

Reports of the Committees of the Society

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BUILDING upon the contributions of past administrations, our Society has, this year, achieved an orderly growth of approximately 10% in membership, 25% in MANUAL sales, and 20% in cash reserves. Of greater importance, however, has been the transmittal to the publishers of the major part of the third edition of the MANUAL OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY, and the successful inauguration of our Distinguished Lecture Tour. These accomplishments are a direct contribution to our major objective, that of disseminating scientific information. Our Society is deeply indebted to Morris Thompson, the Editor of the new MANUAL, and to John I. Davidson, Chairman of the Distinguished Lecture Tour, and to their deputies for these outstanding contributions to our scientific well being. It is appropriate that we further recognize the support of the following organizations that made our Distinguished Lecture Tour possible:

Lewis-Dickerson Associates	Photogrammetry, Incorporated
Keuffel & Esser Company	Eastman Kodak Company
Wild Heerbrugg Instruments, Inc.	Fairchild Space Defense Systems
Zeiss-Aerotopograph	AND our Potomac Region

During this past year we have also seen the establishment of the Potomac Region and experienced successful participation in the Tenth International Congress of Photogrammetry. In addition, your Board of Direction has seen fit to officially recognize that photogrammetry is a profession and have taken a series of positive steps to support this view. Further, your Board has authorized the collection of information regarding the needs and desires of our membership, begun the formation of a Society library including appropriate films, recognized our obligation to contribute constructive criticism to scientific groups and agencies employing the tools and principles of our science, taken initial steps toward the development of a work devoted to the principles and applications of remote sensing, initiated discussions relevant to possible association with related societies, and increased the scope of Society awards. In these and other accomplishments, you can and should take considerable pride, for these are the results of your efforts and your support.

What we have not accomplished, however, is of equal importance. It is strange, but true, that photogrammetry, a business whose total volume likely exceeds 2½ billion dollars per year, is largely unknown to the public and perhaps, of more serious import, also unknown in related scientific communities. If we are to fulfill our aim of scientific service, we must first let others know of our existence; how else may we bring our knowledge to bear on problems of mutual concern or attract scholars to our fields? In short, we have failed to make significant inroads on our greatest problem— anonymity.

In the normal course of human events our needs could be provided for by orderly scientific growth. These, however, are not normal times for we face a vast expansion of photogrammetry particularly in the processing of data gathered from space, and from electron microscopy as well as in the collection and processing of data for medical and computational purposes. These and other activities will likely bring a quadrupled demand for photogrammetric services in the next 5 to 10 years. If we, as a Society, are to meet and benefit from this challenge we must now consider our deficiencies and act to correct them.

We should recognize that:

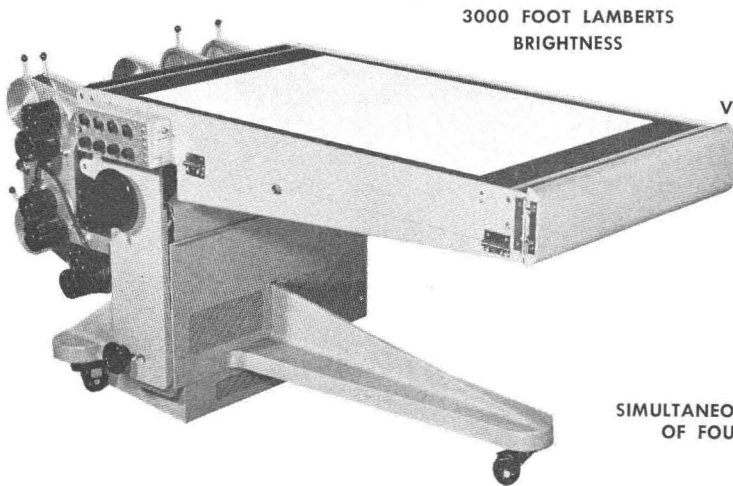
1. Fixed costs of Society operation rise each year,
2. We are not now able to undertake programs that would add significantly to our scientific stature because of budgetary limitations, and
3. That much of our Society's efforts are lost through lack of continuing leadership.

Our present staff is concerned with the day-to-day operations of the Society; they are dedicated individuals who simply have no more time to contribute to our betterment. Further, this need for continuing leadership cannot be met by extending the terms of our officers because the diversity of the Society requires that varying emphasis be placed upon the many areas of Society interest. Thus, there remains no solution other than the employment of additional administrative help.

As a last ace, I am therefore recommending to your new President that he institute a comprehensive study of our dues structure with an eye to both current and future scientific and administrative needs. I urge you to support him in this undertaking, for unquestionably the end results will be to our individual and collective benefit.

—William A. Fischer, President, 1964–1965

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