

# HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEODESY

M. Louis

The 1980 Geodesist's Handbook contains a very detailed note on the "History of the International Association of Geodesy" prepared by J.J. Levallouis, Honorary Secretary General.

Then the 1984 Geodesist's Handbook contains brief biographical memoirs of former Presidents and General Secretaries of the Association. For the 1988 Geodesist's Handbook the Special Study Group 0.67 (History of Geodesy, Chairman : Ch. Whitten) has prepared similar memoirs for three Presidents of the old Association and also concise bio-reference notes for deceased former Section, Commission and Special Study Group officers as well as other geodesists who have made significant contributions.

In order to provide a continuous information about the history of the Association, the Central Bureau has prepared biographical memoirs of two former Presidents of the Association and one Secretary General who recently ended their terms of office. Similarly bio-reference notes have been prepared for those IAG officers and other geodesists who have deceased after 1987.

## I- Past officers of the International Association of Geodesy

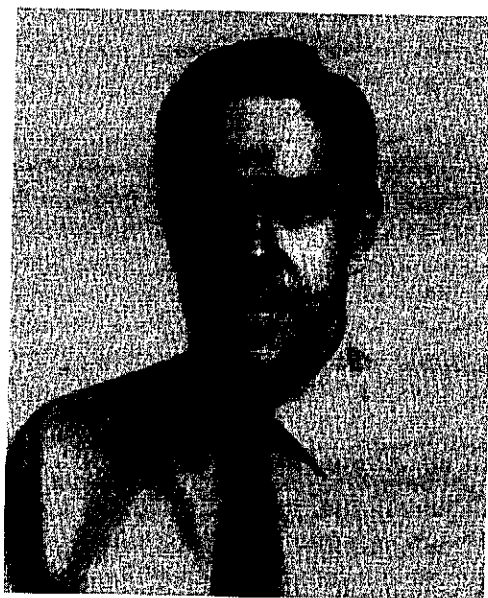
### 1. Presidents

#### . Peter Vincent ANGUS-LEPPAN

President of the International Association of Geodesy, (1983-1987).

Peter Angus-Leppan was born in 1930 in Johannesburg, South Africa, and studied surveying at the University of the Witwatersrand. After practical experience, he lectured at the University of Natal, from 1954 to 1962, in geodesy and astronomy.

While an undergraduate he was inspired by a visit to Witwatersrand University of Dr J. de Graaff Hunter. As a result he later undertook research on atmospheric refraction, and in 1959 was awarded a Ph D on the basis of these studies. He moved to Australia in 1962 as Senior Lecturer in the University of New South Wales, and was appointed as Foundation Professor of Surveying in 1963.



Prof. Peter Angus-Leppan

He developed geodesy in the Department, later the School of Surveying, and was largely responsible for developments which have led to the current international reputation in geodesy, of both the University and Australia. He supervised numerous doctoral students, and assisted and encouraged many in their geodetic research, including the late Ron Mather and other who are active in geodesy today.

Peter Angus-Leppan's major contributions in research are in aspects of geodetic refraction, though his publications and studies are widespread. In 1960 he helped to organize the first Conference of Southern African Surveyors (CONSAS), which continues to be organized at four-year intervals. He was Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the very successful 1979 IUGG General Assembly held in Canberra. Offices held in Australian Academy of Science, include Chairman of the National Committee on Geodesy and Geophysics 1974-1980, and Chairman of the Geodesy Subcommission, 1969-1980.

He travelled widely to represent his School and conducted research at the University of New Brunswick (1966); at the Topocom Research Institute, US Dept. of the Army (1971); under an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, at the Geodetic Institute, University of Karlsruhe (1978); and at the Canadian Geodetic Survey, Dept. of Surveys and Mapping, (1981).

In 1983, as Senior Visiting Scientist at the US National Geodetic Survey he undertook studies of refraction in geodetic levelling.

Peter Angus-Leppan has always been a proponent of the widest possible applications of geodesy, and in 1985-90 he worked as Project Coordinator in implementing the 20-year Land Titling Project, in Thailand. This included designing systems whereby modern techniques of geodesy were applied in accelerating the issuance of title deeds to the 85% of farmers whose tenure of the land was not documented.

#### . Ivan I. MUELLER

1. President of the International Association of Geodesy (1987-1991).

Ivan I. Mueller is a Professor and Chairman in the Department of Geodetic Science and Surveying, The Ohio State University.

He was born January 9, 1930, in Budapest, Hungary. He received the Dipl. of Engineering from the Technical University of Budapest in 1952. Emigrating to the U.S. in 1957, he earned a PhD in Geodesy from The Ohio State University in 1960.

His teaching and research career focussed on geodetic astronomy and satellite geodesy during which he was principal advisor to 25 PhD graduates. His book *Spherical and Practical Astronomy As Applied to Geodesy* became a standard text in the English-speaking world. His fifth book *Earth Rotation: Theory and Observation* was coauthored with Professor Helmut Moritz of Graz, Austria. Ivan I. Mueller served as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Geophysical Research* and was President of the Geodesy Section of the American Geophysical Union. He was Chairman of the

Editorial Board of the journal *manuscripta geodetica*, and *Editor-in-Chief* of *Bulletin Géodésique* for 12 years.



**Prof. Ivan I. Mueller**

IAG activities in which he was a moving force are Project ADOS (African Doppler Survey), Project MERIT and COTES - leading to the establishment of the International Earth Rotation Service, and the International GPS Service. He was the first President of IAG Commission VIII-CSTG. Honors include Fellows of the American Geophysical Union; Alexander von Humboldt Award: Distinguished Scholar of the Ohio State University; Corresponding Member of the German Geodetic Commission, Bavarian Academy of Sciences, and of the Austrian National Academy of Sciences, Vienna; Honorary Member, Hungarian Geodetic and Cartographic Association, and of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

#### 2. General Secretaries

##### . Michel LOUIS.

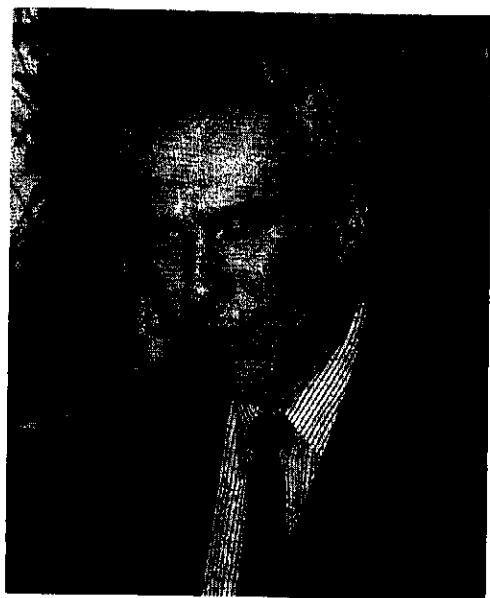
Secrétaire Général de l'Association Internationale de Géodésie (1975-1991).

Né le 21 septembre 1930, Michel Louis est ingénieur de l'Ecole Polytechnique (X 51) et ingénieur géographique diplômé de l'Ecole Nationale des Sciences Géographiques. Il débuta sa carrière à l'Institut Géographique National (1956) comme géodésien de terrain en participant à des missions d'établissement de canevas astronomiques et géodésiques en Afrique. Dès 1960, il introduit les mesures électro-magnétiques des distances dans la réalisation des canevas géodésiques. Il organisa de 1966 à 1970 les missions françaises du 12ème parallèle en Afrique avec l'A.M.S.

A partir de 1962, il prit une part très active à l'utilisation des techniques spatiales à l'IGN (cameras

balistiques) pour les liaisons à grande distance (rattachement de l'archipel des Açores à l'Europe, jonctions Europe-Afrique du Nord-Afrique de l'Ouest). En même temps, il dirigea l'unité chargée de l'application des techniques géodésiques au génie civil : implantations de haute précision, contrôles de ponts, barrages, tunnels, antennes de grande dimension, etc.

Non seulement il forma les opérateurs à ces techniques nouvelles, mais il enseigna ces parties de la géodésie appliquée à l'Ecole Nationale des Sciences Géographiques et au Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers.



Ing. Gén. Géog. Michel Louis

Elève et disciple de J.J. Levallois au Service de la Géodésie à l'IGN, il fut aussi son adjoint à l'Association Internationale de Géodésie: secrétaire adjoint de 1963 à 1975 et rédacteur du Bulletin Géodésique de 1965 à 1975. En 1975, il fut élu Secrétaire Général de l'AIG en remplacement de J.J. Levallois.

A l'IGN, Michel Louis devint Chef du Service de la Géodésie en 1976, puis Directeur de la Production en 1981, enfin il est Directeur Général Adjoint depuis 1983.

**II- Deceased former Section, Commission, Special Study Group officers and other geodesists who made significant contributions (in brackets biographical notice published).**

BERGSTRAND, Erik (1905-1987).

Sweden, Geographical Survey Office  
Electromagnetic distance measurement: geodimeter  
Velocity of light  
[Bulletin Géodésique, 61-3, 1987].

CONZETT, Rudolf (1922-1987).

Switzerland, Zurich, ETH  
Classical geodesy  
[Bulletin Géodésique, 62-2, 1988].

CORON, Suzanne (1917-1989).

France, Paris, Institut de Physique du Globe  
Gravimetry  
Secretary of International Gravimetric Commission (1971-1975)  
(Vice-Director of Bureau Gravimétrique International (1975-1979)  
[Bulletin Géodésique, 64-1, 1990].

LECOLAZET, Robert (1910-1990).

France, Strasbourg, Institut de Physique du Globe  
Physical geodesy, Earth Tides  
President of Commission on Earth Tides (1963-1979)  
[Bulletin Géodésique, 64-2, 1990].

LI, Qinghai (1910-1986).

China, Wuhan Technical University, Surveying and Mapping  
Mathematical geodesy  
[Bulletin Géodésique, 62-4, 1988].

MARSH, James, G. (1939-1991)

U.S.A., Goddard Space Flight Center  
Satellite geodesy  
[Bulletin Géodésique, 65-4, 1991].

PESCHEL, Horst (1910-1989).

Germany, Dresden, Technische Hochschule  
Classical geodesy  
[Bulletin Géodésique, 63-4, 1989].

RINNER, Karl (1912-1991).

Austria, Graz, Technical University  
Classical and satellite geodesy  
Chairman of SSG on Combination of Terrestrial and Satellite Networks (1967-1975)  
President of Section I: Control Surveys (1975-1979)  
President of Commission on Education (1972-1979)  
Third Vice-President of IAG (1987-1991)  
[Bulletin Géodésique, 65-4, 1991].

SZABO, Bela (1914-1990).

U.S.A., Air Force Geophysics Laboratory  
Gravimetry  
[Bulletin Géodésique, 64-3 and 4, 1990].

FLINN, Edward A., (1931-1989).

U.S.A., Washington, NASA  
Seismology, Space Geodesy  
Chief NASA's Geodynamics Program  
Secretary General Inter-Union Commission on the Lithosphere (1980-1985)  
[EOS, Transactions-AGU Vol. 71, N° 18, 1990].