

**Report to the 34th General Assembly
FIG Working Week 2011 in Marrakech, Morocco**

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

Annual Report 2010-2011

The last report was prepared for the FIG General Assembly in Sydney and the accompanying IIHSM Workshop.

Jan de Graeve and Alan Wright attended the meetings in Sydney and John Brock was prominent in the history sessions that he so ably mounted. John and Kerima-Gae Topp are to be congratulated on their sterling efforts which produced a fine collection of papers and tours for the IIHSM Workshop. There were 110 attendees at the first session of papers held in Parramatta Old Government House and 133 attendees the following day at the Mitchell Library. Both are very imposing and attractive buildings and surroundings. John was also instrumental in getting all the Surveyors-General of Australia together to discuss their predecessors. In addition there were very successful visits including around Government House; to the site of the Parramatta Observatory and the 1828 Broad Arrow; and Walking Tour of Sydney.

John Brock will be organising the History Workshops for the Rome Working Week in 2012. John can be contacted at toptours@bigpond.com

While in Australia Jan de Graeve was invited to discussions about William Light who designed the original plan of Adelaide. It has been proposed that this might warrant submission as a possible World Heritage Monument and was put in the IIHSM report to the FIG General Assembly as worthy of support. The proposition was seconded by Commission 8 via Diana Dumashie.

Jan de Graeve is nearing completion of a bibliographic work on Gerard Mercator whose 500th anniversary will be celebrated during 2011 at events in Belgium and Germany.

Vitali Kaptjug continues research into various aspects of the Struve Arc and its extension. In particular, it has recently been part of the extension that was surveyed by Poland in the 1930s. This is an interesting area, because, when surveyed, there were over 70 survey stations on Polish territory. Today after various boundary changes less than 10 are in Poland.

Jim Smith is continuing to assemble material relating to the Arc of 30th Meridian and the European Arc that connects the two to the Struve Arc World Heritage Monument. The aim is to get the countries through which this extension goes to do all that is necessary to get it recognised as an addition to the existing WHM which was achieved in 2005. Any representatives from the following countries who would be interested to assist in this historical exercise are asked to contact Jim Smith at jim@smith1780.freeserve.co.uk: Belarus,

Botswana, Burundi, DR Congo, Crete, Egypt, Greece, Macedonia, Mozambique, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Sincere thanks are expressed to all who continue to assist in the Struve Arc project, particularly Vitali Kaptjug in St Petersburg..

The booklet that records the activities of the IIHSM, its aims, objects and activities in the past, present and future was distributed in Sydney. The booklet has been well received and further copies are available from the FIG Office in Copenhagen. One typographical error has been noticed. On page 16 under the left hand photograph, please delete the words "in The Ukraine at the" and replace with "at the". Sincere thanks are expressed to the FIG Secretariat who made such a good job of the presentation.

For the FIG Working Week in Rome in 2012 some preparations have already been made. The suggestion is for a pre-conference visit to Florence and then to have 1½ days of sessions in the original 16th century Library of Rome. Then a half day visit to the Vatican Gallery of Maps. Suggestions for papers on any appropriate historical topics should be sent to both John Brock and to Jim Smith (addresses above).

During the Sydney Congress Jan de Graeve was approached by delegates from the Philippines who showed interest in setting up a History of Mapping group there. The IIHSM is willing to assist in any way it can.

2012 will see the publication of a special luxury reprint of the First Atlas of Mercator, expected to retail at about € 2,000. Enquiries to Jan de Graeve, fax + 32 2262 1033.

Interest was expressed from Moscow to translate into Russian the CD *The Art of Surveying* that was freely circulated at the Munich Congress of 2006. Whether or not that has actually happened is not known.

A special meeting of the IIHSM Board met during the year to discuss future activities and organisation. For the future it welcomes active members to join the board as the present officers have been in charge since 1994 when the Commission 0 was converted into the Permanent Institution. Offers/suggestions to Jan de Graeve.

If you are interested to participate in IIHSM activities in any way please do not hesitate to contact Jan de Graeve, fax + 32 2262 1033.

Jan de Graeve
Chair, IIHSM

February 2011