

FIG 32nd General Assembly in Eilat, Israel, May 2009

International Institution for the History of Surveying & Measurement

Report of Activities 2008-2009

The Group prepared a 1½ day symposium just before the FIG Working Week in Stockholm. This was attended by around 50 colleagues with a large representation from Africa. Delegates had an opportunity to study and to read all Tycho Brahe contribution, in the Royal Library during the FIG Working Week period.

There was also a separate special session attended by African colleagues to discuss the link from the Struve Arc to the 30th Meridian via the cross Mediterranean link from Crete to North Africa. The political situation in this area is actually difficult with some of the countries involved not answering any communications but we continue to work on it. The General Assembly approved our efforts to link the two meridians and to foster further research.

Jim Smith has prepared with colleagues from the UK and South Africa a book on the History of the Tellurometer that should be published very soon. It is hoped that there will be a one-day meeting in Cape Town in 2009 to belatedly celebrate the 50th anniversary of when the system was invented and produced and of the person who invented it – Dr. Trevor Wadley.

Jan de Graeve and Jim Smith completed a 1,100 page translation, from French to English, of the final reports of FGW Struve originally published in 1857. The initial work on this was sponsored by Norway and Sweden and it is anticipated that the other 8 countries involved will each part sponsor the balance.

Members of the IIHSM also participated in the two-yearly meeting of all countries involved in the Struve World Heritage Monument. This was held in the Latvian town of Jacobspils. In addition to technical presentations there were visits to two of the survey stations to take part in inaugural celebrations.

Jan De Graeve has prepared, with his Belgian colleagues, an exhibition in Braine-l'Alleud, south of Brussels (where the Battlefields of Waterloo are), on the origin of the Meter and the origins of the Cadaster. This was open for a month early in 2009.

For Eilat the IIHSM have 12 speakers announced for the FIG Symposium on History of Surveying.

For 2010 John Brock (Australia) has already prepared papers and speakers for the History of Surveying symposium that will be attached to the FIG Congress in Sydney. John Brock will be the local organiser of that event. He has also agreed to take on the organisation of future events for the IIHSM at future FIG Working Weeks and congresses.

Jan de Graeve is also preparing a contribution on geodesy during 17–18th centuries for the *History of Cartography* series of books, by Chicago Press.

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January 2009