



Commission 7

Vale Prof. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Hopfer

Greetings FIG Commission 7 delegates and friends,

*What you are about to read is a series of tributes from former FIG stalwarts reflecting upon long-term Commission 7 supporter, contributor, and friend **Prof. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Hopfer (Poland)**. Andre passed away shortly after his 90th birthday on 15th December 2023. The reflections were compiled some months ago and you may have already read them elsewhere, however, it is a perfect time to release them on the eve of the FIG Working Week 2024 in Accra, Ghana. Reflect on the statements and the impact Andre had on FIG. We can all gain some inspiration from a job well done and channel it into our own work. Special thanks to Prof. Stig Enemark, Prof. Ian Williamson, Jürg Kaufman, and Dr. Daniel Steudler for coordinating the compilation.*

Best regards and hope to see you in Accra,

Rohan Bennett

Chair, Commission 7 (2023-26)



FIG-Commission 7 is mourning the passing of an early and strong supporter, and a long-time friend. Shortly after his 90th birthday, Prof. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Hopfer peacefully passed away on 15 December in his home country Poland.

Many know him as a property appraiser, but to us, Andrzej was a committed surveyor adding substantially to the cause of the cadastre from very early on. He was the Polish delegate to FIG-Commission 7 from 1975 to 2011, and its Chair from 1983-1986. Andrzej contributed much to the international profile of the Polish Association of Surveyors, was actively involved in the preparation of several key publications, and

organized and initiated many international conferences in Poland. In the year 2000, Andrzej was named an Honorary Member of FIG.

We all are thankful and honoured to have known Andrzej. FIG, the Commission 7, and we all have benefitted from his commitment, vision, and innovation.

Andrzej, thank you very much for your wisdom and friendship.

Stig Enemark, FIG President 2006-2010

Jürg Kaufmann, Swiss delegate to Commission 7, 1985-2001

Daniel Steudler, active in Commission 7 1994-2022



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I am so sad. My wife Munlika is also very sad at your loss. Our two children also knew Andrzej and liked him very much. We all had wonderful times together. Please accept all our thoughts and prayers for you and your family.

I am so happy that I was able to talk to Andrzej recently. It is also wonderful that Andrzej was able to celebrate his 90th birthday, and all his friends and loved ones could acknowledge his achievements.

While this will be a very sad time for you all, it is also a time to celebrate the life of a great man, an amazing friend and mentor to so many, and a wonderful Polish patriot.

Andrzej was fun to be with, he had an unlimited love of life and was very true to his friends. I have so many amazing memories and anecdotes about my times with Andrzej and our times together both in Poland, around the world and in Australia.

I doubt I would have ever been Chair of Commission 7 without the support of Andrzej. He had a lot of influence with the central and Eastern European countries.

My children and us remember with great fondness when we first visited Poland days after the big democratic changes led by Lech Wałęsa in the Gdańsk shipyards in the late 1980s. I remember how Andrzej took my wife and our two children to a hill in the countryside near Gdańsk for a picnic where we had a toast of vodka to the future of Poland. Andrzej was a real patriot and leader in the new Poland. So many more wonderful memories of our lifelong friendship. I could go on and on, and even write a book about our times together in FIG, as academics and most importantly as friends.

Today will be a sad day for me. I have tears in my eyes.

Rest in peace old friend. You will not be forgotten.

Ian Williamson, Commission 7 Chair 1992-1998



Andrzej was a dear friend indeed, for many, many years. I have the fondest of memories of him in Olsztyn - where I was invited to give a valuation training programme in those very challenging days just after the Wall came down. He had an impressive vision of how Poland needed to change in our sector and his many connections and roles in the profession and in academia, both in Poland and internationally, were important in helping its realisation. His was a charming and warm personality - and his sense of humour was infectious. He was always an enthusiastic and patient contributor to Commission 7's technical work and a kind and open welcomer of all newcomers to the Commission's 'extended family'. He stayed with us

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in Minchinhampton on occasion and the remembrance of that very amusing sojourn remains steadfastly in our minds.

Many, many, many Commission 7 and FIG meetings benefited from his unending commitment and wealth of experience.

There are too few Andrzejs in our world of today (although an always surprising proportion of them seem to gravitate towards FIG!)

He will be sadly missed but very fondly remembered.

Paul Munro-Faure, Commission 7 Chair 1998-2002 and FIG Honorary Ambassador



On the death of a great man: Andrzej Hopfer (1933-2023).

With the death of Andrzej Hopfer, we lose a long-time delegate of the Commission. A great expert, a worthy representative of Poland, and a fine human being. In 2003, Andrzej organised together with us (the leadership of the Commission term 2002-2006: me, vice-chair Christian Lemmen, and secretary Pauline van Elstrand), the annual meeting in Kraków, which took place 16-23 September. The highlight was the 2nd Cadastral Congress, where the Commission discussed the developments of the cadastre in central European Countries, with focus on customer orientation, reliability and advanced technology, under the high auspices of the President

of Poland. But the Commission wouldn't be the Commission if there wasn't also time for relaxation and friendship. As evidence of this, see the attached photo of Andrzej and the Commission chairman who, during the Commission dinner, saw fit to dance the polka together.

Paul van der Molen (NL), Commission 7 Chair 2002-2006

My wife Wendy and me were very fond of Andrzej and spent some memorable and enjoyable times with him both at FIG events and in Poland. We would like to acknowledge the important role Andrzej played in FIG in Commission 7, cadastre and particularly in working with FIG colleagues in Eastern and Central Europe during the Soviet era and later. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Andrzej's family and friends.

Earl James, FIG President 1993-1996



International Federation of Surveyors
Fédération International des Géomètres
Internationale Vereinigung der Vermessungsingenieure

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I have cooperated with Andrzej Hopfer mainly in the context of the FIG Commission 7 from the time of his chairmanship in the middle of 1980ies, among others in preparations and performance of the FIG Congress 1986 in Toronto. Andrzej has always been a very dedicated member of the Commission and in particular regarding issues connected with land adjustments and reforms. His valuable contributions to international cooperation and also to involve Polish surveyors in the international work has been considerable. In addition, I have had the pleasure to cooperate with Andrzej in several bilateral cooperation activities between Polish and Swedish surveyors.

I remember Andrzej as a very good partner in the international work and as a very good friend.

Tommy Österberg, Swedish land surveyor and delegate to Commission 7 1983-2006