

## LESSONS FROM THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

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I THINK the inscription on the Archives Building is "Past is Prologue." The Seventh International Congress and Exposition of Photogrammetry is now of the past. Its results can be a start toward a most promising future.

What were those results? Most impressive of all, I believe, were the extraordinary exhibits and our enthusiasm during the technical sessions when we discussed past progress. For example, there was the excellent mapping on scales as large as one to five hundred being done in Belgium and France towards redeveloping their cities and rehabilitating the war devastated areas. Again the cadastral maps being made in Switzerland, Italy and Sweden, where they work to mean square errors of something like 15 microns on the scale as a negative and find that the maps are entirely adequate on scales of one to one thousand. Also the 1:1250 and 1:2500 scale maps in Britain, and their remarkable process of keys and current revision; on these maps can be shown new work several times without redrafting the old work.



CAPT. O. S. READING

Our developments in photo-interpretation indicate a use and value for photogrammetry that is just beginning to be tapped. We know that we have a great job for the future.

A second matter of real importance is the great number of keen, intelligent photogrammetrists among our colleagues in other countries. Their products are well worth our study and our adoption where we can use them to best advantage. For instance a wide-angle

lens with remarkable resolution and which has about three times the amount of light on the edges of one picture as that given by our metrogon and our planagon lenses. Then there is (1) the automatic pendulum level of Zeiss which has shown extraordinary efficiency; (2) the CD-8, with the printed coordinates and dial gauges for easy reading; (3) the Olde Delft magnifying stereoscope, (4) the very beautiful maps, splendid examples of the cartographer's art, as well as the photogrammetric plotting.

I remember a 1:25,000 scale map of Switzerland which showed not only the buildings and the roads, but the rock outcrops, the gravel and the character of the surface of the ground; not only contours, but beautiful hill shading; not only woodland cover, but the kind of trees. The map showed all of this information clearly and legibly, a beautiful example that we could well study.

On the other hand, our friends from abroad were much interested in such developments as the Willcox-Fairchild Rapidyne Shutter, the ellipsoid reflector of Russ Bean of the Geological Survey, the simplicity and resolution of the Kelsh plotter, the splendid exhibits of photo-interpretation of Cornell and NPIC, the perspective manipulation in the Army Map Service, and many other things.

These exchanges are good. We want to do what we can to continue them at full efficiency. I suggest that anyone who has questions about any of these projects feel perfectly free to write the authors or the manufacturers. You are certain of a friendly and carefully thought-out response. A register of the addresses of those at the Congress will be available before long. Also I will be glad to supply address information.

Those who intend to make a real career of photogrammetry would do well to read *Photogrammetria* and the last three volumes of the *Archives*. Two of these are on sale and we hope to have the seventh out this year. If you can't afford to subscribe, your nearest technical library may be willing to purchase them.

For the official handling of cooperation, I think it important that the American Society of Photogrammetry establish a committee with the same name and purpose for each of the Technical Commissions of the International Society. This will greatly facilitate the reporting and the exchange of information. There was quite a bit of discussion at the Delegate meeting during the Congress as to whether the scope of these Commissions could be revised to advantage. It was concluded that each represented an actual specialization in the field of photogrammetry and should be continued substantially as now, with any moot questions being decided by direct correspondence between the presidents of the various commissions. These Commissions are Photography and Aerial Navigation; Plotting Instruments and Techniques; Aerial Triangulation and Geometric Computation; Mapping and Commercial Applications; Miscellaneous Applications; Education, terminology and bibliography; and lastly Photo-interpretation. All of these are natural fields in which to work, but are more or less special interest fields.

Another advisable act of cooperation is for the American Society to appoint a reporter for each of these commissions, except Photo-interpretation, soon after a Congress adjourns or early in the next year. They could then utilize the experience of their predecessors. And if there were also appointed vice-chairmen of the American Commissions, there would be no confusion and cross solicitation in handling the work of the Commissions and during the year of the Congress, they would be able to draw on the full resources of the Society. I think also that there should be a rotation after each Congress, in accordance with the general policy of rotating responsibilities. We have so much talent in the American Society that we are assured of excellent service.

There is one other matter. There was an exhibit of comparative cartography at the Congress. Mr. Alexander of the Army Map Service preserved as much as he could, I think practically all. If any organization—commercial, educational, or government—would like to study those maps, I suggest that a letter be sent to the commanding officer of the Army Map Service, attention of Mr. Alexander. In due time I expect you will have a good chance to study at leisure the type of cartography we have been talking about.