

Incoming President's Message 1981

—Dr. J. M. Zarzycki

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE and Board of Directors, distinguished guests, fellow members of the American Society of Photogrammetry, ladies and gentlemen.

I am deeply moved by the honor you have bestowed on me and the confidence and trust you have placed in electing me the President of the American Society of Photogrammetry. This moment is the highest point in my professional career and I will remember and cherish it forever.

Our Society is making history today, for it is the first time since the ASP came into being forty-seven years ago that a non-American, that is, a non-United States citizen, is holding the highest office in our Society. I believe that this is a manifestation of the generosity and the broad-minded attitude of our membership, but it also reveals that the ASP is "American" in a broader, continental, sense and thus is providing a professional home for scientists and engineers engaged in photogrammetry and remote sensing from neighboring countries to the north and to the south of the United States, as well as from many other countries of the world. The fact that the first non-American President is Canadian is testimony, I believe, to the longstanding friendship between the peoples of the United States and Canada.

I am fully cognizant of the heavy responsibility that the office of the President of the ASP carries. I want to assure you that I will spare no effort to discharge my obligations and to carry out my duties to the best of my ability.

In three years, our Society will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. We have every reason to be proud of our accomplishments, but we must not rest on past glories or be satisfied with our present sphere of influence. We must look to the future and build our Society armed with the strength of our past, and inspired with the vision of opportunities and challenges in the years to come.

Therefore, I attach great importance to a thorough examination of the alternative directions that the ASP might follow in the future, and have asked Roger Hoffer to chair a committee which is tasked with the preparation of a Strategic Plan for the ASP.

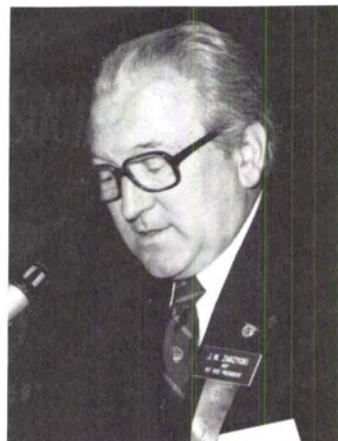
New technologies and the increasing demand for terrain related and geographically referenced information systems offer new vistas and opportunities for our members. We should not confine ourselves merely to the task of data collection and interpretation, but must expand into the fields of data management. This, however, calls for a multidisciplinary approach to problem solving and requires close cooperation with other disciplines such as geodesy, cartography, land and resources management specialists, computer scientists—to name just a few. In this respect I intend to continue the strengthening of ties with our sister societies, nationally and internationally, by encouraging joint symposia, working groups, and meetings.

The vitality and vigor of a Society of professional men and women cannot be sustained solely through annual and semi-annual conventions. It is essential, in my view, that members residing in different parts of the country and, for that matter, in different parts of the world, organize and participate locally in events of common interest throughout the year. The regions and chapters are set up for this specific purpose and I will give them my full support. I would hope that activities on the local level will attract new members to our Society.

My predecessor initiated programs directed specifically at the student population, which proved very successful, and I intend to continue the good work started by Rex McHail.

The photogrammetrists in private practice are beset by an avalanche of problems. These are well known to you, and I must say they sound very familiar to me. During my twenty years in private practice in Canada, I was faced with similar difficulties. I well remember the problems caused by the lack of recognition of the professional status of photogrammetry by government agencies, and the absence of uniform performance standards in the industry, to name just two of the vexations that I know are now besetting my colleagues in the United States. Fortunately, after many turbulent years, the aerial survey

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President Zarzycki

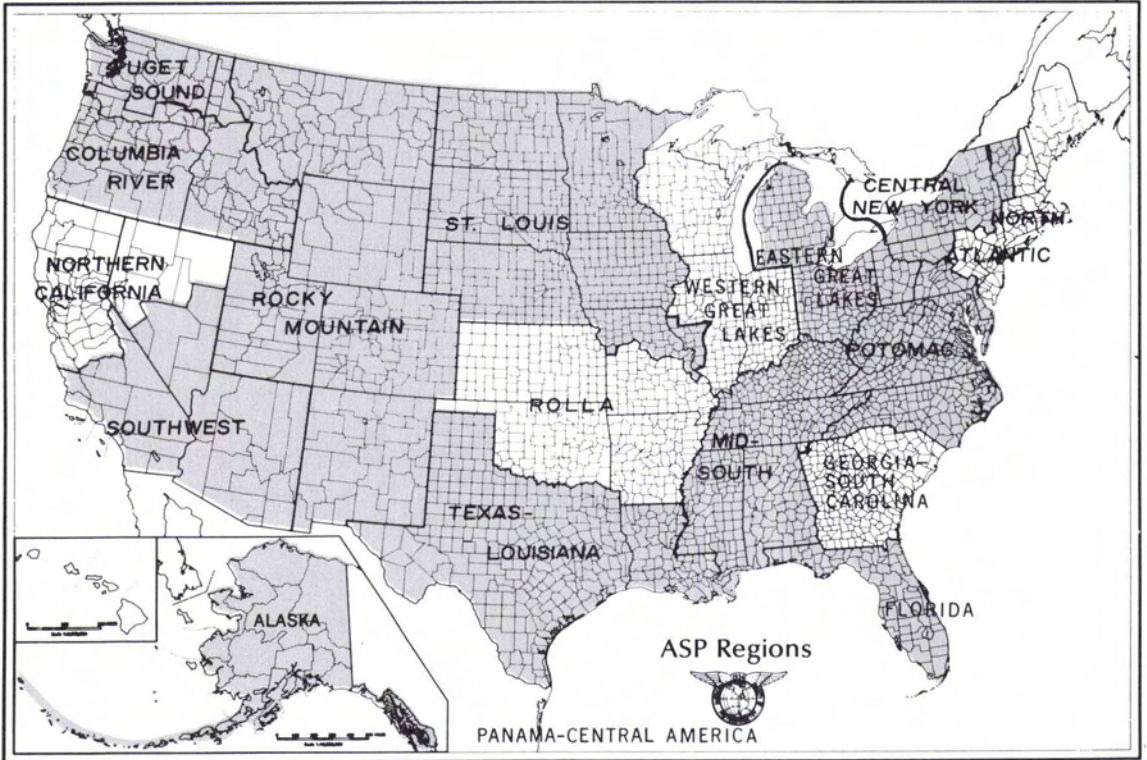


FIG. 1. ASP Regions visited by President McHail.

I thank all of you for the support you have given . . . the staff, officers, members, everyone. And most of all I especially wish to acknowledge and thank my wonderful and understanding wife, Shirley, and our family for their very special support.

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and the remote sensing industry in Canada now enjoys a reasonable degree of stability, and I will be pleased to offer the benefit of my experience to my American colleagues and help them in any way I can.

I hope that the new Professional Practice Division will address the problems of the private practitioner, and that its action will result in a gradual improvement of the conditions under which the private sector must operate.

In closing, I would like to ask you for your full support in carrying out my duties as the President of the American Society of Photogrammetry. Together we can continue to increase the present strength of our Society and advance its cause.