



January 2012

MSI Offline!

MSIA President reporting
to members

The Map's the thing

Les Isdale, National President

In my never-ending (and generally unsuccessful) efforts to impose some order on the stuff I've filed away over the years, I recently undertook a couple of simple projects.

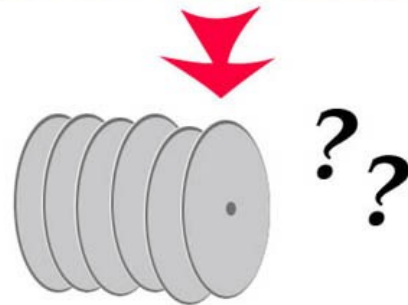
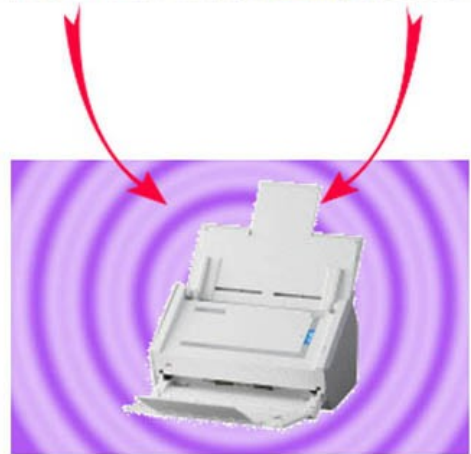
In the first, I had the use of a SnapScan scanner, which promised to convert hard-copy A4 to .pdf in no time at all. There, I thought, lay the solution to all those papers jamming up my filing cabinet – I'll copy 'em, and trash 'em.

The thing worked a treat, delivering at the rate of one image every seven seconds – until I started on the old letters. The rate dropped alarmingly, until it ground to a halt, while I sat reading, surrounded by these potent tokens of times past, friendships and events caught in every page, every faded ink line.

I realized I was not going to burn them. An onscreen digital image had its uses, but the value ultimately lay in the fabric itself. There's a word for it, which I checked in the online *thefreedictionary*, where it defined '*sentience: noun; sense perception not involving intelligence or mental perception; feeling*'.

Feelings, as they say, are facts, and however unreasonably, I'm keeping the old pages.

Then I turned my attention to a small map collection I've accumulated, without really trying. I'm not a big 'M' map collector, but I can identify with my friends who are, and who have a sense of awe at the fact of a map page still bearing the indent of the engraved copper plate margin, the exquisite linework achieved by an engraver, and a printer, maybe hundreds of years ago. On *this* piece of paper – coloured by a human hand in a workshop remote in time – amazing!



No, mine are the facsimile echoes of such maps, and even so I discovered their power to charm. The catalogue was finished, eventually, but not before I'd been captivated again by the sight and feel of these lovely lithographs, spread wide for my admiration.

Of course it's a huge advantage to be able to access numberless images on-screen, complete with learned comment. This is what will drive the trend to electronic libraries, and to car navigation units instead of directories; witness the sad demise of *Gregory's*.

As cartographers, we will assist in their creation, and share in their use. No problem there, unless we lose sight of that emotional bond that seems to affect us all. Sheet maps have a changed role, difficult to define – and dangerous to underestimate. This will be the subject of much soul-searching by map producers in the face of the electronic media.



Welcome to our new Councillor

Les Isdale

There has been a welcome response from Trisha Moriarty to the email to members I sent on 10 December ...

'Please give serious consideration to throwing your weight behind Institute affairs as a Councillor, or Division Committee member (where most of the hard work is done, and most of the opportunities for creative activities arise). Don't hesitate to contact me, or any other Councillor, if you perceive some way in which things could be done better.'

Council invited Trisha to become an 'invited Councillor', with immediate 12-month tenure. Asked for a short note by which I could introduce her to members, Trisha wrote ...

'I am currently the Team Leader of the Geoscience Knowledge Management group within the Geological Survey of NSW. I am responsible for management and administration of the Geological Survey's aspatial and spatial information systems including DIGS/EROL: report and plan record management system, MinView: online mapping tool and the Geological Survey's website. I am also responsible for the management of the department's drill core storage facilities at Londonderry and Broken Hill, the heritage geological map collections and the education program. Whilst studying I worked part-time with Fugro in the Marine Survey division, the WA Dept of Planning's Marine division and Stirling City Council. I have a Bachelor of Science in Cartography from Curtin University of Technology, Western Australia, having graduated 2001. My interests are wide and varied and include education, heritage maps and palaeontology (i.e. fossil collecting) though on the technology front have I have been delving in the world of mobile apps, web services and open source development recently as we look to upgrade/replace our systems at the Survey.'

Trisha has much to contribute to the work of Council in the interests of members. We look forward to a response from other members who feel a commitment to the improvement of our Institute. Meanwhile – welcome Trisha! .. to a long and productive association with Council.

Breaking news: Forum Keynote Speakers

The Organizing Committee for the Brisbane International Geospatial Forum 2012 have secured the attendance of two distinguished cartographers as keynote speakers. _

Charles Regan is Vice President and General Manager of National Geographic Maps. Mr. Regan is responsible for day-to-day operations of National Geographic Maps and expanding its presence in existing markets. Charlie said in his acceptance, 'I think the collaboration among the three organizations is a fantastic idea and a potential model for our industry moving forward.'



We can be sure he will have a message of interest to registrants from diverse backgrounds, drawn together in this Forum. More details at – http://geospatialworldforum.org/2011/conference/seminar_bio.htm

Georg Gartner (born 1966) is a Professor for Cartography and Geo-Mediatechniques at the Research Group of Cartography at the Vienna University of Technology.

He holds graduate qualifications in geography and cartography from the University of Vienna and the Vienna University of Technology.

Further details are available at his website – <http://cartography.tuwien.ac.at/content07en/index.php?People:Staff:Gartner>



For Forum details and documentation, see below.

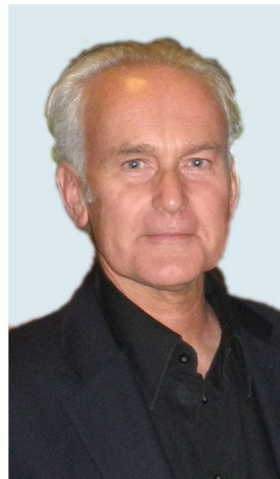
Retiring Councillors

Keith Smith

Greg Heron will not be continuing on council after April and Bill Cartwright is not renewing his council membership in 2012.

Both these councillors have played significant roles in the Institute over many years, each in his own way.

Bill has made an outstanding contribution nationally and through his involvement in the International Cartographic Association, in which he recently completed a four-year term as President.



When MSIA members faced difficult choices with the advent of SSI, there were a few individuals who played a major role in ensuring that Council's decision to keep us going was the right one. Outstanding amongst these was Greg Heron. His newsletter, Mapping Sciences National, was not only a brilliant publication but became a symbol that MSIA was alive and well.

I salute both of my friends. They will be missed.

"No hay problema"

Keith Smith, National Secretary

Professor "Bill" Cartwright's reference to his term as President of the International Cartographic Association, in our latest Blog, evoked memories of time I spent with him at an ICA Conference many years ago. The occasion was the 13th ICC and the 8th General Assembly, held in Mexico in 1987. At this distance, the fact that I attended an overseas conference and that I was the lone Australian delegate to the General Assembly may be difficult to take in, but there you have it.

I can't say much about the technical content of the Conference, because most of the blighters doing the talking spoke in a foreign tongue. However, I did manage to make my presence felt by delivering a paper on (yes, you've guessed it) tourist mapping. The audience looked stunned.

Speaking of language difficulties, there was one Mexican phrase it was obligatory to master as a matter of urgency, namely; "Donde es el bano?" which is a loose translation of "Where's the toilet?". This is especially important if you happen to have ingested any of the local enchilada, or taken a swig of the reticulated water.

While the technology revealed at the conference has not found a permanent place in my consciousness, other memories remain. The conference was held at Morelia, a short distance from Mexico City. It is a pleasant city and the accommodation was more than adequate and the Conference facilities excellent. Between pretending to listen to the papers, my thoughts strayed to dietary matters and here Bill was of considerable help. On his advice, I decided that, due to my delicate constitution, I should limit my intake to bananas and Coca Cola – the former because the bit you eat is untouched by human hands, whilst the latter is exceedingly rich in two of our essential food groups; that is, sugar and caffeine.

With my health thus assured, I was able to enjoy the social events, the first of which was a bull-fight. Approaching this with some trepidation, I was relieved to find that the bulls, rather than being the ferocious beasts I had imagined, performed much like the bovine equivalent of an ageing labrador. O'le! Next was a concert of classical music, memorable for the breath-takingly beautiful usherettes.

The music was good too. The final event was a dinner-dance, where I executed a creditable foxtrot with a nice lady from Esselte Map Service, Stockholm, but decided to sit-out the progressive fandango. The climax of the evening was a spectacular fireworks display, which unfortunately got out of control and with catherine wheels on the loose and skyrockets on horizontal trajectories, we, the spectators, panicked and in the ensuing stampede, one unfortunate peon had a close encounter with a glass door. Buenas noches!

Next day it was back to Mexico City where I accepted Bill's invitation to be shown around town. At the appointed time he picked me up in a hired Volkswagen sedan, equipped with left-hand drive and dual senioritas (pictured). At the time, Mexico City was vying to become the most populous city in the world and that afternoon most of its twenty million or so inhabitants were driving on the city's multi-lane streets, jostling for right-of-way. While I suffered a quiet nervous breakdown in the back seat, Bill did a Craig Lowndes at the wheel and got us back to his pit-stop without visible injury.



Next morning I staggered into a taxi and asked to go to the airport. "Aeroporto? No hay problema!" cheerfully sang the driver and that just about summed up the Mexico I had briefly experienced: "No problem".

And then I was on my way to the USA.

Acknowledgement: You could blame Professor William Cartwright for inadvertently inciting me to record this sardonic little account of my brush with Mexico.

Carpbaggers go to Reno

(and IMTA comes to Australia)

Keith Smith

Because the government department in which I was employed was keen to assist the private sector of the mapping and surveying industry, funding for my attendance at the ICA conference in Mexico* was contingent upon my offering "them" my services, in whatever capacity might be considered useful, even while visiting the Americas. So it was that in October, 1987, I was on my way from Mexico City to meet Wayne (private-sector person) in New Orleans where I would be pleased to cooperate in his then-current entrepreneurial initiative.

Wayne's ambition was to create an export market in the USA for Australian tourist maps, particularly those relating to Queensland. His methodology was to visit map-retailers, armed with samples, and promote the idea of including his maps in their range of products. My role was to add authenticity to the maps by my official status, and in practice, I was merely required to stand about and look like an Australian bureaucrat. Wayne was probably a good salesman, but as we moved from city to city, his order-book remained unopened. Then we had a breakthrough. One sympathetic map-merchant said, "You guys should catch up with the International Map Dealers Association which is holding its annual conference in Reno, Nevada, right now." "Map Dealers"! "International"! So off we went to Reno.

The "conference" turned out to be a workshop, and a friendly informal one at that. Ten minutes into the proceedings, it struck me. This was what I had been looking for. This was the unrepresented sector in the mapping community in Australia - the commercial map-makers. I joined IMDA on the spot, perhaps its first Australian member, and was impatient to get back home and start an Australian branch.

On my return, I found that World Expo '88 was the immediate focus in Brisbane, so it was not until the following year that I could assign my enthusiastic staff to arrange the First Australian Map Fair and invite numerous commercial map-makers to attend. The response was gratifying, and I took the opportunity to urge the participants to form an association to mirror IMDA. To try to establish a branch of the American body looked complicated so we settled for an independent organisation which we labelled the Australian Map Dealers Association (AMDA). In 1990 the name was changed to the Australian Map Industry Association (AMIA).

AMIA participated in the Australian Institute of Cartographers (AIC) national conference in Adelaide in 1992, with moderate success, and continued to attract new members. I was elected as its President late in 1992 and the highlight of my term was undoubtedly the Australian Map Fair '93, held in the Melbourne Town Hall, and visited by 10 000 members of the public during its week-long duration.

I drifted away from AMIA, and heard no more about it until I was invited to attend the Map Industry Dinner, in conjunction with the Australian Mapping Expo 1999, as a guest of honour. The dinner and the Expo were hosted by the International Map Trade Association (IMTA) Asia Pacific and it was pleasing to be acknowledged for my role in establishing its fore-runner, ten years earlier. Much more recently, I was chuffed when the Mapping Sciences Institute was approached by IMTA to join with them to present the 2012 national mapping conference, which I notice will take place exactly 25 years after I was inspired by the IMDA conference in Reno.



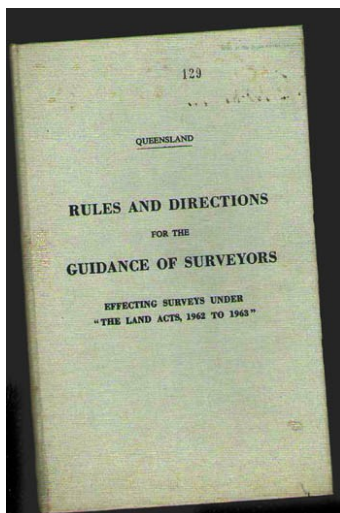
Melbourne Town Hall (Photo. Don Isdale)

While I can claim credit for initiating AMDA, I congratulate the many office-bearers and others who during the intervening years have transformed it a couple of times and ensured that IMTA is now a significant force in Australian mapping. I mention two such people: Peter Davis who was active in AMIA'S participation in the first Joint conference with the AIC back in 1992 and is the current President of IMTA, Asia Pacific. Secondly, Noleen Zander, who ably assisted me in overseeing the Map Fair in Melbourne in 1993, is now the CEO of IMTA Asia Pacific, and will have a pivotal role in organising and conducting the 2012 mapping conference.

* *My Mexico story, titled "No hay problema", can be seen above.*

"Mr. Authorised Surveyor"

Keith Smith



Brian Coutts' research paper "*Reciprocation and discipline in Australasia*" in *Journal of Spatial Science*, December 2011, brought on yet another bout of nostalgia. In my youthful days in the Queensland Survey Office, the most revered person was, of course, the Surveyor-General, but we quickly learned to be deferential also to the great body of private practitioners known as Authorised Surveyors. At first I wondered by whom were they authorised, and what were they authorised to do? But it soon became clear that their function of creating property boundaries was at the very core of the whole process of land administration and indeed land ownership. Brian's paper elaborates on this basic fact, although it seems that the appellation "authorised" was peculiar to Queensland with other jurisdictions preferring terms such as licensed or registered.

As Brian reminds me, university degree courses in surveying did not exist before the 1950's, so until then, intending surveyors here got their training through being "articled" to a "master"

surveyor, and their education was by private study in preparation for examinations conducted by the Queensland Surveyors Board.

However, the great distinction, the factor which sets authorised surveyors apart from other participants in the broad discipline of mapping and surveying, is the act of registration. Not only is it necessary to complete successfully a significant course of study and substantial training, they are then required to demonstrate to the “board” that they are technically competent, fully knowledgeable, and of appropriate character to represent a venerable profession. Registration makes them accountable to their peers and to the community at large to carry out their role of defining our property boundaries with proven ability, diligence and integrity.

King Camera

Les Isdale

It was the most expensive piece of equipment in the mapping office, purchased for the Queensland Lands Department (Survey Office) long before I arrived on the scene as a cadet draftsman.

The history of photographic services in the Department (under its various name changes) has been comprehensively detailed by the current Senior Photographer, Michael Ruckert, and extracted with his kind permission.

In the late 60s, the Photographic Branch of the then Queensland Department of Public Lands had been using a large format camera – the Hunter Penrose Gallery, to create accurate reproductions of large scale maps and artworks using the ‘wet plate’ process. The Hunter Penrose was delivered early in 1924 and is one of the largest on record according to the company’s web site.

At the start of the 60s film was readily available and it was decided to update the Hunter Penrose by having a film back handmade and installed by Mr Claude Gosper of Sydney.

This improved the process as it featured a vacuum back to hold film sheets in place



The Hunter Penrose

and superseded the wet plate process. However with the changes in photographic technology and the ready availability of film, the Hunter Penrose was no longer a viable piece of equipment. As its primary function was in the reproduction of maps and aerial mosaics, accuracy was paramount and despite improvements, results were not consistent or repeatable. The search began for a more efficient replacement.

By the time it was replaced, the Hunter Penrose was a museum piece. Its construction of timber gave it appeal for collectors and in 1979 a



gentleman by the name of Sandy Barrie purchased it for \$100, making the comment that, "It was a unique survivor worldwide."

There is a tragic turn to this story. Sandy's museum was flooded on 12 January 2011, with devastating effect on his large camera collection, including the venerable Hunter Penrose. He said 'I lost my collection to the floods and looters... out of half a million items I was only able to save 2,000.'



Cameraholics Queensland says it was 'One of Australia's best private collections of historic cameras, photos, negatives and associated paraphernalia.' Future restoration of the Hunter Penrose is under consideration.

Then there was Klimsch. Mike records the events.

The first of the Klimsch cameras was purchased in 1968 for \$81,365. Additional to the purchase price was the investment in the physical alterations that needed to be made to the building to accommodate such a large camera.

The Klimsch was one of a few cameras purpose built for large scale cartography. Its features included a ground glass which allowed operators absolute precision in layout, rectifications of the lens and film planes to make exacting adjustments, and settings that could be recorded and duplicated to allow for repeatability of jobs. Having a metal body gave it extra stability, reducing movement during exposures. Its overhead construction allowed operators uninterrupted accessibility to the working components.

It was installed initially in the Land Administration Building (LAB) at 130 William Street Brisbane, on the ground floor premises modified for the purpose.

Delivery of the camera was a Herculean effort involving international transport from its home in Frankfurt, Germany to downtown Brisbane. The physical size of the camera can be better appreciated when you consider there were 22 cases of equipment with a combined weight of over 12 tonne and a net weight of almost eight tonne.

The camera was installed just in time for the accelerated map production taking place, and of which it was a significant element.

Map production figures more than doubled in the three years between 1974 and 1978 from 150 to 400.

The increased workload and growing backlog of work necessitated investigation into the purchase of another cartographic camera.



A local TV station helicopter was recruited to lower the air conditioning unit onto LAB

Acquisition was achieved through the Chief Photographer, the Surveyor General and the Minister, who wrote to the Treasurer, "The cartographic camera is a vital piece of machinery in all our mapping processes and is the only one available in Queensland...Installation of a second camera will enable the photolab to provide the service it was established to do as well as provide a contingency against the breakdown of the existing unit."

At that time other Klimsch cameras were in use for cartographic reproduction in the Division of National Mapping, Canberra; Department of Lands, Tasmania; Department of Lands and Survey, Sydney; Central Mapping Authority, Bathurst; Army Survey Regiment, Bendigo and the existing Klimsch in the Department of Mapping and Surveying (DMS), Brisbane.

'The purchase was approved. The accepted tender from Crabtree Middows was for \$ 174,725 covering the Commodore Universal Overhead Model A camera including its installation and commissioning by German engineers.

The camera was delivered to the photographic branch on 14 August 1980 ... The official date of commission was 28 January 1981.

The new camera was almost half the weight of the original and ran on electronic systems. The major benefit for operators was the ease of positioning. The electronic positioning system meant the camera could be positioned in a fraction of the time and with virtually no physical effort.



Klimsch 27042 installation in the Land Administration Building

In September 1984, the Surveyor-General advised Section Heads that the government had decided to "construct a mapping and surveying building at South Brisbane east of and adjacent to the Government Printing office." ... *Such a move impacted considerably on the photographic branch which had amongst its equipment to be relocated, two cameras weighing in at approximately 16 tonne.*

In 1993 a major overhaul of the government's various photographic divisions led to the establishment of the Photographic Group under the Administrative Services Department (ASD) umbrella. ASD took control of the Lands Departments photographic staff and laboratory, including the Klimsch cameras, and operated commercially on a cost recovery basis until the unit was handed back to the Department of Natural Resources in 1997. As departmental mapping work for the Klimsch was declining due to technological advances in map production, commercial work began to comprise the bulk of throughput.

The scanning revolution arrived, marking the end of the photographic era.

Technological advancements, affordability and the speed with which industry and the public have embraced the transition from film to digital-technology have effectively made the Klimsch cameras obsolete. Scanning technology is constantly improving allowing for digitisation of artwork to very high resolutions.

Ironically the total cost of these two cameras combined, including the moving and building works performed over the years (in unadjusted figures) would figure well into the millions of dollars, but now they cannot be given away. Technology has reduced them to not much more than museum

pieces, oddities or dinosaurs in the history of the photographic process. The sheer cost of relocating them makes them an unattractive acquisition for museums to take on.

This was the reality which led to the demolition of both Klimsch cameras in 2008. It was a sobering event, made tolerable only in the context of the huge contribution to map production these units had made since their purchase.

And so the Department entered the digital imaging era – but that's a story for another day.



Go online for details of the 2012 International Geospatial Forum, where you can download –

- Brisbane Flyer
- Call for Papers
- Programme Outline
- Programme Schedule
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Registration Form
- Exhibitor Form
- Walking Tour Information

For more info go to www.imtamaps.org or email imtaaspac@chariot.net.au

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