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Mapping and Geographic Information Systems

Foreword

This volume of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) Archives devoted to Commission IV, "Mapping and Geographic Information Systems" completes the transition of Commission IV from a focus on mapping to a focus on mapping, database and geographic information system (GIS) applications. To this end, Commission IV sponsors the seven working groups listed below.

WG IV/1	GIS Data and Applications
WG IV/2	International Mapping from Space
WG IV/3	Map and Database Revision
WG IV/4	Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) and Digital Orthoimages for
	Mapping/GIS Applications
WG IV/5	Extraterrestrial Mapping
WG IV/6	GIS and Expert Systems for Global Environmental Databases
ICWG III/IV	Conceptual Aspects of GIS

In May of 1994, the Commission IV Symposium was held in Athens, Georgia where approximately 200 participants attended 12 technical sessions and 3 poster sessions that represented the efforts of authors from more than 28 countries. In addition to the 147 papers presented in the Technical Program, Symposium activities included a Technical Workshop entitled, "Introduction to Desktop Mapping and GIS" and exhibits from leading vendors of mapping, GIS and remote sensing equipment and products.

A special issue of the *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing* also was organized that focuses on topics of interest to Commission IV. A total of five articles that define state-of-art utilization of digital image data for mapping applications were selected for the Aug. 1996 issue. The subjects of these articles include international mapping from space, orthophotos as a GIS database reference layer, softcopy photogrammetric techniques for map revision, 3-D modeling of urban environments and global database development.

Over the next four years, we can expect continued developments in GIS, softcopy photogrammetry and Global Positioning System (GPS) technologies, along with improvements in data processing capabilities and the acquisition of high-resolution satellite image data to be particularly critical to the successful preparation of maps and databases in digital format. It is anticipated that the upcoming years will be exciting times for Commission IV.

Roy Welch President, ISPRS Commission IV

Marguerite Remillard Secretary, ISPRS Commission IV

The International Archives of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Volume XXXI, Part B4

ISPRS Commission IV - Mapping and Geographic Information Systems

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