

To preserve the end point: The Meridian Statue



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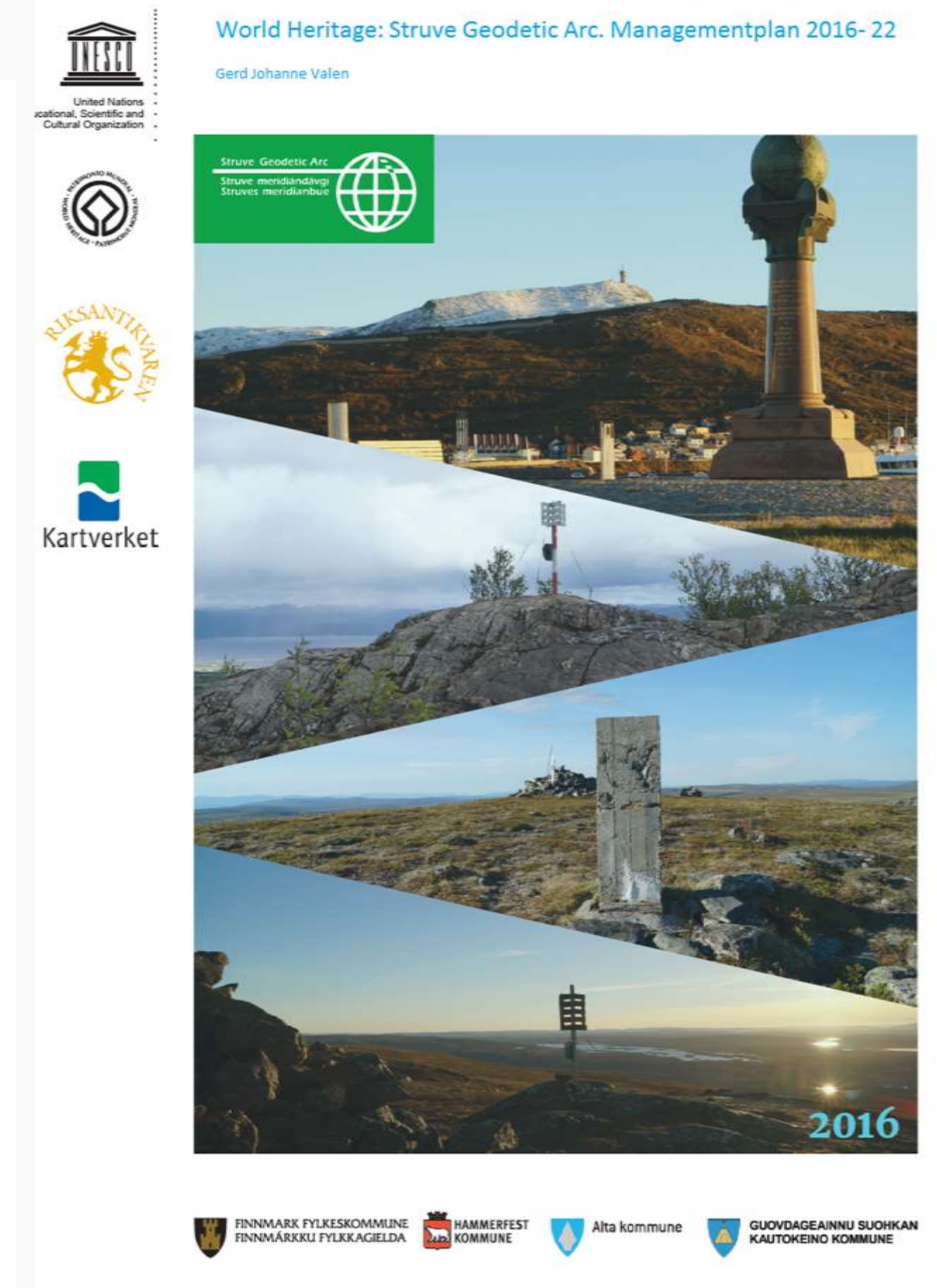
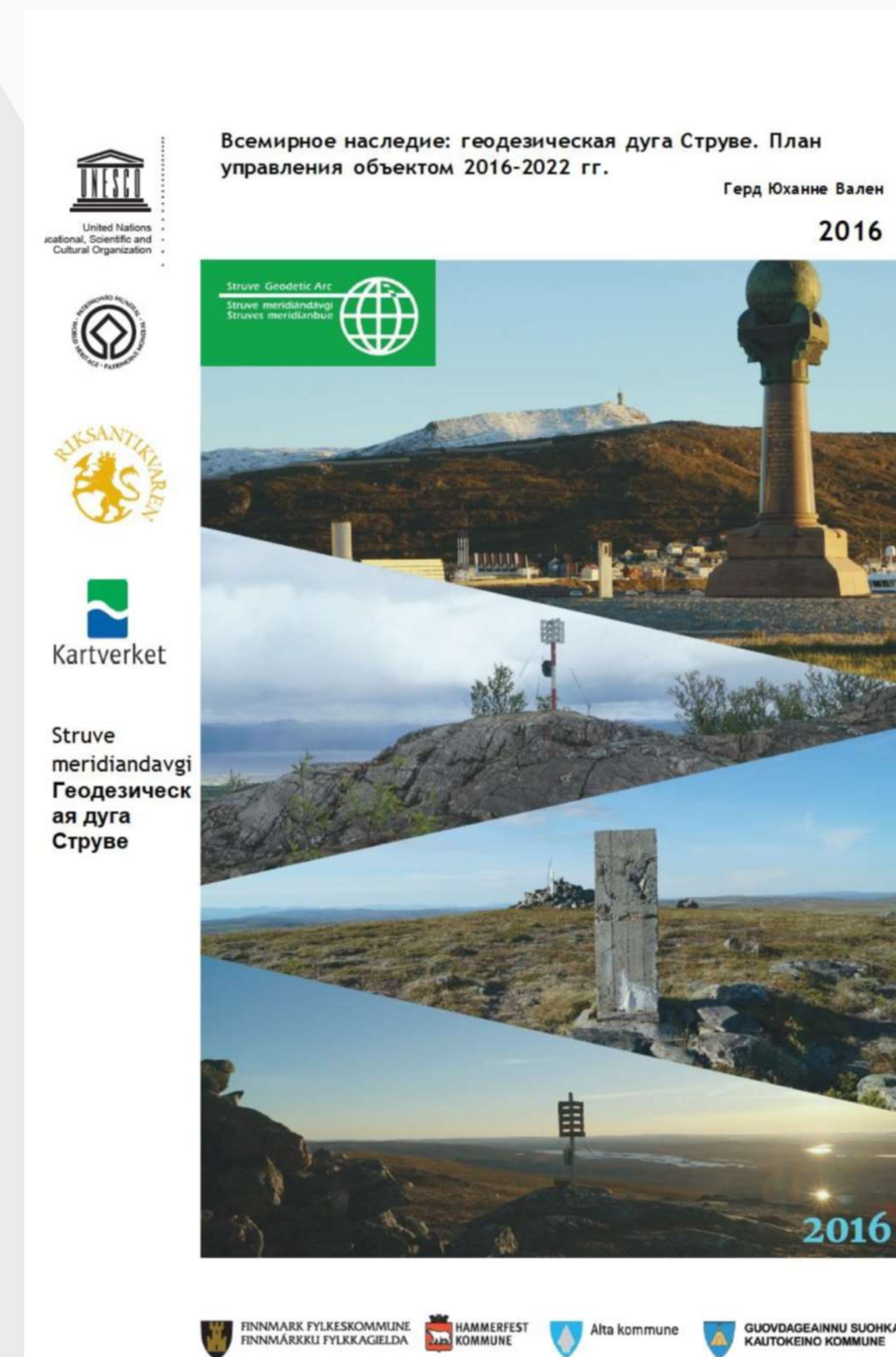
Action plan and the WH Status.

After 2005 the Meridian Statue and a small surrounding area is protected under a conservation order issued by the Directorate of Cultural Heritage by using the Cultural Heritage Act no 50 of 9 June 1978. And in 2017 a management plan and an action plan was adopted by Finnmark County.

The plan suggested further examination of the condition to the Meridian Statue.

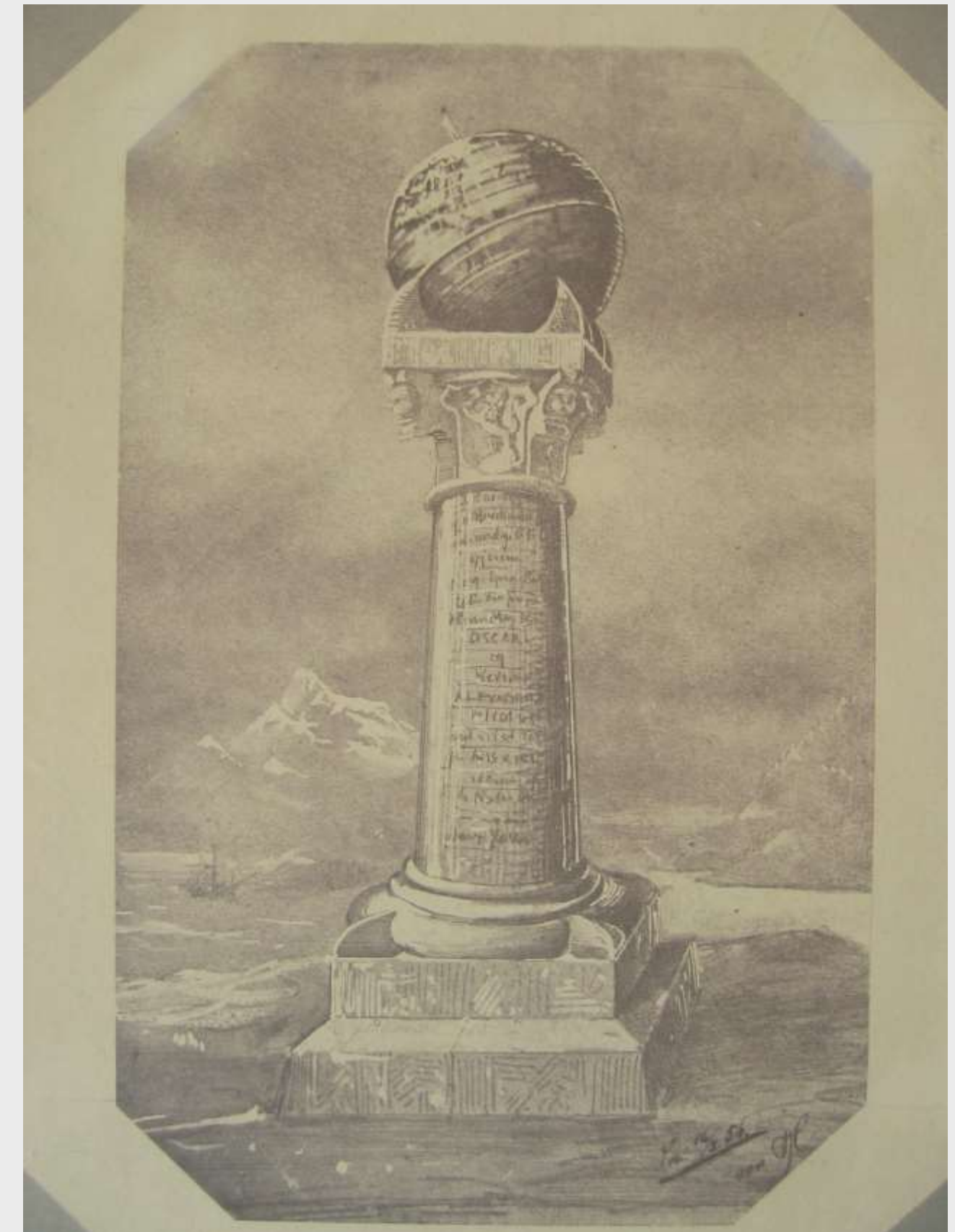
In 2017 an expert in stone conservation
In 2018 an expert in metal conservation

It requires proper professional preservation of the Statue. But at the same time : It is essential with local engagement and knowledge so the Statue could be preserved for the future.



The endpoint

- C. Hansteen and the young architect Wilhelm von Hanno (15.12.1826 Hamburg til 12.12.1882 Oslo) had an idea to create a monument that withstood the climate in Hammerfest.
- 4 parts: A Globus, a Capital, a Column and a Plinth
- The Globus: Double copper sheets. Made by slaves in southern Norway.
- The Capital: Cast in brass by Georg Shultz in Hamburg.
- A Column of polish granite and with gold lettering.
- A plinth of fine cut granite.



The Construction parts

The rock is extremely durable. But still it is effected by wind, rain and probably frost. From the North-West the weather condition is harsh. The engraved text must regular be renewed.

The construction or the method of joining the column with the capital is unknown. And there are tree weak points in the joints between the capital and the column. We do not know why.



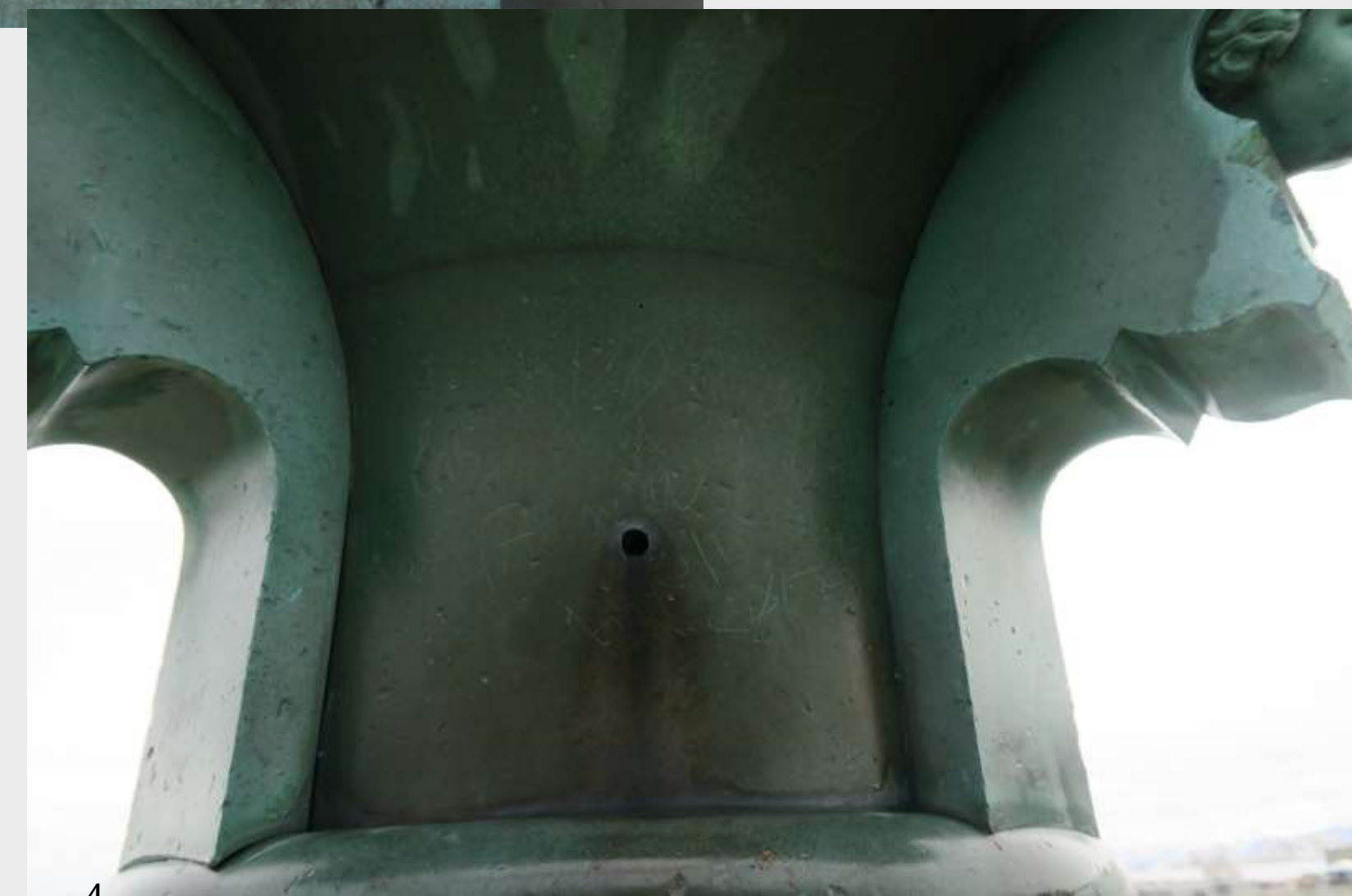
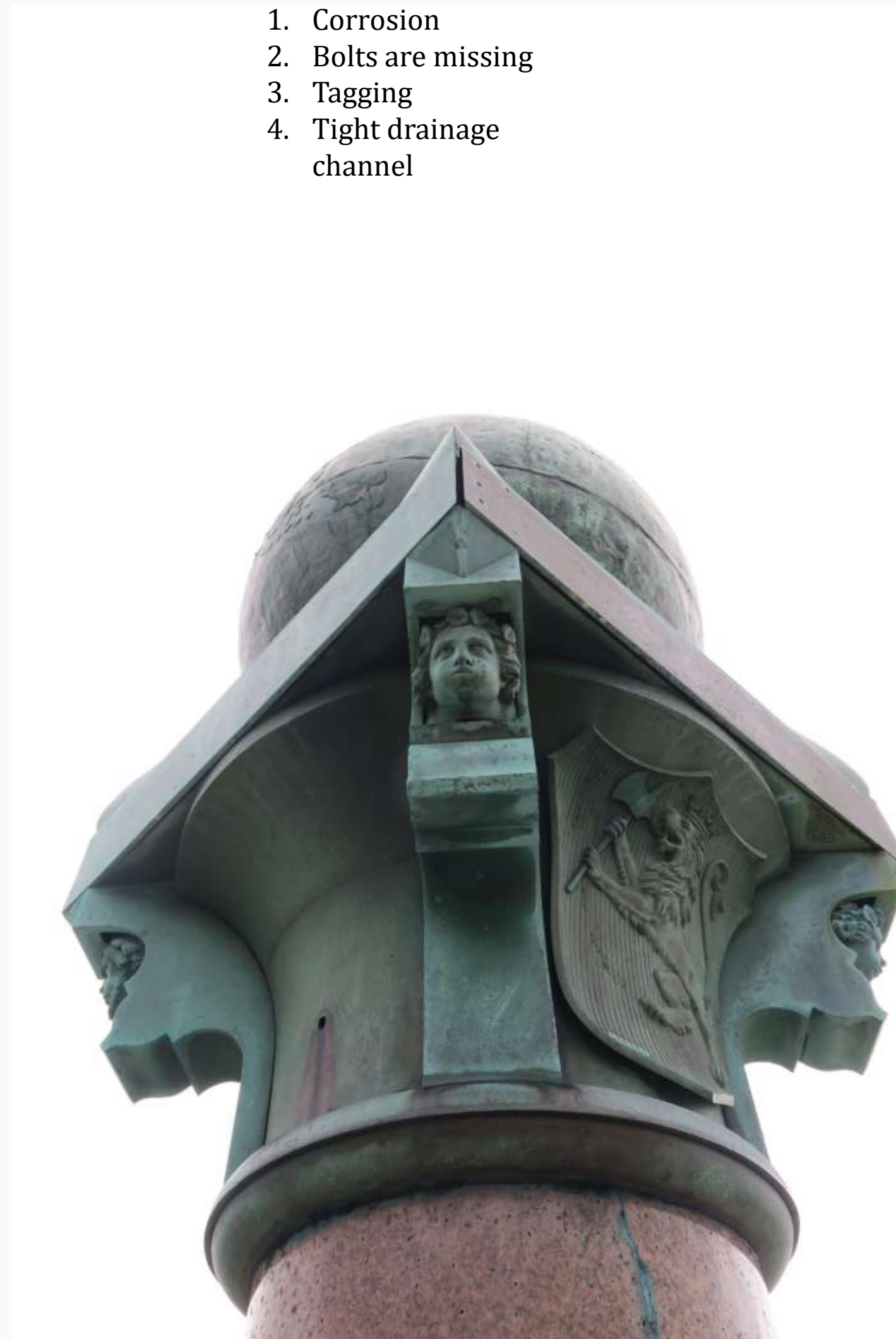
The plinth



The plinth is of fine cut granite. Lichen and moss are present. Seabirds nesting nearby a problem this year. We have started to clean it with technical alcohol. The monument surrounded with rocks in 2006. This has made the monument 4 cm lower than original, and it is a risk for drainage of water, and ice and melting processes under the Statue.

The Capital

1. Corrosion
2. Bolts are missing
3. Tagging
4. Tight drainage channel



The globe



Copper is exposed to oxidation, heavy metal, birds excrement, salts and ammonia. It is coated with verdigris. Has a lot of small holes. The first conservation of the globe and the capital happened in 1948-49 by NGO who also paid most of the expenses. The second was by the local authorities in 2005. The globe was in a bad condition and the continents stood and fought the wind as if they were to loosen from the surface of the earth

Other challenges

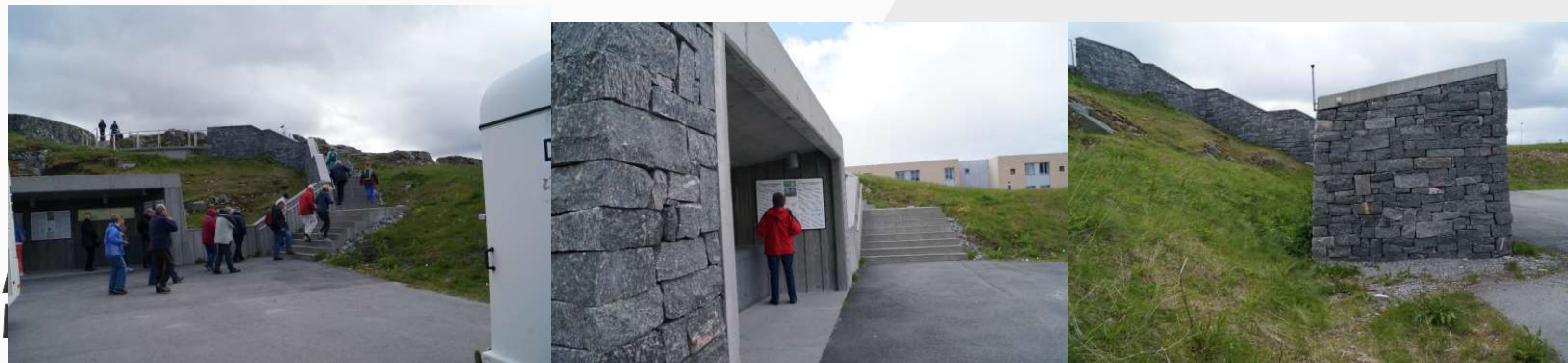


191-79 Meridianstøtten på Fjølens.
Ref. brev av 23. mars 1949 med vedlegg fra byingeniøren som foreslår for formannskapet at der gjøres henvedelse til Geografisk Oppmåling om flytting av Meridianstøtten til Skansen ute på Fjølens, samt ref. brev utdat. fra Parkutvalget som gir byingeniørens forslag sin beste støtte.

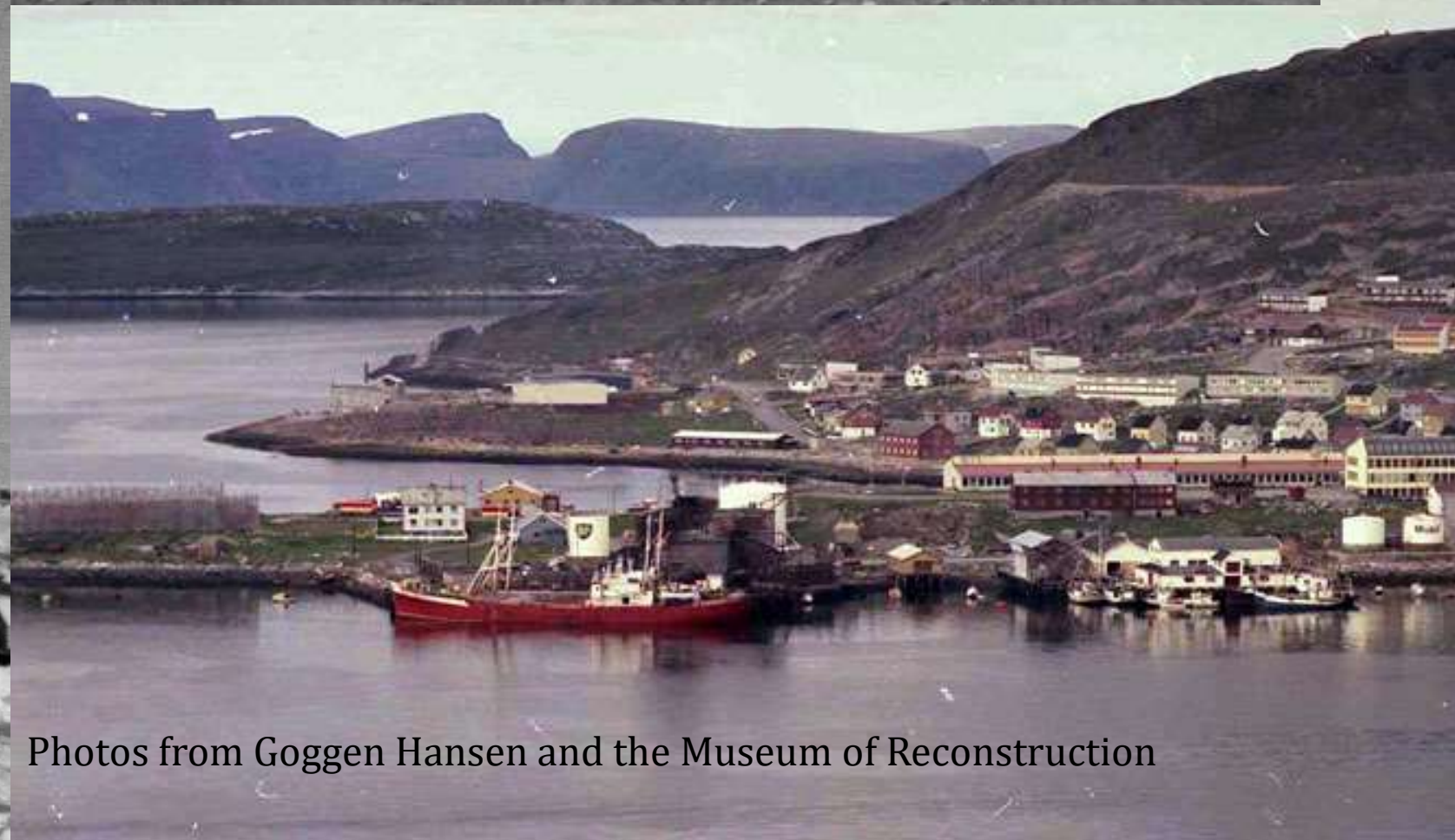


The local authorities and engagement

- After the 2.ww with evacuation and burning, the reconstruction- architects regulated the surrounding area for industry and education. After some years the statue stood among school barracks, fish processing companies, rack for drying fish, slipway for boats, coal cranes and coal transshipment, a bus workshop and more.
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- The statue was the oldest object in the town and yet it became a problem. Reconstruction of Hammerfest lead the local authorities to apply the Mapping Authorities to move the Meridian Statue. They denied.
- From the 1970s, something changed and the local authorities wanted to arrange the area for tourists with a flowerbed around. Later when it no longer was possible to drive up to the monument the local authorities set a staircase up to the monument.
- When it was known that the Struve Geodetic Arc was nominated on the WH-list they started a work for a further renovation and making the area more accessible.



After 1949 to 1970-



Photos from Goggen Hansen and the Museum of Reconstruction



1970





2015



2016



- There has been a constant development and change of the area and very rare due to the statue. Sightlines to the tree nearest station points needs to be preserves. It is a question if “we” should accept visual disruption near the monument as long as the sightline is preserved ?
- UNESCO ask for a buffer zone to prevent external influences such as visitor press, development press, fire. pollution, climate change and more.
- Before a buffer zone can formalize we need to know exactly what the threats are which can reduce OUV.
- If there is a need for a formalized buffer zone, map and description must be submitted to the State party, who apply UNECSO world heritage committee for a minor boundary modification

Preserve and monitoring

- Every summer – in the next five years it will be essential to monitor and document all management to get further knowledge about all the risk and treats to the Meridian statue.
- And the hope is that the local authorities emphasizes the soft values and not the industrial backdrop, that is the situation today for the area near the statue. It will perhaps reduce treats and risk for the monument.



An attraction from 1854 and still is.

- From October 1854 the Meridian Statue is placed exactly at the observation point- with help from Klouman and his servant.
- From 1866 an iron fence was at protecting the monument.
- Tourism to Arctic started in 1807, but it became organized from 1871. Most visitors came with cruise ships on their travel to North Cape and Spitsbergen.
- The Meridian Statue became an attraction for the visitors. And still is.
- We have a lot to learn from nations who care about their own cultural history.



Thank you for your
attention

<https://www.struve.no>