

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR THE HISTORY
OF SURVEYING & MEASUREMENT (IIHSM)
2015-2016

1. Since the symposium on Norfolk Island organised by John Brock in 2014 and the meeting in Sofia in 2015 we met the Board of the FIG Foundation to discuss the programme for enhancing the Struve Geodetic Arc World Heritage Monument with the addition of Central Europe and Eastern Africa including the crossing of the Mediterranean Sea.

We were asking for help to finance the work involved over Africa involving the countries from Libya and Egypt to the Republic of South Africa. We presented the work plan in Sofia to the Surveyor Generals who were present at that meeting for their moral support and practical help on the ground to identify the marks of the 30th meridian. Jim Smith has prepared a 500 page document with all the details relating to that scheme.

We have been regularly attending the meetings of the Struve committee set up after we obtained in 2005 the status of a World Heritage Monument for that Arc.

2. For the plan by the city of Adelaide for the preservation and inscription on the World Heritage list we prepared a detailed plan of the origin point of the coordination system in front of West Terrace and North Terrace. A monument to be erected on the point is to be unveiled on April 27 2016 .

3. The History Section of the International Cartographic Association, until recently chaired by Prof. Elri Liebenberg and now by Professor Imre Demhardt, has shown an interest in joining forces with the IIHS&M for some future events.

4. Jan de Graeve continues to reconstitute the 16 century scientific library of Gerard Mercator and support various meetings and displays of Mercator's work such as that about to take place at the Museum in Cassel, France from March to June.

5. During the year Jan de Graeve and John Brock attended various colloquia on the history of surveying and cartography.

6. Jim Smith continues with the work of compiling and editing the R S Webb notes on the History of the measurement of geodetic meridian arcs. This is likely to finish up in the region of some 2000 pages but in what form it will be produced is yet to be decided.

7. The IIHS&M is still seeking volunteers to join the present officers in the promotion of our activities. Any one interested is asked to contact Jan de Graeve at jan@degraeve-geo.eu or fax **322621033 or in Christchurch FIG Meetings.

Jan de Graeve