

PREFACE



Hungarian higher technical education celebrated the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Institutum Geometrico-Hidrometricum, or in Hungarian the Institute of Engineering in 1982.

Teaching mineralogy and geology became an individual subject of domestic engineering education in 1857. A separate Department for teaching these subjects was organized in 1864.

The Department of Mineralogy and Geology celebrates the 125th anniversary of its foundation in 1989. As such, it is the oldest Department of the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Technical University existing in its original organizational form.

In the past, the Department was led by internationally renowned experts in chemistry, mineralogy, such as Károly Hofmann, Vince Wartha, József Krenner and Sándor Schmidt. At the same time it is remarkable that from 1881, the famous Lajos Lóczy already taught technical geology, a pioneering enterprise also internationally.

In the period of 1904–1926, Ferenc Schafarzik emphasized the technical aspects of geology and founded the chemical laboratory of the Department. The organization of seismic detection is connected to his name, as well as the detailed analysis of surface motions and a monography on Hungarian quarries. His activity laid the foundation of technical geology.

The high-standard scientific activity continued with undiminished energy in the period of 1926–1960 under Aladár Vendl. He laid the ground of sedimentary rock study long before his contemporaries. It was under his leadership that the rock-physical laboratory of the Department came into existence. He was rector of the University in 1940/41.

In this period, Professor Ferenc Papp founded a Karst and Cave Research Station at Jósvalő. In 1949, it was he who organized teaching “Engineer Geology”. In 1959, his handbook “Technical Geology” appeared, still unique in Hungarian technical literature. He was Head of Department in the period of 1960–68. He organized the Section of Geological Engineering and Architectural

Geology within the frame of the Hungarian Society of Geology in 1962 and was its first President.

In the period of 1968—80, Professor János Meisel was Head of Department and also Rector of the University in 1975/81. In this time, our laboratories developed further, the industrial connections of the Department became stronger. However due to the high specialization of all technical sciences unfortunately, geological education lost its importance, similarly to basic natural science education in general.

To date, in civil engineering, regular subjects in their own right are geology, hydrogeology, geological engineering, and as parts of combined courses, the Department is involved in the education of chemical engineers and architects.

Research at the Department is widespread. In many fields activities are of national significance as for example, qualification of building materials, elaboration of standards, geological cartography, registration of surface motions, qualification of pebble, monitoring of rock erosions and only mineral destruction.

The extensive scientific research undertaken at the Department is closely connected with activities in public professional life, such as Academic Committees, international organizations and professional societies.

This volume gives an insight into our professional work.

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