



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

International Journal of Impact Engineering

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ijimpeng

Obituary

Janusz Klepaczko remembered

Professor Janusz Klepaczko left us on August 15, 2008, in Metz, France, where he worked actively to the end of his life. Just three weeks ago, I had a long conversation with Janusz during his stay in our Institute to discuss plans for new studies. His sudden departure made all of us very sad, since we lost someone who had devoted his entire life to science and shared with us his deep knowledge and inspiration for joint research.

Professor Klepaczko was born in 1935 in Warsaw. In 1959 he graduated from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Warsaw Technical University. In 1960 after graduation, he began work in IPPT; in 1966, he defended his Ph.D. thesis and later in 1972, he presented his habilitation thesis. Afterward, he served as director of the Laboratory for Experimental Mechanics at the same institute.

Professor Klepaczko started his experimental studies in our Institute on the dynamic loading of metals at high strain rates. His Ph.D. thesis was dedicated to this subject. The scope of the research initiated under the direction of his advisor Professor Z. Marciniak was substantially widened and focused on the effect of high deformation rate on hardening properties of materials and damage evolution. As a postdoc at the University of California, Berkeley, he joined a team headed by Professor Dorn, where he continued research on the impact of high-speed deformation of the plastic properties of metals. The title of Associate Professor was conferred on him in 1983. Results of his research were published in a number of international journals. The development of experimental methods and the establishment of his own research team earned Professor Klepaczko recognition in the scientific community in a number of international centers. He was invited as a visiting professor by Brown University in the U.S., as well as universities in Manitoba, Canada; Kyoto, Japan; Nantes, France; Florida, U.S.; and finally the University of Metz in France. The political situation in Poland and the state of martial law contributed to his decision to remain in France, where in 1985 he obtained a permanent position as Director of Research at the Laboratory of Physics and Mechanics of Materials at the University of Metz. There he remained for the rest of his life.

Professor Klepaczko created a strong team there in the area of experimental mechanics; the team focused on modeling properties of materials at the dynamic loads of applications in many fields of modern technology. He was coordinator of several industrial projects that led to many practical applications in the automotive and aerospace industries. His scientific accomplishments consist of over 230 articles in international journals, a monograph on the dynamic deformation of materials, and numerous conference papers and reports. He was also involved in an intensive educational activity as supervisor of 30 Ph.D. students in Poland, France, Canada, and the United States. He is noted for his impressive achievements as outstanding researcher and teacher as well as the creator and originator of new methods of research and practical applications. Among his achievements are the original apparatus for shear, a new method of registering strain, the formulation of the criterion for dynamic fracture, and the development of a testing apparatus for ultra high strain rates (up to $10^6/s$), the latter one jointly with IPPT.

Professor Klepaczko cooperated with several Polish institutions including IPPT, the Institute of Aviation, Warsaw Technical University, and Poznan Technical University. Two long periods of work of Janusz in IPPT (23 years) and the University of Metz (also 23 years) contributed to the emergence of active research teams and laboratories cooperating with each other. Not only was he both a Polish and French citizen, but he was a citizen of the world of science, maintaining contact with all centers of research in the fields of physics and mechanics of materials.

With regret, we bid him goodbye and we will miss his friendly personality, scientific discussion, and creative cooperation.

Zenon Mroz
 Polish Academy of Sciences, Instit. of Fundamental Tech Research,
 00-049 Warsaw, Swietokrzyska 21, Poland.
 E-mail address: zmroz@ippt.gov.pl

Available online 21 March 2009