

**Report to the 35th General Assembly
FIG Working Week 2012 in Rome, Italy**

**International Institution for the History of Surveying and Measurement
(IIHSM)**

Report of Activities 2011-2012

1. Marrakech

In 2011 Alan Wright represented the IIHSM in Marrakech, Morocco and gave the Report to the General Assembly.

At the Marrakech meeting the History session had four presentations for which there were published papers. These were:

- Surveyor-general and Registrar-general of Upper Egypt in the xviii Dynasty – Rekhmire (c1470-1420 b c) J F Brock (Australia)
- Cartography, cadastre and surveying and the development of cities during the nineteenth century in Spain. M L Palanques and M Calvo (Spain)
- History, cartography and science: The present day importance of the mapping of Mozambique in the 19th century. A C Roque and P Santos. (Portugal)
- The four centuries of Polish books for land surveying. A Lyszkowicz and M Uradzinski. (Poland)

The session was organised by John Brock in his usual efficient manner.

2. Adelaide

During the IIHSM meeting in Sydney Miss Kelly Henderson presented a paper on the aim to preserve William Light's Plan of Adelaide together with parts of the City. A proposal was tabled at the FIG General Assembly to assist the Australian colleagues to prepare their submission dossier.

Subsequently Jan de Graeve became involved and was invited to Adelaide by the Surveyors of South Australia and there he studied the Archives and identified various original instruments. He explained the procedures for submitting a case to UNESCO and gave a public lecture on the Struve Meridian as a World Heritage Monument.

He was introduced to the Lord Mayor, to representatives of most political parties, invited to the opening of the Parliamentary year, and had a two hour meeting with the Governor of South Australia his Excellency Kevin Scarce.

3. Struve Arc

The long running project for the possible extension of the Struve Geodetic Arc World Heritage Monument has reached a critical stage. During 2011 Jim Smith completed the collection and summarising of as much published material as it was possible to find relating to the two additional sections. These are the triangulation through Central Europe of the

1920s and 1930s that extended from Lithuania to Crete and that in Africa known as the Arc of the 30th Meridian.

A document summarising this has recently been sent to representatives of all the Struve Arc countries prior to their meeting in Belarus later this year.

The next move has to be from the national survey organisations of all the countries involved – about 20 of them. It is these organisations, and not an individual or other body, who are the appropriate ones to formulate any submission to UNESCO.

Obviously the IIHSM and FIG would continue to have input as and where it might be applicable. The time scale even now is a long one. To spread the load it would be sensible for each of the two sections to be coordinated by one of the National Survey Organisations (NSOs) but the gathering, assembly and presentation time is measured in years rather than months.

4. Mercator 1512-2012

Jan de Graeve is writing a contribution on Mercator for the FIG Paper of the Month.

He has also recently completed a Report about Mercator of 98pp + 32 photographs. This is in English and French and is to be published in Spring 2012.

Several commemorations of Mercator are taking place in Europe. Jan de Graeve will be presenting lectures on the topic in Duisburg and Vienna in addition to giving an introduction in St Niklaus, Belgium, about the contents of Mercator's library. In addition, in St Niklaus there will also be an exhibition (23 March to 1 July 2012) of 40 books that are identical to those that Mercator had.

5. Meridians

On 16 February 2012 Jan de Graeve gave a talk in the Brussels city library on the *History of Meridians* told through books.

6. Working Week in Rome

The History activities for Rome were initially planned to be held in the Biblioteca Casanatense and that was booked in 2010 but at short notice that facility has suddenly been withdrawn. The political situation in Italy (as in Greece and some other countries) through redundancies and loss of funding affected the ability of the Biblioteca to rent out accommodation for such meetings. At the time of writing this Report efforts are still being made to find an alternative venue and so salvage the meeting for which speakers and papers have already been organised by John Brock. Aside from these problems there are some persons who would normally attend FIG meetings who are finding the overall costs have outstripped their no longer bottomless pockets.

7. IIHSM

A Board meeting is to be held in London later in 2012.

Jan de Graeve

February 2012