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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR CARTOGRAPHY - DENMARK

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

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I. Languages

1. General remarks

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

2. The national language

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

The Danish alphabet:

Aa	Kk	Uu
Bb	Ll	Vv
Cc	Mm	Ww
Dd	Nn	Xx
Ee	Oo	Yy
Ff	Pp	Zz
Gg	Qq	Ææ
Hh	Rr	Øø
Ii	Ss	Åå
Jj	Tt	

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

The mutated letters Ææ and Øø are always kept apart from Aa and Oo respectively in alphabetical indices. On maps from the earlier part of the present century Øø is sometimes written Öö.

Åå was introduced in 1948 as a symbol for Aa aa. Åå and Aa aa, when representing Åå, are now always placed at the end of the alphabet.

The orthography of Danish place-names

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

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

Linguistic substrata recognizable in Danish place-names

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

Danish dialects

Several dialects, which differ greatly from each other, are, or were, spoken in Denmark. The dialects which now differ most from the standard language spoken in Copenhagen

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and the provincial towns are the dialect of Bornholm and
the North-, West- and South-Jutlandic dialects.

Dialect/Standard Danish in place-names

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

Minority language

The mother-tongue of approximately 25.000 Danes in
South Jutland is German but the German name-forms which cor-
respond to a number of place-names in the region are not
found on maps.

II. Name authorities and the standardization of names

The place-name committee (Stednavneudvalget), which is
composed of 1 representative from the Ministry for Cultural
Affairs (chairman), 1 from the Postal Services, 1 from the
Geodetic Institute, 1 from the public archives, 1 from the
Danish Language Commission, 2 from the county boroughs and
local councils, and 3 from the Institute for Name Research
at the University of Copenhagen, is charged with the task of
determining "the orthography of names of localities for which
there is a practical (cartographical, postal, local etc.)
need for an approved orthographical form". The term locality
embraces a number of natural features, all settlements which
consist of at least two independent units, whatever their
valuation, and individual settlement-units of more than 20 tdr.
hartkorn (a valuation). The committee is also authorized to

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determine the orthography of names of individual settlement
units of less than 20 tdr. hartkorn (a valuation) if it is
desired that such forms should be registed, together with
those of newly-coined or changed names of the above-mentioned
categories of locality. The right to authorize orthograhical
forms for the names of the above-mentioned types of locality
rests with the Minister of Cultural Affairs, under whom the
place-name committee belongs. The authorized name-forms must
be employed by all state authorities.

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

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

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

III. Source Material

1. Maps

Official maps (topographical maps) of Denmark are produced
by the Geodetic Institute, Rigsdagsgården 7, 1218 Kobenhavn K.
The most important maps are
Denmark 1:25000 (the basic topographical map).
Denmark 1:50000
Denmark 1:100000
and in addition there are a number of maps on smaller scales,
as well as maps of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

The map at the scale of 1:25000 consists of 405 sheets,
which contain approximately 100.000 names. The Geodetic Institute
is under an obligation to use the orthographical forms autho-

rized by the Minister for Cultural affairs. The large-scale
maps in particular contain a large number of names which do
not meet the requirements for authorization but these, too,
abide by the general regulations for the spelling of place-
names. Charts at different scales and sailing directions
are published by The Royal Danish Hydrographic Office, Espla-
naden 19, 1263 Copenhagen K.

2. Orthographical lists, gazetteers

Since 1932 the place-name committee has published lists
of authorised name-spellings in the individual counties
(amter). The second edition of the list of names in the
counties east of Lillebælt was published in 1978, while the
names from the rest of the country (Jutland) are expected to
appear in a new edition in 1984. The Geodetic Institute map at
the scale of 1:100000 is also published in book-form and this
contains a gazetteer of all the place-names appearing on the
map (approximately 25.000). At intervals the Post Office
publishes new editions of Postadressebogen (The postal-address
book), which contains approximately 65.000 names. The index
to Trap: Danmark, 5th edition, Copenhagen 1968) contains approxi-
mately 55.000 names.

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

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

Akademi	Academy
Akvarium	Aquarium
Amtsgård	County Hall

Andagtskors	Devotional Cross
Anstalt	Institution
Arboret	Arboretum
Atomforsøgsstation	Atomic Research Station
Badeanstalt	Public Baths
Bautasten	Menhir
Botanisk Have	Botanical Gardens
Brunkulsleje	Lignite Field
Bryggeri	Brewery
Bystævne	Village Meeting-place
Børnehjem	Childrens' Home
Båke	Beacon
Containerhavn	Container Terminal
Cyklebane	Cycle-racing Track
Dambrug	Fishing Farm
Deccastation	Decca Station
Dyrehave	Deer Park
Dyreskueplads	Cattle show area
Dysse	Barrow
Ebbevej	Ebb Causeway
Fabrik	Factory
Fagskole	Technical School
Feriehjem	Holiday Home
Feriekoloni	Holiday Settlement
Fiskerihavn	Fishing Harbour
Fjerkræfarm	Poultry Farm
Flydedok	Flooting Dock
Flyveplads	Airfield
Forbrændingsanstalt	Refuse Disposal Plant
Forsorgshjem	Approved School
Forsøgsgård	Experimental Farm
Forsøgsstation	Research Station
Frihavn	Tax-Free Port
Friluftsteater	Open-air Theatre
Fuglereservat	Bird Sanctuary
Fundsted	Site of (archaeolog.) find
Fyr	Light
Fyr (tårn)	Lighthouse

Fyrskib	Light-vessel
Fængsel	Prison
Færge	Ferry
Færge (bil)	Ferry (car)
Færge (bil, sæson)	Ferry (car seasonal)
Færge (bil- og jernbane)	Ferry (car and railway
Færge (jernbane)	Ferry (railway)
Færge (person)	Ferry (passenger)
Færge (person, sæson)	Ferry (passenger seasonal)
Færgehavn	Ferry Port
Fæstningsanlæg, oldtids	Fortification, ancient
Galopbane	Race-course
Gasværk	Gas-works
Glasværk	Glassworks
Godsstation	Goods-station
Gokartbane	Gocart Track
Golfbane	Golf course
Gymnastikhøjskole	Physical Education College
Hal	Covered Court
Havn	Harbour, Port
Hellekiste	Stone Cist
Helleristning	Rock Carving
Hospital	Hospital
Hotel	Hotel
Højskole	High School
Kalkbrud	Limestone Quarry
Kalkværk	Lime Works
Kapel	Chapel
Kilde	Spring
Kirke	Church
Klitplantørbolig	Dune-planter's House
Kloster	Convent, Monastery
Kommunegård	Local Government
Kommunekontor	Local Government Offices
Kondibane	Jogging Track
Kraftværk	Power Station
Krematorium	Crematorium
Krigergrav	Wargrave
Krucifiks	Crucifix

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Kulturhus	Cultural Centre
Kuranstalt	Sanatorium, Hydro
Kurbad	Spa
Kursuscenter	Training Centre
Køkkenmødding	Kitchen Midden
Landingsplads	Landing Ground
Lejrplads	Camping-ground
Loranstation	Loran Station
Luftfyr	Radio Beacon
Lystbådehavn	Yachting Harbour
Lægecenter	Health Centre
Læreanstalt	Educational Establishment
Marina	Marina
Mast	Mast
Mejeri	Dairy
Milesten	Milestone
Mindesmærke	Monument
Molerværk	Moler Works
Moske	Mosque
Motel	Motel
Motorbane	Motor-racing Track
Museum	Museum
Museumsbane	Veteran-Railway Track
Nationalpark	National Park
Naturreservat	Nature Reserve
Observatorium	Observatory
Oldtidsboplads	Ancient Settlement Site
Oltidsvej	Ancient Track
Oliehavn	Oil Port
Olieraffinaderi	Oil Refinery
Park	Park
Pelsdyrfarm	Fur Farm
Plejehjem	Old People's Holme
Portalkran	Gantry Crane
Pumpestation	Pumping Station
Pyrolyseværk	Pyrolysis Works
Radiofyr	Radio Beacon

Redningstation, sø	Lifeboat Station, sea
Redningstelefon	Emergency Telephone
Refugium	Retreat
Rekonvalescenthjem	Convalescent Home
Rekrationshjem	Rest Home
Rensningsanlæg	Sewage Treatment Plant
Restaurant	Restaurant
Revalideringscenter	Rehabilitation Centre
Revalideringshjem	Rehabilitation Home
Ruin	Ruin
Ruin, Oldtids	Ruin, ancient
Runesten	Runicstone
Røse	Cairn
Rådhus	Town-hall
Sanatorium	Sanatorium
Savværk	Sawmill
Seminarium	College of Education
Silo	Silo
Skanse	Entrenchment
Skibssætning	Ship-shaped Stone-setting
Skibsværft	Shipyard
Skole	School
Skovfogedbolig	Forester's Lodge
Skovriderbolig	Chief Forester's Lodge
Skydebane	Shooting-range
Slot	Castle
Stadion	Stadium
Station	Station
Stenbrud	Quarry
Sygehus	Hospital
Synagoge	Synagogue
Teglværk	Brick-works
Teknisk Højskole	Technical University
Teknologisk Institut	Technological Institute
Telemast	Telegraph Mast
Teletårn	Telegraph Tower

Danish	English
Tennisbane	Tennis Court
Terminal	Terminal
Terrarium	Vivarium
Tingsted (historisk)	Thingstead (historical)
Toldsted	Custom-house
Trafikhavn	Port
Transformer	Transformer
Transformerstation	Transformer sub-station
Travbane	Trotting Track
Udsigtstårn	Observation Tower
Ungdomshjem	Approved School
Universitet	University
Vandbeholder	Water Tank
Vandmølle	Water Mill
Vandrerhjem	Youth Hostel
Vandtårn	Water Tower
Vandværk	Waterworks
Varmeværk	District Heating Station
Vejrmølle	Windmill
Vildtbanepæl	Game Preserves Post
Vildtreservat	Game Preserve
Voldsted	Motte
Zoologisk Have	Zoological Gardens

V. Abbreviations used in the maps

Bj	Bjerg	Hill
Gde	Gårde	Farms
Gl	Gammel (-le)	Old
K	Kirke	Church
Komm	Kommune	Municipality
Kommk	Kommunekontor	" Office
Ll	Lille	Little, Small
Ml	Mølle	Mill
Nr	Nørre	North, Northern
Pt	Plantage	Plantation (of trees)
Rednst	Redningsstation	Lifeboat Station

Restr	Restaurant	Restaurant
Skovfb	Skovfogedbolig	Forester
Skovrdb	Skovriderbolig	Chief Forester
Skt	Sankt	Saint
Sr	Sønder	South, Southern
St	Store	Big, Large, Great
Stby	Stationsby	Village
Stn	Station	Railway Station
Tglv	Teglværk	Brick-works
Trb	Trinbræt	Halt
Trsf	Transformer	Transformer
Trsfst	Transformerstation	Transformer Station
Vandv	Vandværk	Waterworks
Vml	Vandmølle	Water Mill
Vr	Vester	West, Western
Ør	Øster	East, Eastern