Professor STANISŁAW HUECKEL

Professor Stanisław Hueckel, D. Eng., member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, was born in Lwów on 8th, May, 1911.

In 1935 he graduated from the Civil Engineering Department of the Technical University of Lwów.

In 1934, before graduating, Stanisław Hueckel began working in the Maritime Office of Gdynia as "secretary engineer" in the building of the port of Gdynia. After graduating he took up the post of marine structures engineer with the Maritime Office, and as from 1938, apart from his employment in the building of Gdynia port, he worked on the designing and building of the ports of Władysławowo, Jastarnia and Puck.

The occupation period of 1939—45 he spent in Cracow where he worked in a building office. Then, immediately after liberation, he worked as an official in charge of the department of sanitary engineering.

In 1945 he returned to the Baltic Coast to take up work in the field of marine structures, to which he devoted his professional life.

Up until 1950 he had held executive and advisory ports at various institutions in charge of port reconstruction and development (the Port Rebuilding Office, the Chief Maritime Office, the Union of Polish Shipyards, the Marine Structures Design Office). At that time he participated in projects concerning the reconstruction and furher development of the ports of Gdynia, Gdańsk, Szczecin and Świnoujście. He was also one of the organizers and the head of the Research Department of the Design Office which became later the scientific Maritime Technical Institute (now the Maritime Institute) at Gdańsk.

As from 1945 he became involved in research, holding a number of the posts at the Gdańsk Technical University: first as adjunct (assistant lecturer) of the Department of Port and Marine Structures in 1945—46, then Deputy Professor and director of the Foundation Engineering Department, after which he became an Associate Professor, and from February 1962 — a full Professor. He also took part in organizing higher education, holding the post of Prorector of the Gdańsk Engineering College in 1952—54, and that of Rector of the Technical University of Gdańsk in 1954—56. He was employed at the latter up to 1967.

In 1962 he was appointed a correspondent member of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS), and some time later he was elected to the Presidium of the Polish Academy of Sciences of which he was a member until his death. In 1972 he was elected a full member of the PAS. His research covered the field of foundation engineering, particularly, that of marine structures. The problem of a coefficient of savety in foundation engineering, buoyancy of foundation cases, some problems of marine lithology and sea-coast protection are only a few of the subjects of his theoretical studies.

In 1954 he was made Director of the Marine Structures Laboratory of the newly-established Gdańsk Institute of Hydro-engineering of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Worth noting is a serious of studies undertaken by the PAS Institute of Hydro-engineering and devoted to the problem of the anchorage ability of grounded structures. The results of several years, research were published in his paper entitled "Zdolność kotwiąca płyt pionowych i ukośnych pogrążonych w gruncie — w świetle doświadczeń modelowych" ("The Anchorage Ability of Grounded Vertical and Diagonal Plates in the Light of Model Experiments"). This was submitted to the Council of the Hydro-engineering Department of Warsaw Technical University in 1959, and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Engineering in 1960. An extended version was issued as a book entitled "Zakotwienia gruntowe w hydrotechnice" ("Ground Anchorage in Hydro-engineering") in 1970.

In 1957 Professor Hueckel was made Deputy Director for Education, and later (1st, October, 1961), Director of the PAS Institute of Hydroengineering in Gdańsk which he held for three terms (up to 1st March, 1974). This period is marked by the rapid development of the Institute, its growing importance in national science and the substantial development of modern scientific back-up. The academic staff trained by Professor Hueckel has been continuing his good traditions in the training of hydro-engineerig graduates. When his health deteriorated, Professor Hueckel decided to retire from his academic work. From 1974 until his death Professor Hueckel continued to work as Director of the International Team of Marine Structures, Theory, also being President of the Institute's Scientific Council.

Professor Hueckel was one of the founders of the monthly "Technika Morza i Wybrzeża" ("Marine and Coastal Engineering") — later "Technika i Gospodarka Morska" ("Marine Engineering and Economy"). He was its editor-in-chief for 7 years. From 1954 he was editor-in-chief of "Archiwum Hydrotechniki" ("Hydro-engineering Archives"), an international magazine which was issued by the PAS Institute of Hydro-engineering.

Professor Hueckel was active as a writer of textbooks and research papers. He wrote a three-volume textbook entitled "Budowle morskie" ("Marine Structures") which was the first of its kind to be written in Polish. Thanks to its originality, the author was awarded the State Prize for Science (Second Class). The second edition of the textbook (extended twice and up-dated version in four volumes) was issued in 1972-75.

Apart from this, Professor Hueckel wrote two other textbooks: "Zarys fundamentowania dla geologów" ("An Outline of Foundation Engineering for Geologists") (2 editions) where he presented problems of foundation engineering from the point of view of the needs of engineering geology, and a monograph entitled "Grodze" ("Cofferdams") (2 editions). His other books have been published in the series of "Architecture in Concrete". He wrote 2 chapters of the "Foundation Engineering" textbook, and 2 others of the "Marine Structures" textbook. He wrote over 200 scientific and technical articles and 17 volumes of textbook and monographs (including 2nd and 3 rd editions) in all. He also worked on terminology problems as a result of which he and his collegues, compiled several dictionaries in Polish and foreign languages covering the terminology of special interest to him.

Despite his devotion to scientific work Professor Hueckel did not lose his interest in economic affairs. In 1948—49 he was a consultant on hydro-engineering equipment (slips, elevators, etc.) to the Union of Polish Shipyards during the reconstruction of the Gdańsk shipyard. Later he worked on a number of projects and scientific and technical decisions concerning investments in the maritime economy. One of his most important jobs was a conceptional project of the first Polish dry dock for Gdynia shipyard and construction on the modifications of the working design and the dock construction. In 1961 he and his associates worked out the conceptional project of a new port on Jamno Lake, In the seventies he participated in the preliminary work on the construction at Gdańsk North Port. He was also the author of a number of expertises mainly on the improvment and repair of port and shipyard appliances, foundations of larger constructions, etc.

Apart from this he was a member of many commissions and committees of the Polish Academy of Sciences and institutions of importance to the national economy. Worthy of special note is his participation in the research carried out by the Civil Engineering Committee from 1953. Later he held the chair of the Committee's Ground and Foundation Engineering Section which he was the founder of.

From 1966, Professor Hueckel was chairman of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He helped the Committee to develop and gain national and international significance. Professor Hueckel was also a member of several scientific Institute Councils (the PAS Institute of Hydro-engineering, the Institute of Civil Engineering, the Maritime Institute at Gdańsk, the PAS Library in Gdańsk, etc.)

It also should be mentioned that Professor Hueckel participated in work of the Technical and Economic Council of Science of the Voivodeship People's Council of Gdańsk, the Committee of the Ministry of Shipping's Sea-ports Development Plan Commission. He was also a member of the Central Science Workers' Qualifying Board of the Ministry of Higher Education.

Professor Hueckel was active in the social scientific movement. For many years he was a member of the Polish Geo-engineering Committee of the Chief Technical Organization. He was especially active in the Gdańsk Scientific Society. He worked on the board for many years Vice--President in 1958—62. In 1970 he was made an honorary member of the Society. He was also a member of many international societies, such as the International Society for Permanent Shipping Congresses, the International Society of Ground and Foundation Engineering, the International Society of Rock Mechanics, the International Society for Hydraulic Research.

Professor Hueckel was active in extensive international research cooperation. He went on several scientific trips, including: two to Albania (in 1952, 1953—54) as a consultant on the development of Albanian ports, to China (1953) where he gave a series of lectures and consultations, to the USSR (1956) to establish contacts with Soviet specialists in port construction. He gave lectures in the universities of Budapest, Prague, Bratislava, Vienna, Belgrade, Dresden, the Hague, Paris, Toulouse, Grenoble, Copenhagen and others. He participated in a number of international scientific conferences and congresses, including the International Congress of the Universities held in Mexico (1960), the International Congress for Rock and Foundation Engineering held in Paris and London (in Paris he was the head of one of the sections). In 1968 he went to Cuba to work as a consultant on research covering the planned construction of the Pinos Island Port.

On his first trips he established contacts with French scientists (Professor Escande, Professor Kravtchenko, Professor Kerisel) who contributed to the development of Polish science.

In appreciation of Professor Hueckel's contribution to the development of French and Polish scientific co-operation, the Toulouse Academy of Sciences and Letters made him a foreign correspondent member.

In his later years Professor Hueckel's endeavours were directed towards the integration of the scientists in Gdańsk and along the Polish Baltic Coast. In 1971—79 he was chairman of the PAS Coordinating Council in Gdańsk. He helped to found the Gdańsk Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences which has been unifying science in northern Poland since 1980.

For his outstanding scientific and professional work Professor Hueckel received many regional and state awords, the latter including: the Order of the Banner of Labour of Second Class, the Commander's Cross and Cross Chivalry of the Order of Polonia Restituta.

Wojciech Robakiewicz