

Introduction by the Programme Director

The XVIIIth Congress of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, which took place from July 9th to July 19th 1996, was the biggest event ever organised by the Austrian Society for Surveying and Geoinformation. That was possible only by co-operation of an excellent team under the regime of the excellent Congress Director Karl Kraus. The report about this great event is the content of this book. It is the Part A of Volume XXXI of the International Archives of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. The seven books of Part B plus one Indexbook contained 796 technical papers on altogether 4696 pages and have been distributed already during the Congress. Originally 1149 papers of authors of 74 countries have been submitted in form of extended abstracts. The above 796 full papers which finally arrived were 69% thereof. Accepted have been 131 more which finally came too late or - most of them - not at all. Late papers had the unconventional chance to be presented in form of a poster free and privately off programme in the Hyde Park Corner, close to the poster area.

222 proposed papers have been rejected by the Commission Presidents who were the filter responsible for the quality of the scientifically interesting technical programme. I thank them and their enthusiastic Commission Secretaries for the excellent co-operation. Uncountable number of emails and faxes have been exchanged. The question arises: How was it possible to organise an ISPRS Congress before fax and email?

The Congress Programme consisted of 215 modules, for each of it a chairperson was responsible and a reporter was nominated. There were 10 Tutorials, 13 Technical Tours, 117 Technical Sessions (81 of them with oral, 36 with Poster presentations), 17 Special Sessions, 21 Business Meetings, 22 Exhibitor Showcase Sessions, 6 Social Programme modules and, last but not least, 6 General Assemblies, one of it at the University of Technology Vienna in form of a Dolezal festival, and 3 Plenary Sessions, i.e. the big Opening Ceremony in the Hofburg and two Closing Sessions in the Austria Centre

Vienna. The module reports arrived partially in time, partially late, partially not at all. Therefore the events during some of the modules will remain only in the memory of the participants. The reader is kindly requested to accept this incompleteness as lovely and human despite of the technical perfection of the today's means and possibilities. Behind the "modules" were people coming from 102 different countries of the world. This volume contains session reports thanks to those participants who offered themselves as reporters and who took notes about the sessions. It is true that those reports were sometimes difficult to read, but Katharina Kraus, (not related to the Congress Director Karl Kraus), typed the reports in many long nights with great assiduity.

Great help came from the new Council of ISPRS and from the Editor in Chief of the ISPRS Highlights, Mauricio Araya - Figueroa who have edited the "official" parts of this book, the minutes of the General Assembly, many of the official speeches and Resolutions. Also the Statutes and Bylaws have been provided by the Council. It is not difficult to find out who has done most of the work: Lawrence W. Fritz, well deserved new President of ISPRS, and John Trinder, the hard-working and always helpful new Secretary General. Many thanks also to the French translators. Specially the work of Isabelle Veillet, France, has to be recognised.

In conclusion even we organisers were deeply satisfied that no major calamities occurred and that everybody could be satisfied in case of smaller difficulties. Everything ended in friendship. Also the weather was bright and friendly during the congress period with the disadvantage that no umbrellas were sold. It was my honour and privilege to serve for this my eleventh ISPRS congress as its programme director and I thank all of the many of you who contributed to its success.

Peter Waldhäusl





Belvedere, the castle of Prince Eugen



Art nouveau in Vienna: Otto Wagner facade



Art nouveau in Vienna: Otto Wagner church Steinhof