

How Surveyors Have Changed the World Part II!

John Brock (Australia)

Key words: History; Surveyors; great achievements; World changing contributions; other areas of eminence; edifices and mountains towards the sky.

SUMMARY

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By John F. Brock

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Abstract

Hot on the heels of the blockbusting presentation given at the Young Surveyors Conference in Accra, Ghana at the FIG Working Week in May this year, this follow up paper continues to give exaltation to the incredible contributions made by the surveyors of our World!

With equal homage I portray for you all an added monumental inventory of genius and determination, while also including a brief reminder of some of the previous stars of the Hall of Survey Greatness mentioned in Part I of this amazing collection. While we are at the top of the World in Nepal it is timely to remind everyone that this Himalayan nation contains the highest mountain on the planet, which is proudly named after a Surveyor-General, Sir George Everest. Also taking their place in this list of heroes are the super spy surveyors of Tibet who risked a penalty of death as foreigners, to complete the highest measurements of Everest's Great Triangulation Survey of India in the 1800's. You will see charismatic characters of history intertwine their surveying exploits with other universally acclaimed constructions and explorations, with modern erections of the world's tallest buildings and even how the sci-fi cult legend of Star

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Trek was born from the creator's obsession with the World's greatest explorer/surveyor, James Cook! The accurate maps of the World to which we are all accustomed did not exist before Flemish Surveyor Gerhard Mercator modelled his famous projection which was named after him.

Famous historical figures will be placed as Surveyors of Legend, along with the notable attributions accorded to them. You will be surprised to know that individuals such as Wyatt Earp, Walt Disney and Robbie Burns were surveyors, along with those well identified with great surveys and expeditions such as Lewis and Clark, Mason and Dixon, and Japan's greatest surveyor, Ino Tadataka. Come and hear how Tom Cruise jumps between the then planet's tallest buildings in one of the Mission Impossible movies – the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia! Finally, be mesmerized by the superstars playing surveyors in Hollywood movies and TV shows in an ever-growing feast of cinematic delights, starting right back in 1912 with some silent film specials, with particular note of the movie: "Seven Years in Tibet", in which Brad Pitt plays the lead role as a surveyor and personal friend of the Dalai Lama.

This presentation combined with its first hero-packed list will engender a sense of pride in being included as a member of a profession without which the entire World could not sustainably exist – The Surveying Profession!

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