

## Obituaries

1. Olayinka Omolabake Adekoya (Nigeria)
2. Walter-K. Bachmann (Switzerland)
3. Placidino Machado Fagundes (Brazil)

## OBITUARIES

### Mrs. Olayinka Omolabake Adekoya (1946 - 1995)



Appointed Surveyor General of Nigeria last year in a highly illustrious career, it came as shock when the death was announced of Mrs. Olayinka Adekoya after a severe attack of asthma.

Mrs. Adekoya (Yinka to friends and colleagues) was born in Ilesha, Osun State, in south-western Nigeria, on 27th February, 1945 to Late Samuel and Grace Lasebikan. Their hometown was Ijero-Ekiti, in neighbouring Ondo State of Nigeria. Her secondary education was at Queens School, Ede, in south-western Nigeria where she won the outstanding student's award. Later she attended the famous Queens College, in Lagos, for her advanced level qualifications and received the outstanding student's award in Mathematics when she left in 1964.

Yinka immediately joined the Federal Surveys (Nigeria) as an Assistant Technical Officer-In-Training, but in 1965 went to the University of New Brunswick, Canada, on the award of a scholarship by the Canadian International Development Agency. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Survey Engineering, graduating with 1st class honours and receiving the Malex Gold Medal for Distinction. She also obtained a master's degree in Photogrammetry. She then worked at the Department of Energy and Mines, Ottawa, Canada, and later as a research assistant at the University of New Brunswick. She spent 8 years in Canada.

On return to Nigeria in 1973 she was absorbed into the professional-management cadre of Federal Surveys, Nigeria. She worked on several photogrammetric mapping projects, and sometimes had responsibilities in cartography

and reproduction services. She briefly attended the ITC in Enschede, Netherlands, for a course in Data Processing. She was appointed the head of the Federal Survey School, Oyo, Nigeria, in 1987 and was recalled in 1988 as Deputy Surveyor-General responsible for the Planning Division. It was my privilege to work with her briefly at that time. Typically, she retained an interest in my research work, and her enquiries when we met at conferences were very encouraging. In 1994 she was appointed to the top position of Surveyor-General, a position she held until her death on 28th June, 1995. She was the only woman to hold this position in Nigeria. With the gross under-representation of women in top positions in government, education and industry, she was the focus of attention and an inspiration to women all over Nigeria.

Yinka was a tireless professional with a lot of drive and energy which she invested in her professional work. Nice, with a friendly, humble demeanour, she used her immense personality to persuade as well as to inspire. She was active in various professional organisations, particularly the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS) and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), making several contributions in symposia and conferences. She was elected Chairman, Commission VI of the ISPRS from 1984-88, dealing with education and professional matters.

Yinka was particularly interested in the improvement of surveying services in Nigeria to which focused her dynamic leadership as Nigeria's Surveyor-General in difficult economic and political circumstances. She holds the Gold Medal Award of the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors for service and professionalism. She was also a member of Soroptimist International, the International Inner Wheel Club, and the Nigerian National Council for Women Societies.

Yinka was a devout Christian, and an active member of Our Saviour's Church, Lagos. She was pioneer Chairperson of the 'Street Children Rehabilitation Ministry'; her achievements have been cited by the Anglican Synod.

Yinka got married in Canada in 1966 to Olugbenga Adekoya, a professional colleague. They have four children, three sons, Adeniyi, Adedapo, Ademola, and one daughter, Oluwafadekemi. We will all miss Yinka, but our prayers and condolences go to her beloved family.

Zubbi Nwosu

## Professeur Walter-K. Bachmann, 1913-1995



Monsieur le Professeur Walter-K. Bachmann, personnalité hors du commun et scientifique de haut niveau, nous a quittés pour toujours le 9 novembre dernier, à l'âge de 82 ans.

Monsieur Bachmann a enseigné à l'Ecole polytechnique de l'Université de Lausanne (EPUL) puis à l'Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) et a marqué en particulier le développement des professions de la mensuration en Suisse romande.

Après des études en mensuration dans la section des géomètres de l'Ecole d'Ingénieur de l'Université de Lausanne, il obtient la patente en 1936. Comme il n'était pas satisfait des bases théoriques utilisées à l'époque en mensuration, il poursuit avec une étude de mathématiques qu'il termine en 1940, obtenant le titre de 'Licencié ès Sciences'. Trois ans plus tard, il soutient une thèse très remarquée, tant en Suisse qu'à l'étranger, sur 'La théorie des erreurs de l'orientation relative'. D'autres publications, non moins importantes, s'y ajouteront, suscitant un intérêt retentissant aussi bien sur le plan national qu'international. En même temps, il exerce une intense activité professionnelle et est appelé entre autres comme consultant par l'industrie suisse de haute précision, les Maisons Wild et Kern.

Pendant plus de 30 ans, de 1946 à 1978, il a été professeur ordinaire d'abord à l'EPUL puis, quand cette Ecole devint fédérale, à l'EPFL. Son intérêt particulier a été voué à la photogrammétrie, mais il enseignait également la géodésie, l'astronomie, la statistique, la théorie des erreurs ainsi que d'autres branches de la mensuration. Une génération d'ingénieurs a ainsi profité de son expérience professionnelle tout en prenant conscience de la très grande rigueur exigée par la profession d'ingénieur.

Monsieur Bachmann s'est beaucoup engagé pour faire reconnaître les institutions universitaires lausannoises au niveau national. Il a fait partie de nombreuses commissions et a siégé plusieurs années au Conseil des Ecoles polytechniques fédérales.

Outre les activités liées à son poste de professeur et directeur de l'institut de photogrammétrie, il s'est particulièrement engagé dans la recherche. C'est ainsi qu'il acquit en 1956, avec le Professeur de mathématiques Charles Blanc, le premier ordinateur de l'Université de Lausanne. Les budgets étant à l'époque très limités, il avait payé 50% de l'installation par ses propres moyens. Grâce au calcul électronique, une nouvelle ère s'est ouverte pour la mensuration, qui a finalement conduit à l'intégration des plans et cartes dans des systèmes d'information. Il a aussi contribué largement à la sécurité des grands barrages en concevant des techniques de mesure appropriées et en réalisant les mesures géodésiques pour plusieurs barrages en Valais lors de leur implantation.

Sur le plan international, il a surtout œuvré au sein de l'Organisation Européenne d'Etudes Photogrammétriques Expérimentales (OEEPE). La Suisse a adhéré très tôt à cette organisation et M. Bachmann a beaucoup lutté pour que cette association regroupant des services topographiques et des instituts universitaires porte ses fruits. Mécontent de l'avancement des travaux du groupe, il interrompit la participation de la Suisse qui ne réintégra l'organisation qu'une dizaine d'années plus tard. Forte personnalité, il n'hésitait pas à critiquer ouvertement une organisation, même internationale, s'il pensait agir pour le bien de cette dernière et de l'ensemble de la profession.

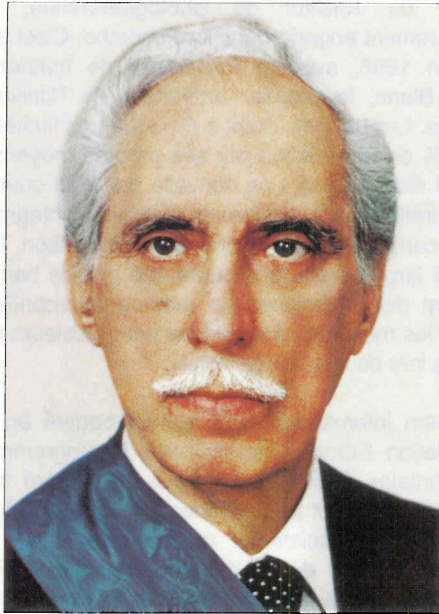
Son rayonnement scientifique a trouvé une reconnaissance internationale lorsque la Société Internationale de Photogrammétrie l'a mandaté en 1968 pour organiser le Congrès International de Photogrammétrie. Les scientifiques du monde entier se trouvaient ainsi réunis à Lausanne pour discuter les progrès de la photogrammétrie et se familiariser avec les récents développements de l'industrie de haute précision, à une époque où les constructeurs suisses jouaient, comme ils l'ont toujours fait, un rôle prépondérant. C'est à cette occasion que, venant des Pays-Bas, j'ai rencontré pour la première fois celui dont j'allais prendre plus tard la succession.

Monsieur Bachmann a obtenu de nombreuses distinctions; citons seulement qu'il était Membre honoraire de la Fédération Internationale des Géomètres et de la Société Suisse de Photogrammétrie et Membre correspondant de la Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.

Après sa retraite en 1978, il a poursuivi certaines recherches à titre privé tout en se retirant peu à peu des milieux universitaires et professionnels. Ceux qui l'ont connu le gardent en haute estime et il restera encore très longtemps présent dans leur mémoire.

O. Kölbl

## Placidino Machado Fagundes



ISPRS expresses its sympathy that its Congress Director of the Rio Congress in 1984 had to take leave forever on May 24, 1996. Placidino Fagundes was born on 8th of December 1918 in the City of Rio de Janeiro. In 1942 he finished the Rio National College of Engineering as a Civil Engineer and added a Doctorate and already in 1966. Fagundes founded the first Brazilian Cartographic Engineering College at the Rio de Janeiro State University (UERJ). As one of its first professors (from 1966 to 1988) he was a pioneer of Brazilians cartography, specially in the application of remote sensing orbital technology. He was also the responsible for a team of engineers and technicians at the aerial photogrammetric company GEOFOT. This team undertook aerial photogrammetric mapping of an area of 50000km<sup>2</sup>, that is the size of Switzerland! They finished also for this area a complete stereoscopic photointerpretation regarding the physical aspects and potentials of surface and soil. Based on this analysis Brazil selected the location of its new capital "Brasilia".

Placidino Fagundes continued pioneering: He was a member of that working group which founded the world known National Institute of Spatial Research (INPE). As a scientist he published or translated several books and many papers at congresses, symposia and in scientific journals in the fields of Cartography, Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, and Geodesy.

He guided hundreds of students through their Master and PhD theses during his long period as professor at the Military Institute of Engineering (From 1973 to 1985)

Placidino Fagundes was Founder (1958) and twice President of the Brazilian Society of Cartography (SBC) and took part in its 17 Brazilian Congresses. He also founded ANEA, the National Association of Aerial Space Companies and became its President in the period 1979 to 1983.

He was founder and President of the National Academy of

Engineering (1991), co-founder of the Brazilian Society of Geophysics and Member of the Board of Directors of the Engineering Club.

It is not astonishing that such a pioneer collected honours. He was granted the Cartographic Merit Order at its highest level, he obtained the Armed Forces Merit Order, and he received the Ricardo Franco Award, the greatest homage of Brazil's national cartography.

Placidino Fagundes was active also internationally in ISPRS. As the Congress Director of the 1984 ISPRS Congress in Rio de Janeiro, he served in the ISPRS Council from 1980 to 1984. This his Congress elected him as one of the five Honourary Members of ISPRS.

He was married to Mrs. Eunice Mendes-Fagundes and left one son, three grand-children and already one grandgrand-child. Friends and colleagues of ISPRS from all over the world will respectfully remember one of its great pioneers.

Ana Maria Coutinho