

ISPRS Commission V Is Still Looking for an Appropriate Name!

Since its formation in 1948, Commission V has been having difficulties in finding an appropriate and lasting name for itself. As you know, Commission V was established by ISP at The Hague ISP Congress to deal with the techniques and applications of photogrammetry outside the realm of the very specialized area of topographic mapping. Since 1948, Commission V has had numerous titles including "Applications of Photogrammetry in Various Domains," "Special Applications of Photogrammetry," "Non-Cartographic Applications of Photogrammetry," "Non-Topographic Applications of Photogrammetry," and "Non-Topographic Photogrammetry." During the ISP Hamburg Congress in 1980, the title of Commission V was changed by action of the General Assembly to "Special Applications of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing." Through an unfortunate clerical error, however, the official name of Commission V appeared in the By-Laws (July 1980) published in the *International Archives of Photogrammetry*, Vol XXIII, Part A, page 235, as "Other Applications of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing." As a result, this nonsensical name was used in the *International Archives of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*, Volume XXV, published in 1984 for the XV ISPRS Congress in Rio de Janeiro.

In an effort to try to rectify this untenable situation, much time and considerable lively debate were devoted during the Inter-Congress Symposium of Commission V in York in 1982 to select a more reasonable title for the Commission. Eventually, the title "Photogrammetry in Science and Technology" was selected and proposed to ISPRS Council for consideration. During its meeting on 19 June 1984 in Rio de Janeiro, the ISPRS General Assembly considered the request of Commission V and simply denied it. As a result, Commission V has, officially, no choice but to continue using the meaningless name "Other Applications of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing" for at least four more years.

To register its dismay, Commission V adopted the following resolution during its Business Meeting in Rio de Janeiro on 26 June 1984:

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THE NAME OF COMMISSION V

The Congress

noting the widespread dismay aroused by the action of the General Assembly on 19th June, 1984 when the request of Commission V to change its title to PHOTOGRAMMETRY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY was denied

recognizing: that the title OTHER APPLICATIONS OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY AND REMOTE SENSING arose through a clerical error, that its use will not make any sense at all to the many research workers and practitioners in close range or non-topographical photogrammetry, and that the Commission V Board and the two immediate past Presidents of the Commission deplore the action of the General Assembly

recommends that this confusing and unhelpful situation be rectified as soon as possible.

This hiatus in Commission V's title is certainly regrettable. Nobody with a sound mind will use the present nonsensical title. Several of my colleagues and friends plan to refer to Commission V simply as Commission V without mentioning its name. As far as I am concerned, I plan to continue using the reliable title "Non-Topographic Photogrammetry," which was introduced in 1972 at the Ottawa Congress, until another reasonable title has been chosen, ratified by ISPRS Council, and approved by the General Assembly.

It is gratifying to note that, while the confusion about the title of Commission V is certainly deplorable, the 1980-84 Commission Board has regarded this matter as temporary and secondary to the main purposes of the management of the Commission. Thus, Commission V has continued its vigorous progress in spite of the controversy about its title. I am sure that this will be the attitude taken by the 1984-88 Commission Board.

Let us hope that common sense will prevail in finding a solution to this frustrating problem in the not-too-far future, and that Commission V will soon end its search for an appropriate and lasting title.

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ISPRS Commission V