

ADDRESS OF THE RETIRING PRESIDENT  
GERALD FITZGERALD

In keeping with a custom now fairly well established, your President is expected to deliver an address before turning over the affairs of the Society to the incoming President. The subjects of these talks have in the past varied from lengthy, carefully prepared papers on subjects of broad general interest, to brief statements on current Society affairs. In considering this matter I have concluded that, since our program covers such a wide range of activities in the field of photogrammetry, with papers presented by eminently qualified members and guests, I shall confine my remarks to somewhat random observations on the progress and problems of our Society.

The Treasurer's report has indicated a consistent improvement in the financial affairs of the Society. It must be realized, however, that the rather substantial balance shown on our books is mainly the result of sales of our *Manual of Photogrammetry*. During the past year, rising costs for nearly all items of operations of the Society increased the running expenses and decreased the margin of savings considerably. This trend may possibly indicate a leveling off, or an actual decline in our unobligated year's balance. We must maintain some insurance against lean years and it is important, therefore, that we exercise caution in authorizing expenditure of funds in excess of annual revenue. This means simply that every effort must be made to increase our income in order to provide necessary enlargement of our journal, more frequent meetings, and most important of all, the more efficient handling of our business affairs by the employment of a full-time office manager which the Board has recently approved. The most likely source of increased income in the immediate future is, of course, new members.

The Secretary's report, particularly in respect to membership, is most gratifying and a bit surprising in view of the fact that a real membership drive has not been made during the year. The gains made have in no small measure been due to the combined efforts of our Secretary and Mr. Cultice, who assumed chairmanship of the committee late in the year. About three months ago the Secretary sent letters to nearly 1,000 former members who had allowed their memberships to lapse during the war years and before. As a result, nearly a hundred of these have again become active members. It is estimated that there are not less than 5,000 men and women in this country engaged in work that has some connection with photogrammetry. The great majority of these people would benefit by membership in the Society, and we in turn could greatly increase effective work in disseminating information and promoting other major objectives of the Society. It is also likely that our Sustaining Membership could be doubled, thereby materially increasing both the prestige and the revenue of the Society.

Committee work is essential in any Society. We have been fortunate to have within our membership individuals who have unselfishly devoted their time to Committee assignments. Unfortunately, these members seem to be far too few in number, and this has resulted in vital and important committee work being carried on year after year by a comparatively few loyal "work horses" who could be depended upon to produce results. Election to office or appointment to committees can be an empty honor if not supported by an active membership ready and willing to assume responsibility for carrying on the Society's work. A scientific or technical society is only as strong as its active membership, and we are no exception to this rule.

During the past year, twelve committees were organized, and for the most part accomplished good results. The Civil Service report prepared by F. G. Settee and members of his committee, was in my estimation, an example of effective committee work of the kind that reflects great credit to the entire Society. It is unfortunate that the nature of most of our work requires local committees which for the most part prevents the appointment of members located any great distance from Washington. The establishment of local sections should provide an opportunity for organized contributions from a much larger group of our members. A local section can be so organized that its committee work can be as vital and important to the entire Society as work done here in Washington. It is hoped that through the provision of the new Constitution and By-Laws we can encourage the establishment of a number of active local sections throughout the country.

During the past year the Society held three meetings in Washington, one on the work of the Navy's Photo Interpretation Center, another on the activities of the Engineer Board at Fort Belvoir, and a third to hear Mr. Scherpbier from Holland describe the International Society of Photogrammetry and plead for its reactivation. A fourth and Semi-Annual Meeting was held at Wright Field, where recent developments in photogrammetry and electronics were reviewed and discussed. A large amount of captured German equipment was displayed at this meeting and aroused great interest. In addition, meetings were held by local sections in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and in Sacramento, California. All meetings were well attended and justified the considerable amount of work of the program committees. These meetings are a very important part of the Society's activities since they serve to bring together large groups of members for an exchange of information and ideas on a wide variety of subjects covering the field of photogrammetry. The opportunity for personal contact between workers in our own field of endeavor is, in my opinion, one of the greatest contributions the Society can make toward real progress. This is one activity we can not afford to neglect. Bigger and better meetings should be a major objective.

The Board of Direction as usual, found more work than could properly be handled in the seven or eight meetings held during the year. The routine month-to-month business of the Society, that must be reviewed or approved at each meeting is about all that can be taken care of during a three and one-half hour evening session. Items of major business are generally assigned to special committees for study and recommendation to the Board for action. This is one of the reasons why it often requires several months before final approval can be given such matters as a revision of the Constitution and By-Laws, the establishment of a full time office manager, recommendations to the Civil Service Commission on classification of photogrammetric positions, investment of the Society's funds, revision of the Manual of Photogrammetry, reactivation of the International Society of Photogrammetry, the problem of setting up special sections within the Society for photo interpretation, geology, forestry, electronics, etc. These matters and many others were discussed and studied in some detail by your Board during the past year. Some were approved and adopted, some were not, and for various reasons will be carried over on the coming year's agenda as unfinished business. Final adoption of the new Constitution and By-Laws was one of the major items of the year's business, and since it has caused so much comment in recent weeks, I shall speak briefly about it.

It has been recognized for a number of years that our Constitution and By-Laws were badly in need of modernization and revision. Work on the Constitu-

tional Amendment was initiated under President Kaye in 1943. After all proposed changes were considered by the Board of Direction the proposed amendment was referred to the membership-at-large for a vote in the summer of 1943, and was passed by a majority of the votes cast. This amendment contained the highly controversial provision of graded membership. After this amendment was adopted by the membership, revision of the By-Laws became necessary to enable activation of the amendment. This revision of the By-Laws was studied at great length and in great detail during President Miller's term in 1945, and after practically a whole year's work it was drafted in final form and was submitted to the Board in the form of a proposal signed by three officers and eight directors. It was circulated last August to the membership-at-large for an expression of opinion to the Board. The only unfavorable comment received was one pointing out some minor typographical errors. In October 1946, the Board, by formal vote, adopted the new By-Laws. The provision regarding membership will require some time to be put in operation, and the Secretary is now preparing a written explanation of this provision, which will be mailed to all members within the next few weeks.

As predicted at the last annual meeting, 1946 has been a good year for the Society. It is true that in many respects our accomplishments fall short of the ambitious program that I outlined in my incoming talk of last year. We have not acquired as many new members as should have been possible. Active participation in research has been disappointing, although some good work has been done with the promise that we may soon make greater contributions. It is generally known that various government bureaus and private organizations are carrying on considerable research work in photogrammetry. This has been stimulated in the government by the acquisition of foreign equipment, plans and specifications, obtained principally from Germany. Foreign technicians are assisting in this work which involves the designing of new plotting instruments, cameras, lenses, electronic equipment, and photographic aircraft. The Society's research committee has carefully assembled and evaluated as much of this information as possible with the idea that progress, recommendations, and conclusions on research will be made available to the membership through publication in PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ENGINEERING. Important committees are now being organized on an inter-departmental level, which will include photogrammetry on the research agenda. It is safe to assume that individual members of our organization will take an important part in this committee work and it is hoped that the Society itself will be called upon for active official participation and recommendations.

The war years, to most of us engaged in photogrammetry and related work, were years of intensive activity characterized by accomplishment that in normal times would have seemed impossible. Assignments and responsibilities that taxed the resourcefulness and the ingenuity of all the talent we could muster were the order of the day. We all remember the heart-breaking effort to meet dead-line dates on which often depended the success or failure of important military operations. We did not count the cost, for that was not important, the demand for immediate results dictated procedure, specifications, and production. In the drafting rooms and laboratories of Washington or on the battlefields of Europe, Asia, or the Pacific Islands, photogrammetry came through with flying colors, and was recognized as an important factor in winning the war. It is only natural, perhaps, that in our enthusiasm for this wartime accomplishment we should temporarily forget the more exacting requirements of peacetime photogrammetry. Methods and techniques that served admirably

for certain military purposes are not adaptable for peacetime use if we are to maintain a reputation for a high standard of professional, scientific and technical work.

Mapping and surveying of the United States and its possessions, deferred by the War, are receiving renewed attention and there is every indication that an adequate program is being strongly supported throughout the nation. The war has emphasized the urgency of such a program for military purposes, and large projects throughout the country involving inventories of natural resources, land and water utilization, construction, etc., demand good topographic maps. As a matter of fact, a comparatively large mapping program is now under way. Photogrammetry is being used on a larger scale than ever before attempted for peacetime mapping in this country, and there is ample opportunity to increase this use *provided* that we recognize certain limitations and dangers. We must insist on maintaining adequate standards and specifications and, if necessary, take drastic steps to discourage the performance of sub-standard work. *We can oversell photogrammetry*, and if this is done, at this critical period, we will place in jeopardy any mapping program supported by public funds. If substantial appropriations for mapping, are not provided by the Federal government or by the States, photogrammetry as a profession in this country may be restricted to a very select group of individuals with independent incomes. For the protection of its membership, this Society must do everything in its power to discourage cut-throat competition involving the use of questionable methods and techniques which will invariably result in inferior and sub-standard products. Aerial photography for mapping must be accomplished to accepted specifications or its use will be uneconomical and inefficient. It is well known that it is cheaper to photograph an area several times than to attempt to use unsatisfactory pictures for photogrammetric mapping. Good photography requires a good camera, a good airplane, and well trained personnel both in the air and on the ground. Such an outfit can not be maintained on a shoestring, and yet bids are being submitted from contractors who are not trained or equipped to meet our necessarily rigid specifications. Such bids are sometimes accepted without adequate investigation. The result is usually a map or a mosaic of low quality produced at high cost. The contractor with the low bid does not make money, his well established competitor is discouraged from improving equipment and techniques, the mapping agency is criticized for poor performance, and unfortunately, photogrammetry gets most of the blame.

The making of topographic maps by the use of stereoscopic plotting instruments is a fascinating business. However, in order to produce acceptable results it is also a business that requires painstaking work by operators who know their jobs. There is no substitute for experience and good equipment if quality, production, and costs are to maintain a proper balance in photogrammetric mapping. There seems to be a widespread misconception in certain quarters that equipment alone will provide the answer to successful production, and that its possession is almost a guarantee that under the magic wand of photogrammetry fabulous fortunes can be made overnight in the mapping business. It must be expected that increased activity in aerial photography and in mapping will bring new operators into the field. This is highly desirable, and necessary, if we are to have healthy competition in photogrammetry and continued growth of this Society. Competition, however, should be based on qualified performance to accepted standards, which if checked by field surveys where necessary, can be made to insure satisfactory compliance in accordance with specifications. Contractors new in the field, without necessary equipment or experienced per-



sonnel, should be cautioned to investigate and understand requirements and thus be prevented from jeopardizing the future of photogrammetry while at the same time courting financial ruin.

Government agencies charged with the responsibility for performing functions involving the application of photogrammetry must maintain a high standard for all such work and strive to encourage and assist commercial organizations in promoting this same objective. If this is done, and I sincerely hope it will be, we can look forward with confidence to a continued period of great activity and progressive development in photogrammetry.

I have been proud to serve the Society during the past year. Whatever progress may have been made is due to the unselfish labor of the Board of Direction, and other members, who have willingly accepted responsibility for carrying on the Society's business. The new officers and the new Board face an active year and must have the full support of our membership if we are to continue to progress during 1947.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We will now have the report of the Election Committee, Mr. Moyer, Chairman.

MR. RALPH H. MOYER: Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Society, and Friends: Your Election Committee, consisting of Jack King, Charlie Fueschel, and myself, wish to make the following report:

Revere G. Sanders for President, Edmond S. Massie, Jr., for First Vice-President, and Russell K. Bean for Second Vice-President were unanimously elected.

For the Board of Direction, Jack Amman, Talbert Abrams, Philip G. McCurdy, K. E. Reynolds, and Ronald M. Wilson were elected for a three-year term of office.

William C. Cude was elected to fill the unexpired term of office, one year, to be vacated by Edmund S. Massie, Jr.

There were a total of 400 votes cast in this election.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I would like to call on Past-President O. M. Miller to escort the new President and the First and Second Vice-Presidents to the speaker's stand.

#### INAUGURAL REMARKS: REVERE G. SANDERS

When I was nominated for the office of First Vice-President of the American Society of Photogrammetry in 1946, I felt deeply honored. Now the time has come, in accordance with the established custom of our Society, for me as First-Vice President to advance to the Presidency. I do this with a full appreciation of the magnitude of the responsibilities involved and a knowledge of the specific problems which lie ahead.

My worthy predecessor, Mr. FitzGerald, I recall, was very concerned at the outset of his term of office over his inability to foresee sufficient time for him to take care of the affairs of the Society. I know from the experience of working with Mr. FitzGerald over the past year that his concern over the large amount of time required in the operation of the Society was well founded. However, I have also seen how well the affairs of the Society were handled and how all details were adequately looked after. Mr. FitzGerald found the time to handle the affairs of the Society by sacrificing his recreational time and I am sure also by cutting in on his business time. I am likewise staggered by a foreknowledge of the amount of time which I must put in this coming year, but somehow or other I will find the time and I promise that I will do my utmost to give diligent attention to the affairs of the Society.