

On April 30, 2019, two centuries after the birth of Aimé Laussedat (1819-1907), an assembly of French topographers, photogrameters and historians gathered in Paris to commemorate this exceptional figure. This bicentenary day took place at the CNAM[1], a place of science and memory where Laussedat was a professor and then director at the end of the 19th century. Organized by AFT[2] and SFPT[3], represented respectively by their presidents Françoise Duquenne and Aurélie Sand, this event was supported by several public and private institutions that inherited the work of Laussedat: the CNAM, represented by Olivier Faron, General Administrator; the IGN[4], represented by Nicolas Paparoditis, Director of the ENSG[5]; the OGE[6], represented by Jean-François Dalbin, President of the Higher Council of the Order; the SNEPPIM[7], represented by its President Fabrice Bunouf.

This commemoration was placed under the aegis of the ISPRS[8], whose President Christian Heipke had come to Laussedat's native country to remind us that his heritage is in reality international. An audience of about 150 people attended conferences that provided an opportunity to trace the life and work of Laussedat, and to see the enormous legacy he has left us, particularly in the surveying professions.



Claudine Fontanon and Olivier Azzola spoke about Laussedat's academic career and the important role he played at the CNAM and the Ecole polytechnique, respectively. In both cases, the fact that he was a faithful servant of the institution did not prevent him from having a critical position in which scientific rigour and republican convictions were mixed. Yves Egels placed Laussedat's innovations in the intellectual and technological context of his time, and his legacy to the academic world was evoked by Pierre Grussenmeyer, Marc Pierrot-Deseilligny and Laurent Polidori.

Audrey Alajouanine and Michel Mémier, expert surveyors, recalled the place of photogrammetry in topography and land tenure companies, the recent developments

made possible by digital imaging and drone, as well as the economic and recruitment challenges. The day ended with a lecture by Christian Heipke, who showed how Laussedat had followed the intellectual evolution of previous centuries and how the international community had appropriated its contribution before structuring itself as a learned society by creating the International Society of Photogrammetry in 1910, of which he is currently President. These interventions show that Laussedat's essential role in the emergence of photogrammetry must be placed in a context where many other influences appear. The origins of perspective and stereoscopy theorized since the Renaissance, the work of Beautemps-Beaupré, the invention of photography, the geopolitical situation of Europe, are part of this history. The presentations will soon be published in a book published by Publi-Topex, Aimé Laussedat (1819-1907), the precursor of photogrammetry.

- [1] Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers
- [2] Association Française de Topographie
- [3] Société Française de Photogrammétrie et de Télédétection
- [4] Institut National de l'Information Géographique et Forestière
- [5] Ecole Nationale des Sciences Géographiques
- [6] Ordre des Géomètres-Experts
- [7] Syndicat National des Entreprises Privées de la Photogrammétrie et de l'Imagerie Métrique
- [8] International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing