



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

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
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 *Archives of Mechanics* or *Engineering Transactions*. The present issue of *Archives of Mechanics* contains the submitted and reviewed contributions of a more basic orientation. The contributions with a more engineering character will soon appear in a special issue of *Engineering Transaction*.

Warszawa, August 1999

Zenon Mróz
Conference Chairman