

Müller, Emil, mathematician

22 April 1861 Landskron (Bohemia), - 1 September 1927 Vienna. (Catholic)

Father: Adalbert (died probably before 1870), weaver in L.; Mother: Victoria Müller; Stepfather: Karl Peschl, colporteur; - probably Vienna 1887 Gisela (died after 1927), daughter of Franz Unger, master locksmith and landlord in Vienna, and Antonie Tochtermann; 2 sons, including Emil, engineer and building official in Vienna; 1 daughter

M. attended school in Vienna and in 1879 began teacher training at the General Department of the Vienna University of Technology. From 1881 to 1883, he also attended mathematics lectures by E. Weyr and L. Koenigsberger at the University of Vienna. After military service, he passed the teaching examination for mathematics and descriptive geometry in 1885, taught for a year at a secondary school, and in 1886 became an assistant to his teacher, the descriptive geometer R. Staudigl, at the Vienna University of Technology. In 1892, he accepted a senior teaching position at the building trade school in Königsberg and soon established good contacts with the professors at the university there, including D. Hilbert and O. Hölder, H. Minkowski, and F. Meyer. Following Meyer's advice, he received his doctorate in 1898 from the University of Königsberg and qualified as a university lecturer there a year later in geometry and mechanics. In 1902, he accepted a professorship in descriptive geometry at the Vienna University of Technology. He held this position until his death. From 1905 to 1907, he was dean of the civil engineering department and rector in 1912/13.

Since his time as an assistant, M. devoted himself to the further development of Grassmann's theory of extension and sought new applications of these methods in geometry. In his dissertation, he treated higher spherical geometry using such methods and gave a detailed justification of the dualism of inversion and Laguerrean geometry. Previously, he had already investigated line geometry using Grassmann's methods. M. extended Grassmann's calculus primarily through the introduction of folding products, which he had been studying since 1914. Another of M.'s research areas was the so-called relative surface theory, a generalization of Euclidean surface theory.

M. earned great merit in continuing the improvements in the teaching of descriptive geometry begun by Staudigl, paying particular attention to the training of teacher candidates. Expanding the methodology and didactics of this subject, he and his colleagues emphasized, on the one hand, the due consideration of technical applications and, on the other hand, the development of the theory. This endeavor resulted, in addition to several articles, in his "Textbook of Descriptive Geometry for Technical Universities," a collection of technical exercises, and a four-year series of special lectures characterized by a tightly structured approach and the clarification of the common ideas and concepts underlying the various methods of representation. Through his work, M. contributed significantly to the revival of descriptive geometry and is considered the founder of the "Vienna School," which included, among others, R. von Mises, W. Blaschke, L. Vietoris, E. Kruppa, and O. Danzer.

Member of the Vienna Academy of Sciences (1906 corresponding, 1916 full member); member of the... Leopoldina (1918); Dr.-Ing. h.c. (TH Karlsruhe 1925).

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L Neue Freie Presse, September 3 and 21, 1927; E. Kruppa, in: Zs. f. Angew. Math. u. Mechanik 4, 1924, pp. 411–31; Th. Schmid, *ibid.* 8, 1928, pp. 81–83; Mhh. f. Math. u. Physik 35, 1928, pp. 197–218 (W-Verz.); Th. Schmid, Obituary, in: Alm. d. Wiener Ak. d. Wiss., 1928, pp. 183–88 (P); Jberr. d. Dt. Mathemati-ker-Vereinigung 41, 1932, pp. 50–58; R. Einhorn, Representative of Math. and Geometry at the Vienna Universities 1900-1940, 1985, pp. 572-87 (W, L); Pogg. IV-VI; ÖBL.

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