

Preface

*Dedicated to Prof. Henryk Zorski
on the occasion of his 70-th birthday*

THIS VOLUME of the Archives of Mechanics contains papers presented at the Fourth Meeting on Current Ideas in Mechanics and Related Fields held in Kraków, at the Collegium Maius of the Jagiellonian University, from August 25-th through 28-th, 1997. Following in format and in spirit the previous three meetings (Portland – 1991, Banff – 1993 and Segovia – 1995) this symposium was of a special character, as its main feature was the celebration of the 70-th birthday of Professor HENRYK ZORSKI.

HENRYK ZORSKI, who formally retired from the Department of Mechanics of Liquids and Gases of the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, obtained his PhD in 1955. He joined the Institute in 1957 becoming in 1960 the head of the Theory of Elasticity Division. He received his promotion to the rank of Professor in 1962 and in 1969 was appointed to the chair of the Department of the Theory of Continuous Media. After eleven years at the helm of this department he moved in 1980 to chair the Department of Mechanics of Liquids and Gases. Over the period of his tenure at IFTR he supervised 18 PhD students, a number of DSc (habilitation) candidates and served on numerous PhD thesis and DSc dissertation committees. These and many more colleagues have been greatly influenced by HENRYK ZORSKI; his research, his enthusiasm and, in particular, his leadership.

His research interests range from the theory of plates and shells, elasticity and thermoelasticity to mechanics of media with microstructure and the theory of defects in solids. He has published to date about 100 papers and has edited several conference proceedings. HENRYK ZORSKI has also been very active in promoting mechanics on both the domestic and the international arena. Together with R.S. RIVLIN and G. FICHERA he founded in 1977 the International Society for the Interaction of Mechanics and Mathematics, becoming its first Secretary and Treasurer and later its Vice-President. In 1975, also with RONALD RIVLIN, he organized at Jodłowy Dwór the first International Symposium on Continuous Models and Discrete Systems starting a series of regularly held meetings known as CMDS's, the most recent one held in St. Constantine in 1995. His extensive contributions to different areas of mechanics were recognized by his election to a number of Polish and international scientific societies, to the Academy of Sciences in Bologna and to the General Assembly of the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics. In 1989 HENRYK ZORSKI was elected a Corresponding Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

All participants would like to dedicate this volume to HENRYK ZORSKI in celebration of his work.

Marek Elżanowski (Portland) Marcelo Epstein (Calgary) Romuald Kotowski (Warsaw)