

PREFACE

This issue of our Periodica is to commemorate the bicentenary of the Technical University of Budapest and especially the two hundred years of higher education in Civil Engineering.

The history of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and its predecessors — summarized by Professor Kerkápoly, outstanding previous dean of this Faculty — illustrates the lengthy struggle of our society in the last centuries to achieve the most important precondition of the industrialization of the country: to have well-educated, farsighted experts in science, engineering, economics, teaching. It is a prove of the great efforts, heavy demands, successful and unsuccessful experiments needed to establish a higher educational institution esteemed and appreciated at home and abroad as well.

The celebrations on this occasion included scientific sessions giving account of the scope and results of recent research activity of our departments in the four main branches of the Faculty: Structures, Highway and Railway Engineering, Hydraulics and Geodesy. Limitation of space didn't allow a reproduction of the lectures and reports given on the sessions. So instead of the survey of contemporary scientific work we turned to the past, and selected some papers of the late professors or most successful graduates of our Faculty which are commonly regarded as reports on outstanding scientific or engineering achievements and as landmarks in the history of our domestic activity in Civil Engineering.

This solution is also meant to give opportunity to foreign readers of our periodical to get acquainted with reports which — having been edited in Hungarian and so language barriers having caused hard access to their content — hadn't gained international recognition.

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