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In Memoriam Prof. Dr. Fritz Stüssi



Prof. Fritz Stüssi at the time of his Presidency, 1951-1966

Professor Fritz Stüssi passed away on March 15, 1981. The funeral ceremony took place in his native town near Zurich on March 20, 1981.

Born on January 3, 1901 in Wädenswil, Fritz Stüssi studied at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich. He obtained his diploma in civil engineering in 1923. He then was assistant of Professor A. Rohn – first President of the IABSE – in the Institute of Structural Engineering, where he completed a dissertation and was awarded a doctoral degree. During a stay in the United States he worked under O. H. Ammann at the New York Port Authority. In 1937 he was nominated Professor for Steel Construction at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. He held this position until his retirement in 1966.

During his very active career as a professor and as a researcher he published numerous papers and some books in the field of structural analysis and steel design which found world-wide attention. His scientific achievements were recognised all over the world. He received honorary degrees from the universities of Cairo (1950), Cambridge (1952), Karlsruhe (1954), Liège (1955), São Paulo (1956), Rio de Janeiro (1957), Milano (1964) and Istanbul (1971).

Professor Stüssi has been actively involved in IABSE for nearly forty years. As assistant of Professor Rohn he was active from the very beginning in 1929. General Secretary for Steel Construction since 1936, he was elected President in 1951 and held this function until 1966. Under his leadership the Association recovered from the difficult war years. Four Congresses were held in Cambridge 1952, Lisbon 1956, Stockholm 1960 and Rio de Janeiro 1964 under his presidency.

Professor Stüssi was a dynamic man with a strong personality. Besides his professional career he participated in many learned societies in Switzerland.

We had the great honor and pleasure to have Professor Stüssi celebrating with us the 50th Anniversary of IABSE in September 1979 in Zurich. All those present will remember Fritz Stüssi telling us in a few words about his time with our Association. His remarks have been published in the Jubilee Brochure of the Association.

With the passing away of Professor Stüssi we lose a respected leader whose presidency impressed a personal mark on our Association.

*Prof. Dr. B. Thürlimann,
President of IABSE*