

Professor Krzysztof WILMAŃSKI



1940 – 2012

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Professor Krzysztof Wilmański, an outstanding scientist who made important contributions to thermodynamics of materials, wave propagation, porous media, phase transformations in solids including shape memory alloys. For many of us he was a teacher, mentor, and friend. His genuine human warmth and generosity with his knowledge, determination and hard work will be lively remembered by all of us.

With this collection of scientific papers we wish to pay our tribute to the memory of Professor Krzysztof Wilmański. We still have vivid memories of the Special Jubilee International Conference Continuous Media with Microstructure held at the University of Zielona Góra on March 20, 2010, which was dedicated to him on the occasion of his 70th birthday. He passed away unexpectedly on August 26, 2012, after a brief illness. The second International Conference on Continuous Media with Microstructure to be held in Łagów on March 2–5, 2015, is being organized in the memory of him. A comprehensive account of his life and scientific activity was presented in the book titled *Continuous Media with Microstructure* (Editor Bettina Albers, Springer-Verlag, Berlin 2010). Thus for

the readers of this journal, let us mention only some highlights of his very active and productive life.

Krzysztof Wilmański was born on March 1, 1940 in Łódź, Poland. At the Technical University of Łódź he completed his civil engineering studies (1962) and three years later was awarded the degree of doctor (1965). Since 1966 he worked at the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw where he habilitated (1970), was Head of the Research Group “Continuum Thermodynamics”, and was nominated full professor by the State Council (1979).

Professor Krzysztof Wilmański made his home at many places in the world. In 1969–1970 he spent one year at the Johns Hopkins University (USA); in 1972–1973 he taught for two years at the College of Engineering at the University of Baghdad; in 1978–1979 he spent a year and a half at the University of Paderborn and the Technical University of Berlin; in 1984 he worked on thermodynamics at the Institute for Advanced Study “Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin”. He researched and taught at the Technical University of Berlin, the University of Paderborn, the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg, and the University of Essen. In 1996 he became Head of the Research Group of Continuum Mechanics at the Weierstrass Institute for Applied Analysis and Stochastics in Berlin, where he retired in 2005. In 2006 he spent one semester at Technion in Haifa. In 2005–2010 he was professor at the University of Zielona Góra and staff member of the Rose School in Pavia.

Professor Wilmański taught undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate courses on Strength of Materials, Mechanics of Structures, Linear and Nonlinear Mechanics of Continua, Thermodynamics of Multicomponent Systems, to name a few. For students of many universities in Poland, Germany, Italy, Austria, and Israel he will be remembered as a brilliant teacher of great knowledge and understanding. His scientific activities and great accomplishments are mainly concentrated in the area of linear and nonlinear thermodynamics, including in particular such research topics as non-newtonian fluids, phase transformations, porous and granular materials. He published 14 books and some 140 scientific papers (www.mech-wilmanski.de). He organized and co-organized many colloquia and conferences; in particular, together we chaired the International Conference on Computer Methods in Mechanics, CMM 2009, in Zielona Góra.

Professor Krzysztof Wilmański will be remembered not only for his scientific accomplishments and passion for research, but also as an extremely rare individual who was brilliant, kind, and gentle.

*Mieczysław Kuczma
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