



Newsletter

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

No. 18-19
September 1997

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electronic mail. Please address
requests to stabe@un.org

Message from the Chairman

Dear Colleagues,

1. UN Conference and UNGEGN Session

As we have been informed by the Secretary of the Group, Mr. K. Hans Stabe, both the 7th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the 19th Session of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names have been postponed until January 1998. This postponement provides us with an additional opportunity for preparations.

As in the past, the first part of the UNGEGN will take place on the day preceding the Conference, and the second part on the day after the Conference. Formal invitations to participate in the Conference will be sent by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to individual countries via their Permanent Missions to the United Nations.

The hope is expressed that more developing countries will be able to send delegates to the Conference. Where this is not possible, they are urged to submit country reports. The UN Economic Commission for Africa has offered to cooperate with the UNGEGN and is urged to inform its member countries in this respect.

The following comments are offered to enlighten and guide delegates attending a Conference for the first time. Complete guidelines for the preparation and submission of reports and working papers will accompany the invitation of the Secretary-General.

The Conference presents the opportunity for each country to report on activities and progress on geographical name standardization since the previous conference. Committees will discuss national programmes, technical programmes and international programmes respectively. Under national standardiza-

tion are discussed such topics as field collection of names, office treatment of names, treatment of names in multilingual areas, administrative structure of national names authorities, toponymic guidelines for maps and other editors, and exonyms. The committee on technical programmes will deliberate on matters such as toponymic data files (data collection procedures, data elements required, ADP systems, compatibility and structure of systems, etc.), national gazetteers and other publications, and terminology in the standardization of geographical names. The committee on international programmes will deal with names of features beyond a single sovereignty, features common to two or more nations, writing systems and romanization, toponymic education and training and international cooperation in this regard, cooperation with international organizations, cooperation with public information media, cooperation with international organizations, cooperation with public information media, cooperation with national and international agencies and other bodies, and so forth.

During the course of the Conference resolutions will be drafted. Those decided upon will be submitted to the United Nations Economic and Social Council for adoption.

For the edification and convenience of delegates and experts, a number of documents has been collated under the title United Nations Documents on Geographical Names. These include the Rules of Procedure of the UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names, the Statute of the UNGEGN, resolutions adopted at the previous six conferences alphabetically arranged by subject, the English version of the Glossary of Technical Terminology, and transliteration tables for the romanization of eight non-Roman scripts. This publication may be ordered from the Names Research Institute, P.O. Box

26582, Gezina, 0031 Pretoria, South Africa, at US\$30.00, including packaging and postage.

2. Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors

Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors of the various countries have repeatedly been identified as among the most useful products of the UNGEGN. Experts who have not yet done so are therefore urged to prepare such Guidelines as working papers for the forthcoming Conference. Those wishing guidance as to information to be included are referred to resolution 4 of the Fourth Conference.

I thank those experts who sent me the Toponymic Guidelines of their countries for publication in combined volumes as recommended by resolution 7 of the Sixth Conference. Unfortunately too few have been received to warrant a publication at this

stage. I have pleasure in inviting those experts who wish to have their Guidelines included in the first volume to send them to me in hard copy and diskette. Should you require the specifications, please let me know.

3. Acknowledgements

My sincere and heartfelt thanks are expressed to the Secretariat of the UNGEGN, to the Chairpersons of Divisions, Convenors of the Working Groups, liaison officers and representatives of intergovernmental and other organizations, and individual experts and colleagues, for continued cooperation and support. I look forward to seeing you at the Conference.

Peter E. Raper
South Africa

Rolf Böhme

The *Ständiger Ausschuß für Geographische Namen* (StAGN, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) lost in Rolf Böhme one of its very active and committed members. His creative activity for the cause of geographical names lasted until shortly before his death in May 1997. Still in March 1997 this year he took part in a meeting of StAGN at which he expressed his thanks for the Honorary Membership which had been conferred on him in autumn 1996 on the occasion of the 100th Meeting of StAGN held in Vienna, in which he was unfortunately unable to participate for reasons of health.

In the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), he was one of the great men representing the German language group at international level with outstanding success and diplomatic skill. Rolf Böhme participated in the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Athens in 1977, in Geneva in 1982, and in Montreal in 1987 as well as in a great many of UNGEGN Working Sessions for preparing the Conferences. In recognition of his international activities and merits, official tasks and functions were regularly assigned to him at such international events. A primary result of these activities was the Gazetteer of the Federal Republic of Germany which was published in 1981 on his initiative together with the "Toponymic Guidelines Germany for Map and other Editors" by the *Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie* (IFAG) in Frankfurt am Main.

During recent years since his retirement, he committed himself within the scope of StAGN to the establishment of a "List of Selected Exonyms of the

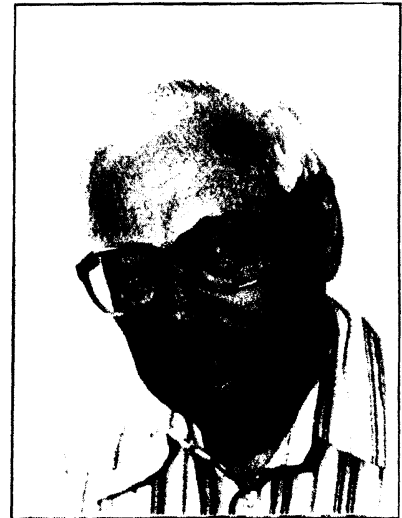
German Language" (1994), a "German Glossary of Toponymic Terminology" (1995), as well as the elaboration of a "Concise Gazetteer Germany" (in preparation), and the revision of the "Toponymic Guidelines Germany" for the third edition.

Rolf

Böhme distinguished himself by handing functions and tasks over to his successors always at the right moment, and by his ability to share his rich experience and knowledge with others. Hence, it was always sheer pleasure to collaborate with him within StAGN in all of his excellent work, and to benefit from his rich experience.

We deeply regret the loss of Rolf Böhme who was indeed an esteemed colleague, a recognized expert and advisor, and a good friend. The expert knowledge he brought into StAGN will no doubt have a lasting impact and effect.

J Sievers
Chairman, StAGN
Germany



Rolf Böhme
(1917 - 1997)

Rolf Böhme: An Expert and a Friend

The news of the passing of Rolf Böhme came as a great shock to me and my wife. We knew he had been ill, but, as always in such cases, we hoped to see and hear more of him before his departure.

It was in Athens that I first really got to know Rolf Böhme. He was accompanied by his wife Gisela during the Third International Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. From my first encounter with them I was struck by the close relationship they exhibited. We are told that we know a man by the company he keeps. No man keeps closer company than his wife. A man who manages to win and keep a wife like Gisela must have some remarkable qualities himself.

It was in Athens also that I first discovered that he was a gifted water-colour artist and during all the years that followed our time in Athens I have seen many examples of the quality of his work. He had an eye for composition and a flair for the balance of colour.

Within the United Nations he will always be associated in my mind with the gazetteer for the 1:500,000 scale map of Germany. We in the United Kingdom have been brought up in the tradition of gazetteers. In any emergency soldiers ask "where is the gazetteer?" In Germany there was no such tradition and I remember clearly Rolf telling me: "In Germany they do not know the meaning of the word". Some Experts will recall the energy with which Rolf set about the task of producing the 1:500,000 scale gazetteer, the first of its kind in two senses. It was the first gazetteer of Germany produced under the auspices of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, but above all it was the first gazetteer produced by what we used to call Automated Data Processing (ADP).

UNGEGN had already established the model for a gazetteer of the conventional kind, that is to say a gazetteer printed in the ordinary way and bound as one or more volumes. As we know, such works are very difficult to edit and to revise, and very costly to

replace, involving new compilation followed by costly printing and binding. The "German" gazetteer, being produced by ADP, offered far greater scope for maintenance and for re-issue in the form of new editions. Experts will recall details of the discussions we had over the codes for feature designations. This was a topic close to Rolf's heart. We discussed it both during Meetings and in the free periods between. In my mind I see now the triumphant look in Rolf Böhme's eye on the day he was bringing the final publication to the Group of Experts. His words to me were "This is it!"

I also have very fond recollections of our time in Cisarua where we were both lecturing at the first toponymy course held in Indonesia, the students being drawn from Indonesia and neighbouring countries. There was plenty of opportunity for me to observe at close quarters Rolf's attention to detail, his unbounding enthusiasm for field work and its subsequent processing. I am sure Rolf would not object to me mentioning the time when we had just completed a whole day's work in the field. Summarizing the results of our work at the end of the day, we, the party leaders, all found loose ends and minor deficiencies in our protracted day's work. We made the necessary manuscript amendments and regarded the task as concluded. Not so Rolf. He insisted on a careful and complete editing, keeping his team's heads bent over their work until all was to his satisfaction. That was Rolf — always striving after perfection.

During the course, he still found time to make sketches of the luxuriant Indonesian landscape and would often point out to me a particular character of the scenery when we sat together in a vehicle. I also took advantage of his expertise when it came to buying the pictures which now hang on the walls of our home. They serve as a reminder of Rolf and the past.

Each year we would look forward to receiving his Christmas cards, in the hope that one of his water colours would form the basis of the card. Our favourite Christmas card from him - a lovely water colour - has

for many years also graced a wall in our house.

Over and above all my many recollections of Rolf is a special photograph which I treasure. It is a panoramic photograph covering a whole 360° taken in the Caucasus during World War II. On one occasion in one of the sessions of the Group of Experts I happened to mention this remarkable photograph to Rolf Böhme. To my utter astonishment he told me that he was the person who had taken it. He then went on to describe the mounting of the camera and the subsequent operation required to complete this spectacular photograph. I wonder how many other copies, if any, are still extant. As far as I am concerned, it is in itself a remarkable memento, the personal value of which has been enhanced by my knowledge of the person who took it. It will remain a treasured keepsake for that reason, ever reminding me of a friend and valued colleague in the fields of cartography and geographical names.

H. A. G. Lewis
Chairman PCGN
United Kingdom

Notes on the Nineteenth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names & the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

Most of the Experts will have received the message, that, unfortunately, the Nineteenth Session and the Seventh Conference could not take place in Tehran, Iran, in September 1997 as originally scheduled. Our colleague Mr. Malmirian, has sent us in this connection the following message:

To the esteemed members of United Nations
Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

As you are informed through the Note Verbale of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, despite of our utmost endeavour, the Conference could not take place in Tehran, due to technical reasons, and due to simultaneity of the Seventh Conference and the Nineteenth Session of the Group of Experts with the summit of the heads of the OIC. We take this opportunity to express our regret to all the member countries and particularly for causing inconvenience to the staff of the Secretariat of the Group.

H.Malmirian
G. Director, N.G.O

Subsequently, the Economic and Social Council has decided, that the Conference and the Session of the Group of Experts will take place at the United

Nations Headquarters in New York in the period from 12 to 23 January 1998.

All members, non-members, and organizations have received from the Secretary-General of the United Nations a Note Verbale dated 7 July 1997 inviting them to participate in the Conference. This Note has been sent to the Permanent Missions of each State who in turn forward it to their headquarters, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs. From there it should go to that Ministry which is responsible for the activities in the field of standardization of geographical names.

The preparations for the Conference and the Session of the Group of Experts are well underway. Tentatively these events will take place in Conference Room 2.

The Secretariat asks all Experts who intend to submit papers to the Conference and/or the Session of the Group of Experts, to do this well before the Conference and send them to us, if possible already in October 1997. Please remember, the Secretariat will need two hard copies of each paper: one in single spacing, one in double spacing and a diskette with the text. To expedite the transmission, you may use the following e-mail address: *stabe@un.org*

Please also note that no pictures can be transmitted through the e-mail and properly received here. The same is true for certain diacritical signs. For these materials we will need in all cases hard copies and a diskette. Kindly do not consider preparing papers at the last minute and bringing them with you to the Conference, as doing this will create a very heavy burden on the Secretariat.

Official Records of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Vol. II: Technical Papers

We are pleased to announce, that the Volume II. Technical Papers of the Sixth Conference has finally been issued and released. It has been mailed out in the same manner as the Note Verbale (see above). It is anticipated that attending experts have received it through their Government channels. Additional copies can be ordered from and paid for at the United Nations' Sales Publications book store (e-mail address is *publications@un.org*).

Reorganization at Headquarters

The Secretariat of the United Nations is currently in the process of restructuring. Since 1 July 1997 the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names reports to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), as do all cartographic activities and services previously reporting to the former Department for Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS).

Until the end of 1997 Cartography and Geographical Names activities will remain in the Natural Resources and Environment Management Branch, Division for Economic and Social Development and Natural Resources Management (NREMB/DESDNRM).

As of 1 January 1998 new changes for this sector are expected and will be made known at an appropriate time.

Corrigendum to Newsletter No. 17

The Secretariat very much regrets the errors that occurred in Newsletter No. 17 and the inconvenience that might have been caused by these errors.

The text on the following page, which was not available in digital form, was prepared by Mr. H.A.G. Lewis.

NEWSLETTER NO. 17, MAY 1996 - CORRIGENDA

Page 3 After "General remarks on UNGEGN" insert
"by H.A.G. Lewis, (UK)"

Page 3, third line from bottom Delete "has", insert "have"

Page 4, first paragraph, line 2 Delete "favor", insert
"favour".

Page 4, line 2 After 1967 insert "and".

Page 4, fourth paragraph, line 5 Delete "onomastic" and
insert "onomastics".

Page 4, fifth paragraph, line 3 Delete "involved" and
insert "involve".

Page 4, sixth paragraph, sub-paragraph 1, line 1 Delete
"onomastic" and insert "onomastics".

Page 5, line 3 Delete "as" and insert "a".

Page 5, line 11 Delete "eye" and insert "eyes"

Page 5, line 14 Delete "ethno-morass" and insert
"ethno-political morass".

Page 5 After "The definition of exonym and endonym" insert
"by H.A.G. Lewis (UK)"

Page 5, 8th line from bottom of page Delete "exonyms" and
insert "exonym".

Page 5, 2nd line from bottom of page Delete "names" and
insert "name".

Page 6, paragraph 2, line 3 Delete "Geneva" and insert
"Genève".

Page 7, line 7 Delete "official" and insert "officially
recognized".

Page 15 After the title "B. Working Group on Toponymic
Data Files and Gazetteers" delete "Peter Raper (South Africa)"
and insert "H.A.G. Lewis (UK)".

Page 15, line 11 from the bottom of the page Delete "at
present time" and insert "at the present time".

Page 16, third paragraph, line 1 Delete "hard-backed" and
insert "hard-back".

Page 16, fifth paragraph, line 3 Delete "date" and insert
"data" to read "data is up-to-date".

Page 16, sixth paragraph, sub-paragraph 1 Delete "off" and
insert "of".

Africa South Division

International Seminar on the Standardization of Geographical Names - Korea

The Chairman of the Africa South Division (ASD) of the UNGEGN, Dr. Peter E. Raper, was invited by the UNGEGN expert of Korea, Prof. Ki-Suk Lee, to participate in an *International Seminar on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Special Emphasis concerning the East Sea*.

The Seminar was organized by Professor Ki-Suk Lee, Head of Urban Geography at Seoul National University. It was hosted by Jun-Hyun Kim, President of Seoul City University, and sponsored by the Korea Foundation, the Korea Research Foundation and the Haesung Ethical Society.

The theme of the Seminar centered on the names *East Sea* and *Sea of Japan*, and placed the focus on the international standardization of geographical names. The paper read by Dr. Raper "The United Nations and standardization of geographical names" dealt specifically with UN resolutions referring to the standardization of names of geographical features that are under the sovereignty of more than one country or are divided among two or more countries, resolution 111/20, as well as other underlying resolutions referring to this complex problem of shared features. The full paper may be ordered from the Secretary of the ASD.

While in Korea, Dr. Raper ascertained the membership structure and representation of the Korean national geographical names authority. This will be useful for member countries of the Africa South Division which are in the process of establishing or reconstituting national naming authorities.

Reconstitution of South African National Naming Authority

A Working Forum on Geographical Names was established to advise the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology on the reconstitution and renaming of the National Place Names Committee in accordance with recommendations of the White Paper on Arts, Culture, and Heritage, and based on United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, and criteria regarding national naming authorities. Dr. Raper was appointed as Chairman to the Working Forum, and in their report it was recommended that the Committee be renamed the *South African Geographical Names Commission*. The public and interested persons were invited to comment on the report. A Draft Bill was also prepared for the inclusion of the South African Geographical Names Commission into the legislature together with other related heritage and cultural institutions of the National Heritage Council.

18th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

Two experts from the Africa South Division, Dr. P.E. Raper and Dr. L.A. Moeller, attended the 18th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) held at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland, from 12 to 23 August 1996.

Dr. L.A. Moeller presented two working papers at the Session, Working Paper no 1, *Report of the Africa South Division*, under Item 5 of the Agenda: "Reports of the Divisions," and Working Paper no. 96, Report on the Fourth United Nations Training Course in Geographical Names in South Africa, un-

der Item 7, "Reports of the Working Groups: Report on the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy."

Meetings of the Division

Contact was maintained with representatives of the member countries of the Africa South Division by correspondence and invitations to participate in the *United Nations Training Course on Geographical Names: In Africa for Africa, and the Ninth Southern African Names Congress*.

Toponymy Training Courses

From 1 to 10 July 1996, the Fourth UN Training Course in Geographical Names was held in Pretoria. It was co-presented by Dr. P. E. Raper and Dr. L. A. Möller, the Department of Geography of the University of Pretoria and the Topocadastral Information Service of the City Council of Pretoria. Twenty-four participants from five countries enrolled and received certificates from the university after intensive training in theoretical aspects, database automation, fieldwork and workshops, as well as a mock committee meeting in which policy and principles were formulated, and a draft law and fieldwork questionnaire were discussed. A full report of this training course in toponymy appeared as Working Paper no 96, Agenda item no. 7 of the Eighteenth Session of the UNGEGN.

Following the successful toponymy training courses in previous years, preparations for future United Nations Training Courses on Geographical Names continue, and may be held as soon as November 1997. The continuation of these courses was felt to be essential in view of the developments regarding the reconstitution of the national names authority in South Africa; the establishment of such authorities in other member countries of the ASD, as well as for the closer co-operation of the member countries of the Division.

Ninth Southern African Names Congress

The Ninth Southern African Names Congress was arranged by Prof. Adrian Koopman of the Natal Branch of the Names Society of Southern Africa (NSA), and was held from 24 to 27 September 1996 at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

As keynote speaker, Professor Ferjan Ormeling Jr., expert to the UNGEGN representing the Netherlands, spoke on "Cartographic Problems in a Multilingual Society". Prof. Ormeling's expertise in mapping strategies in countries with more than one official language was greatly relevant to the South African situation, where cartographers are faced with the problem of mapping a country that used to have two official languages, but now has eleven.

A total of 45 papers was read at the congress covering a wide range of topics, focusing especially on indigenous names and names in literature. As part of the proceedings, a panel discussion between members of the Pietermaritzburg-Msunduzi Transitional Local Council and the authors of the book, *Changing place names*, E.R. Jenkins, P.E. Raper and L.A. Moeller, was conducted during the session on toponymy.

The address of the Africa South Division has changed to:

Names Research Institute
P.O. Box 26582
0031 GEZINA
Pretoria, South Africa

Lucie A. Moeller,
Secretary of the ASD
South Africa
Tel. no: (012) 302-2164
Fax no: (012) 326-5362
e-mail: lamoller@silwane.hsra.ac.za

Arab Division

Dans le cadre des activités de la Division Arabe, des contacts sont en cours en vue d'organiser au Maroc, vers la fin de l'année, une réunion du Groupe Arabe pour étudier un certain nombre de thèmes d'intérêt commun notamment :

- la translittération du caractère arabe au caractère latin.
- Préparation du rapport de groupe arabe qui sera présenté à la 7^o conférence.
- Elaboration des glossaires des noms géographiques dans le monde arabe etc...

A l'occasion de l'année Internationale Ibn Battouta (Mai 1997-Mai 1998) une rencontre Scientifique Internationale sur Ibn Battouta a été organisée à Tanger au Maroc du 9 au 12 Mai 1997 et ce en guise de reconnaissance au rôle important qu' a joué Ibn Battouta dans l'enrichissement du patrimoine géographique par le biais de son célèbre voyage. D'éminentes personnalités scientifiques internationales ont participé à cette rencontre en marge de laquelle plusieurs activités ont eu lieu :

- Le domaine des noms géographiques a vu la « naissance » d'un toponyme de portée internationale en effet :

L'Aéroport International de Tanger s'appelle désormais: «Aéroport International IBN Battouta» .

- l'Administration de la Cartographie Marocaine a imprimé une carte retraçant l'itinéraire d'Ibn Battouta et le Ministre des P.T.T a émis un timbre postal spécial à l'occasion.

- Un film sur le grand voyage d'Ibn Battouta est en cours de réalisation par l'Organisation Islamique pour l'Education, les Sciences et la Culture (ISESCO) et le Centro Italiano per la Diffusione dello Spettacolo Nazionale all'Estero (ITALSPETTACOLO) en collaboration avec les télévisions de tous les pays visités par Ibn Battouta.

Dr.Abdelhadi Tazi
Maroc

Asia South-East & Pacific South-West Division

Very little activity has occurred within the Division since the Eighteenth Session of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names. Unfortunately the toponymy training course proposed for Darwin, Australia in June/July this year had to be cancelled due to lack of participants.

Preliminary discussions have been undertaken with the view of seeing if the training course could be held about mid next year in Brunei Darussalam.

J.R. Parker,
Chairman,
Australia.

Baltic Division

The Baltic Division, established in pursuance of Resolution 1 of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, comprises of experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation.

In April 1997 the Toponymic Training Courses and the Second Meeting of the Division were held in Riga, Latvia.

Toponymic Training Courses

On 22 - 24 April 1997 the State Land Service of Latvia, the Scientific Laboratory of Regional Cartography and Toponymy at the University of Latvia, the State Language Centre, the Latvian Language Institute and the Baltic Division of UNGEGN organized in Riga the International Training Courses in Toponymy of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN that was attended by 74 participants from 10 countries. Below is a short version of the programme of the courses.

Topics

Lecturer

General Topics

■ Applied toponymy

- terminology
- history of applied toponymy
- linguistic aspects of geographic names
- survey of national programs throughout the world

Randall E. Flynn (United States)

■ United Nations and the standardization of geographical names

- UN conferences on the standardization of names
- UNGEGN

Helen Kerfoot (Canada)

National Standardization

■ National names authorities

- basis for establishing principles of standardization
- policies, procedures, methodology and guidelines

Randall E. Flynn (United States)

■ Exonyms

Eeva Maria Närhi (Finland)

■ Naming policies and procedures in Canada

Helen Kerfoot (Canada)

■ The standardization of geographical names in Sweden

Hans Ringstam (Sweden)

-
- Norwegian Place Names Act and its implementation Botolv Helleland (Norway)
 - On the development of the treatment of place names in Finland Sirkka Paikkala (Finland)
 - Video presentation from Finland on the collection of place names
 - Video presentation from Canada: What's in a Toponym?
- Geographical Names Databases**
- Automated data processing Randall E. Flynn (United States)
 - introduction (terminology, hardware, software, database management systems)
 - office processing (data verification, loading the data)
 - data retrieval requirements and techniques
 - maintenance procedures
 - national gazetteers
 - GEOnet Names Server (GNS) of the US BGN Randall E. Flynn (United States)
 - Canadian Geographical Names Data Base and Geographical Names web site Helen Kerfoot (Canada)
 - Geographical names in the Swedish property register and the property reform Hans Ringstam (Sweden)
- Standardization of Dialectal Place Names (*round table discussion*)**
- Geographical names on the official maps of Sweden with some aspects of dialectal writing Hans Ringstam (Sweden)
 - Handling of dialectal names in Lithuania Marija Razmukait (Lithuania)
- Toponymic Guidelines**
- Introduction Peeter Päll (Estonia)
 - Toponymy of the Russian Federation Vladimir Boginsky (Russian Federation)
 - Toponymy of Estonia Peeter Päll (Estonia)
 - Legal procedures concerning place names in Latvia Jurgis Kavacs (Latvia)

The course attendants were given a wide range of lectures on both international aspects of geographical names standardization as well as on national programmes in the Nordic countries, Canada and the United

States. Particular emphasis was put on names automation: data processing, database models, maintenance procedures, names web sites, etc. One day was devoted to matters of the Baltic Division members, this included a lively round table discussion on the standardization of dialectal names (reviews on policies in the three Baltic states as well as in Canada, Norway and Sweden) and toponymic guidelines.

These courses were highly valued by the participants who represented a whole range of institutions: national mapping authorities, language institutes, universities and academies of sciences, ministries, post agencies, statistics boards, national registers, schools and organizations dealing with research into local history.

The most sincere thanks are due to all guest lecturers from the Nordic countries, Canada and the United States who contributed most decisively to the success of the courses. The list of papers and other materials (incl. books, journals, maps and other publications as well as sets of transparents) presented exceeded over 50 items.

Participants were impressed by the smooth organization and exceptional hospitality shown by the Latvian hosts during the courses.

Second Meeting of the Baltic Division

By the invitation of the State Land Service of Latvia the Second Meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN was held in Riga, at the premises of the State Land Service on the 25th of April 1997. The meeting was attended by 36 experts from 10 countries, including 29 participants from the four member

countries of the Baltic Division (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russian Federation) and 7 observers from 6 other countries (Canada, Finland, Norway, Poland, Sweden, United States).

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Vitolds Kvetkovskis, Vice-Director-General of the State Land Service of Latvia, Ms. Elvi Sepp (Estonia) acted as secretary to the meeting. The agenda of the meeting included report of the Chairman of the Baltic Division, reports from member countries of the Division and election of the new Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Baltic Division. Reports presented by participants as well as by observers dealt e.g. with the activities of the Geodesy and Cartography Department of the National Land Survey of Lithuania (Mr. Tomas Duksa), activities of Poland in the field of geographical names standardization (Ms. Izabella Krauze-Tomczyk) and planned new reform of rural settlements in Estonia (Ms. Elvi Sepp). In discussions following the reports the need for compiling toponymic guidelines for the member countries of the Baltic Division was emphasized. Participants also touched upon preparations for the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

As the term of office for the current Chairman (Mr. Peeter Päll) and Vice-Chairman (Mr. Ojars Buss) of the Division would end at the next United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, participants also discussed organizational matters. It was unanimously agreed that Latvia would coordinate the activities of the Baltic Division for the next inter-conference period. Mr. Jurgis Kavacs (Latvia) was elected Chairman and Mr. Vidas Garliauskas (Lithuania) was elected Vice-Chairman of the Baltic Division.

Peeter Päll
Estonia

East Central and South-East Europe Division

1. The chairmanship of the Division was formally taken over from former Czechoslovakia by Hungary on the 2nd meeting of the 16th session of UNGEGN on 4th September, 1992 in New York.

2. The Division held its third session within this five-year period on 14-15 April, 1997 in Budapest (Session No. 14.). The two previous events were in 1993 and 1996. The number of participating countries grew markedly in this period, partly due to the breakup of the former Czechoslovakia, Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. Besides representatives of the Czech Republic and Slovakia (parting from ex-Czechoslovakia in 1993), of Poland and the host country Hungary, delegates from Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia (that were parts of the former Yugoslavia) took part in the session. Albania, Bulgaria and Ukraine (the latter obtaining its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991) could not attend this time, but sent written information to the session. These last three countries all were present in the previous two sessions, while Cyprus took part in the first one. The growing participation in this activity is also due to the recognized importance of the standardization of geographical names that affect all aspects of everyday life.

3. All participating countries provided written information on their activities of the past five years. A summary of it is presented below.

3.1. *Albania*: Although a formal national body on standardization is yet to be established, geographical names other than populated places and administrative units are considered for use by an ad-hoc group of scholars of various fields of sciences. The names are recorded by the Geographic Studies Center in Tirana.

A gazetteer of geographical names of populated places and administrative units was sent to the Division Session. The document contains about 2,700 populated place names in alphabetic order, and gives

the respective commune, district and municipality names they belong to.

3.2. *Bulgaria*: a ministerial order published in 1995 regulates the basic principles of transcribing foreign geographical names into Bulgarian. The list of country names for domestic use is also constantly updated, based on this order, and in collaboration with the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The country is also a member, since 1994, of the East Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division. The latest information on changes of Bulgarian populated place names include the following:

(old name)	(new name)	(district)	(close to)
Preslav	Veliki Preslav	Varna	SW of Sumen
Stojanovo	Radjuvene	Loveè	W of Loveè
Novoselci	Konstantinovo	Burgas	SW of Burgas

3.3. *Croatia*: Efforts are concentrated on the new topographic coverage on the country at the scale of 1:25 000, as the films of the old series were not available to Croatian authorities after the breakup of former Yugoslavia. A gazetteer of settlements was published by the Central Statistical Office in early 1996. No national body of standardization exists as yet in the country, which started to gather first-hand experiences on UNGEGN's 18th Session at Geneva (August, 1996). A list of changes in names of populated place names, including municipalities, was presented at the Division Session. Many of the names reflect the new improved orthography of the Croatian language.

3.4. *Czech Republic*: Several legal measures have been adopted that make the process of standardization even more efficient. A gazetteer of the countries of the world, as well as one on the geomorphological units of the Czech Republic were published by the surveying and mapping authority. A project on the establishment of a basic database of geographical data with

the name "ZABAGED" was launched in 1994. At present the digital cartographic rastered database of the country (1:10 000), including the standardized geographical names, are complete. Further steps will include vectorization, and a relational database for geographical names. The toponymic guidelines for the country is expected to be finished by the 7th UN Conference. Until then the Czech part of the Guidelines for the former Czechoslovakia (1987) may be suggested for use.

3.5. *Hungary*: The Committee on Geographical Names continues to act as an interministerial decisionmaking and advisory body operating in the Ministry of Agriculture. It discussed several suggestions for new commune names in this period, as the Committee is responsible for giving advice on administrative names before decisions are taken.

The new Act No. LXXVI/1996 on surveying and mapping rules that:

- the establishment and recording of official geographical names, as well as supplying data from the records constitutes a fundamental task of the State,
- the above mentioned task is carried out by operating the Committee on Geographical Names,
- official (standardized) geographical names must be used in the basic official (state) mapping.

The Database of Geographical Names (FNT) contains some 75 000 records of the previously prepared Gazetteers I. and II. of Hungary. It is being expanded to include names of the 1:10.000 topographic series. Presently this part of the database holds some 20,000 records. FNT is also planned to be transformed into a relational database with the future GIS based on the 1:10,000 topographic series of the National Mapping Agency.

The latest printed national gazetteer containing all types of administrative names was published by the Central Statistical Office of Hungary at the end of 1995.

3.6. *The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*: both the topographic survey and the issue of geographical names were previously handled by the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Following its independence a commission on geographical names was set up with members from various fields of science (geographers, linguists, historians), as well as from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. One of its first duties will be the creation of a toponymic guidelines for the country. Guidance, advice and other forms of information from UNGEGN are eagerly sought by this member country that joined this UN activity on its 18th Session in Geneva last August.

3.7. *Poland*: The two committees dealing with geographical names (with names within and outside Poland respectively) are doing business as usual, despite recent organizational changes related to the top government surveying and mapping authority.

Following the short gazetteer of Poland, presented back at the 6th UN Conference in 1992, four volumes containing Polish exonyms of the world have been published during the past five years.

The database of geographical names based on the 1:10,000 topographic series, established at the Main Centre of Geodetic-Cartographic Documentaion within the Ministry of Physical Planning and Construction, had over 34 000 names by early 1997. A new list of country names with full and short official names, as well as their capitals is also being prepared.

3.8. *Slovakia*: Standardization of geographical names for the whole country in scale 1:10,000 was completed in 1994. The number of these names stands at 70,000. Work on the standardization of the names of the country's trigonometric points also started in 1995.

In 1995 the creation of a database of geographical names of the country in computer-aided form (PC GEOS program) was started. Content includes all names of the 1:10 000 Basic Map of the Slovak Republic. The period of 1992-97 also saw the publishing

of printed gazetteers of 20 Slovakian districts, the list of country names used in Slovakia, and a list of exonyms. The toponymic guidelines for the country was published in 1993, and has been amended in 1996 and 1997.

Act No. 215/1995 of the National Council of The Slovak Republic on geodesy and cartography rules that standardized geographical names are obligatory for the publishers of cartographic works, for the mass media, and official government activities. The use of other than standardized geographical names in a published cartographic work is liable to a fine.

3.9. *Slovenia*: the country started a project in 1992 to establish a computerized Register of Geographical Names. The project, aimed at eventual standardization of its some 200,000 toponyms, is running parallel with the upgrading of its topographic series of 1:5,000, 1:10,000 and 25,000 scales. In officially bilingual areas of the country's border regions minority names are also displayed on the topographic maps (e.g. Koper/Capodistria, Lendava/Lendva). The toponymic guidelines for Slovenia was published in 1995. The Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology has been translated and published in Slovenian.

3.10. *Ukraine*: the National Council on Geographical Names was set up in September 1993. A register of geographical names on the basis of the topographic series 1:100,000 scale is worked on.

In 1995-97 the Council organized campaigns of collecting vanished and changed names. Some 8,500 such names ("microtoponyms") have so far been collected by students during the campaign. The rules on the Romanization of Ukrainian proper names are based on English language transliteration, and were submitted to the Government of Ukraine for approval. Instructions for the transcription of geographical names of foreign countries into Ukrainian script are also published one after the other. A glossary of country names is also being prepared for the 7th Conference of the UN.

4. It was also agreed on the 14th Session of the Division that its chairmanship will be taken over by Slovenia for the next five-year period. The handover is expected to take place on the 2nd meeting of the 19th Session of UNGEGN, scheduled for January 1998 in New York.

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Norden Division

This spring the Norden Division of the UNGEGN organized a conference on "Foreign Names in the Nordic Countries". The conference took place in Oslo 28-30 May 1997. Approximately 50 participants from Nordic universities, mapping authorities, language councils, news agencies etc. attended. The aim of the conference was to focus on the historical, linguistic and practical aspects of foreign names, especially place names, which are or have been used within the Nordic countries. There was special emphasis on orthographic and standardization problems of foreign names. Altogether 22 papers were read.

An introductory lecture on the topic of the conference was given by Botolv Helleland (Norway). Further papers were: How to establish a Nordic gazetteer for small scale maps (Anne Svanevik, Norway), Names in the new Faroese world atlas (J—gvan ' Lon Jacobsen, Faroe Islands), Name dictionaries for active use (Lars T_rnqvist, Sweden), Foreign names in Finnish and Swedish in Finland (Peter Slotte, Finland), Finnish place names in Sweden (Erling Wande), Finnish place names and cultural contact in Scandinavia (Tuula Eskeland), United Nations activities on geographical names, especially on exonyms (Hans Ringstam), Exonyms from an international point of view (Eeva Maria N_rhi, Finland), Consequences of the coexistence of different writing systems in the example of Estonia (Peeter P_ll, Estonia), Endonyms or pseudo-endonyms from a Norwegian point of view (Jan Brodal, Norway), Saami place names as exonyms and endonyms (Kaisa Rautio Helander, Norway), Islandic exonyms (_—rhallur Vilmundarson, Iceland), The Norwegian Language Council's work on foreign geographical names (Vigleik Leira, Norway), Principles for the spelling of foreign names in *Aftenposten* (Per

Egil Hegge, Norway), The treatment of foreign names in the Norwegian polar zones (Sigurd Helle, Norway), Swedish family names of foreign origin (Eva Brylla, Sweden), Names of immigrants in Sweden (Vera Lif, Sweden), Exonyms in secondary names: Lemberggade, Lvovgade or Lvivgade? (Bent J;rgensen, Denmark), Foreign place names in schoolbooks (Gunnstein Akselberg, Norway), Anglo-American influence on the names of Norwegian firms and institutions (Patrick Chaffey, Norway).

Each paper was followed by a short discussion. One main theme of the discussions was to what extent exonyms should be tolerated or even recommended. It seems that the national language councils are inclined to accept exonyms to a greater extent than what is expressed in the UN resolutions.

The papers of the conference will be published in a NORNA volume. Most papers will be in a Nordic language, but there will also be a summary in English.

New Chairman of the Norden Division

At the divisional meeting 30 May 1997 in Oslo *Hans Ringstam*, Sweden, was elected new chairman of the Norden Division after *Botolv Helleland*, Norway, who has served in this capacity since the sixth UN conference. Ringstam is divisional director at the National Land Survey of Sweden in G_vle. *Leif Nilsson*, who works as a place name consultant at the Institute of Place Name Research at Uppsala, was elected vice chairman. The chairmanship runs from one UN conference to the next.

Botolv Helleland,
Norway

Division Romano-Hellenique

UN Bulletin d'information toponymique francophone

Dans le cadre de la création projetée d'une Division francophone au sein du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques (GENUNG), les autorités toponymiques du Canada (Québec) et de la France, ont préparé le numéro de départ d'un Bulletin d'information toponymique en français. Ce numéro présente une information variée: les objectifs des Nations Unies en matière de normalisation des noms de lieux et les moyens à prendre pour les atteindre; le compte rendu d'un séminaire de formation en toponymie tenu en France à l'intention des pays de l'Afrique francophone; un exposé sur le protocole de coopération entre la France et le Québec; etc. On peut se procurer ce Bulletin auprès du Secrétariat du GENUNG et des autorités toponymiques de la France, du Canada et du Québec.

Un poème géographique québécois en guise de commémoration toponymique

Afin de commémorer les 20 ans de la Charte de la langue française, loi qui a renforcé le mandat de la Commission de toponymie du Québec créée en 1912, les autorités toponymiques de la province ont dénommé, en juin 1997, 101^{re} les du nord du Québec d'après des expressions puisées dans la littérature québécoise d'après-guerre. Par cette décision, on a voulu rendre hommage à des artisans de la langue française et, dans le même souffle, explorer une façon nouvelle de créer des noms de lieux, applicable à toutes les langues et qui permettrait de valoriser la dimension culturelle de la toponymie. Ainsi, la nomenclature officielle québécoise se trouve-t-elle enrichie de L'Ange du Matin, de La Belle Brume, du Caillou de Barbarie, de La Banquise-Qui-Chante, du Paradis Perdu,

quelques-une des Îles du Jardin au Bout du Monde, nom officiel de cet archipel.

Les sites Web toponymiques

L'adresse du site Web de la Commission de toponymie du Québec est la suivante:

<http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca>

Ce site présente le mandat de l'organisme responsable de la gestion des noms de lieux au Québec, un texte de fond, remplacé régulièrement, sur l'origine d'un toponyme québécois majeur, un résumé des décisions de la dernière séance de la Commission et un aperçu de la progression des travaux de normalisation de la nomenclature des voies de communication québécoises. On y trouve également un hyperlien avec le site Web de Géomatique Canada pour la consultation de la nomenclature géographique officielle du Québec.

Plusieurs autres autorités toponymiques du monde disposent de leur propre site Web. Il apparaîtrait avantageux de relier ces sites entre eux au moyen d'un hyperlien et de les rendre accessibles depuis le site Web du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques.

Les noms de voies de communication

La Commission de toponymie entreprenait, en 1979, une opération d'envergure constituant une tâche prioritaire pour l'organisme, soit de traitement de l'odonymie des municipalités du Québec, c'est-à-dire l'inventaire et l'analyse de tous les noms de voies de communication en vue de leur normalisation et leur officialisation conformément aux dispositions de la Charte de la langue française établies à cette fin.

Depuis, certains pays se sont intéressés à la normalisation des noms de voies de communication compte tenu que cette nomenclature est peut-être celle qui est la plus utilisée quotidiennement par la population. À ce jour, au Québec, près de 80 000 odonymes ont été officialisés sur un potentiel estimé à plus de 100 000 noms. Notons toutefois que depuis 1995, dans le cadre d'un protocole de collaboration avec le Directeur général des élections du Québec visant à harmoniser la Liste électorale permanents avec la banque toponymique de la Commission de toponymie, le traitement de l'odonymie a connu une forte accélération permettant ainsi d'officialiser plus de 15000 odonymes pour l'année 1996-1997. Plus de 85% des dossiers municipaux ont été complétés.

Les Ponts toponymiques France-Québec

La Commission nationale de toponymie de France et la Commission de toponymie du Québec ont signé un protocole de coopération toponymique en 1994. Depuis, quelques projets ont vu le jour dont la préparation d'un ouvrage relatant les liens entre les noms de lieux français et québécois de même origine. Une publication conjointe de cette recherche est prévue

pour 1999 dans le cadre d'une exposition soulignant les liens France-Québec.

Un cédérom à partir du dictionnaire illustré Noms et lieux du Québec

Afin de desservir un nouveau marché, la Commission de toponymie du Québec procède actuellement, en partenariat avec une firme privée, à la réalisation d'un cédérom sur les principaux noms de lieux du Québec, leur origine, leur signification, leur datation... Le lancement de ce produit nouveau est prévu pour novembre 1997.

Glossaire de terminologie toponymique

À partir de l'ouvrage Dictionary of Terminology du professeur Naftali Kadmon, la Commission de toponymie de l'Institut géographique national de France et la Commission de toponymie du Québec ont uni leurs efforts pour réaliser une traduction en français de cet outil de travail précieux. Précédée de peu de la version allemande, la version française du glossaire sera disponible dans quelques semaines.

Commission de toponymie du Québec, Canada

United States - Canada Division

Gazetteer Volume for Canada

In January 1997, the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN) published the first edition of the *Concise Gazetteer of Canada / Répertoire toponymique concis du Canada*. Produced in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the national names authority in Canada, this volume includes some 47 000 of the 350 000 current official names of places, and of major features in Canada and on the surrounding seafloor.

Each name entry may contain fields for: type of entity (34 categories); first order administrative area (10 provinces and 2 territories); second order administrative area (available for most of the provinces and territories); latitude and longitude (in degrees and minutes); and National Topographic System map (1:50 000 in the south and 1:250 000 in the north of Canada) corresponding to the coordinates provided.

The prefatory pages include information about the selection criteria for names in the gazetteer, explanations of the fields provided, and a glossary of terms. Material is also included about the history of the CPCGN, committee membership, and principles of nomenclature. A fold-out, general locational map of Canada at the scale of 1:20 000 000 is included; it indicates the boundaries of the new territory of Nunavut, which comes into effect in 1999.

Copies of this 636-page volume (soft-covered, 8.5" x 11", catalogue no. M86-16/1997-1, ISBN 0-660-60185-0) can be purchased for CAN\$39.95 from Mail Order Services, Canada Communications Group, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0E9, Canada (fax: +819-994-1498).

World-Wide Web site - United Nations materials included

The Canadian Geographical Names Data Base can be queried through the WWW. This on-line access for Internet users is designed for general reference

purposes. Also available on the GeoNames bilingual (English/French) web site is considerable general information about aspects of geographical names in Canada.

In addition, one section is devoted to some United Nations materials dealing with standardization. From this site you may read and download information including:

- the useful brochure produced by UNGEGN
- aims and functions of UNGEGN
- all the UN resolutions from 1967-1992
- references to UN reports
- a list of toponymic guidelines produced by various countries (in Newsletter #17)
- the agenda for the UN Conference in 1998

You can also link up to Professor Ormeling's site on toponymy training courses. In another part of our WWW site, you will find links to geographical names data bases available within Canada and in other countries.

In English:

<http://geonames.NRCan.gc.ca>

ou en français:

<http://toponymie.RNCan.gc.ca>

Direct access to United Nations information:

In English:

<http://geonames.NRCan.gc.ca/english/unindex.html>

en français:

<http://toponymie.RNCan.gc.ca/francais/unindex.html>

Helen Kerfoot,
Executive Secretary, CPCGN,
Canada

United States

The Domestic Names Committee (DNC) of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) meets monthly, and has rendered decisions on 76 newly proposed names and adjudicated 61 controversial names and issues since the last issue of *The Newsletter*. The highlight of these meetings includes the September 1996 meeting held at the Nineteenth Annual Western States Geographic Names Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah where papers were presented on various toponymic issues and especially the conference theme of Native American geographic names. There was also the annual State/Federal Roundtable session where policy and procedure issues were discussed and many solutions found. The conference also included a meeting of the Place Names Survey of the United States whose projects include a website home page, toponymic bibliography, and development of standards.

The DNC has recently completed the third edition of its *Principles, Policies, and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Names* in which notable changes over the previous editions include the addition of the Native American Names Policy; removal of restrictions on the use of diacritical marks in geographic names in the United States; and increasing the waiting period after a person's death from one to five years in the Commemorative Naming Policy.

Almost 100,000 additional names have been added to the National Geographic Names Data Base (NGNDB) of the United States. While names from all Federal maps and documents have been compiled, numerous State, local, and historical documents are yielding thousands of names. Recently three contracts were awarded to compile names in nine States. Only 8 States and the territories remain for extensive com-

pilation. The NGNDB is now available and fully searchable on the world wide web. After data is retrieved, one may view all data fields or selected fields, and one may also graphically display the location nationally and locally. The local display includes the names of surrounding communities. One may also display the retrieved name within its particular drainage basin. Also, the geographic names of Antarctica as approved by the USBGN are available by direct link from the domestic geographic names homepage. There are links to the foreign names database as approved by the USBGN and the Canadian geographic names website as well. The website address is:

<http://mapping.usgs.gov/www/gnis>

Recently completed was the ninth course in applied toponomy offered under the auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and held in La Paz, Bolivia. The course was highly successful, providing 24 students with an introduction to toponomy; extensive lectures on developing principles, policies, and procedures for establishing a national names authority; a field exercise; and a workshop in developing, designing, and implementing an automated geographic names database.

Randall Flynn participated in a geographic names symposium sponsored by the Baltic Division in Riga, Latvia where aspects of applied toponomy were presented.

Roger Payne of the Division visited the Asia SE & Pacific SW Division in Melbourne, Australia, where there was a mutual exchange of ideas, philosophy and procedures as well as detailed analysis and resolution of shared problems.

Publicity and Funding

Production of a brochure for UNGEGN has proceeded to the stage of having layout, design and artwork completed. The colour proofs have been forwarded to New York for approval by the United Nations. Upon approval, the final artwork will be completed and the brochure then printed.

I believe the 4 page proof is eye-catching, gets the message across through the use of text, pictures, maps and colour.

Some work has been undertaken on funding, with sponsorship for the direct brochure costs being met by the Australian and New Zealand Intergovernmental Committee on Survey and Mapping. Attempts have been made to determine a mechanism to establish a strategy for ongoing funding of UNGEGN activities. Following comments from Working Party

members an initial proposal has been reconsidered and a different approach is now to be taken.

J.R. Parker,
Chairman,
Australia

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names is, unfortunately, currently unable to process the approval procedures, because the colour proofs of the brochure do not follow the draft text that the Group of Experts had discussed in several Sessions and subsequently had approved.

Toponymy Courses Site

Under the address <http://nvksserver.frw.ruu.nl/nvk/toponymycourses.html> a site can be found on the World Wide Web which informs about the training activities in the field of toponymy. It has been set up by the convenor of the UNGEGN working group on toponymy courses, and has as its objective to provide current information about toponymy courses, as well as information on past courses, of which the course material might be used in realizing future courses. The structure of the site is such that on entry one is able to select one of the following fields:

- Future toponymy courses
- Past toponymy courses
- Teaching material available, used for past toponymy courses
- Other relevant teaching material
- UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymy Courses
- United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)
- Other Interesting Sites

Of course, to answer the objectives, the first item is the most important. That is why UNGEGN experts are requested to inform the convenor (via the e-mail address (toponymy@frw.ruu.nl)) about courses planned, so that anyone interested in this field will be able to find out whether anywhere nearby such courses will be held.

The third item comes second in importance. Here, those interested in organizing courses or inter-

ested in self-study will be able to find out whether relevant teaching material is available. In order to be able to list the material in a standardized way, it is important to have copies of the material available at the convenor's. That is why the convenor requests course organizers to send a set to his postal address (Ferjan Ormeling, Utrecht University, PO Box 80115, 3508 TC Utrecht, the Netherlands). The material already available stems from past toponymy courses organized or sponsored by UNGEGN; it is hoped the material produced for the PAIGH courses will be sent in as well. For all these past toponymy courses see the second item.

The fourth item lists current, commercially available manuals and textbooks on toponymy. The fifth item provides the current organisation of the UNGEGN Working group on toponymy courses, and the sixth does likewise for UNGEGN. In the last item, other interesting sites, links are provided to toponymical sites on the web.

It is hoped that this site can play a role in the realization of the aims of both the working group and UNGEGN itself. At present it is maintained through Utrecht University, but in future, if it functions adequately, it should perhaps be taken over by the UNGEGN secretariat, so that there will be some official seal on the information provided. This is an issue that should come up at the next UNGEGN meetings.

Ferjan Ormeling
The Netherlands

Islamic Republic of Iran

Report on the progress made in the Islamic Republic of Iran since the Eighteenth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts, Geneva, 1996

1. Initiating the project of collecting geographical information for the National Gazetteer (including cities, towns, villages, farms, and other places) in the framework of provinces. In this connection, we gathered geographical information for more than 800 villages and 4200 farms and other places in 1997.

2. Preparing of the National Gazetteer of Mountains. Up to now, more than 17000 names have been extracted and published, along with pictures, as a National Gazetteer of mountains.

3. Preparing of a National Gazetteer of Rivers. In this connection, according to basins and water-sheds, we have gathered and published all information of the existing rivers in the country with respect to their types of flows (permanent or seasonal) along with the thematic maps of topography, hydrology and water quality.

4. Continuation of updating the maps at the 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 scales.

5. Preparing the Atlas of the countries of Central Asia and Transcaucasia.

H. Malmirian
G. Director, N.G.O
Islamic Republic of Iran

The Netherlands

New Geographical Names Commission for the Dutch Language Area

In the Netherlands, the ad-hoc Commission on foreign geographical names, instituted by the *Nederlandse Taalunie* (the Dutch Language Union, an official body in which the Netherlands and Belgium cooperate), has been disbanded on completion of its publication in 1996 of "*Buitenlandse aardrijkskundige namen in het Nederlands*" (Foreign geographical names in Dutch), isbn 90 12 08240 4, which lists dutch exonyms in their official orthography. A similar, but permanent commission, the "*Adviescommissie inzake buitenlandse aardrijkskundige namen*" (advisory commission on foreign geographical names) now has been

installed by the *Nederlandse Taalunie* (Dutch Language Union, address PO Box 10595, 2501 HN The Hague, Netherlands), chaired by Prof.dr.R.Rentenaar (P. J. Meertens Institute, Amsterdam), with Prof.dr. M.Devos (Ghent University) and Prof.dr. F.J.Ormeling (Utrecht University) in its executive committee.

It will be the objective of the new commission's work to keep the material in the list of Foreign Geographical Names in Dutch up-to-date, publish updated lists and advise in general on the orthography of foreign geographical names to the Dutch Language Union.

F.J.Ormeling
The Netherlands

International Seminar on the Standardization of Geographical Names 1997

The Seminar organized by The Society for the East Sea was held 11-12 June 1997 at the Korea Press Center in Seoul, Korea. This was the third of a series of seminars designed to promote the knowledge on geographical names in Korea. This meeting focused on the standardization of geographical names with emphasis on the naming of the East Sea (Sea of Japan). In this seminar, many articles and comments were presented by various distinguished experts on the naming of the sea which lies between the Korean peninsula and the Japanese archipelago. As an interim measure, pending agreement on a common designation, a particularly noteworthy suggestion was made for the simultaneous use of different names referring to a shared geographical feature, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions. Many other facts related to the origin of the sea name were presented in the meeting. The Society will publish the seminar papers before the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names to be held in January 1998.

The organizers, Kim Jin-Hyun and Lee Ki-Suk, respectively President and Vice President of the Society for the East Sea, invited twelve papers to be presented. Among them, Dr. Peter Raper (South Africa), Ms. Helen Kerfoot (Canada), Prof. Naftali Kadmon (Israel), and Mr. Du Xianming (China) were members of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). As shown in the programme below, Director Adam Kerr (IHB), Prof. Alexei Naumov (Russia), and Prof. Shibuya Takeshi (Japan) also presented papers.

Programme

The International Seminar on the Standardization of Geographical Names: Special Emphasis Concerning the East Sea

First Day - 11 June 1997

Registration (09:00-09:20)
Opening Ceremony (09:20-09:30)

Opening Address by Jin-Hyun Kim,
President, The Society for the East Sea

First Session (09:30-12:30)

Moderator: Ki-Suk Lee
(Professor, Seoul National University, Korea)

Presentations:

1. Peter E. Raper,
(Chair, United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names):

The United Nations and Standardization of
Geographical Names.

2. Adam J. Kerr,
(Director, International Hydrographic Bureau):

The International Hydrographic Organization and
its Involvement with Geographical Names

3. Jong-Chul Soh
(Professor, Hankuk University of Foreign
Studies, Korea):

The Naming of East Sea - Sea of Japan in Antique
Maps from the Viewpoints of
Cognitive Linguistics

4. Shiguang Zhu,
(Professor, Shaanxi Teachers University, China):

On the Transformation of the Geographical Name
in the Area of the Sea of Japan (The East Sea) from
a Perspective of Historical Documents

Coffee/Tea Break (11:10-11:30)

Discussion:

1. Helen Kerfoot,
(Vice Chair, UNGEGN)

2. Sangbok D. Hahn,
(Director, Oceanography Division, National
Fisheries Reserch and Development Agency,
Korea)

3. Sung-Hyun Pack,
(Professor, Myong Ji Junior College, Korea)

4. Xingming Du,
(Honorary Director, Research Institute of
Toponymy, National Bureau of Surveying and
Mapping, China)

Lunch Break (12:30-14:30)

Second Session (14:30-17:30)

Moderator: Yearn Hong Choi,
(Visiting Professor of
Seoul City University, Korea)

Presentations:

1. Shibuya Takeshi,
(Emeritus Professor, Niigata University, Japan)

Our Step and Our Intention of the Japan Sea Rim

2. Naftali Kadmon,
(Professor, The Hebrew University, Israel)

Standardization of Terrestrial and Maritime Names
vs. their Use as a Political Tool

3. Duck-Soon Im,
(Professor, Chungbuk National University, Korea)

The Locational Characters and Significances of
East Sea (Sea of Japan) and its Coastal States' Tasks

4. Sangbok D. Hahn,
(Director, Oceanography Division, National Fish-
eries Reserch and Development Agency, Korea)

The Name of East Sea being Used by Koreans Since
the Year 37BC

Coffee/Tea Break (16:10-16:30)

Discussion:

1. Won-Soon Lee,
(Chair, National History Compilation
Committee, Korea)

2. Adam J. Kerr
(Director, IHB)

3. Myung-Ho Moon,
(Senior Editorial Writer, The Mun-Hwa Ilbo,
Korea)

4. Charn Kiu Kim,
(Professor, Kyung Hee University, Korea)

Second Day - 12 June 1997

Third Session (09:30-12:30)

Moderator: Chan Lee,
(Professor Emeritus, Seoul National University,
Korea)

Presentations:

1. Helen Kerfoot,
(Vice Chair, UNGEGN)

Aspects of 100 Years of Geographical Names
Standardization in Canada

2. Ningyi Yang,
(Professor, Beijing Normal University, China)

Some Issues of the Standardization and History of
Geographical Names on the East Sea and the Sea
of Japan

3. Alexei S. Naumov,
(Professor, Moscow State University, Russia)

Russia and the Seas: Economic-Geographic Essay
with Special Reference to the Eastern Sea's Dis-
covery, Perception and Use

4. Hong-Ju Nah,
(Counselor, The Korea Container Terminal Au-
thority, Korea)

A Time for Action to Change the Current Name
of "Sea of Japan"

Coffee/Tea Break (11:10-11:30)

Discussion:

1. Xingming Du,
(Honorary Director, Research Institute of
Toponymy, National Bureau of Surveying and
Mapping, China)

2. Peter E. Raper,
(Chair, UNGEGN)

3. Kyun-Hyung Han,
(Professor, Korea National University of Educa-
tion, Korea)

4. Naftali Kadmon,
(Professor, Hebrew University, Israel)

On the occasion of the 100th meeting of the *Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen* (StAGN, permanent committee on geographical names) and of the millennium of Austria, a scientific "Symposium on Geographical Names" was organized by StAGN and the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde* (AKO, Board on Geographical Names) of the Austrian Cartographic Commission in the Austrian Geographic Society with the status "In Connection with the Austrian Academy of Sciences" in Vienna at the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying on 10 October 1996.

The following themes covering the whole spectrum of geographical names were treated in lectures and discussed on the basis of these lectures:

Introduction:

- a) Tasks of the StAGN: Jörn Sievers (Frankfurt am Main);
- b) Tasks of the AKO: Helmut Desoye (Vienna).

Overview Lecture: The importance of geographical names and their standardization on national and international levels: Written by Josef Breu (Vienna), presented by Helmut Desoye (due to illness of Mr. Breu).

The importance of the standardization of geographical names for developing countries: Ferjan Ormeling (Utrecht).

Standardization of geographical names in the Antarctic and in international waters: Jörn Sievers (Frankfurt am Main).

Standardization of geographical names in multilingual areas: Ernst Spiess (Forch, Switzerland).

Linguistical aspects of geographical naming:

- a) Dialects and historic-linguistical aspects of the standardization of names: Isolde Hausner (Vienna);
- b) Problems with the transcription of geographical names: Otto Back (Vienna).

Practical application of the standardization of geographical names:

- a) Toponymic editing of maps and exonyms, change of names: Adolf Hanle (Ilvesheim, Germany);
- b) Toponymic editing of maps by the example of the „Atlas of Eastern- and Southeastern Europe“: Peter Jordan (Vienna);
- c) Toponymic data banks: Helmut Meckel (Vienna).

The symposium was attended by 81 participants from Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Southern Tyrol (Italy) who had the opportunity to discuss with the lecturers.

The papers and the discussions will be published as Volume 10 "*Kartographie und Namenstandardisierung*" (Cartography and standardization of names) of the series "*Wiener Schriften zur Geographie und Kartographie*" in 1997.

Together with the symposium an exhibition showed the activities and products of institutions dealing with geographical names.

On 11 October a bus excursion to a multilingual area (German, Croatian, Hungarian) of Burgenland, organized by the local authorities of this Austrian "*Land*," took place. The 45 participants were informed about the local problems by the mayors of two communes.

H. Desoye
Vice-Chairman, StAGN

Geographical Names and their Post-codes in the United Kingdom

Towards the end of the last UNGEGN Sessions, in Geneva, one of the Experts at the Sessions asked me to help him to obtain certain publications. I subsequently wrote to him to tell him where to apply to obtain what he required. In his reply to me he stated that he had tried to commit to memory the post-code of my address but within five minutes he had forgotten it.

I suspect he had in mind a statement I made during the Sessions. That statement was in answer to a question on the nature of the national post-codes in the UK. I explained that our postal authorities had conducted prolonged research on the best form of post-code to adopt. They finally decided on an alpha-numeric system. The results of their research work had indicated that a combination of letters and numerals was more easily memorized than a wholly numerical code. In response to further questions, I explained that the letters themselves were, as far as possible, extracted from the name of the postal towns, e.g. KT for Kingston; RH for Redhill.

I must stress that I was not in any sense advo-

cating the use of any particular form of post-code or making a personal statement as to my preference. I was simply stating facts in response to questions.

The whole discussion arose in connection with a paper I presented on the use of post-codes in the United Kingdom for the generation of lists of inhabited places and a variety of other applications. For many purposes, therefore, post-code data in the UK is widely used, where in the past one would have used gazetteers and street-indexes or, perhaps, even maps. Since the post-code itself identifies a location to a reasonably high degree of accuracy, it can be used in much the same way as grid co-ordinates are used. Both are physically related to the national mapping system. The post-code can, therefore, also be used as a means of planning the most suitable route between two addresses without the need to refer to maps.

I hope these few remarks will help clear up similar misunderstandings other Experts may have.

H.A.G. Lewis,
United Kingdom

unofficial usage of names; names in print and electronic media; names in scientific and technical registers, and names in literature.

Chapter VII deals with the stylistic functions of names in oral narratives, non-literary and literary texts (novels, sagas, fairy-tales), comics and movies, and name games.

Chapter VIII, dealing with the historical development of names, provides an introduction to historical phonetics and graphemics, etymology, and individual names and name-types. Finally, the development is discussed of names in different language groups, countries, regions and eras.

The present publication thus offers an extraordinarily comprehensive view of all aspects of all types of name from all over the world, from the earliest times to today. It is an indispensable book for students, researchers, academics and writers. At the same time it provides informative and fascinating reading for everyone interested in onomastics or related disciplines such as geography, history, linguistics, literature, etc.

Lucie A. Möller
Names Research Institute, Pretoria
South Africa