

Surveying: The Second Paradigm

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SUMMARY

Surveyors in classical antiquity knew about surveying and surveyors were held in high regard (Brock, 2012). Their methods were such that they were able to lay out plots and calculate areas, mostly for taxation purposes. However they also were competent to layout and supervise the construction of major engineering works such as pyramids, aqueducts and roads using basic technology and geometry. In a relatively short period about 1600 CE a variety of developments occurred that advanced the capability of the surveyor to carry out their work. The consequences of the Renaissance brought a number of advances in technology that changed the way in which surveying could be carried out. Political changes also meant that a new form of property market developed in England. This was also the period of colonisation, first in America, but then in other parts of the British Empire such as Canada, Australia and finally New Zealand. The combination of these developments brought about a paradigm shift in the nature of what would become, in the 19th century, the profession of surveying.