

A Tribute to Hellmuth Stachel

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As Hellmuth Stachel celebrates his 80th birthday, it is an honor to contribute to this special issue of the JGG. Hellmuth has been a pillar of strength and leadership for the ISGG for several years, and I would say that the ISGG was established due to the efforts of Hellmuth Stachel as well as a few other “Founders”.

The ISGG got its start in 1978 in Vancouver, BC Canada with the First International Conference on Descriptive Geometry sponsored and organized by the Engineering Design Graphics Division of the American Society of Engineering Education. The conference was a huge success due to the outstanding presentations as well as the international reputation of many of the presenters. At the conclusion of the Vancouver conference, it was the overwhelming feeling of the conference attendees that there was a need for a second conference. The second conference did indeed occur six years later in Beijing, China.

The second conference held in Beijing in 1984 was also a huge success with many presenters from Vancouver making significant contributions which provided strong evidence of the sustainability of the subject matter and the need to continue to have future conferences. Of major significance was the presence of Hellmuth Stachel and others whom I refer to as “Founders” of ISGG. This was the first of many conferences attended by these “Founders” as they had significant influence on the formation of the ISGG as well as development of future conferences. The conference in China served as a catalyst for future conferences and secured the sustainability of holding conferences on a regular basis. Before the close of the Beijing conference, plans were being made to hold a third conference. It was no surprise when Hellmuth Stachel came forward and offered to host the next conference in Vienna, Austria in 1988.

After the conference in China, it was evident that Hellmuth had a genuine interest in cultivating and growing the graphics field on an international level thus he led the conference in Vienna in 1988.

The Vienna Conference was again highly successful with several presenters who had been on the program of the previous conferences. Hellmuth had partnered with Steve Slaby to co-chair the Vienna Conference, and after the conference, they looked at forming a steering committee with the intent of establishing an International Committee regarding Graphics and Geometry. Through their efforts, they were able to form a steering committee made up of individuals from around the world. This steering committee met June 13, 1990 at the fourth conference in Miami to organize the activities of the newly formed International Society for



Figure 1: Hellmuth Stachel leading the discussion of the formation of the ISGG in Miami, Florida 1990.

Geometry and Graphics (ISGG). After formation of the ISGG and establishing the conference activities through the ICGG, the final vote was taken and overwhelmingly passed at the 5th International Conference in Melbourne, Australia in 1992, and the ISGG & ICGG were set in place.

Hellmuth Stachel has been a very active and contributing member to the ISGG. Not only was he one of the “Founders”, but he has been actively involved with the *Journal of Geometry and Graphics* (JGG). He was the first editor of the JGG and now holds the distinction of Honorary Editor. He regularly attends conferences and has always been supportive of all the activities of the ISGG. Hellmuth Stachel deserves a huge thank you for all his efforts in establishing the ISGG, the organization of the ICGG and the editorship of the JGG. Happy 80th Birthday. You have been exemplary.

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