Why names are changing

Nico Bakker
Activists are renaming streets in the Netherlands after famous women. Welcome to Beyoncé Blvd.
Many reasons

- New objects
- Merging municipalities
- Temporal changes
- Other languages
- Promoting dialects
- Official spelling change
- Masculine names
- Bad Heroes
- New heroes are honoured
- Marketing reasons
- Nicknames/Carnival names
- Etcetera
New objects

* Of course, when new objects are created, like streets, buildings, canals or newly reclaimed land, we need to give them an appropriate name.
* F.e. Reclaimed land in the former Zuiderzee
New reclaimed land

1925

2018
Merging municipalities

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Merging municipalities

Wn means: municipality Wanneperveen
Known as Leeuwarden, Ljouwert and Liwwadden, along with hundreds of variants over the centuries, 2018’s European Capital of Culture is the world’s undisputed capital of place names.
Other languages
Introduction of Frisian Language on Topographic Maps

1982

2000

2017
WASHINGTON — President Obama's three-day trip to Alaska this week will literally change the map of the nation's 49th state. Mount McKinley — the 20,237-foot mountain and the tallest in North America — has been renamed Denali, as it was originally known by Alaska Natives before it was renamed to honor President William McKinley. The mountain, which sits in the 6 million-acre Denali national park, has been known as Denali in Alaska since 1975. Under an order signed by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, the Denali name will also take effect for all federal usage and, therefore, on all official maps. The order was signed Friday, but the White House asked that it be announced Monday as part of Obama's trip to Alaska to highlight the effects of climate change in the Arctic. The White House said the name change "recognizes the sacred status of Denali to generations of Alaska Natives."
Focus on geographical name changes
Promoting local dialects

An activist changes Ekehaar in Leghaor (photo: RTV Drenthe)
Dialect names in Drenthe and Groningen

Op stee
Drentse en Groninger plaatsnamen verzameld

Samenstelling
Abel Darwinkel

Op stee
Drentse en Groninger plaatsnamen verzameld

Samenstelling
Eline Brontsema en Siemon Reker

[Map showing dialect names in Drenthe and Groningen]
Changes of official spelling

Spelling according to spelling act 1947
In ‘Kleine Bosatlas’ 1974

After protests changed back to current spelling
Activists are renaming streets in the Netherlands after famous women. Welcome to Beyoncé Blvd.
Residents of the Netherlands, go check outside — you might now be living on Beyoncé Boulevard.

This week, Dutch activists plastered new signs on 43 streets across the Netherlands, unofficially renaming them to honor the legacies of prominent women in sports, television, politics and activism.

"And, of course, Beyoncé," said Santi van den Toorn, one of the leaders behind the movement and the co-founder of De Bovengrondse, an activist group working toward gender equality.
Dam in Amsterdam changed to Dame (=Lady)
Masculine names

The movement began in March, in response to a new study published by the Dutch news website De correspondent, which found that, out of three cities examined across the Netherlands, 88% of streets are named after men.

"In light of this, we wanted to raise awareness that inequality still exists across many aspects of society," Toorn told CNN, "and often we don't even think about it or realize."
Denk wil andere naam voor Coentunnel

Denk (political party) wants other name for Coentunnel
‘Bad street names’ can be found everywhere. Some examples of historical figures Heroes of the Golden Age are by some historians now seen as criminals:

- **Prince Maurits** (has brought slaves to South America)

- **Jan Pieterszoon Coen**
  There is already discussion on by past infected names in Netherlands. A school in Amsterdam no longer wants the name of Jan Pieterszoon Coen. The J.P. Coen school retrieves the name of the facade because parents and teachers opposed the man who played a role in the slavery and the violent colonisation of Indonesia.

* **Witte de With** (Admiral of the Dutch East India Company and so involved in exploitation of colonies)

The proposal from the LPF party in Eindhoven to maintain the street name "Witte de With" is rejected by the municipality council and the street name is substituted by the name "Barbaros". But that is a Turkish pirate who has sown death and destruction in Europe in the sixteenth century.

*Not every change gives a better name*
Commercial reasons and internationalization

1936 Vliegveld Eelde

1957 Luchtvaart terrein

1970 Luchthaven Eelde

2018 Groningen Airport Eelde
Marketing for tourists

- Zandvoort
- Keukenhof
- Amsterdam Beach
- Old Holland
- New Land
- Castles & Gardens of Amsterdam
- Vechtstreek
Provincial road N34 is renamed Hunebed Highway (Dolmen)
Temporal Carnival names

Carnival is celebrated mainly in South-Netherlands
Temporal Carnival names

Topographic map 1:250,000

Carnival map
conclusions

* There are many reasons why names change in time.
* Some are new names for new objects
* But also politicians and activists are arguing about the right names
* Former heroes are disputed, females observe that most street names are named to males
* Tourists boards want to attract regions by given nicknames and/or English names
* So work will continue for UNGEGN and mapmakers