

# Foreword

As is true for almost any department in life, you get out of a technical meeting as much as you are willing to contribute. Thus, looking back on the level of exchange--at the technical sessions and workshops, in the halls, around the bar--the International Conference on Automation in Cartography can be judged a profitable meeting. Many of the individual contributions were invited but many more were not, creating an atmosphere of discovery badly needed in a technical field as new and unarticulated as this.

The intent of the conference was to promote greater understanding of a rather new technology for the many users who are constrained by the lack of in-house research and development. Automation for cartography is the result of large R&D investments over the past 15 years; the something-for-everyone concept seems to have been put aside in favor of costly supersystems. While it appears that industry has responded only to the big spenders, a stable market for automated cartographic equipment and services will ultimately depend on the many hundreds, if not thousands, of low-budget users.

Credit for the innovative program format belongs to Warren Schmidt. He organized a blend of interactive panels, practical workshops, and tours which stimulated oldtimers and newcomers alike. Many thanks to Raynard Cardascia and Dan Garnett for their assistance in staging the technical tours. Bruce Palmer managed two shows of exhibits which gave the attendees many opportunities to look, touch, and absorb.

I want to gratefully acknowledge the support of those on the U.S. Geological Survey mapping research staff. Joyce Humphrey and Ruth Temple efficiently supervised finances and processed all correspondence. Marybell Peters and Robbi Jones made conference registration seem like fun, but in reality spent much of their own time preparing for and receiving over 400 people. Spencer Dean prepared the signs that kept the conference flowing between two separate locations, as well as other needed graphics.

I consider the proceedings to be one of the most important products of the conference, though there is always a tendency to underestimate the requirements of such a project. With skill and persistence (and despite such happenings as stolen tapes and a new baby), the staff Technical Information Office managed the critical tasks of tape recording (Bill Lynn), transcribing (Robbi Jones, Jacky Thawley, Wilma Donald), and editing (Madonna Elliott, Suzanne West) the proceedings of all panel sessions--word for word. In most cases, speakers' graphics were obtained and reproduced with high quality.

We are indebted to the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping and the U.S. Geological Survey for cosponsoring the conference, and to the following organizations which contributed significantly to its success:

Defense Mapping Agency Topographic Center  
Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic Center  
National Ocean Survey  
Central Intelligence Agency  
U.S. Bureau of the Census

Any compliments concerning this conference should be directed to those I have named here, and any criticisms should be directed to me so that future meetings of this type may benefit.

