

SUMMARY

The dictionary “*Latvijas ciemi. Nosaukumi, ģeogrāfiskais izvietojums*” (Villages of Latvia. Names, Geographical Location) has been worked out at the Laboratory of Toponymy, Department of Cartography, Latvian Geospatial Information Agency (until 01.01.2006. — State Land Service), in collaboration with scientists (geographers and philologists) of the University of Latvia.

The aim of the dictionary is to form and present the system of the names of villages of Latvia. Therefore the chief objectives are: to select and recommend preferred names of villages for further usage; to exclude false and incorrectly written names of villages; to reveal the development of the village names.

The publication is based on the names of villages included in both editions of the Satellite Map of the Republic of Latvia, scale 1:50 000, 1st edition published in 1998–1999, 2nd ed. — 2002–2003. Scientific investigation of the names of villages was continued, when the names were verified for the Topographic Map of the Republic of Latvia, scale 1:50 000, and agreed by local governments.

The authors of the book have used various sources: materials of expeditions to every civil parish, town and city; the main toponymic dictionaries of Latvia (compiled by V. Dambe, J. Endzelīns, J. Plāķis and V. Zeps; see the List of Literature and Cartographic Sources); Topographic Map of Latvia, scale 1:75 000, published in 1920–1940; decisions on the names of villages adopted by local governments (since 1998); etc.

The dictionary comprises 14 012 names of 8879 villages. Information on these names that can be obtained from the dictionary is the following:

- names of villages in the first edition of the Satellite Map of the Republic of Latvia;
- preferred names of villages;
- other names, name variants and previous names of villages;
- remarks on pronunciation of the names of villages;
- types of villages according to the classification worked out by the authors of the book (the classification indicates the main characteristics of the villages, like number of inhabitants, infrastructure objects, location of farmsteads, etc.):
 - lielciems (lc.) — a large village,
 - vidējciems (vc.) — a middle sized village,
 - mazciems (mc.) — a small village,
 - skrajciems (sc.) — a scattered village,
 - aprūpes ciems (a.c.) — a care-centre village,
 - vasarnīcu ciems (vas.c.) — a summer-house village;
- location of the names of villages on the Satellite Map of Latvia (name of the mapsheet and coordinates according to the national geodetic system LKS-92);
- administrative or territorial unit to which the village belongs (district and civil parish or county).

A lot of villages, especially in the eastern part of Latvia, called Latgale, bear more than one name. Therefore it was necessary to select the preferred name of every village. All the preferred names are recommended by the authors of the book (for names of authors see Contents) and verified by specialists of philology and geography. The main principles of selecting the preferred name for every village:

- 1) the oldest name of a village if it is still being used by local inhabitants, for example, *Zonapi*, not *Zonepe*; *Allažmuiža*, not *Ausmas*;
- 2) the name revealing local naming traditions and local dialect, for example, *Mellsils*, not *Melnsils*; *Vecvagāres*, not *Vecvagares*; *Griušļova*, not *Grūšļeva*;
- 3) the name most often used in literature or cartographic sources if the name is not incorrect, for example, *Liepna*, not *Līpna*;
- 4) the etymologically most correct village name, for example, *Lozduļova* < *Lozdupļova*, not *Lazduleja*;
- 5) the name adopted by local government to replace an older name if the older name should not be specially preserved, for example, *Zemgaļi*, not *Šļūkas*;
- 6) the name adopted by local government for a new village if the name corresponds to generally accepted and local naming traditions, for example, *Jaunziemeļi* and *Paugurciems* in Kurzeme (Courland).

Everything mentioned above indicates that the dictionary is an important source both because of the information and recommendations it provides, as well as in the sense of preserving cultural history of Latvia.