

15 March 2021

English

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**

Second session

New York, 3 – 7 May 2021

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Reports: divisions of the Group of Experts

Report of the Romano-Hellenic Division

Submitted by Romano-Hellenic Division **

Summary

Since the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the Romano-Hellenic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has carried out the following activities:

- (a) Updated its own web pages;
- (b) Published the proceedings of the second international scientific symposium, on the theme “Toponymy and cartography between history and geography”, held in Venice, Italy, in 2018;
- (c) Organized a third international scientific symposium, to be held in Italy in 2021.

The activities of the Division for the coming two years will be aimed at further stressing, among the countries of the Division, the functions that the standardization of geographical names can perform in support of sustainable development and pandemic management and at highlighting the benefits that toponymy provides to economies and for the conservation of cultural heritage. In line with those assumptions, a fourth international scientific symposium will be organized.

* GEGN.2/2021/1

** Prepared by Andrea CANTILE – Chairman of the UNGEGN, Romano-Hellenic Division.

RHD web page

The web page of the Division is hosted by the Italian Geographic Military Institute (IGMI). Its address is https://www.igmi.org/en/toponomastica/genung-1?set_language=en.

Proceedings of the second International Scientific Symposium of the UNGENG-RHD

The proceedings of the second International Scientific Symposium focused on the theme “Toponymy and Cartography between History and Geography” and carried out in Venezia [Venice] in 2018, was published by the Italian Geographic Military Institute in 2019.

The volume contains the followed contributes:

- Andrea Cantile (Italia), *Toponymy and Cartography between History and Geography*;
- Franco Alberti *et alii* (Italia), *The Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Veneto Region project for a new geographical names database*.
- Andreas Hadjiraftis (Kýpros), *Modern maps, Geographic Information Systems and toponymy in Cyprus*.
- Vania de Oliveira Nagem (Brasil), *State of the art on the standardization of geographical names in Brazil*;
- Gil Tiago (Brasil) and Vinicius Maluly (France), *The significance of native experience in the creation of colonial toponymy in the Portuguese America*;
- Cosimo Palagiano (Italia), *The activity of the Joint Commission on Toponymy, International Geographical Union – International Cartographic Association*;
- Helen Kerfoot (Canada), *Where are you flying? On-board airline magazines and their route map toponymy*;
- Alberto Nocentini (Italia), *Preservation vs. innovation in the toponymy of Europe*;
- Laura Cassi (Italia), *Territorial Identity and Place Names*;
- Andrea Masturzo (Italia), *Toponymy and colonization, the case of Italian colonial villages in Libya*;
- Stefano Piastra (Italia), *Urban Toponymy in Shanghai and Tianjin before the Rise of the People’s Republic of China. The Presence of Italian Road Names*;
- Élisabeth Calvarin (France), *Dialectical terms and geographical locations*;
- Lorenzon Arianna (Italia), *Vernacular places names in the Venetian cartography (XVII-XVIII century): a case study*;
- Silvia Siniscalchi (Italia), *The transformations of the place names of Naples in historical and contemporary cartography, between landscape changes and territorial identity*;
- Furio Ciciliot (Italia), *The precise toponymy of descriptive cadastre (before XVIII Century)*;
- Giuseppe Scanu, Cinzia Podda, Caterina Madau, Salvatore Lampreu (Italia), *Geo- cartographic aspects of the toponymy of Sardinia between conservation and enhancement*;
- Elena Dai Prà (Italia), *Place names as sources to identify landslide risk areas: a diachronic approach to the Trentino case study*;
- Ayokunmi Ojebode (Nigeria), *Toponymy, History and Geographical System of Selected Place Names in the Cognomen of the Alaafin of Oyo*;
- Marcos Pavo Lopez (España), *A gazetteer in the 2nd century: Claudius Ptolemy’s Geographia*;
- Marco Martin ^[L]_[SEP](Italia), *The greek ethnonym Romanoι in the Administrando ^[L]_[SEP]Imperio of Constantine Porphyrogenitus*;
- Viviana Ferrario (Italia), *19th Century ^[L]_[SEP]cadastres as a source for the toponymy of the Venetian region*;
- Sergio Pinna, Massimiliano Grava, Giancarlo Macchi Janica (Italia), *The cadastral particle toponymy of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany*;
- Nicola Gabellieri (Italia), *Place names as historical products: boundary conflicts and toponyms*

disputes in XVIII c. Liguria;

- Lucrezia Iacuzzi, Martina Simeone (Italia), *Phitonyms, phitotonyms and landscape's history. The case of the municipalities of Borgo San Lorenzo and Vicchio.*

The event was described in the “UNGEGN Information Bulletin” No. 55, December 2018, pp. 18-19.

Third International Scientific Symposium of the UNGEGN-RHD

The RHD has scheduled its third International Scientific Symposium in Napoli [Naples], Italia [Italy], from 22nd to 24th September 2021, focused on the theme: “Permanence, substitution, transformation and the oblivion of the Geographical Names”, intended for all members of the UNGEGN, linguists, historians, geographers, planners and cartographers. Participation is free of charge.

The event will be organized in close cooperation with the Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Regional Council of Campania – Directorate General for the Government of the Territory, and under the auspices of: Italian Association of Geographers, Italian Association of Geography Teachers, Italian Cartographic Association, Italian Centre for Historical and Geographical Studies, Italian Geographical Society and Society of Geographical Studies (Italia).

Topics of the symposium are: preservation of the toponymic heritage, historical maps and toponymy, *genius loci* and identity, etymological studies, place names of historical linguistic minorities, vernacular place names, new toponyms, role of national and regional geographical names authorities.

Announcements of papers and submissions of abstracts (max. 400 words – in English) may be e-mailed to the chairman of the RHD no later than May 30, 2021.

The scientific committee of the symposium is composed of:

- Andrea Cantile, Chair of the UNGEGN’s Romano-Hellenic Division and IGMI’s Commission for Italian Official Toponymy; University of Florence (Italia);
- Simonetta Conti, University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” (Italia);
- Monica Dumitrascu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy (Romania);
- Peter Jordan, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Co-Convenor of the ICA-IGU Joint Commission on Toponymy (Austria);
- Helen Kerfoot, Former Emeritus Scientist Natural Resources Canada, Honorary Chair of UNGEGN (Canada);
- Cosimo Palagiano, Emeritus of Sapienza - University of Rome, Accademia dei Lincei, Co-Convenor of the ICA-IGU Joint Commission on Toponymy (Italia);
- Domenico Proietti, University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” (Italia);
- Annette C. Torensjö, Uppsala University, Convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage (Sverige).

First announcement of the symposium was published in the “UNGEGN Information Bulletin”, No. 58, May 2020, p. 29.

Next activities

For the next two years the Romano-Hellenic Division will operate to further disseminate, among the Division’s countries, the function that standardization of geographical names can play in support of sustainable development and pandemic management, and to highlight the benefits that toponymy provides to national economies and for the conservation of cultural heritage. The fourth International Scientific Symposium of the RHD will be organized focusing on these themes.

