



EDITORIAL NOTE

In Memoriam: Witold Prószyński (1942–2025)

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Witold Prószyński, aged 83, passed away on 18 September 2025. He was a long-serving academic teacher at the Warsaw University of Technology, a distinguished scholar, and a leading expert in engineering geodesy, reliability theory of geodetic networks, displacement and deformation monitoring. He was the author and co-author of numerous internationally recognized scientific publications and textbooks, and mentored several generations of Polish geodesists.

Professor Prószyński was born in Warsaw in 1942. After graduating from J. Słowacki High School in Warsaw in 1959, he commenced his studies at the Faculty of Geodesy and Cartography of the Warsaw University of Technology, completing them in 1963 with a degree of Master of Science in Engineering Geodesy, specializing in industrial and engineering geodesy. His diploma thesis, focused on applying least squares adjustment in geodesy, was prepared under the supervision of Professor Stefan Hausbrandt. In 1969, following additional studies at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, he earned the professional title of civil engineer.

On 1 October 1964, he joined the Department of Industrial and Engineering Geodesy, which later evolved into a division within the Institute of Industrial Geodesy. He progressed through successive academic positions: assistant (1965), assistant professor (1973), associate professor (1992), and full professor (2001). In 1991, he became head of the Division of Industrial and Engineering Geodesy (in 2007 renamed the Division of Engineering Geodesy and Surveying), a position he held until 2008. Between 1996 and 2001, he served as Vice-Dean for Research, and from 2002 to 2005 and again from 2008 to 2012, he was Dean of the Faculty of Geodesy and Cartography.

In 1973, he obtained a PhD in technical sciences with a dissertation titled Preliminary Accuracy Analyses of Geodetic Realization Structures. In 1980, he earned his habilitation with a thesis entitled Geometric Characteristics of Object Point Sets and the Accuracy of Their Determination Based on Engineering Geodetic Measurements. In 1993, he was awarded the title of Professor in the discipline of geodesy and cartography.

Throughout his academic career, Professor Prószyński maintained close ties with geodetic practice. From 1971 to 1980, he worked at the Technical Development and Studies Team of the



Figure 1. Phot. by Stanisław Nazalewicz

“Geoprojekt” enterprise, contributing to the advancement of implementation and displacement measurement methods for engineering structures. Through his long-standing collaboration with the Warsaw Geodetic Company (WPG S.A.) he served as a consultant in geodetic support for the construction of cable-stayed bridges in Warsaw and Gdańsk.

His research focused on the methodological foundations of engineering geodetic measurements, including reliability theory of geodetic networks, reference datum operations in displacement studies, and accuracy analysis of staking-out procedures. In his later work, he concentrated on the robustness of engineering networks against gross errors. Professor Prószyński's scientific output includes numerous publications in high-impact journals such as *Manuscripta Geodetica*, *Bulletin Géodésique*, *Journal of Geodesy*, and internationally recognized Polish journals, including *Geodesy and Cartography* (formerly *Geodezja i Kartografia*) and *Reports on Geodesy and Geoinformatics*. He also contributed extensively to conference proceedings and served on scientific committees of many international conferences. He led several research grants funded by the Ministry of Education and Science, and the State Committee for Scientific Research. He received multiple awards for scientific achievements from the Warsaw University of Technology Rector and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

Thanks to his proficiency in English, Professor Prószyński lectured in a postgraduate programme for Iraqi students in the summer semester of 1980/81 and later taught at the University of Baghdad (1981–83) and Yarmouk University in Jordan (1983/84), receiving highly positive evaluations for his academic commitment. He was the initiator and author of curricula for engineering geodesy courses such as *Measurement Structure Analysis*, *Fundamentals of Geodetic Displacement Measurements*, *Displacement Measurements and Deformation Analysis*, and *Mathematical Models in Displacement Studies*. He authored or co-authored numerous text-

books and academic scripts, including:

- *Exercises in Industrial and Engineering Geodesy*, Vol. I & II (1970, 1973) (in Polish),
- *Engineering Geodesy*, Vol. II (1980) (in Polish),
- *Reliability of Geodetic Networks* (2002) (in Polish),
- *Fundamentals of Geodetic Displacement Determination* (2006) (in Polish),
- *Internal Robustness of Linear Systems Against Data Disturbances – Uncorrelated and Correlated Observations* (2012) (in Polish),
- *Fundamentals of Internal Reliability Analysis of Geodetic Observational Systems* (2012) (in Polish),
- *Design Conditions Analysis of Observational Systems in Terms of Internal Reliability: Correlated Observations* (2012) (in Polish).

He supervised 10 doctoral dissertations and reviewed numerous scientific papers for domestic and international journals, research project proposals, and academic promotions.

From 1990 to 2015, he was member of the Geodesy Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), including chairmanship of its Engineering Geodesy Section (2003–2010). He also served on the State Geodetic and Cartographic Council. He was an active member of the Association of Polish Surveyors (SGP), acting as vice-chair (1979–81) and chair (1986–90) of its Engineering Geodesy Section. He maintained strong ties with academic centers both in Poland and abroad. In 1995, he became an associate member of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). From 1988 to 2001, he served as scientific secretary of Study Group C “Deformation Analysis” within Commission 6 “Engineering Surveys” of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

Even after his retirement in 2017, Professor Prószyński remained active in research. In 2023, he was honored with the title of Professor Emeritus of the Warsaw University of Technology.