

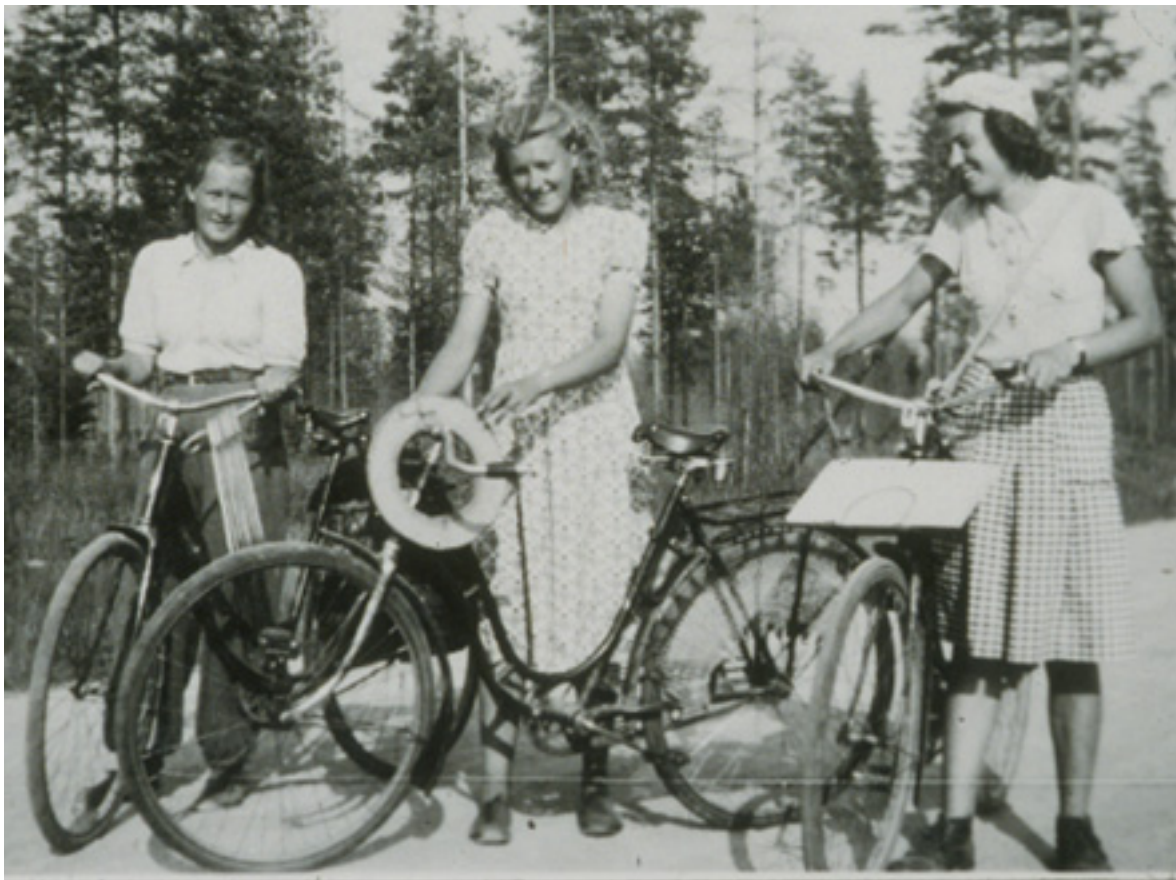
Obituary Aino Savolainen

It is my sad duty to announce to the ISPRS Community, that our first and only female Honorary Member, Aino Savolainen has passed away peacefully at the age of 92 in Helsinki, Finland.

Aino was born on May 10, 1924 in the Finnish country town of Kouvola, situated about 100km north east of Helsinki, where she graduated from high school in 1942. In her early school years she had already expressed her wish to become a survey engineer. Aino's daughter, Outi Savolainen supplied me with a school text she once wrote:

“ My dream is to become a surveying engineer. I love mathematics and physics. One night as I was thinking of a future career, I remembered from my childhood a surveyor, (who did some work in the village). Then I thought how nice it would be to follow such a career. The work seemed wonderful. I felt as if a new world had opened up for me. In my mind's eyes I saw myself on a high ridge, with the most beautiful summer nature of Finland around. Somewhere a cuckoo would be calling. This is the kind of environment I would be working in. ...”

Hence she went for studies of geodetic engineering at Helsinki University of Technology, becoming a Survey Engineer in 1948.



Aino is shown here as a student at right.

Her first employment was with the Military Survey Unit Topografikunta, headed by General Karl Löffström, who was a leading photogrammetrist.



Aino is shown here doing work on the Zeiss Planigraph.

In her photogrammetric activities, Aino attended the Zeiss Photogrammetric Week in Munich in 1952 at which I was employed as an assistant. She also convinced me to become a photogrammetrist during my exchange of technical experience stay in Helsinki, while visiting her laboratory.

In 1960, she became employed in teaching surveying at the Technical University of Helsinki and where she worked as Photogrammetric Engineer from 1966 to her retirement in 1988.

During that time, her director, Prof. Reino Sakari Halonen applied at the 1972 ISP Congress in Ottawa for Finland and its Photogrammetric Society to host the 1976 ISP Congress in Helsinki. Unfortunately Prof. Halonen died in 1975, one year before the Congress was to take place. Aino took on the difficult task of organizing the Helsinki Congress. She received help from her former boss, General Karl Löffström, who became the official Congress Director for ISP, and by the young engineer Einari Kilpelä, who later became Prof. Halonen's successor at the University.

The Congress organization became an outstanding success. As a result, Aino was elected as a member of the ISP Council for the 1976 to 1980 period. She greatly helped the German Society for Photogrammetry team which was to organize the next 1980 ISPRS Congress in Hamburg.

Aino became President of the Finish Photogrammetric Society from 1981 to 1983.

At the 1988 ISPRS Congress in Kyoto, she was elected as Honorary Member into the group of 7 living Honorary Members of ISPRS for her excellent service to the International Society and the Finish contributions to photogrammetry, in which Aino has left her mark. She was the first woman, and so far the only one, to receive this distinction. With her husband Päiviö Savolainen, who passed away in 2006 she will be remembered by her 4 children, and the photogrammetry community at large, for her openhearted and modest nature as a prominent personality of our society. Thank you, Aino, for your contributions.

Gottfried Konecny, Hannover, Germany, January 2017.