Obituary

George Zarzycki, ISPRS Fellow

On June 15, 2012 the sad news reached ISPRS, that George Zarzycki, a prominent photogrammetrist, who had become ISPRS Fellow in 2010, had passed away.

George Zarzycki was a native of Poland. He had graduated as Geodetic Engineer at the Technical University of Warsaw in 1948, and soon thereafter went to Wild Heerbrugg to graduate as a Dr. of engineering under Prof. Max Zeller at the Technical University of Zurich in Switzerland in 1952 developing a graphical aerial triangulation adjustment procedure, which became a very practical methodology in the 1950´s. Subsequently he went to the NRC in Canada, where he accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship under Ted Blachut, who had built up an internationally widely recognized photogrammetric research institution in Ottawa. Already in 1953 his practical inclinations led him to become chief engineer and later vice president of the well established aerial surveys company Canadian Aero Service, working on many donor supported international mapping projects around the globe. He continued this activity as one of the founders of the Terra Surveys mapping company as vice president and president from 1966 to 1974. During all these years he became very active in the support of professional activities in the Canadian Institute of Surveying. He introduced the category of "Surveying Engineer" to the Association of Professional Engineers of Canada, paving the way for new surveying engineering graduates at the University of New Brunswick, at Laval University and later at the University of Calgary. His global views were widely accepted by the members of the Canadian government, for example he served as chairman of the Canadian preparatory committee for Cartography from 1968 to 1972 for the first earth resources satellite Landsat, which was later launched in 1972 in the USA.

In 1974 he left the private sector of Photogrammetry to become appointed as Director of the Topographic Survey of the Canadian Government until his retirement in 1991.
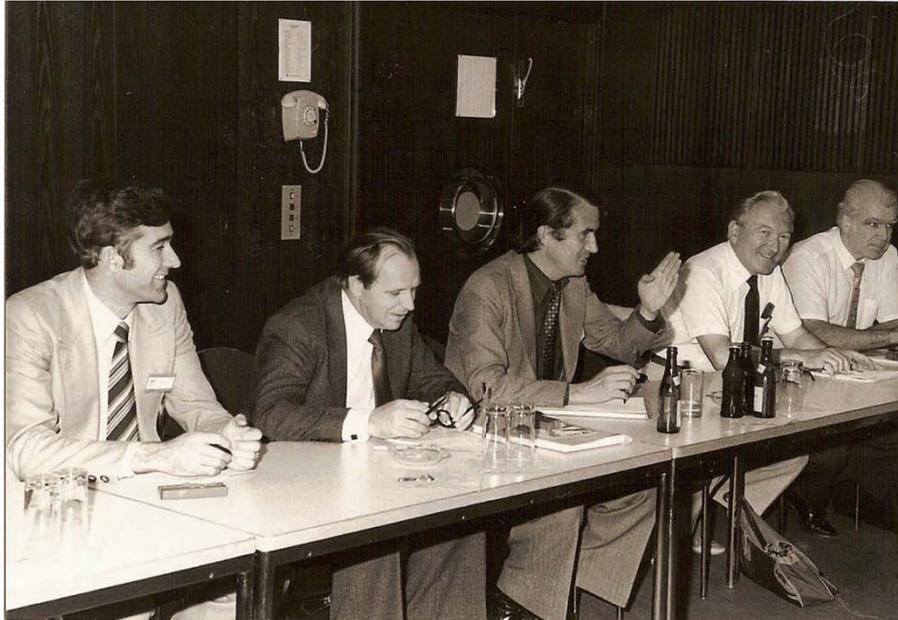
1980 at the ISPRS Congress in Hamburg

George was a highly motivated participant in the national, regional and international scientific and technical organizations of surveying and mapping and photogrammetry:

The Canadian Institute of Surveying (now Geomatics), being Vice President from 1970-1972 and President from 1972-1973,

The American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, being President from 1981-1982,

The International Society for Photogrammetry (and Remote Sensing). He attended all congresses from 1956 to 2000. In particular he was heavily involved in the preparations of the 1972 Congress in Ottawa. From 1976 to 1980 he was President of Commission IV. At the 1980 Congress in Hamburg in 1980 he was elected as Second Vice President and in Rio in 1984 as First Vice President of ISPRS.

1988 at the ISPRS Congress in Kyoto

In all these activities he was supported by his wife Jadwiga, who accompanied him to the many international events, George had to attend professionally. Both built up many international friendships on this occasion within the ISPRS community.

In academic circles he was Visiting Professor at Laval University in Quebec from 1969 to 1975, and the Technical University of Warsaw honored him as Honorary Professor in the 1990´s.

George was an exceptional individual. ISPRS owes him thanks for his contributions and respect for his lifetime achievement as a true professional of our discipline.

George getting his ISPRS Fellowship at the Centennial Ceremony of ISPRS in Vienna 2010

He attended the Centennial Ceremony of ISPRS celebrated in Vienna in 2010.
This was the last chance for George and his wife Jadwiga to have met ISPRS colleagues.

Orhan Altan, Istanbul, President of ISPRS 2008-2012 and some of his international friends, with whom he had close associations:

Gottfried Konecny, Leibniz University Hannover, Germany

Shunji Murai, University of Tokyo, Japan

John Trinder, University of New South Wales, Australia

Chen Jun, National Geomatics Centre of China, Beijing, China