000. Until now 130 map sheets on the scale of 1: 50000 reviewed. It covers approximately 60 % of the

territory of country. Compilation and specifying the lists, the experts of SCLC and National Academy of Sciences currently carry on standardization of geographical names. Compilation of the lists of geographical names out of the maps on the scale of 1: 50000 has its own peculiarities.

The geographical names on the maps had many spelling mistakes, as those maps were drawn and published by the experts who were not able to use Azeri language. These mistakes created a certain difficulties for our work in search of Azeri version of correct geographical names.

Besides, many geographical names of Azerbaijan have been descended from different nations inhabiting this region. Some geographical names consist of the word or part of the word of two or more nations.

We shall work hard for precise definition of this geographical names.

In order to reflect these geographical names in Azeri language, on geodetic maps of the scale 1: 50000, our experts created tables for type view and size in Roman alphabet. Every type view and size here has its code for the data digitalization.

Parallel with achievements we experience also some difficulties. Until now, in our country a state agency for national standardization of geographical names not yet established.

Creation of digital database for the geographical names of Azerbaijan is on the initial stage.

Because of the lack of control in many publications and media different readings of the same geographical names are found. Also, many misspelling of geographical names of foreign countries and territories in the programmes of non-government channels. We have not started yet a digital database creation of geographical names of foreign countries and territories.

We also have difficulties in creation of automated systems for the data processing of geographical names. At the same time in some publications of different countries there are inaccuracies in the maps of our country. These inaccuracies concern the state boundaries and geographical names of Azerbaijan. In order to eliminate these problems it is necessary to establish a certain relations with those countries.

We have to make a glossary of terms for geographical names, publish in Azeri language, in full and short forms, list of names of countries and territories of the world and print other normative – technical documents out.

It is necessary to have financial and scientific – technical support, which is lacking, to overcome aforesaid problems. We also rely upon support and conception of UN expert group on standardization of geographical names.

## **Resume :**

Gradual integration of Azerbaijan into world economy, exploitation of off –shore oil – gas fields with substantial foreign investment and also development of other branches of economy leads to growth of significance of geographical names in Azerbaijan.

One of the goals of the national program for standardization of geographical names is creation of digital database for geographical names of Azerbaijan and foreign countries. By this program it is planned to establish state agency for national standardization of geographical names and create an automated system for data processing of the geographical names. By this program it is already created a primary version of the list of settlement names and compiled a list of geographical names out of the map on scale of 1:50000 covering approximately 60 % of the territory of Azerbaijan.

In order to reflect these geographical names in Azeri language on geodetic maps of the scale 1 : 50000, our experts created tables for type view and size in Roman alphabet. Every type view and size here has its code for data digitalization.

In some publications of different countries there are inaccuracies in maps of our country. To eliminate these problems it's necessary to establish a certain relations with those countries.

## **G.Sh. Mammadov**

*Chairman of the State Committee For Land and Cartography of Azerbaijan Republic*

# Canada

## Provincial name change

The Governor General of Canada, proclaimed on 6 December 2001 that the name of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. In French, the new name is rendered as Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador.

### Une Déclaration de services toponymiques aux citoyens

La loi québécoise sur l'administration publique prévoit que les ministères et organismes qui fournissent directement des services à la population doivent prendre en compte les attentes exprimées par les citoyens. Ces ministères et organismes doivent en outre publier une déclaration des services qu'ils fournissent aux citoyens. À titre d'organisme public, la Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada) a donc rendu publique et diffusé sa propre déclaration de services, contribuant ainsi à faire mieux connaître la mission toponymique de l'État parmi la population. La déclaration comprend l'énoncé de cette mission, l'énumération des principaux produits et services,

les engagements de la Commission quant à la qualité de ceux-ci, le canal de transmission des commentaires et des plaintes et les coordonnées pour joindre son équipe. On peut consulter cette déclaration de services aux citoyens à l'adresse <<http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca>>.

### Geographical names service workshop

Early in December 2001, 40 participants, including representatives of the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) and their computer / database experts, and staff from Geomatics Canada, convened for a two-day workshop in Ottawa. The purpose of the workshop was to educate the participants about evolving data management initiatives, the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI), and the new Canadian Geographical Names Service (CGNS), the next generation of technology for the distribution of geographical names in Canada.

The workshop was organized to meet the needs of both the business and technical communities within the group. The outcome of the workshop was a better informed data provider community, commitment to the task, consensus on a process for loading and maintaining the data warehouse, and most important, a synergy for moving forward with the CGNS initiative.

### Liaison with the United States

Members of the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) and its Secretariat took part in the meeting of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) in Boise, Idaho, in early September. Later, the same month, representatives of COGNA and the USBGN had another opportunity to exchange view during the GNBC's annual meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

### Kathleen O'Brien

*GNBC Coordinator*

*Geographical Names Board of Canada*

# United States of America

## US BGN International Activities

The thirteenth course on geographical names (applied toponymy) offered under the auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History was held in Bogotá, Colombia 23 July – 3 August 2001. The course was highly successful for 32 students from Colombia and one from Venezuela. Students attended lectures regarding the need and procedures for standardizing geographical names and methods of processing and establishing such a program. There was also an intensive field exercise and a workshop on automation, which included all aspects of database design and operation.

The Executive Secretary of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) of the United States attended the Annual Conference of the Geographical Names Board of Canada where an informal meeting of the Canada/U.S. Division was held. Topics of mutual interest were discussed especially matters regarding transboundary names and also those relating to automation.

Since the last newsletter, the staff and members of the Undersea Features Advisory Committee have processed numerous

requests for names intended for use by the U.S. government based upon discoveries and a need for names for increased charting activities in the world's oceans.

Similarly, the staff and members of the Board's Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names has processed numerous names needed for application on large-scale maps being produced for U.S. usage.

## US BGN Domestic Names Committee Activities

The Domestic Names Committee (DNC) of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names meets monthly, and has rendered decisions on 98 newly proposed names and adjudicated 114 controversial names and issues since our last report. The DNC staff responded to more than 7,000 inquiries of which approximately 75 percent were by e-mail. We are pleased to announce that since the last newsletter, one State has established a geographic names authority bringing the total of such organizations to 49 States and two Territories (Indiana, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas remain without such a names authority).

The DNC members and staff participated in the 2001 Annual Conference of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) hosted by the Idaho State Geographic Names Board, and held in Boise, Idaho. The conference was a success and was well attended by almost 70 registrants. Attendees included representatives of the Canadian Geographical Names Board, and an informal meeting of the U.S./Canada Division was held. The conference included an array of papers on various toponymic themes and the regular event known as the State/Federal Roundtable where issues of policy and procedures are addressed by officials from local and State governments, and the Federal Government. The host State Board held its regular meeting, as did the DNC of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The next annual conference of COGNA will be held 23-27 July 2002 in Baltimore, Maryland at the Inner Harbor.

The National Geographic Names Data Compilation program is very active with extensive compilation underway in Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut,

Rhode Island, and Texas. The contract for data compilation in Kentucky was scheduled for 2001, but has been postponed still leaving only the States of Kentucky, New York, Alaska, and Michigan to be scheduled for this program. Additional activity includes working with the Hawaii State Board on Geographic Names establishing the proper form of indigenous names in that State, and a similar project with the names authority in Guam for establishing indigenous forms for names in that Territory.

The official website for geographic names in the U.S. <<http://geonames.usgs.gov>> continues to be popular with more than 25,000 accesses per day, and numerous digital State gazetteers are downloaded daily. The same is true for the site for foreign names recognized for use by the Federal government with a similar number of accesses daily, and now digital country gazetteers can be downloaded. The U.S. Antarctica Geographic Names Database may also be accessed at the domestic site, and the undersea names data are available at our foreign names site. The web-based software for maintaining the domestic names database allows Federal and now State agencies to participate in maintenance of the database. It is fully operational, and the Geographic Names Office has entered into an agreement with the State of Florida whereby a consortium of Federal, State, and local agencies will provide data and geometry of features to a

State digital gazetteer and the Federal Geographic Names Information System. If there is a favorable evaluation, this effort could serve as a model for other States regarding geographic names collection and maintenance. The Geographic Names Office at the U.S. Geological Survey is participating in nine "pilot projects" for development and implementation of the "National Map", which is designed to provide topographic maps that are readily available and current. Geographic names is one of eight data layers in this project. The maintenance and data compilation program continues with more than 150,000 new entries added to the database in the past six months.

The disc product of the domestic names database will be the recently revised and updated LANDVIEW V product in DVD format, which will contain the entire GNIS database fully searchable in a text mode as well as providing a spatial, mapping capability.

#### **U.S. BGN Foreign Names Activity**

The BGN Foreign Names Committee staff continues to maintain the BGN Geographic Names Data Base covering foreign areas. The database currently holds over five million place name records. It includes names of undersea features considered by the BGN Advisory Committee on Undersea Features and approved by the Board. Recent design changes to the database's web site <[.html> have improved response time performance, and now allow users to download complete country files in a format suitable for import into a geographic information system or other application software.](http://164.214.2.59/gns/html/index</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

#### **New Toponymic Publication**

*Place Names: How They Identify The World--And More*

This book is authored by Dr. Richard R. Randall, the Executive Secretary of the US Board on Geographic Names (BGN) from 1973 to 1993. It was published by Scarecrow Press in the US, in February 2001. The publication covers topics of interest not only to toponymists but also to the general public. It shows how place names identify geographic features as well as many other kinds of items, and are thus essential to a surprisingly wide range of communications. It contains numerous references as to how place names can affect political, cultural, military, and diplomatic relations among nations. While describing the broad importance of place names, the book also points out difficulties faced by nations, individually and collectively, attempting to standardize names. United States efforts in this regard since 1890 are well documented. The book reflects the author's interest in languages, music, and literature as well as his career of nearly 40 years as a geographer, cartographer, and place-name specialist with US agencies, private industry, international organizations, and as a consultant after retirement in 1993. The book has 223 pages, 11 appendices with information related to the book's contents, and lists of sources of place-names data.

#### **Roger L. Payne**

*Executive Secretary*

*U.S. Board on Geographic Names*

## Meetings

### **GeoNames 2001. International Workshop on Exonyms**

**Berchtesgaden, 1-2 October 2001**

In the framework of the 50th German Cartographic Conference in Berchtesgaden (Germany), the Dutch and German Speaking Division (DGSD) of UNGEGN organized a workshop devoted to the function and meaning of exonyms. Already the Second International Symposium on Geographical Names (GeoNames 2000), organized under the auspices of the DGSD by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy in Frankfurt am Main in March 2000, had raised this subject. Its scope was not wide enough, however, for a detailed discussion. GeoNames 2001 offered such an opportunity. It was accepted by 22 participants not only from DGSD member countries, but also from Canada, Estonia, France, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

#### **Objectives of the workshop**

Taking into account that the gradual decline in the use of exonyms intended by several resolutions of the conferences of the United Nations for the standardization of geographical names (from 1972 to 1987) and in fact observed by the end of the 1980s has not continued in the following decade at least in Central, East and Southeast European countries, it seemed to be appropriate to pursue the discussion on the use of exonyms and eventually to reconsider the general attitude of the United Nations regarding exonyms.

More specifically, the workshop was to distinguish between different categories of exonym use (by geographical object, historical layer, communicative situation, cultural relation between donor and receiver community), to investigate into current practice of exonym use according to these categories and to consider appropriate consequences for UN resolutions.

In pursuing this objective, the workshop agenda was structured into the following main items: After highlighting the advantages of endonyms as incorporated in the UN resolutions, the communication value and meaning of exonyms was discussed according to categories of use (application). Based on this theoretical background, a tour d'horizon through the practice of exonym use in individual countries and language communities was undertaken. Finally it was asked for consequences of these findings for the work of UNGEGN.

#### **Results of the workshop and proposals of UN resolutions**

(1) The general objective of the UN resolutions concerning the topics "endonym/exonym" is the reduction of the use of exonyms for the benefit of international communication, not the reduction of exonyms as such. The new data base technology provides on the one hand the ideal prerequisites for collecting exonyms and making them available for research activities; -on the other hand it will by the introduction of appropriate application-oriented classifiers contribute to a more conscious use of exonyms.

(2) There is a need of defining application-related categories regarding exonyms, e.g. categories according to object-related criteria, linguistic criteria, criteria referring to the relation donor-receiver



community, medium-related criteria, criteria related to the social level and character of communication and to the linguistic scope of the audience.

(3) Practice of exonym use: Responses on questionnaires sent to participants prior to this workshop as well as reports presented by participants on the practice of exonym use in their countries documented first and foremost the variety and divergence of exonym use. At an average, exonyms are most frequently used for state names, are also preferred by the mass media, in everyday communication, in the case of historical and natural features, whereas scientific, technical (e.g. cartographic), multinational as well as means of communication employed in the endonym country tend to make the least use of exonyms.

(4) It should be avoided outlining historical borders or historical ethnic situations by exonyms (especially important in cartographic communication).

(5) In cartographic and - if appropriate - also in other communication each exonym should be preceded by the corresponding endonym.

(6) UN efforts for standardization apply primarily to geoinformation/cartography, where a restricted use of exonyms is in any case of primary importance. However, there are other fields of application, in which the use of exonyms cannot be dispensed with. For this reason the respective names committees at the national level should publish guidelines on the use of exonyms along with the lists of exonyms already asked for.

(7) Proposed items on the topic "exonyms" to be submitted as resolutions to the 8th UN Conference 2002:

#### **CATEGORIZATION OF EXONYMS AND GUIDELINES FOR THEIR USE**

The Conference recommends that national names authorities adopt guidelines and principles concerning the use of exonyms in various types of national publications. Considering resolutions II/28, etc. the Conference reiterates that the use of exonyms should be reduced as much as possible. The first step should be to establish a database of all the existing exonyms; then the exonyms should be classified according to their acceptability and frequency of usage; this database should, as a minimum, contain the following elements for each name:

exonym, endonym, language of the endonym, romanization system used (if appropriate), feature type, location, note of acceptability, frequency of usage.

Only those exonyms recommended for national use should be published together with guidelines about their usage.

Considerable uncertainty still exists in the tourism sector with regard to the proper use of endonyms/exonyms. Only one resolution (1972, II/38) was adopted in 1972 by the UN Conference dealing with this subject. Another resolution should comprise the following aspect:

### **USE OF ENDONYMS AND EXONYMS IN THE TOURISTIC SECTOR**

Geographical names standardized in accordance with the principles of national standardization means that endonyms are to be accompanied only by those exonyms, which are widely used touristically. In order to standardize the respective exonyms, reference should be made to authoritative name gazetteers and national names boards.

At past sessions of UNGEGN as well as during former UNCDSG conferences—the topic “pronunciation” was always given minor importance. However, the correct use of foreign language endonyms also requires in most cases knowledge of proper pronunciation. A resolution on this topic should read as follows:

### **AIDS TO PRONUNCIATION**

*The Conference,*

*Recalling* Resolution I/4 (E);

*Further recalling* Resolution I/10;

*Further recalling* Resolution IV/4;

*Noting* that the most recent developments of technology allow for the rendering of the spelling of endonyms, with their diacritics, in gazetteers and toponymic databases;

*Noting further,* however, that the difficulty of correctly pronouncing many endonyms still exists;

*Recommends* that compilers of gazetteers and toponymic databases pay special attention to providing aids for pronunciation by giving general rules and/or by preparing lists of endonyms together with indications of their pronunciation, following the IPA system if it is necessary for clarification.

In the Glossary of Toponymic Terminology a short text of explanation should be added to the definition of exonyms:

### **ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION TO THE TERM "EXONYM"**

The term “area” means a country or any administrative unit established within a country for linguistic management purposes. It also includes areas where toponyms of a given language enjoy a specific status.

### **DEFINITION OF THE TERM "CROSS-BOUNDARY ENDONYM" or "BOUNDARY-CROSSING"**

A name of a given geographical feature shared by two or more countries or administrative areas established for linguistic management purposes. Examples: Alpe, Alpen, Alpes, Alpi...

A cross-boundary endonym identifying a given geographical feature refers to the whole of that feature.

(8) All resolutions referring to the matter "use of exonyms or endonyms" are to be checked against actual validity and contradictory content. In this context a paper is to be submitted to the 8th Conference. The resolutions to be considered are amongst others:

**1972:** II/28 - II/29 - II/31 - II/35 - II/38    **1977:** III/7 - III/18 - III/19    **1982:** IV/20  
**1987:** V/13

(9) It was suggested to complete the questionnaire campaign mentioned under item (3) by a more detailed inquiry on the resolutions related to the use of exonyms/endonyms as implemented by the UNGEGN Member Countries. A questionnaire should be distributed by the UNGEGN Secretariat to all national names committees.

(10) In conclusion, the question was discussed whether an UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms should be established. It was proposed to first deliberate over this suggestion with the UNGEGN Chair.

**Jörn SIEVERS**, *Frankfurt am Main*,   **Peter JORDAN**, *Wien*