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1. IABSE 11th Congress in Vienna, Aug.31-Sep.5, 1980
11^e Congrès de l'AIPC, Vienne, 31 août-5 sep.1980
11. Kongress der IVBH, Wien, 31. Aug.-5. Sep. 1980

1.1 General impressions

It is not one particular event of the week from 31st August until 5th September, 1980 which will remain engraved in the memory of the participants to the 11th IABSE Congress in Vienna, but rather all the week's activities which, added together, have made of this congress a magnificent success.

The number of participants exceeded even the most optimistic expectations of the Austrian group and is in fact a record for IABSE congresses, with 1200 participants and 600 accompanying persons.

Historic buildings recalling a brilliant past greeted the congress members during their work and their free time; modern structures such as the new Johann Nestroy Bridge on the Danube or the United Nations City pointing to a promising future, were inspected on the highly appreciated technical visits. This physical and social setting lent the congress a most Viennese atmosphere and charm.

A reception at the Town Hall, an evening at the opera and finally a closing ball in the Hofburg – built for princes rather than for congressionists – provided many participants with the opportunity to establish new friendships or to renew old ones.

The Final Report, containing more than 170 contributions on the 11 congress themes, was published in December 1980 and sent to every participant. It can be safely estimated that everyone found through the congress an idea, even if only one, which will help him to go further in his technical and professional field.

It would be amiss to close the subject of the Vienna Congress without extending a warm thanks to the members of the Ladies' Committee and Local Organizing Committee:

Mesdames Jurecka, Reiffenstuhl, Rösner, Schreiber, Wenzel.

Messrs Aichhorn, Jurecka (Chairman), Komoli, Pauser, Rösner, Smola.

*(A. Golay
Executive Director)*

1.1 Impressions générales

Ce n'est pas tel événement précis de cette semaine du 31 août au 5 septembre 1980 qui pourrait rester gravé dans la mémoire des participants au 11^e Congrès de l'AIPC à Vienne, mais c'est bien l'ensemble des activités de cette semaine qui, s'additionnant les unes aux autres, ont fait de ce congrès un magnifique succès.

Le nombre des participants a dépassé les prévisions même les plus optimistes du groupe autrichien; il s'agit bel et bien d'un record pour un congrès AIPC: 1200 congressistes et 600 accompagnants.

Des bâtiments historiques évoquant un passé brillant ont accueilli les congressistes dans leurs travaux et leurs loisirs; des constructions modernes, tel le nouveau pont Johann-Nestroy sur le Danube ou la cité des Nations Unies, signe d'un futur prometteur, ont fait l'objet de visites techniques très appréciées. Cet environnement physique et social a apporté au congrès une atmosphère et un charme très viennois.

Une réception à l'Hôtel de Ville, une soirée à l'Opéra, un bal de clôture dans la Hofburg – construite pour des princes plutôt que pour des congressistes – ont donné l'occasion à de nombreux participants d'établir de nouvelles amitiés ou d'en renouveler d'anciennes.

Le Rapport final – plus de 170 contributions aux onze thèmes du congrès – a été publié en décembre 1980 et envoyé à tous les participants. Chacun y trouvera ne serait-ce qu'une idée, qui lui permettra de progresser dans son domaine technique.

Avant que la page ne se tourne définitivement sur le Congrès de Vienne, il y a lieu de remercier très chaleureusement les membres du Comité des dames et du Comité local d'organisation:

MM^{mes} Jurecka, Reiffenstuhl, Rösner, Schreiber, Wenzel.

MM. Aichhorn, Jurecka (Président), Komoli, Pauser, Rösner, Smola.

1.1 Allgemeine Eindrücke

Den Teilnehmern am 11. Kongress der IVBH vom 31. August bis 5. September 1980 in Wien wird nicht ein einzelnes, bestimmtes Ereignis in Erinnerung bleiben, sondern eher die Reichhaltigkeit des ganzen Programmes, die diesen Kongress zu einem so grossen Erfolg werden liess.

Die Teilnehmerzahl hat selbst die kühnsten Erwartungen der österreichischen Gruppe übertroffen. Mit 1200 Kongressteilnehmern und 600 Begleitpersonen wurde ein Rekord erzielt.

Historische Bauten, die an eine glänzende Vergangenheit erinnern, haben die Kongressteilnehmer während ihrer Arbeit und auch in ihrer Freizeit aufgenommen. Moderne Konstruktionen, zum Beispiel die Johann Nestroy Brücke über die Donau, oder die UNO-City waren beliebte Ziele für technische Besichtigungen. Dieser äussere Rahmen und die gesellschaftlichen Veranstaltungen in echt wienerischer Ambience haben diesem Kongress das gewisse Etwas verliehen.

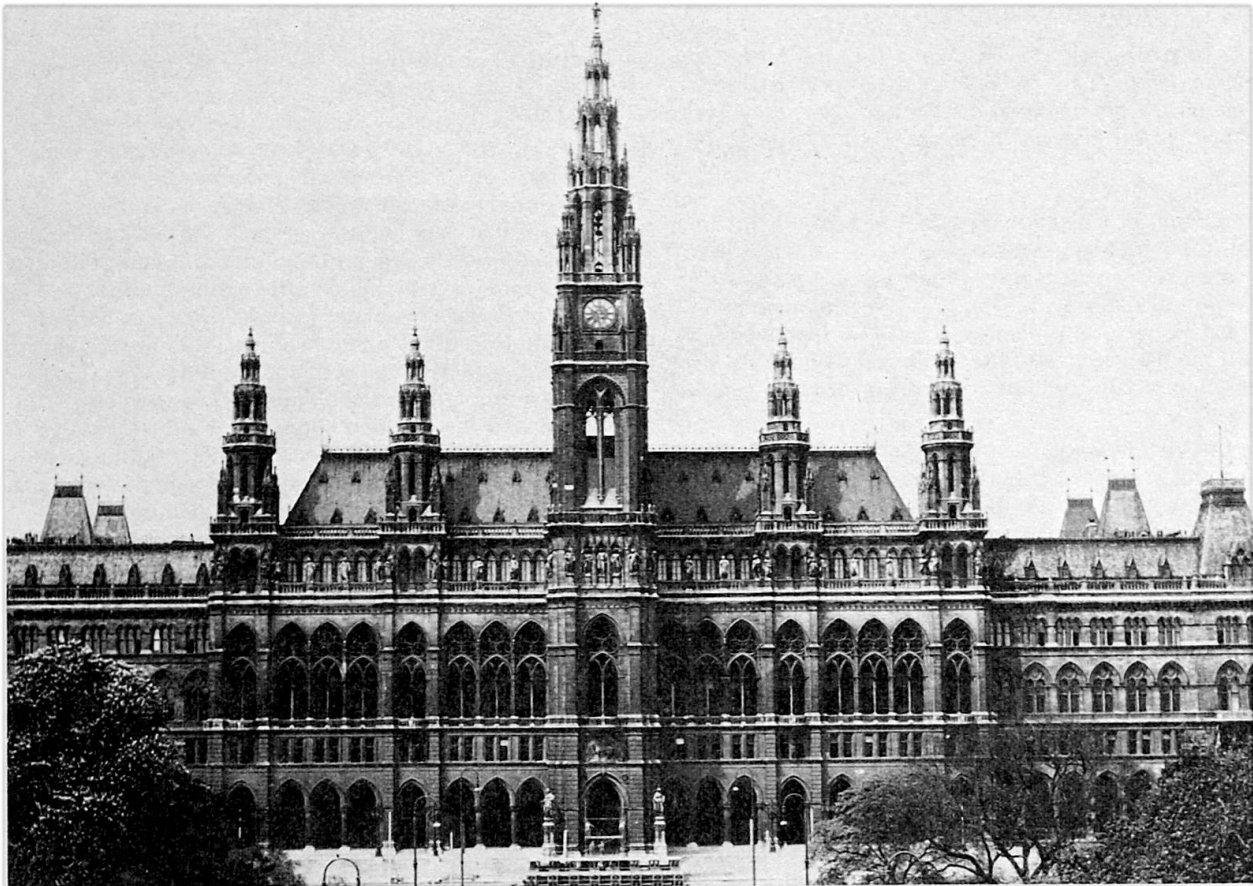
Ein Empfang im Rathaus, ein Abend in der Oper, ein Abschlussball in der Hofburg – die eher für Prinzen als für Kongressteilnehmer erbaut wurde – boten vielen Teilnehmern die Möglichkeit, neue Freundschaften anzuknüpfen oder bestehende zu vertiefen.

Der Schlussbericht mit 170 Beiträgen zu den elf Kongressthemen wurde im Dezember 1980 veröffentlicht und allen Kongressteilnehmern zugestellt. Die Wahrscheinlichkeit ist gross, dass jeder Leser daraus eine Idee aufgreifen kann, und diene sie nur dazu, ihm auf seinem beruflichen und technischen Gebiet weiterzuhelfen.

Bevor wir die Seite endgültig umblättern, um vom Kongress zu berichten, möchten wir dem Damenkomitee wie auch dem Organisationskomitee nochmals unseren herzlichsten Dank aussprechen:

Mesdames Jurecka, Reiffenstuhl, Rösner, Schreiber, Wenzel.

Herren Aichhorn, Jurecka (Vorsitzender), Komoli, Pauser, Rösner, Smola.



Wien – Rathaus



Wien – UNO-City



1.2 Technical Report

The following text presents the gist of the Final Comments delivered by Mr. B.P. Wex, Chairman of the Technical Committee, at the Closing Ceremony of the IABSE 11th Congress in Vienna, Sept. 5, 1980.

Organisation

Regarding organisation, the Chairman of the Technical Committee is greatly concerned, ex-officio, in matters relating to techno-organisational matters at Congresses and Symposia. In making comments on these matters I am therefore asking for feedback from you the participants to the Technical Committee at Zurich which we will be very happy to receive in writing.

In the Vienna Congress there was an innovation with poster sessions. At these, engineers have appeared periodically to explain the meanings and reasons lying behind the diagrams and pictures which are on display in the session halls. This gives an opportunity for face-to-face conversation and questioning of designers and contractors. We believe these sessions have been a big success, but we would welcome comment.

A further point that struck me particularly was the multiplicity of activities – there was so much of interest to see and hear. In particular, on Thursday, we had aside from peripheral activities, Computers, Big Bridges, Behaviour of Structures, Safety Concepts, Building Physics and Soil Structure Interaction. I would have liked to attend all but in fact I found it virtually impossible ever to make my timing coincide with those topics I particularly wanted to hear in each of the sessions. On the other hand there is no doubt that with the broad spectrum coverage a large audience has been attracted.

May I now turn to the question of slides, transparencies and presentation. I first of all would like to acknowledge the quality of some of the slides and some of the presentations which have been excellent, both for technical content and from the point of view of the audience being able to see what is on the slide and being able to hear what the speaker is saying. On the other hand, inevitably there have been those slides and transparencies particularly – those visual aids screened by the overhead projector – which have been extremely difficult to read. In other cases papers have been presented without illustration when visual content was vital. I am quite sure that very much good work is passed over and not recognised when it is delivered in a Congress or a public meeting of this nature simply because the audience cannot see what it is the author is trying to put across and therefore cannot possibly understand him.

Could I please advise in a most friendly fashion that consideration of how the audience is going to feel is tremendously important to the engineer trying to present his work to his fellows. Engineers have a reputation in some quarters as being poor at communication. This is surely not a reputation we wish to foster. For future meetings IABSE will amplify its existing advice on slides and transparencies.

Technical content

I have already commented on the enormous diversity of technical content – we have gone from the Matterhorn cold and high, to the South African gold mines at depths where the rock temperatures are 60° C. We have gone from aesthetics to computers in the future. We have had new input in terms of the work of Bau-physic, on Aesthetics, on Construction Management, and Timber has reappeared after a long absence.

There have been excellent technical visits, in particular the splendid Neue Reichsbrücke – a fine concept. Altogether the temporary bridges and the new bridge form a fine tribute to the abilities of Austrian engineers and the Austrian engineering industry.

I have been trying to identify an underlying theme of the Congress. I suggest it has been the importance of humanity in engineering. Where more appropriate than in Vienna, renowned for its culture and its love of life, to make this point? The Charter of the Institution of Civil Engineers in my country makes reference to "Harnessing the Forces of Nature for the Benefit of Mankind". Engineers must remember that they exist to create, using people to harness nature for the benefit of people. By introduction of Aesthetics and Construction Management, this Congress, I believe has underlined the importance of the human being as the conceiver and the constructor for the benefit of the populace at large. Human relationships must be good at all levels; with the Client, in the design office, in the workshop, on the site and with the public at large. They can indeed be difficult relationships. One speaker in the Construction Management session said "There are no codes of practice for defining human beings". Many references were made to the effects of shift work and working conditions generally. Another spoke in the session on "Building under Extreme Conditions" of the physiological problems in mining at great depth.

With that background, I wonder should not the education of structural and civil engineers include human relations high in the curriculum along with man management and perhaps human physiology as well.

I have already mentioned Bauphysic; in these energy conscious days it made a welcome first appearance in an IABSE conference and will undoubtedly continue to play an evergrowing part in our thinking. Much I believe has been known qualitatively for a long time. This science is going to order and quantify that data for us and undoubtedly greatly influence our work in future.

With a little stretch of the imagination one might, from the computer sessions, and safety sessions, think that the time will arrive when the engineer, confronted with a bridge site, will call up a computer program to design and detail an optimised bridge. The program will also so control and organise construction that the overall probability of failure will be 10^{-9} which the pundits I believe describe as an "Act of God". However, while I accord with the speaker in the computer seminar who conceived, I quote, "no foresee-



able end to the computer revolution", I also feel sure that the human checking of design, of materials, of fabrication, of construction and of maintenance will represent the best feasible safety assurance for many years to come.

May I presume to say to clients, particularly those in developing countries, who sometimes perceive cutting down on site supervision as a way to save money, "That can be a dangerous practice indeed". Let me not pretend by any means that adequate supervision can eliminate human error. I do not believe that is

possible, but human error can be reduced. Human error is going to be one of the most difficult areas to deal with in the mathematical theory.

Finally I am going to put on both my "hats", Technical Committee Chairman and British Group Chairman, and burst into German to say:

Vielen Dank meine Damen und Herren, der Kongress in Wien 1980 war wunderbar!

(B. P. Wex
Chairman, Technical Committee)

2. IABSE administrative meetings, Vienna, Aug.30-Sep.1, 1980 Réunions administratives de l'AIPC, Vienne, 30 août-1 sep, 1980 Administrative Sitzungen der IVBH, Wien, 30. Aug.-1. Sep., 1980

2.1 55th meeting of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee under President Thürlimann had a busy meeting, with many points on its agenda, most of which were also then discussed or reported on at the Permanent Committee. Two further points were discussed in the Executive Committee.

The meeting decided to present each new member of IABSE with a certificate of membership. This follows up the action undertaken for all members in 1979 for the 50th Jubilee of the Association.

The meeting also discussed elections in the Executive and in the Technical Committees. Since the approval of the new by-laws in 1974, the terms of office have been limited in duration in the different Committees and Commissions. Therefore there would be in 1981 three vacancies in the Executive Committee and one in the Technical Committee. Nominations were to be sent to the President by the end of 1980.

2.1 55^e séance du Comité exécutif

Le Comité exécutif a tenu séance sous la présidence du professeur B. Thürlimann. La plupart des points de l'ordre du jour faisant l'objet d'un rapport ou d'une discussion au Comité permanent (voir plus loin), il n'y a lieu de mentionner ici que deux points particuliers.

Le Comité a décidé de présenter à l'avenir un certificat de membre aux nouveaux membres de l'AIPC. Cette décision fait suite à l'action entreprise pour tous les membres à l'occasion du cinquantenaire de l'association.

Le Comité a parlé des élections aux Comités exécutif et technique. Les nouveaux statuts, acceptés en 1974, limitent la durée des mandats dans les différents Comités et Commissions; trois postes deviennent ainsi vacants dans le Comité exécutif en 1981 et un dans le Comité technique. Des nominations pouvaient être envoyées au président de l'association jusqu'à la fin de 1980.

2.1 55. Sitzung des Vorstands

Der Vorstand unter der Leitung von Präsident Thürlimann hatte eine arbeitsreiche Sitzung mit vielen Traktanden, welche teilweise anschliessend auch im Ständigen Ausschuss behandelt wurden (siehe dort). Zusätzlich wurde an der Sitzung beschlossen, jedem neuen IVBH-Mitglied eine Mitgliedsurkunde zu überreichen, die im wesentlichen derjenigen entspricht, welche anlässlich des 50jährigen Bestehens der Vereinigung bereits 1979 jedem Mitglied überreicht wurde.

Ebenfalls diskutiert wurden die Wahlen in den Vorstand und die Technische Kommission. Da die Amtsdauer in den verschiedenen Komitees und Kommissionen beschränkt ist, werden 1981 im Vorstand drei, und in der Technischen Kommission eine Stelle frei. Nominationen nahm der Präsident bis Ende 1980 entgegen.