

## ISTVÁN KRUSPÉR

1818–1905



University professor, corresponding, ordinary, then honorary member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, as well as ordinary member of the French Academy.

Beginning as an assistant in Vienna, since 1850 he had been teaching at the Technical School József to become professor at the Technical University József until his retirement in 1894. Meanwhile he acted as a dean.

He was an extraordinary personality, a many-sided teacher and scholar, who delivered almost all the engineering subjects taught at that time, including mechanics, descriptive geometry, higher mathematics, even mechanical engineering and technology. His basic science was, however, geodesy and surveying, including geodetic astronomy and the development of surveying instruments. This was the domain where he displayed the longest teaching function, where he reached outstanding scientific results. He developed many measuring devices with ingenious innovations, including the outstanding corrections on the instrument of *Stampfer*. He had instruments of his own invention, too, among them his pride, the distance-meter; surely excellent on the state of science of his time.

For 15 years, he was representative of Hungary in the International Meter Commission and from 1874 on, director of the Hungarian central commission for scales and measures.

His wide-ranging, outstanding scientific activity was recognized by numerous appreciations. He was elected 1858 to corresponding, 1870 to ordinary, and 1899 to honorary member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He became member of the French Academy in 1872. He got many national and foreign distinctions, including the Order of the Iron-Crown, Order of Leopold, the Serbian Order of Takova and Officer's Cross of the French Légion d'Honneur.

After his death, his bust was erected in the aula of the Technical University; a street has been named after him in the neighbourhood of the University, where now the students' hostel of the Faculty of Civil Engineering is standing.

His main work is the textbook "Surveying" for students of the Technical University, written in Hungarian, issued in three editions. Its title-page and a selection describing the development by Kruspér of Stampfer's instrument will be reproduced as a commemoration.

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