

**Report to the 33rd General Assembly
FIG Congress in Sydney, Australia 2010**

**International Institution for the History of Surveying and Measurement
(IIHSM)**

Report of Activities 2009

The last report was prepared for the FIG meeting in Eilat and the accompanying IIHSM Workshop. Unfortunately the Officers of the IIHSM were unable to attend for differing reasons – family, clashing engagement and health problems. Despite these problems we are happy to report that Jim Smith, together with Alan Wright and Brian Sturman has produced another book. It is *The Tellurometer from Dr Wadley to the MRA 7*. This tells the story of the first 50 years of one of the earliest forms of electronic distance measurement. Publication was supported by Tellumat (pty) Ltd, of Cape Town. The book is of 244 pages at A4 with 203 illustrations and some copies are available for purchase by enquiry to:

Brian Sturman at BSTurman@tellumat.com. Price 300 Rand plus p/p.

Jim Smith was also involved in a companion volume written by one of the sisters of Dr Wadley, Mary von Hirschberg– *Trevor Lloyd Wadley: Genius of the Tellurometer*. This book was also sponsored by Tellumat and is of 112 pages at A5 with 33 illustrations and copies of this can be obtained by enquiry to:

Mary von Hirschberg at maryvh@iafrica.com. Price \$US25 including p/p

The 50th anniversary of the Tellurometer, and the launch of the books, were celebrated in May in Cape Town and in October in Johannesburg. Both Jim Smith and Alan Wright attended both of these events and both presented papers at the latter event which was sponsored by the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers.

The group has also been active in the USA where Jan de Graeve visited Atlanta University with one of our US colleagues, Walter Robillard. Then in Texas Jan attended a 3 day conference in Arlington hosted by the Texas Map Society. Jan presented papers and co-organised a survey with original 19th century American instruments. This was attended by 50 historians of Cartography.

Jan de Graeve is completing a bibliographic work on Gerard Mercator whose 500th anniversary will be celebrated in 2012 at events in Belgium where likely venues include Rupelmonde, Antwerp, Duisburg and St Niklaas.

German colleagues in Dortmund have re-edited their catalogue of instruments that they exhibit in the city museum where they occupy half a floor. Not all instruments can be on show but a reserve is housed in the Museum am Westpark. A splendid book, well illustrated, the catalogue is a very good introduction to the function, work and history of the land surveyor. Published in 2009 it has an ISBN 978-3-99-028449-6. It would be useful if this book could be translated into English and so make it available to surveyors around the world.

We also note an up-dated catalogue *Muzeorama Zemljomjerstvo Kataster* for the Tehnicki Muzej in Zagreb, Serbia. This is of 142 pages and nicely illustrated. Copies can be obtained from Prof.Dr B Kanajet, Technicki Muzej, Savska Cesta 28, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia.

In early 2009 we prepared in Braine-l'Alleud (Belgium, south of Brussels near Waterloo) an exhibition "From the local foot to the metre and the early days of the Belgian Cadastre" which, although it was wintertime, was quite successful.

Jim Smith is continuing to assemble material relating to the Arc of 30th Meridian and its connection to the Struve arc World Heritage Monument. The aim is to get the countries through which this extension goes to do all that is necessary to get it recognised as an addition to the existing WHM which was achieved in 2005. Any representatives from the following countries who would be interested to assist in this historical exercise are asked to contact Jim Smith (e-mail: jim@smith1780.freeserve.co.uk): Belarus, Botswana, Burundi, Crete, Egypt, Greece, Macedonia FYROM, Mozambique, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

For the 2010 Congress in Sydney a two-day Symposium has been prepared and organised by John Brock, a well known scholar of Sydney and surveyor in Parramatta. The first day will reconstitute the meeting of the first Governor and the first Surveyor General of NSW, together with many Surveyors General of Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and hopefully other countries as well. Each Surveyor General will retrace the history of his predecessors, a history lesson for all surveyors of Australia. A third day seminar is to be prepared as part of the technical programme on the Wednesday of the Congress.

With the FIG Council IIHSM has prepared an FIG publication that records the activities of the IIHSM, its aims, objects and activities in the past, present and future. This will be distributed in Sydney.

As indicated above, John Brock has taken on the organisation of our Workshops and symposia. This he will be doing for the forthcoming events that coincide with FIG Working Weeks and Congresses. John can be contacted at toptours@bigpond.com.

For the future we welcome active members to join our board as the present officers have been in charge since 1994 when the Commission 0 was converted into the Permanent Institution.

Do not hesitate to contact Jan de Graeve during the meeting in Sydney.

Jan de Graeve

Chair of the International Institution for the History of Surveying and Measurement
January 2010

Website: www.fig.net/hsm