

ACADEMICIAN JOSEF RYŠAVÝ, DECEASED

Academician Josef Ryšavý, D. Sc., former Dean of the Faculty of Geodesy and Rector of the Technical University in Prague, one of the foremost representatives of Czechoslovak geodesy, founding member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, bearer of the Order of Labour,



member of the Order of l'Officier d'Académie Française, President of the Czechoslovak National Geodetic and Geophysical Committee of long standing, member of many scientific societies at home and abroad, and since 1957, member of the Editorial Board of this Journal\*), died on January 4th, 1967, at the age of 83.

Academician Ryšavý was born on January 6th, 1884 in Stráž nad Nežárkou in South Bohemia. He studied at the grammar school in Budějovice (1897—1901), and at the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Technical University in Prague (1901—1906). After graduating, he was appointed assistant in the Department of Practical Geometry, and later on went to study and work in geodesy geodetical astronomy, metronomy and precise levelling in France. After returning from Paris in 1910, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Technical Sciences. He began lecturing in geodesy at the Technical University in Prague. In 1919 he habilitated in geodesy, in 1920 he was appointed professor extraordinary, and in 1927 he became full professor at the Technical University in Prague. He established the Department of Geodesy, of which he was head for more

than 30 years. Through all these years, he has been member of the Technical University, three times appointed Dean of the Faculty and, in the 1947 to 1948 session, he was elected Rector of the Technical University. Apart from lecturing and writing excellent scientific books on geodesy, Academician Ryšavý was active in various committees of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, of which he was one of the founding members since 1952. He was also President and Secretary of the Czechoslovak National Geodetic and Geophysical Committee, and he often represented Czechoslovak geodesy abroad, especially in the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics.

By the death of Academician Ryšavý, Czechoslovak geodesy has sustained a severe blow and lost a great scientist who devoted his whole life to its service. His death means the loss of an excellent pedagogue, teacher of a long line of Czechoslovak geodesists to whom, with unequalled enthusiasm, he gave his best, the highest degree of professional knowledge. We have lost a modest and noble man.

His magnificent example will be remembered by all who knew him.

*Editorial Board*

\*) This Journal devoted attention to the significance of Academician Ryšavý's personality at the time of his 75th and 80th birthday in 1959 and 1964, (cf. *Studia geoph. et geod.* 3 (1959), 201, and 8 (1964), 205).