The U.S. Board on Geographic Names and National Geographic

125 years of Disseminating Place-Names

Juan José Valdés
National Geographic
September 18, 2015
GEOGRAPHIC NOMENCLATURE

Remarks by Herbert G. Ogden, Gustave Herrle, Marcus Baker, and A.H. Thompson
APPENDIX.

Rules for the Orthography of Geographic Names.
contributed by Mr. Herrle.

British System—French System—German System—Alphabets, Russian-English; English-Russian.

British System.
Rules adopted in 1885, by the Royal Geographical Society at London, for the Orthography of Native Names of Places.

Taking into consideration the present want of a system of geographical orthography, and the consequent confusion and variety that exist in the mode of spelling in English maps, the Council of the Royal Geographical Society have adopted the following rules for such geographical names as are not, in the countries to which they belong, written in the Roman character. These rules are identical with those adopted for the Admiralty charts, and will henceforth be used in all publications of the Society.
The American Board on Geographic Names.

Under the provisions of an executive order issued on the fourth of September last, our own Government has virtually adopted the European system in the treatment of foreign names, thus bringing us in accord with the principal nations upon a most important subject to students and geographers the world over. The executive order constitutes a board composed of ten representatives from different departments and bureaus of the Government service, to which all questions relating to the work of the board that may arise in the departments are to be referred, and requires all persons in the Government service to respect the decisions that may be rendered. The board in its first bulletin, recently issued, has announced its adoption of the English system for the treatment of foreign names and transliteration into Roman characters, and has presented principles to guide in reaching decisions affecting home names. These principles will doubtless be added to as new questions arise, so that at no very distant day we may see formulated a set of rules that will be instructive as well as useful in their application. The first bulletin seems to have been received favorably, and we may hope, as the work of the board advances and the importance of the subject is more generally realized, that it will gain the hearty endorsement of the public and a support that must largely increase the usefulness of its labors.
THE WORK OF THE UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

By Henry Gannett,
Chairman of the Board and Chief Geographer of the U. S. Geological Survey and of the Tenth and Eleventh Censuses

This board was originally constituted, in the early part of 1890, as a voluntary association of officers of various departments of the government for the purpose of securing uniformity in the official spelling of geographic names. It was the result, in the main, of the efforts of Dr T. C. Mendenhall, then Superintendent of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, who was chosen its first chairman. It was given standing and authority by an executive order of September 4, 1890, which reads as follows:

"As it is desirable that uniform usage in regard to geographic nomenclature and orthography obtain throughout the executive departments of the government, and particularly upon the maps and charts issued by the various departments and bureaus, I hereby constitute a Board on Geographic Names and designate the following persons, who have heretofore cooperated for a similar purpose under the authority of the several departments, bureaus, and institutions with which they are connected, as members of said board. . . . To this board shall be referred all unsettled questions concerning geographic names which arise in the departments, and the decisions of the board are to be accepted by these departments as the standard authority in such matters. . . ."

The board now consists of representatives of the following departments and bureaus: State, War, and Navy departments, Light-House Board, Coast and Geodetic Survey, Geological Survey, General Land Office, Post Office Department, and Smithsonian Institution.
PORTO RICO

By Robert T. Hill,
United States Geological Survey

CONFIGURATION AND GEOLOGY

Porto Rico is the most eastern and the smallest of the Great Antilles, being 500 square miles less in area than Jamaica. It is 95 miles long, 35 miles wide, and has an area of 3,668 square miles.† The coast-line is about 360 miles in length. Its area is 300 square miles greater than that of Delaware, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia combined, and 300 square miles less than that of Connecticut. At the same time, it is the most productive in proportion to area, the most densely settled, and the most established in its customs and institutions. It is also notable among the West Indian group for the reason that its preponderant population is of the white race, and that it produces foodstuffs almost sufficient to supply its inhabitants as well as some of the neighboring islands.

*Published by permission of the Chief of the Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture and the Director of the Geological Survey, under whose auspices the researches upon which this article is based were made.
†The area of the island cannot be stated exactly. Some authorities give slightly different figures from the above.
PORTO RICO OR PUERTO RICO?

Robert T. Hill
December 1899 NGM

1. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names is not necessarily a final authority on the orthography of geographic names.

2. The decision of the Board in favor of spelling “Puerto Rico” was made several years ago, when the island was foreign territory. Whatever may have been the merits of the decision at the time, it is now obsolete as current usage (Porto Rico) includes that of the President of the United States, local official government (Military Department of Puerto Rico), that of the Treaty of Paris, that of the U.S. Post Office, and the official publications of other governmental departments and bureaus (from which the membership of the Board is made).

3. Porto Rico is the form adopted by all the best English writers and by all the world-famous cartographers.

4. The term Porto is easily pronounced and is written phonetically while the word Puerto is practically unpronounceable in English.

5. If its is the principle of the Board to adopt “for other countries the names by which they are known by their local inhabitants,” they have undertaken a needless and impossible task. In endeavoring to enforce such a revolution upon a world-wide custom of language the Board is transgressing its powers to diminishing its field of usefulness.
1. Among the (Board’s) earliest decisions was the one determining the spelling of Puerto Rico.

2. Up to the breaking of the war with Spain, Puerto Rico was the only form recognized in any of the Executive Departments, the U.S. Post Office, and by the Military Information Division of the War Department.

3. With the outbreak of the war, however, American newspapers with few exception, began to accustom the public to the form Porto Rico.

4. When the Treaty of Paris was made public it was found that through ignorance of the fact the Board had made a ruling on the subject, the form Porto Rico was used in the treaty.

5. The adoption or non-adoption of the Board’s decisions by the Departments is a matter concerning such Departments and the Board. The NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE regards the Board as the one and only standard of authority on geographic nomenclature so far as the government and people of the United States are concerned.
U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

The decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names will hereafter be published in the National Geographic Magazine. All the decisions of the Board up to June 1, 1900, are included in a report recently submitted to President McKinley and now in press. The Board recommended that, in addition to the

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

The decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names will hereafter be published in the National Geographic Magazine. All the decisions of the Board up to June 1, 1900, are included in a report recently submitted to President McKinley and now in press. The Board recommended that, in addition to the usual number, some 1,800 or 1,900, 8,000 extra copies be printed for general and departmental use. On this recommendation the Senate acted favorably, but the House of Representatives took no action. The Board therefore has no copies of this report for distribution, and persons desiring copies should apply to their Representatives in Congress. The following are the decisions rendered since the report went to press:

Alamoseek: lake in town of Orland, Hancock County, Maine. (Not Great pond.)

Bolden: run, Franklin township, Fayette County, Penna. (Not Boldon.)

Brewer: pond, Penobscot County, Maine. (Not Orrington Great.)

Canal: lake, Ocean County, N. J. (Not Caracajou.)

Cotneri: brook, Ocean County, N. J. (Not Cotterell.)

Douglas: post village and town, Worcester County, Mass. (Not Douglass.)

East Douglas: post-office and railroad station, Worcester County, Mass. (Not East Douglas.)

Garrett: island at mouth of the Susquehanna River, Cecil County, Md. (Not Watson.)

Green: lake, Hancock County, Maine. (Not Reed’s pond.)

Green Lake: post-office and railroad station, Hancock County, Maine. (Not Green Lake.)

Grove City: post-office and railroad station, Franklin County, Ohio. (Not Grove.)

Heagan: mountain, Waldo County, Maine. (Not Heagen.)

Lacarpe: creek, Ottawa County, Ohio. (Not Lacarpe.)

Leonia: post-office and railroad station, Kootenai County, Idaho. (Not Leonal.)

Little Sandy: creek, Fayette County, Penna., and Preston County, W. Va. (Not Gibbons nor Gibbons Glade.)

Niokolai: town on the Amur River, 25 miles from its mouth, eastern Siberia. (Not Nikolai, etc.)

Osborne: island in Manasquan River, Monmouth County, N. J. (Not Osborne.)

Phillips: lake in Dedham, Hancock County, Maine. (Not Fitz, Fitts, nor Fitz pond.)

Pine: knob in South Union, Fayette County, Penna. (Not Piney.)

Prestonburg: magisterial district and post-office, Floyd County, Ky. (Not Prestonburg.)

Segeunkehdonk: stream, tributary of Penobscot River, Penobscot County, Maine. (Not Segeunkehdonk.)

Sondaabesook: river, Penobscot County, Maine. (Not Sondabesook nor Sowaabesook.)

Swan: lake in Swanville, Waldo County, Maine. (Not Goose pond.)
The U.S. Board on Geographic Names has published a special report containing a list showing the approved spelling of about 4,000 coastwise names in the Philippine archipelago. There has hitherto been much difficulty with the names, inasmuch as existing charts, books, maps, and publications all disagreed. Spanish charts contained either all Spanish names or Spanish names and also Malay names written according to Spanish methods. On English charts the spelling of some of the Malay names had been altered to conform to English and American methods of writing native names, and naturally numerous errors and great confusion had arisen. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names, when appealed to for advice, after due consideration, recommended that the names in current use and their spelling, as shown on the best Spanish official maps and charts, should be followed. The Hydrographic Office, pursuant to this advice, under the direction of Capt. C. C. Todd, U. S. N., prepared, chiefly from Spanish official charts, the list of names which are included in this special report of the Board. It is interesting to note that the names were approved by Father José Algué, of Manila, the highest authority in the Philippine Islands.
PLACE NAMES IN EASTERN ASIA

The breaking out of the war between Russia and Japan is bringing trouble to every household in the land, for the place names of Korea and Manchuria are spelled differently by different newspapers and on different maps. These names in the native tongue are written in characters different from those which we employ, and have been transcribed into Roman characters by different persons in different ways; hence the widely varying forms which are seen. It is not generally known that a system of transliteration of such names has been adopted by most European nations, by Canada, and by this country—a system which is simple, easy of application, and which, if generally followed, reduces these variations of spelling to a minimum. This plan is published in the report of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names, and is here republished for ready reference.

Rules for Transliteration

- **a** has the sound of **a** in father.
- **e** has the sound of **e** in men.
- **i** has the sound of **i** in raven or of **ee** in beet.
- **o** has the sound of **o** in motel.
- **u** has the sound of **oo** in boot.
- **x** has the sound of **s** in ice.
- **ox** has the sound of **ow** in bow.
- **ah** is slightly different from above.
- **eh** has the sound of the two Italian vowels, but is frequently slurred over, when it is scarcely distinguishable from **ay** in the English they.
- **c** is always soft and has nearly the sound of **s**. Hard **c** is given by **k**.
- **ch** is always soft, as in church.
- **f** as in English; **ph** should not be used for this sound.
- **g** is always hard. (Soft **g** is given by **j**.)
- **h** is always pronounced when inserted.
- **j** as in English; **dj** should never be put in for this sound.
- **k** as in English; it should always be used for hard **c**.
- **kh** has the sound of the oriental guttural.
- **ph** is another guttural, as in the Turkish.
- **ng** has two slightly different sounds, as in finger,inger.
- **q** should never be employed; **kw** is given by **km**.
- **y** is always a consonant, as in yard, and should not be used for the vowel **i**.

The U. S. Board on Geographic Names has passed upon only a few of these names of eastern Asia. Among them are Amur, Chemulpo, Korea, Seoul, Manchuria, and Tokyo. Of the names already in common use in connection with the seat of war, the following forms should be employed in accordance with the rules above quoted: Mukden, Yalu, Sungari, Chefu, and Pusan.

H. G.

Gilbert Hovey Grosvenor
NGM Editor, 1899-1954
types of civilization—oriental and occidental—and by doing so to bring forth a new type of civilization, in which the culture and science of the two hemispheres will meet, not in conflict, but in harmony, so as to enable us to share the inheritance of Christian religion, oriental philosophy, Greek art, Roman law, and modern science.

Thus we hope in the course of the twentieth century to have at least one fruit out of our earnest and persevering efforts to contribute to the progress of mankind.

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE STORIES THEY TELL

By R. H. Whitbeck, New Jersey State Normal School

The geographical names of a country tell much of its history. Each race that inhabits a region gives its own names to mountains, rivers, and lakes, or adopts names previously given. A stronger people may, in later centuries, destroy or drive out every member of the earlier race. The latter may hand down no written sentence of its own history, yet some record of the race will be preserved in the geographical names which survive. The Romans were not able to vanquish the Britons. Comparatively little of Roman civilization penetrated the British Isles. The fact that the Roman "conquest" was little more than a military occupancy is attested by the geographical names which the Romans left, most of which terminate in -caster or -chester, from the Roman military word castra, a camp. Each wave of invasion—Roman, Angle, Danish, Saxon, or Norman—left its story in the names which it gave, and which remain like the stranded boulders of a glacier long since melted away.

The varied history through which different sections of the United States have passed is told in the varied nature of its geographical names. The red man built no cities in whose ruins we may read the story of his past, for the Indian was not a builder. He has left no roads or fortresses or castles; his methods of warfare called rather for a forest trail and an ambuscade, and these leave no ruins. Were a traveler to examine every valley and hill, every pass and ford and mountain from Maine to Florida, he would now find few traces of the red man in any material thing which survives him. But on every hand he would find the record of Indian occupancy in the names of rivers, creeks, and lakes in which the red man fished and on whose shores he camped and hunted and warred. The mountains seem to have had little attraction for the Indian, and it is seldom that a mountain bears an Indian name. The red man cared little for the bays and inlets along the coast; he made little use of the offshore islands; hence it is that among the hundreds of local names given to islands and bays along the coast of America one seldom meets an Indian word. But the streams and lakes were the Indian's delight. On their surfaces or along their banks most of his time was spent. Along their sides ran his trails and on their shores stood his villages. Every considerable stream and every lake had its name. When the pale face came he found the lake and the stream already named. When he traded
The August number of this Magazine will contain an address by the Secretary of War, Hon. William H. Taft, on the Philippines, illustrated with a four-colored map of the Philippine Islands.

A Tribute to American Topographers.

In an account of a lecture given by Mr. Bailey Willis before the geographers of Venice, Professor Penck, than whom there is no higher authority on topographic maps, pays a high compliment to American topographers:

"Above all opportunity was afforded of obtaining an insight into the really astonishing cartographic results achieved by Willis' party in China. The maps which were exhibited gave proof of the very decided superiority of American topographic methods over those employed by most European expeditions. The Willis party carried on plane-table surveys, on a scale of 10,000,000, with 20 to 30 meter contours, from Paiting to Tujaufu. This mapping was the work of Sargent, the topographer of the expedition, one of the expert cartographers of the United States Geological Survey. In 58 days Sargent mapped no less than 8,700 square kilometers, occupying 103 stations, locating 2,500 points by intersection, and measuring the altitudes of 2,150 points."

A. H. B.

"The Negroes of Zambales" is the subject of a recent publication of the Ethnological Survey of the Philippines. The pamphlet is very fully illustrated with maps and pictures showing the customs and life of the little brown people.

Although living in the mountainous and wooded portions of the islands, the Negrito grows tobacco, maize, and vegetables. He usually plants in cleared spots in the forest, because the soil is loose and needs no plowing, as in the case of the lowland. All work of digging up the soil, planting, and cultivating is done with sharpened sticks of hard wood, sometimes, but not always, pointed with iron, for iron is scarce. The piece of ground for planting is regarded as the personal property of the head of the family which cleared it. No one else would think of planting on it, even though the owner had abandoned it, unless he declared that he had no more use for it.

Many of the vices of the Negro tribe, says the report, are due to contact with the Malayans, to whom he is, at least in point of truthfulness, honesty, and temperance, far superior.

While living in the wild state, they have a very simple form of government. They simply gather around the most powerful man, whom they are quick to recognize in this way for superior ability or greater wealth; but when living peaceably scattered through the mountains each head of a family is a small head, and rules his family and those of his sons who elect to remain with him. When he dies the oldest son becomes the head of the family.

DECISIONS OF THE U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

April 5, 1905

CHINESE PROVINCES

Anhui (not Nyan-hui, Nyan-hui, Nyan-hoe, Nyan-hui, Nyan-hoe, nor Nyan-Hui).
Chekiang (not Chek-kiang, Chek-kiang, nor Chek-kiang).
Chihli (not Pe-chi, Pe-chili, Pe-chi, nor Chi-li).
Fukien (not Fukien, Puk-ien, Puk-ien, nor Foo-kien).
Honan (not Ho-nan).
Kiangsi (not Kiang-si, nor Kiang-si).
Kiangsu (not Kiang-su).
Kwang-ho (not Kwang-tung, Kwang-cho, Kwang-tung, Kwang-chung, nor Kwang-cho).
Kwangtung (not Kwang-tung, Kwang-cho, Kwang-tung, Kwang-chung, nor Kwang-tung).
Kueichou (not Kiew-chiu, Kuei-chou, Kui-chou, nor Kue-chou).
Kweichow (not Shantung, nor Shan-tung).
Kwanzhou (not Shantung, nor Shan-tung).
Nanking (not Nan-king, nor Nan-kung).
Nankin (not Nan-kin, nor Nan-kin).
Shansi (not Shan-si, nor Shan-see).
Shensi (not Shensi, nor Shen-see).
Szechwan (not Szechuen, Szechuen, nor Seechuen).
Szechuan (not Szechuen, Szechuen, nor Seechuen).
Yunnan (not Yunnan, Yun-nan, nor Yun-nan).
Mukden, city, China (not Mukden nor Moochinen).
Banka; island, lying between Sumatra and Borneo (not Banca nor Bangko).
Captains: bay, Alaska, between Hidlak Bay and Nafeekin Bay.
Carquinez: bay, point, and strait, connecting Suisun and San Pablo Bays, California (not Carquinez, Carquines, nor Karque-nes).
Chouteau: county, Montana (not Chouteau).
Donna Ana: county, post-office, railroad station, and town, New Mexico (not Donna Ana nor Donna Ana).
Grass, river, tributary to the St Lawrence River, St Lawrence County, New York (not De Grass, De Grasse, nor La Grass).
Hidlak: bay, Alaska, an arm of Unalaska Bay, east of Dutch Harbor (not Unalaska, nor Unalaska).
Hilsenhoff, Captains.
Labrador, Bay of.
Le Conte: bay and glacier, of Mt Island, Frederick Sound, southeastern Alaska (not Hultz, Holt, nor Thunderr).
Lewis and Clark: county, Montana (not Lewis and Clark).
Little Salmon: stream, tributary to Lake Ontario, near Texas and about 4 miles west of Salinas River, Oswego County, New York (not Salmon).
Port Lavash (not Captains Harbor nor St Paul).
Sycamore: creek, tributary to Verde River from the northeast, Yavapai County, Arizona (not Dragon nor Dragon Fork).

May 3, 1905

Chesoe city, China (not Chi-fu, Che-fit, Che-tiu, nor Tche).
Chihli (not Chi-li).
Chungking (not Chungking, Chung-king).
Chungking (not Chung-king).
Cho (not Chou, nor Chau).
Hokaido (not Hok-aido).
Honan (not Ho-nan).
Honan (not Ho-nan).
Ili (not Il-i).
Kansu (not Kan-su).
Kiangsi (not Kiang-si).
U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

It is hereby ordered that there be added to the duties of the United States Board on Geographic Names, created by Executive order dated September 4, 1890, the duty of determining, changing, and fixing place names within the United States and insular possessions, and it is hereby directed that all names hereafter suggested for any place by any officer or employee of the government shall be referred to said board for its consideration and approval before publication.

In these matters, as in all cases of disputed nomenclature, the decisions of the board are to be accepted by the departments of government as the standard authority.

Theodore Roosevelt
DECISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

The following important decisions relating to geographic names and their application were made by the United States Geographic Board on February 6, 1907. In reaching these decisions the Board has obtained the advice of many of the foremost American geographers and geologists, and the decisions here given are, in nearly all cases, the result of a consensus of opinion among the gentlemen consulted.

1. The entire western mountain system of North America.


3. The Plateau Region, the plateau of the Colorado River and its branches, limited on the east by the Rocky Mountains, on the west by the Wasatch Range, and extending from the southern end of the Wasatch southward, southeastward, and eastward to the eastern boundary of Arizona, including the escarpment of the Colorado Plateau, and including on the north the Green River basin.

4. The Basin Ranges, all those lying between the Plateau Region on the east, the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range on the west, and the Blue Mountain Range on Oregon on the north, including the Wasatch and associated ranges.

5. The Cascade Range, the Sierra Nevada, and the coast ranges collectively.

6. The Sierra Nevada, limited on the north by the gap south of Lassen Peak and on the south by Teapot Springs.

7. The Cascade Range, limited on the south by the gap south of Lassen Peak and extending northward into British Columbia.

8. The Coast Range, extending northward into Canada and southward into Lower California, and include all mountains west of Puget Sound and the Willamette, Sacramento, and San Joaquin valleys, and southwest of Mojave Desert.

9. The Bitterroot Range, extending from Clarks Fork on the northwest to Monida, the crossing of the Oregon Short Line on the southeast, including all mountain spurs.

10. The Mission Range, extending east and southeast of Flathead Lake, Montana.

11. The Wasatch Range, includes the north the Bighorn Range, extending to the bend of Bear River at Soda Springs, Idaho, and on the south extends to the mouth of the San Pete River near Gunnison.

12. The San Juan Mountains, includes all the mountains of southwest Colorado south of Gunnison River, west of San Luis Valley, and east of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad.

13. The Sacramento Mountains, includes those groups known as Jicarilla, Sierra Blanca, Sacramento, and Guadalupe.

14. The Salmon River Mountains, include the group in central Idaho lying south of main Salmon River, west of Lemhi River, north of Snake River, and east of the valley of Wenatchee River.

15. The Blue Mountains, include all the mountains of northeastern Oregon with the exception of the Wallowa Mountains, and extend into Washington.

16. The Sangre de Cristo Range, extends from Ponce Pass, Colorado, to the neighborhood of Santa Fe, New Mexico, thus including the southern portion locally known as the Cibola Range.

17. The Front Range, includes on the north the Larimer Range as far as the crossing of the North Platte, and on the south includes the Pikes Peak group.

18. The Appalachian System, includes all the eastern mountains of the United States from Alabama to northern Maine.

19. The Blue Ridge, includes the ridge extending from a few miles north of Harpers Ferry to northern Georgia.

20. The Appalachian Plateau, includes the entire plateau forming the western member of the Appalachian system, known in the north as the Allegheny Plateau and in the south as the Cumberland Plateau.

21. The Ozark Plateau, the plateau in northwestern Arkansas and southern Missouri.

22. The Ozark Mountains, the ridges of the Ozark Plateau.

COMMITTEES OF 1907

The following committees of the National Geographic Society have been appointed by President Willi L. Moore for 1907:

1. Executive Committee—President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Messrs. Bliss, Groves, and Henry.


3. Communications (Letters and Lectures)—Gilbert H. Grosvenor.


5. With power of the Chairman to add to its members.


New Atlas Maps Announced by The Society

Expanded Map Program, Marking National Geographic's 70th Year, Will Bring to Members Plates for a Big New Atlas

By James M. Darley
Chief Cartographer, National Geographic Society

Ever since Marco Polo journeyed to Cathay and Columbus's caravels braved the Ocean Sea, maps have spelled adventure. Each inked-in line speaks of man's quest for the distant shore, his urge to fathom the mysterious sea or to scale the lofty peak.

National Geographic Society maps continue to strike this responsive chord. Members acclaim them as welcome companions on any trip and magic carpets to faraway places.

Now, on the 70th anniversary of the founding of The Society, members will reap even greater rewards from a vastly expanded map program. After long study and planning, The Society launches with this issue an ambitious new project: the National Geographic World Atlas map series.

The handy size and larger scale of these maps make them ideal for guidance while traveling as well as for reference use at home. All maps in this series will be the same size, planned as integral plates of a world Atlas which each member can build up for himself.

Members formerly received four supplement maps a year. In 1958, however, your National Geographic will bring the first seven in this important new Atlas series.

Cartographers Charting World Anew

When I joined The Society's staff 37 years ago, its Cartographic Division consisted of two men—Chief Cartographer Albert H. Bumstead and myself. Today we have 38 men and women hard at work on the first half dozen sheets of the Atlas series.

Last year our four large ten-color supplement maps totaled nine million copies. This year, with the seven Atlas maps, the number will soar to 16 million.

For this series the entire world is being mapped afresh, region by region. There will also be an occasional special-purpose map, such as one planned for 1958 showing the National Parks and Monuments of the United States and Canada.

All Atlas maps will open out to 23 by 19 inches—small enough for ease of handling, yet large enough to permit a generous scale and wealth of detail. One, for instance, will portray the British Isles on a scale of 28.8 miles to the inch. Modern "bleed," or marginless design makes use of all 475 square inches to convey geographic information.

To help members preserve their Atlas maps for ready reference, The Society is preparing a sturdy, attractive portfolio, which will be available at modest cost. With it will come a glossary of geographic terms used in the new maps. Later a comprehensive index will be compiled, containing an estimated 120,000 place names.

Large wall charts will also be presented to members from time to time, and copies of maps previously issued will continue to be available from The Society.

Winter Holiday Area Depicted First

Now, with Christmas past and winter's chill settling over the land, many Americans think longingly of royal palms, warm Florida sands, and majestic sailfish sporting in blue Gulf Stream waters. If you join the thousands heading south for a holiday in the sun, you will want to take along the new MAP OF THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES accompanying this issue of your Geographic.

Whether you cruise on the Intracoastal Waterway, drive along Florida's new Sunshine State Parkway, or travel by train or airplane, this lead-off map in the new Atlas series will chart your way to winter warmth.

Each year more and more vacationers crowd the glittering skyline at Miami Beach (pages 54-55), more resorts open along Florida's "Gold Coast" to receive vacationing throngs (map inset C).

Key Biscayne, an uninhabited "South Sea isle" until about 15 years ago, is today a year-round playground linked to the mainland by Rickenbacker Causeway (page 68). County-owned Crandon Park, where thousands come to bathe on palm-fringed beaches, to picnic, or to visit the zoo, shares the key with a fast-growing community of homes, motels, and shopping centers.

In three decades a swelling tide of new residents has pushed Florida from 31st to 13th place among the States in population.

The entire Southeast is rich in history. Jamestown, Williamsburg, Yorktown, Harpers Ferry, Fort Sumter, Appomattox—a multitude of place names charged with meaning appears on this Atlas map. Here are scenic and recreational places that attract increasing numbers of America's tourists: Kentucky's Mammoth Cave, with more than 150 miles of explored passageways; the beautiful lakes of the Tennessee Valley; Shenandoah National Park and famed Skyline Drive; and the Great Smokies, the most visited of our national park areas, with an estimated three million visitors in 1957.

On North Carolina's Outer Banks, where Sir Walter Raleigh's Roanoke Island colonists perished and pirates and wreckers once furred ships to their destruction, the Wright brothers ushered in the age of powered flight. Even more portentous are the rockets that today blast off from Patrick Air Force Missile Test Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida. A 5,000-
What a difference two years make! In 1990 the National Geographic Society published the sixth edition of its *Atlas of the World*, expecting it to last years. But events—notably the breakup of the Soviet Union and of Yugoslavia—forced a change of plans. Beginning this month, new atlas purchasers will receive a far different “revised sixth edition.”

“We couldn’t just go back and print more of the original,” says John F. Shupe, the Society’s Chief Cartographer. “We want to offer the most current atlas possible.”

The revision covers 20 new nations: 15 former Soviet republics, whose flags appear below, as well as the reborn Yugoslavia and the nations that split from it—Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia. “In terms of impact, we’ve never seen anything like this in our lifetime,” says Peter Miller, atlas text editor.

That’s not all. Every map naming any part of either Yugoslavia or the U.S.S.R.—even a map of Alaska, which shares the Bering Strait with Russia—changed. So too did many of the 150,000 place-names in the index. More than 95 percent of Ukraine’s place-names reverted to what they were before it fell under Soviet rule.

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A Shooting in the Forest: Mountain Gorilla Is Slain

The autopsy reveals the stark facts: four holes where bullets entered; a large hole, “probably an exit hole”; two .58-caliber bullets, fired by light automatic assault weapons.

The victim? Mrithi (above), a majestic, 24-year-old mountain gorilla in Rwanda’s Parc National des Volcans, featured in the film of Dian Fossey’s life, *Gorillas in the Mist*. His loss shocked observers, who fear civil war will bring more gorilla deaths and loss of habitat. Only 600 or so mountain gorillas remain in the wild.

Dr. Elizabeth Macfie, director of the park’s Volcano Veterinary Center, says it’s unclear whether government soldiers or Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels shot Mrithi, leader of a 12-member family: “We’re sure it was an accident, and it could happen again tomorrow.”

Antipoaching patrols have decreased since fighting began in 1990, as has tourism, a key factor in Rwanda’s economy (*Geographic*, March 1992). Gorillas too have been caught in snares set for game. Mrithi’s survivors cling together in the weeks after his death, led by Ukwacumi, a 12-year-old male. But he may be too young for leadership, and the group may yet disolve.
Geopolitically Correct

The world keeps turning, and our cartographers keep up with it. For the second revision of the sixth edition of the Society’s Atlas of the World, a map of Kazakhstan (above) is losing its h. To reflect its recent independence, the Central Asian republic abandoned the transliterated Russian spelling in April. Nearly 3,500 place-names have been changed since the atlas’s last revision in 1992. Also added: the route of the English Channel Tunnel, opened in 1994, the Aral Sea’s shrinking shoreline, and the new nations of Eritrea and Palau. Adjustments have been made to the borders between Oman and Yemen and between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.
Conventional place-names

Cultural features: Political and Populated place-names

Physical features: Geographical and Hydrographical names
Conventional place-names
Shared geographic features – Physical and political reference maps and atlas sectional plates

Dead Sea

Yam HaMelaḥ Hebrew

Carpathian Mountains

Karpatičti Czech, Polish, Slovak, Ukrainian

Al Bahṣ al Mayyit
Arabic

Kárpatók
Hungarian

Carpaṭi
Romanian
Variant place-names
Political reference maps and atlas sectional plates

Romanized names—Native (Conventional): Italy

MILANO (MILAN)
Romanized–Native (Conventional)

Venezia (Venice)
Romanized–Native (Conventional)

Alternating variant names: Ireland (Eric)

Torraigh (Tory I.)
Local-Gaelic(Conventional)

Creeslough (An Craoslach)
Conventional(Local-Gaelic)
Transliterated place-names
Political reference maps and atlas sectional plates

Ar Riyāḍ (Riyadh)
Athína (Athens)
El Qâhira (Cairo)
Krung Thep (Bangkok)
Moskva (Moscow)
Contentious place-names

Local (Chinese) short-form name

Conventional name

Local name

Variant (Tibetan) name

Conventional name
ASAMBLEA NACIONAL DEL PODER POPULAR

RICARDO ALARCÓN DE QUESADA, Presidente de la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular de la República de Cuba.

HACER SABER: Que la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular, en la sesión del 1ro de agosto de 2010, correspondiente al Quinto Período Ordinario de Sesiones de la Segunda Legislatura, en concordancia con lo establecido en el Artículo 75, inciso b), de la Constitución de la República, ha adoptado el siguiente:

ACUERDO NÚMERO VII - 49

Aprobar por unanimidad la Ley N° 110, “Modificatoria de la Ley N° 1304 de 3 de julio de 1976 de la División Político-Administrativa” y el dictamen, elaborado por la Comisión de Arzobispos Constitucionalistas y Jurídicos.

Publicarse esta Gaceta Oficial de la República para general conocimiento.

Dada en la sesión de la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular, Palacio de los Convenciones, ciudad de La Habana, el día 1ro. de agosto de 2010.

RICARDO ALARCÓN DE QUESADA Presidente de la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular de la República de Cuba.

HACER SABER: Que la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular de la República de Cuba en sesión celebrada el día 1ro. de agosto de 2010, correspondiente al Quinto Período Ordinario de Sesiones de la VII Legislatura, ha aprobado lo siguiente:

ACUERDO NÚMERO VII - 49

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2. El País.com Internacional
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