

ISPRS 2016 Prague Congress

Newsletter - Autumn 2013

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1. Editorial - Vyšehrad Legends

Every country has its history and its legends. One such Czech legend speaks about the name of our nation and language - Czech nation and Czech language.

Czech was name of our forefather who together with his brother Lech brought his nation to our land. They came to an area near a hill called Říp - now a famous volcano. The hill is situated in a flat area offering a nice view all around. Forefather Czech climbed the hill during the following night. In the morning, he announced to his people that it is a promised country rich in milk and honey. People settled around and lived under his government for 30 years.

People asked his brother to become a new duke after Forefather Czech had died. Lech advised them to ask Krok, an honored and wise man. Krok accepted and was a respected man and governor for many years. He had only three daughters who could continue after his death. The nation chose the youngest one - Libuše to become its duchess. She moved to Vyšehrad, a fortified settlement founded by Krok in the place of the present Vyšehrad. The duchess was admired and praised by Czech people. However, there was one exception: she was not only a duchess, but she was also a judge. One of two arguing brothers accused her and did not accept her decision, declaring: "long hair, small intellect". Therefore she decided to marry, she asked the most important men of her people to find a new duke and her husband. The men let her to decide. She had already chosen Přemysl the Ploughman and told them where to find him.



Říp Hill

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The men brought Přemysl to Vyšehrad to marry Libuše. Přemysl gave his name, not only to his new wife, but, to a whole dynasty which governed the Czech lands, in the first phase a duchy and after 1212, a kingdom.

Libuše was a kind and wise woman and she was even able to prophesize. Her prophecy concerned a new city - Prague, whose glory would touch the stars, a city, which would suffer from many wars, however, she would overcome all of them. Libuše explained where to found Prague and its castle - Prague Castle.

It is another legend.

If you will find time to go to Vyšehrad, just several hundred meters from our Congress Centre, you will see not only this mysterious place important for this country, but also the statues of Přemysl and Libuše and a view in which Libuše saw Prague and you will see it with your own eyes at 42 meters high above the Vltava River around 3 km south-east of Prague Castle.



Statute of Přemysl and Libuše, Vyšehrad

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2. Report of the Congress Director

The ISPRS goal is to bring as many as possible specialists in photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial sciences together. It is done by many tools. ISPRS has its web page which is really a large database of ISPRS history and presence, also a source of information for specialists and beginners. The second way is through printed materials like the ISPRS Brochure – A4 short information folded in 1/3 of A4 and the ISPRS Profile – a more comprehensive “journal” like publication. ISPRS issues each two months a new eBulletin, which is available on the ISPRS web site.

Another way how to encourage specialists to join ISPRS is to address them personally during ISPRS and non-ISPRS meetings. This activity is performed by all Council members, Technical Commission Presidents and all organizers of ISPRS workshops.



Vyšehrad and Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul

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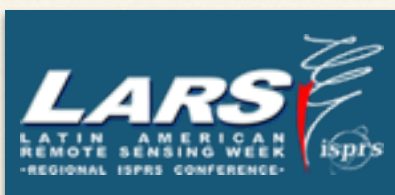


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However, it is the main role of the ISPRS Congress organizer. It was the reason why I took part in many interesting meetings and conferences during the second half of this year. It was the ICC – International Cartographic Conference in Dresden, organized by the International Cartographic Association, CIPA Symposium in Strasbourg, PhoWo – Photogrammetric Week in Stuttgart, Intergeo in Essen and LARS – Latino American Remote Sensing conference in Santiago in Chile.

All these meetings showed me an admirable development of these sciences all over the world, a great enthusiasm of organizers and participants and an important interest of the younger generation in these relatively new sciences. It was a pleasure to be there and I hope that many of those I met during these activities will be able to say a similar sentence: "It was a pleasure to join the ISPRS Congress and meet old and make new friends from this society in Prague in 2016.



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3. Platinum Sponsorship Announcement

ISPRS activities and preparation of the XXIII ISPRS Congress allow me to meet many new people in various places all over the world. One of the new places I visited was the Technical University in Stuttgart where Professor Dieter Fritsch has been organizing the well-known PhoWo – Photogrammetric Week for more than 20 years. This year it was a place where I also presented the Congress to top managers of Leica Geosystems AG (Part of Hexagon) to attract their interest to become a sponsor of the 2016 Prague Congress. The meeting with Leica representatives in Stuttgart was followed by another meeting during Intergeo in Essen. This second meeting was a place and moment of signing a contract between Leica Geosystems AG (Part of Hexagon), represented by Jürgen Dold, President & Chief Executive Officer, and Jack Ickes, Regional President of Geospatial Solutions, and myself, ISPRS Congress Director. I am pleased to announce that on 10 October 2013, Leica Geosystems AG (Part of Hexagon) became the Platinum Sponsor of the XXIII ISPRS Congress to be held 2016 in Prague.

Lena Halounová



Jürgen Dold, Jack Ickes and Lena Halounová

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