

- Affiliation with the International -  
Society of Photogrammetry

It is planned that the Society will be affiliated with the International Society of Photogrammetry, which will give our members valuable contacts and standing with photogrammetrists in other countries. Such an affiliation was made possible and desirable at the International Congress of Photogrammetrists held in Zurich in 1930, through the adoption of new and liberal statutes for the International Society, the decision to print the proceedings in English and French, as well as in German, and the plans adopted to reprint and make available the technical articles previously published in the Archiv fur Photogrammetric.

Through the International Society, we shall be associated with other national societies located all over the world and listed below:

	<u>Number of Members</u>
German Society of Photogrammetry	266
Austrian Society of Photogrammetry	82
Spanish Society of Photogrammetry	140
Finnish Society of Photogrammetry	No Record
French Society of Photogrammetry	101
Hungarian Society of Photogrammetry	84
Latvian Society of Photogrammetry	24
Norwegian Society of Photogrammetry	17
Polish Society of Photogrammetry	104
Rumanian Society of Photogrammetry	66
Swedish Society of Photogrammetry	60
Swiss Society of Photogrammetry	75
Czechoslovakian Society of Photogrammetry	81
Belgian Society of Photogrammetry	No Record

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RANDOM FACTS AND FANCIES

by

W. N. Brown

Our national development, after many years of "Just growing like Topsy" is now entering an era of planning. Witness the many news items. Among them we have proposals for the planned development of several large river valleys, covering thousands of square miles; planned forest belts to modify the climate of vast areas; planning to prevent soil erosion on the Indian Reservations, and many other planned activities familiar to all who read.

Correlated to the thought of extensive planning is the thought of a program of extensive mapping of the physical data. Successful planning of physical conditions must have a wide range of maps. These will extend from the photographic print and the mosaic to the accurate topographic map. It is generally accepted as true "That no survey of any magnitude, that may be called a standard survey, will be made in the future without the

aid of aerial photography." Photogrammetry and surveying and mapping are hitched to the same kite and will either fall or arrive, together.

If they are to arrive, we must mutually study and solve our problems. Frank and friendly discussions, in the Society News Letter, of the many divergent conceptions of these problems and their solution, should be both interesting and beneficial. I exhort all persons interested to contribute and to nurse carefully a saving sense of humor. Although many of our members are important Government officials, I do not believe they will go free from some severe "panning" where their methods and policies deserve such treatment.

There should be listed among the subjects for discussion, such subjects as; to make planning officials and the general public MAP CONSCIOUS. At present, neither our law makers, the general public nor many of the Government officials in charge of vast amounts of planning work are map conscious. Discussions pointing out specific cases of poor plans and waste of money, due primarily to lack of proper map data should be so continuous and so consistent, that never again would a comprehensive mapping plan such as that recently put forward by Engineering Council, be turned down. The demand for proper maps should be like that of the famous remedy, such that even the babies cry for it.

Aerial photography, photogrammetry and mapping is not just a question of the delivery of material. Knowledge, skill and service are involved to such an extent that the material represented by film and print are a very small portion of the delivered product. Given the same films and prints, the quality of the final product will vary just as widely as will the outcome of a surgical operation or a law suit, dependent upon the ability of those in whose hands the matter is placed. The failure of a map to serve its purpose can be just as costly as the loss of a law suit. In the hands of the inept, the cost of making the map may be many times what it should be. City and Government officials tell us they are compelled to advertise mapping work and that it is next to impossible to let it to any other than the low bidder, even though they know he has failed to deliver on some previous work. It is our task to work for a change of conception in this matter. One method of attacking the problem is to place in the hands of those officials conclusive data showing that the low bid may often be the most expensive when the job is viewed as a whole. This opens up discussion of the means of differentiating a low bid arising from a lack of knowledge and experience from one due to special ability and equipment.

Proper specifications and modes of testing the product delivered, combined with strict rejection of all work not up to standard, plus a means of bringing to the attention of all bonding companies the names of those low bid failures arising from incompetence, may do much toward eliminating the bids of incompetent bidders. Placing this data before the Comptroller's

Office will also strengthen the hand of those Bureau Chiefs who realize that some low bids are often not the most desirable ones.

However, the real object of specifications is to make known just what service is desired. They must, therefore, be explicit and readily understandable to all. Since they materially effect the quality and cost of the work, they must be well adapted to the purpose of the work. Slight changes in the specifications may double the cost of the work, yet may not add one whit to the accuracy of the results. Discussion of and standardization of specifications, so far as may be possible to standardize them, will prove both interesting and beneficial.

There is quite a divergence of opinion concerning tests. This applies especially to the proper method of testing topographic maps. Tests serve two distinct functions. One to see that the work accomplished meets the requirements of accuracy in accordance with the specifications. The other one, and to my mind the most important one, is that if made during the progress of the work, they indicate changes that may be made in the method, advantageous both to accuracy and cost of results. On large jobs, one of the most difficult problems is that of standardizing the work of many different operators each having different ability or characteristics, in an effort to produce a map which, as a whole, will maintain a fixed standard. During the progress of the work, tests of each man's results will show just where that individual errs from the standard. They will develop the fact that one man can with ten located points per acre, produce just as good topography as another will with twenty such points. A study of the reason for this may result in correcting the condition. Every man in charge of a mapping project is neglectful of his duty if he does not have proper tests made. It is easy to be satisfied with ones own work and to feel that it is satisfactory, but in that direction lies poor work and inefficiency.

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### ARE WE PROVINCIAL?

by

L. T. Eliel

Photogrammetry is being practiced extensively on every continent. Different methods, equipment and conditions have developed a local technique in many centers of activity. Countries as close together as Canada and the United States have special methods and preferences.

We, in the United States, may easily isolate ourselves in an impregnable aura of complacency and self satisfaction. We are inclined to believe that everything should be done as we do it.

A glance around the world shows that a good many other fellows have ideas which we must admit are interesting, even if we can't unbend enough to call them good. At least, it has been