

New Analytical Plotter Installed

The Department of Surveying Engineering at the University of New Brunswick is presently completing the installation of a new O.M.I.-Bendix Analytical Plotter, Model AP-2C, making it the only Canadian university able to deal with non-conventional photogrammetric research problems. Until now, such research has been restricted to military applications.

The new plotter consists of three interconnected units, including a digital computer, and requires a room by itself in Sir Edmund Head Hall, the University's new engineering building. This room will be known as the "Donner Photogrammetric Laboratory", in recognition of a \$50,000 grant by the Donner Canadian Foundation of Montreal. The Donner Foundation is a multi-million dollar philanthropic organization dedicated to the upgrading of educational facilities and medical research. This grant has made it possible to upgrade the basic instrument to include great versatility in its adaptation to non-conventional imagery in photogrammetry. The total cost of the analytical plotter now being installed is in the vicinity of \$180,000, with the National Research Council and the Defense Research Board also providing generous financial assistance.

This type of plotter was conceived and its prototype developed at the National Research Council in Ottawa, a few years ago. The optical and mechanical parts of UNB's plotter were designed and built by Ottico Meccanica (O.M.I.) of Rome, Italy, while the associated computer was manufactured by the Bendix Research Laboratories of Southfield, Michigan. Technicians from O.M.I. and Bendix have been in collaboration in the installation of the plotter in the UNB Engineering Building.

Dr. Gottfried Konecny, head of the department of surveying engineering at UNB, says the special computer adaption with the new plotter will make it the most versatile photogrammetric research instrument available.

Previously, only the National Research Council and Laval University in Canada possessed the basic instrument which is only applicable to standard aerial photography. With the increased computer capacity and computer-controlled optics of UNB's plotter, surveying engineering students will be able to deal with non-conventional photography. That is, the plotter will be capable of evaluation photography taken with any camera type with arbitrary exposure geometry. New types of imagery, such as radar, infrared and transmitted photography, including satellite-transmitted photography, can now be evaluated.

On a more conventional plane, the O.M.I.-Bendix plotter will be able to evaluate photographs for a variety of measurement problems, the most common of which are aerial photographs for mapping. The instrument enables the use of automation procedures in orienting and correcting distortions and in plotting. The automation techniques possible with the new plotter will enable surveying engineers to set up procedures for more effective mapping.

Professor J. O. Dineen, Dean of Engineering at UNB refers to this new plotter as the most advanced and versatile facility for photogrammetric research available anywhere in North America. He expects that a very strong research program, based on its special capabilities, will develop quickly and the existence of this facility at UNB will attract world-wide attention in the photogrammetric field.

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