

PRESENTATION OF THE TALBERT ABRAMS AWARD TROPHY TO THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY*

Mr. President—Ladies and Gentlemen:

This evening I am to have the honor and privilege of unveiling and presenting a trophy which will for the next ten years be annually presented to the winner of the Talbert Abrams Award of the American Society of Photogrammetry. This is indeed a privilege and a moment that comes in the life of but few people.

Little did I realize when I started flying 30 years ago, that there would be an industry such as Photogrammetry and that there would be a society to correlate the interests and activities of such a science; however, it has come to pass and in the past ten years this Society has laid the groundwork of a great organization destined to influence the history of the universe in its search for knowledge with which to apply this art and science.

Our membership is international and active around the globe and not all of our members can attend our national meetings and must be kept informed of advancement through PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ENGINEERING, our official publication. It is sincerely hoped, that this trophy will encourage the authorship and recording of scientific and historical events in photogrammetry.

As a symbol of photogrammetry, this trophy is now unveiled, and I trust it will prove an inspiration to all photogrammetrists.

I would much prefer the Society to consider this award and trophy not as a gift, but as a debt that I am endeavoring to repay. Aviation and photography have been kind to me and my associates for many years; it has afforded us the opportunity to make friends in many places and these friendships are our most valued possessions for they have lasted through the years. This science has enabled us to better serve our country in both peace and war. Ours is a duty of love, a love for our society and all that it means to us.

This award and trophy were not conceived by me, but by those members of the Society who have its best interest at heart, and I consider myself unusually fortunate in being considered as the donor of this award. Many people both within and without the Society have contributed their ideas, time and physical effort so that this award would exemplify the aims and objects of the Society and thus serve as a living memorial for the deeds already accomplished and a continuing encouragement to strive for still greater accomplishments.

The past ten years have seen great changes come to our profession and I prophesy that in the next ten years our profession will be completely revolutionized and the scope of our activity, the making of measurements from photographs, will go far beyond the world on which we live to the universe about us, for then and only then, can we understand the forces that control our very lives.

The trophy is intended to portray a world illuminated from within, surrounded by the American Society of Photogrammetry, and the bronzed wings of an angel give flight to man as we go about our daily work. A solid foundation of stone can best support our position in the universe when it honors and records the deeds of men.

I now bequeath this trophy as a symbol for progress and may its shining wings and illuminated globe inspire all members to greater things.

* Presentation speech by Talbert Abrams, at the 12th Annual Meeting of the Society, in Washington, Jan. 16, 1946.