

Objekttyp: **Miscellaneous**

Zeitschrift: **IABSE reports of the working commissions = Rapports des commissions de travail AIPC = IVBH Berichte der Arbeitskommissionen**

Band (Jahr): **23 (1975)**

PDF erstellt am: **30.06.2024**

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WELCOMING ADDRESS

Mr. H. Deschênes
President of CTICM
Puteaux, France

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am extremely pleased to welcome you at this international colloquium, the first one of this kind, devoted to the basic problem of stability for steel structures.

CTICM considers as a privilege the fact of being host for such an important meeting of outstanding specialists from all parts of the world, under the sponsorship of the leading specialised bodies in this field.

I have been deeply impressed by the amount of information you have already provided in the reports presented for this meeting and I am sure that your discussions will result in a remarkable progress in the knowledge of column strength.

Now I wish you a good success in your work and pass the chair to Mr. Sfintesco, the organiser of this colloquium.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

Dr. D. Sfintesco
Director of Research, CTICM
Puteaux, France

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The idea of holding this colloquium, in order to bring together leading scientists from all parts of the world in the field of research on column strength, has been proposed by Professor Hermann Beer.

As chairman both of the ECCS Committee on stability and of the IABSE Committee on steel structures, he wished to provide the opportunity of a direct contact and confrontation with the considerable work performed within the Column Research Council of USA and the Column Research Committee of Japan.

By fully neglecting his serious illness, he started enthusiastically organizing this colloquium, but just a few months ago this illness has suddenly put an end to his fruitful activity and we have lost a friend and a leader who deeply devoted himself to the progress of engineering science.

As the one who had to assume the responsibility of continuing his action for the preparation of this colloquium, I wish to state that we have to consider it as the achievement of Professor Beer's last action.

Therefore this colloquium is dedicated to his memory.

Gentlemen,

Due to these circumstances we had to make the arrangements for this colloquium in a relatively short time. I wish therefore to apologise in advance for any organisational imperfection you may find and to thank you for your kind co-operation in the preparation of our meeting by presenting such a large number of reports in time.

We have on the agenda a heavy program for these two days. This implies from all of us a strict observance of the time allowance for each oral intervention. Your co-operation is needed on this point also, in view of the success of this meeting.

We have now indeed a unique opportunity to confront and discuss our respective work on column strength.

As you know, extensive studies have been carried out during the last decade within the ECCS Committee on stability under Professor Beer's chairmanship. Most of the participants in this activity are present here, but it would be unfair not to mention the crucial impulse given to our European research work by Dutheil, whom we have also lost too early, but whose ideas are strongly reflected in our work.

I wish also to mention here the most encouraging willingness of intercontinental co-operation shown by the CRC by forming a special Task Group on European column studies and -last but not least- the practical co-operation under Professor Beedle's leadership at Fritz Laboratory, in connection with the ECCS experimental program on column strength.

This antecedence allows us to start this international colloquium confidently.