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**DEFINITION OF A SURVEYOR**

**DEFINITION DU GEOMETRE**

**DEFINITION DES BEGRIFFES  
DES VERMESSUNGSINGENIEURS**

## **PREFACE**

*This booklet is published with a view to describing the broad field of surveyors' activities according to the definition of a surveyor adopted by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) in Helsinki, Finland, on June 11, 1990. It took many years to prepare the definition, and the discussions that took place at the FIG administrative meetings and among member associations were thorough. The work of a surveyor differs from country to country. It was possible, however, to arrive at a definition, which is modern, comprehensive and well describes this old and recognized profession.*

*I hope that the definition, published in this booklet in English, French and German, will help surveyors throughout the world in identifying and developing their work. Likewise, this publication is intended for the general public, to promote better understanding of the tasks and duties undertaken by surveyors.*



**Pekka Raitanen**  
**Secretary General, FIG (1988-1991)**

## ➤ DEFINITION OF A SURVEYOR

A surveyor is a professional person with the academic qualifications and technical expertise to practise the science of measurement; to assemble and assess land and geographic related information; to use that information for the purpose of planning and implementing the efficient administration of the land, the sea and structures thereon; and to instigate the advancement and development of such practices.

Practice of the surveyor's profession may involve one or more of the following activities which may occur either on, above or below the surface of the land or the sea and may be carried out in association with other professionals.

1. The determination of the size and shape of the earth and the measurement of all data needed to define the size, position, shape and contour of any part of the earth's surface.
2. The positioning of objects in space and the positioning and monitoring of physical features, structures and engineering works on, above or below the surface of the earth.
3. The determination of the position of the boundaries of public or private land, including national and international boundaries, and the registration of those lands with the appropriate authorities.
4. The design, establishment and administration of land and geographic information systems and the collection, storage, analysis and management of data within those systems.
5. The study of the natural and social environment, the measurement of land and marine resources and the use of the data in the planning of development in urban, rural and regional areas.
6. The planning, development and redevelopment of property, whether urban or rural and whether land or buildings.
7. The assessment of value and the management of property, whether urban or rural and whether land or buildings.
8. The planning, measurement and management of construction works, including the estimation costs.
9. The production of plans, maps, files, charts and reports.

In the application of the foregoing activities surveyors take into account the relevant legal, economic, environmental and social aspects affecting each project.



*The determination of the position of boundaries.  
La fixation de la position des limites des terrains.  
Die Bestimmung der Lage von Grenzen.*



*Academic qualifications and technical expertise necessary to practise the profession of surveying.*

*Une formation scientifique et une expérience technique permettent de maîtriser la profession du géomètre.*

*Akademische Qualifikation und technische Erfahrung benötigt, den Beruf des Vermessungsingenieurs auszuüben.*

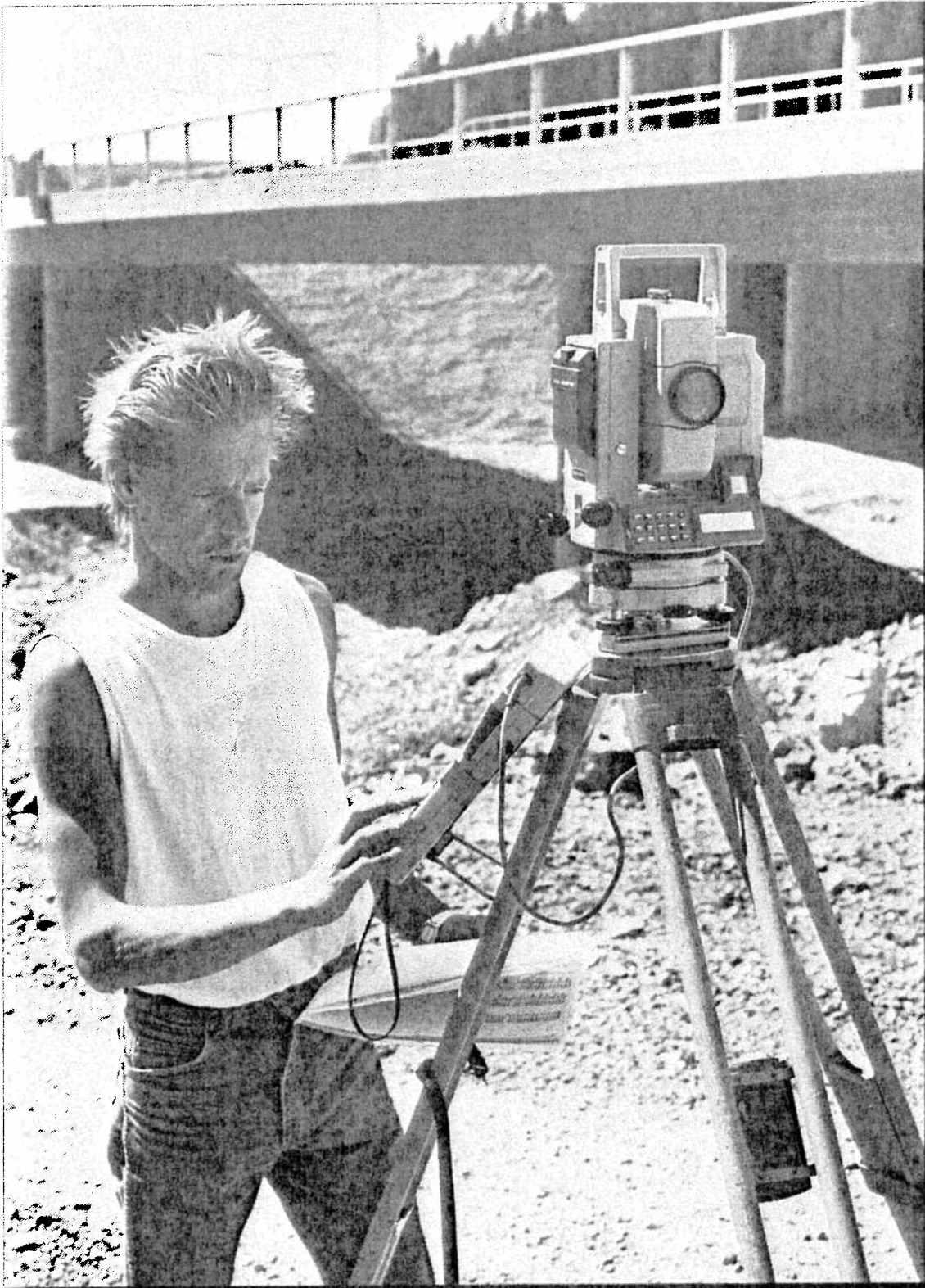


*The determination of the size and shape of the earth.*

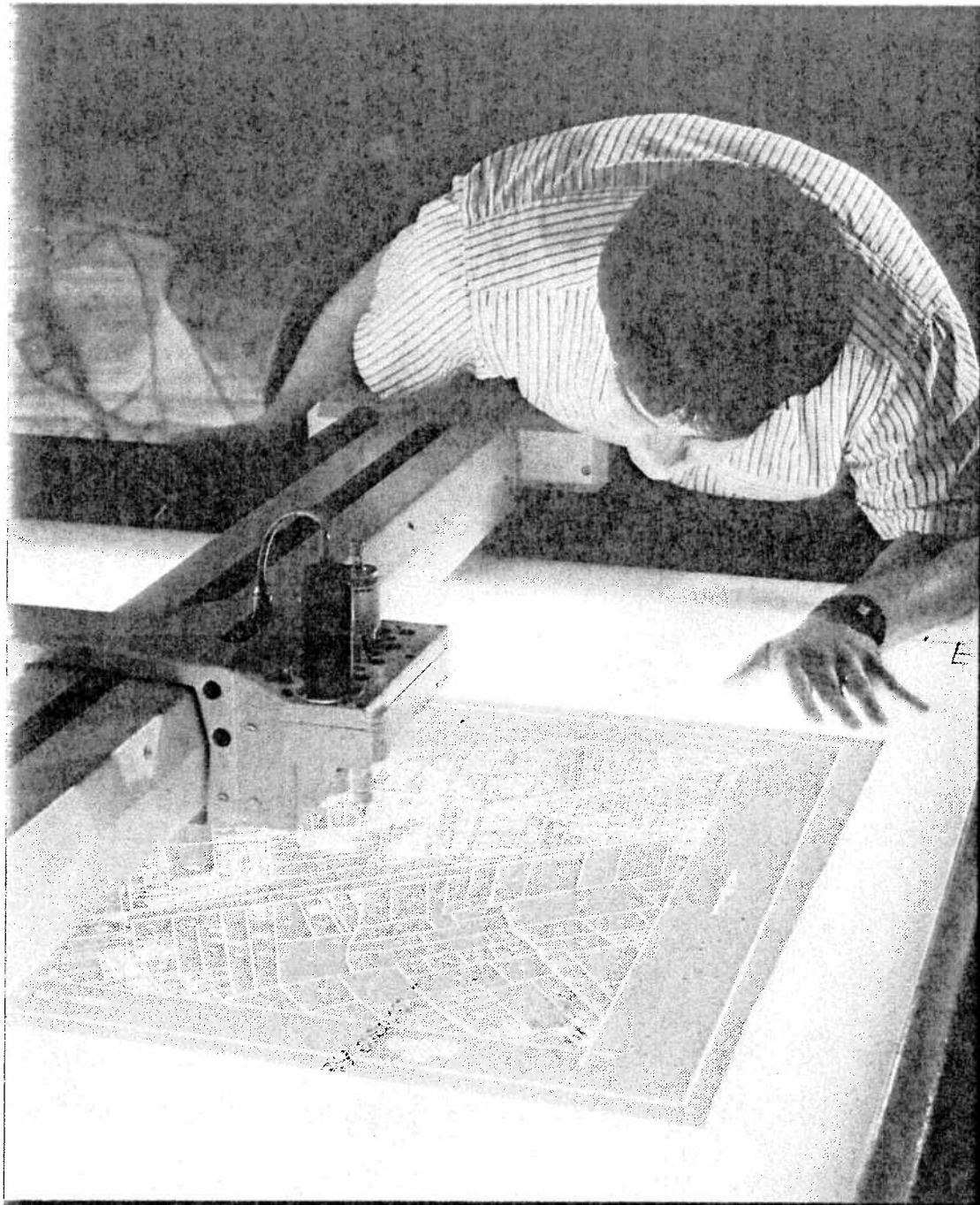
*La détermination de la forme de la terre.*

*Die Ermittlung der Größe und der Gestalt der Erde.*





*The planning, measurement and management of construction works.  
La conception, la mesure et la conduite des travaux de construction.  
Planung, Vermessung und Organisation von Bauarbeiten.*



*The production of maps.  
La production de cartes.  
Herstellung von Karten.*