

THE REACTIVATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY

*Mr. B. Scherpbier**

THE International Society of Photogrammetry has restarted its activities as indicated by the circular letter which has been sent to your society.

We have received answers from various countries as follows:

SWITZERLAND. Has remained active during the war and has now 70 members and 14 supporters. The President is Prof.-Dr. C. F. Baeschlin.

CHINA. We have written to the Netherlands Embassy in order to get in contact with Chinese Photogrammetry. The answer was that no Society of Photogrammetry exists. We were referred to General Wang Chih-Cho who is now with us. I have already had a few talks with General Wang and it appears that the prospects of forming a Chinese Society of Photogrammetry are favorable.

ENGLAND. Col. C. A. Hart of the Directorate of Survey thinks there will be a good chance of forming a Society of Photogrammetry in the near future.

DENMARK. During the occupation all activities were suspended. President: Dr. Norlund.

BELGIUM. Same as Denmark. President: F. Cattelain.

FRANCE. The Society had remained active under General Perrier. General Perrier died the 16th of February of this year. His death is a great loss to Photogrammetry.

NETHERLANDS. The activities were suspended during the later years of the war. President: A. Kruithof.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Our circular letter was returned so that we fear that no society exists any longer in that country.

RUSSIA. We have tried to establish contact with Russian photogrammetrists via the Netherlands Ambassador, but have not received any answer as yet. If any of you could furnish us with other useful contacts in Russia in this respect we should be very thankful.

SWEDEN. The Society remained active during the war. The President is P. Tham. The number of members totals 115.

CANADA. The Canadian Institute of Surveying has not yet answered the circular letter.

Regarding the Axis Societies of Photogrammetry, I think the time has not yet come to take up contact with them.

We hope to be able to arrange for a Photogrammetric Congress in our country as soon as the restrictions on travelling have been somewhat abated.

Regarding *Photogrammetria* we shall soon make a proposal for its renewal as we feel that it is of extreme importance to the interests of Photogrammetry to have a periodical which is at the disposal of the International Society of Photogrammetry. I will send to Comdr. Reading those copies of *Photogrammetria* which have appeared during the occupation of the Netherlands and which did not reach you.

Let us all try to make the International contacts work again so that the great task can be fulfilled which will be allotted to Photogrammetry in rebuilding

* Mr. Scherpbier, Secretary of the International Society of Photogrammetry, delivered this and the following paper at an informal and hurriedly called meeting in Washington, on April 16.

a world devastated by a cruel war. Let us use this tool which God has given us to the welfare of mankind.

To conclude, I would like to read the pledge made for you by Mr. Leon Eliel.

"I have cast into words for you a pledge for 1941. True democracy has no better example than the International Society of Photogrammetry. A self-governing international organization, it has surmounted the pitfalls of language and race differences; of commercial competition and professional jealousies. Today it is prostrate. We in the American Society of Photogrammetry hold in trust some of the dormant seed from which the future harvests of such democracy may germinate. With the soils of the earth despoiled and turned to desert wastes, we here constitute one of the few oases in which this seed may be preserved and propagated. We shall preserve this seed in readiness for the rich soils of some as yet undiscovered land, to be turned by the share of some mysterious plow, forged, we know not when, nor where, nor how. WE DO PLEDGE OURSELVES."

The time has now come for the fulfillment of this pledge.

PHOTOGRAMMETRY IN THE NETHERLANDS DURING THE OCCUPATION

Mr. B. Scherpbier

REPARCELLATION PLANS

VERY soon after the occupation of our country the normal work of the photogrammetric division of Public Work Survey in Delft (Geodetic Institute) which consisted mainly of making large scale maps for road construction, river improvements, etc. and of aerial triangulation work for mapping of areas outside Europe had to be heavily reduced.

The war brought, however, other work for this department. In 1939 part of our country had been covered by photographs in scale 1:20,000 in order to prepare controlled mosaics in scale 1:10,000. These pictures were used to prepare maps 1:2,500 for cadastral use in connection with reparcellation activities. That is, the exchange and recombination of very small parcels of land subdivided because of inheritance, into larger more efficiently workable parcels.

The maps were made with the aid of the stereoplanigraph and the A5, enlarging optically about $3\frac{1}{2}$ times and $2\frac{1}{2}$ times mechanically by the drawing table gears.

The maps were checked by the cadastral service and accepted by them, the errors not being larger than 0.2 mm. on the map. We had to have a rather large number of ground control points. As a matter of fact, we usually did not succeed in getting the whole model to scale in one setting but had to carry out the scaling for each of the quadrants of the model separately. The greatest trouble we had was with the definition of the ground control points which consisted of ditch crossings, etc. We would have been much better off if we could have had pre-laid markers.

DETERMINATION OF THE HEIGHTS OF HOUSES

We also did work on the determination of the heights of houses of the bombarded sites in Rotterdam and Eindhoven. The compensation of this war damage to the owners was quite a problem. In order to come to a correct figure for the value of the buildings, the Reparation Council used all kinds of information it could get. In instances, the rent paid, the insurance policy, and the tax paid on the property gave average figures.