

**Report to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Working Week in Cairo, April 2005**

**International Institution for the History of Surveying & Measurement  
Report on Activities 2004-2005**

**1. Meetings in 2004**

The end of January 2004 saw the submission by the IIHSM and The Survey of Finland to UNESCO of the Struve Geodetic Arc project for possible inscription as a World Heritage Monument. This was mentioned in the Report to the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Athens. Since then experts from ICOMOS/UNESCO have visited many of the 34 sites and we now await the voting in July 2005. Should it be positive then the idea is to extend the scheme to incorporate the Arc of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meridian and the connection triangulation between the two.

At the Working Week in Athens the IIHSM had two sessions of technical papers each of which was well attended. To coincide with the meeting the Technical Chamber of Greece organised an interesting display of replicas of ancient instruments.

On 5th June 2004 Jim Smith attended two gatherings in South Africa. The first - "Surveying and Land Tenure at the Cape 1813-1912," was the follow-up to a similar conference held 20 years previously that covered the period prior to 1652-1812. That conference was held in Stellenbosch and had been attended by Jan de Graeve. This follow-up conference attracted 9 papers and an audience of about 75. The Proceedings of this event were published as a paper volume. It was held at the Cape Observatory in Cape Town and was organised by the Institute of Professional Land Surveyors & Geometricians of the Western Cape.

On 8th June a group of some 25 surveyors gathered in Port Elizabeth. Here the Institute of Professional Land Surveyors of the Eastern Cape organised a symposium of papers by six speakers on the theme of "The Arc of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meridian". The Proceedings of this gathering were produced as a CD. In the afternoon the group proceeded to Buffelsfontein and the southernmost survey station of the 30<sup>th</sup> Arc where a plaque was unveiled by the President of Institute to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the initiation of the Arc and the 50<sup>th</sup> of its completion. Details of this appeared on the FIG Web site.

Displayed at both these events was an exhibit mounted by Jim Smith of maps and photographs detailing the development of the Arc of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meridian. It is thought that this now resides in the Survey Museum at the Chief Directorate of Surveys & Mapping in Cape Town.

July to September 2004. Jan de Graeve and John Mosselmans – two Belgian surveyors- collaborated in the mounting of an exhibition on Roman Land Surveying that was held in Oudenburg, Belgium.

September 27-29<sup>th</sup> 2004 Jan de Graeve attended a "Struve Arc- Past, Present and Future" meeting in Chisenau, Moldova. This was a successor meeting to those in Tallinn & Tartu in

2002 and Minsk in 2003. There were about 30 delegates and after the discussion sessions they took the opportunity to visit one of the station sites that is included in the UNESCO submission. Whilst in Chisenau Jan de Graeve visited the Ministry of Culture of Moldova. That country had only recently joined UNESCO and needed to be made aware that they should be protecting those points in the country that were to form part of the submission before they could be considered part of the UNESCO exercise. Jan de Graeve also gave a talk to local Land Surveyors on Arc Measurements.

During the year Jan de Graeve presented a series of lectures on the Struve Geodetic Arc at the University of Louvain.

## **2. On going Research**

Research continues into the Arc of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meridian and its connection to the Struve Arc between Crete to Belarus.

A Belgian Research Group continues its study of the link between Roman Land Surveyors and the first printed book on the subject by Galland in 1544. This especially refers to the survey tradition in Provence in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Liaison is taking place with the International Study Group on the Relations between History and Pedagogy of Mathematics.

Research continues on the Arc of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meridian. It is possible that efforts will be made to set up a group of representatives of the countries concerned in the same way as was done for the Struve Arc.

## **3. Forthcoming Events**

16-21<sup>st</sup> April 2005 FIG Working Week in Cairo.

It is hoped that during this period a ceremony similar to that at Buffelsfontein at the s end of the Arc of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meridian will be possible at one of the northernmost stations near Cairo.

16<sup>th</sup> April 2005 The IIHSM will hold three sessions with about 10 technical presentations. These will include speakers from Australia, Germany, Belgium, Zambia, the UK, the USA and South Africa.

Mid July 2005 The UNESCO/ICOMOS meeting that will decide on the Struve Arc submission will be gathering in Durban, S Africa.

September 2005 There is a proposed Struve Arc meeting in Helsinki.

## **4. Publications**

Copies are still available of the two reprints produced by the IIHSM:- *Geodaesia* of 1688 by John Love and *The Compleat Surveyor* of 1657 by William Leybourn.

Each volume is \$50 + postage and packing.

Interested purchasers should contact Walter Robillard, 1601 Berkeley Lane NE, Atlanta, GA 30329-2729, USA. Or by e-mail [robw@mindspring.com](mailto:robw@mindspring.com)

Jan de Graeve  
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