



PREFACE

The 32nd Solid Mechanics Conference, SolMec'98, followed a long tradition of the Polish Solid Mechanics Conferences organized by the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in co-operation with the Committee of Mechanics of the Academy.

Starting with the first conference in 1953 at Karpacz, these conferences were initially of summer school type, concentrating on problems of elasticity and plasticity with application to structural mechanics. Later they became international conferences with considerable participation of both Polish and foreign researchers and with much wider scope covering most important aspects of solid mechanics. These conferences have maintained for 45 years high scientific standard and served as a forum for exchange of ideas and research information. Numerous participants both foreign and Polish delivered here lectures many times and certainly remember the period when they first came as young beginning researchers, now presenting general or key-note lectures as eminent scientists. It was a pleasure for us to see old friends with whom we shared our ideas and enthusiasm for mechanics. It was also a pleasure to meet young generation of researchers working in new fields and contributing new important results.

The 32nd Solid Mechanics Conference, SolMec'98, held in Zakopane, September 1-5, 1998, was organized by the Centre of Mechanics of the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research. The scientific program included more than 200 papers including 16 invited general and sectional lectures delivered by 140 Polish and 80 foreign researchers. These contributions have roughly been classified into the following main areas

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| Plasticity and Damage | 46 papers |
| Biomechanics | 16 papers |
| Composite Mechanics | 15 papers |
| Dynamics of Structures and Materials | 24 papers |
| Optimization and Sensitivity Analysis | 16 papers |
| Smart Structures | 5 papers |
| Structural Mechanics | 16 papers |

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| Elasticity | 20 papers |
| Geomechanics | 14 papers |
| Numerical Methods | 12 papers |
| Homogenization | 12 papers |
| Porous Media | 6 papers |
| Identification | 6 papers |

The Conference was accompanied by a Polish-Japanese Workshop on *Testing and Modelling the Behaviour of Shape Memory Alloys* chaired by Professor B. Raniecki.

Though no conference proceedings volume was planned, all participants were encouraged to submit their contributions as full-length papers for publication in special issues of *Engineering Transactions* or *Archives of Mechanics*. The present issue of *Engineering Transactions* contains the submitted and reviewed contributions with a more engineering character.

Warszawa, August 1999

Zenon Mróz
Conference Chairman