



Preface

This issue of the Archives of Mechanics contains a selection of papers presented at the **34th Solid Mechanics Conference**, 2–7 September, 2002 (Zakopane, Poland).

Following a long tradition going back to the first Polish Solid Mechanics Conference in 1953, the objective of the 34th Conference SolMech (like many previous ones – being an international conference) was to bring together researchers engaged in all major areas of contemporary mechanics of solids and structures. The program of the Conference included 8 invited plenary (keynote) lectures (40 min), several invited sectional lectures (30 min), and contributed presentations (20 min) in thematic sessions.

The main subjects included into the program of the Conference were the following:

- Mechanics and Thermodynamics of Solids with Microstructure
- Inelastic Response of Materials and Structures
- Geomechanics
- Structural Mechanics, Sensitivity and Optimization
- Instability and Localization Phenomena
- Fracture Mechanics, Damage, Fatigue
- Dynamics of Solids and Structures
- Composites, Porous Media
- Biomechanics
- Stochastic Methods
- Computational Methods
- Experimental Methods

The Editorial Board of the Archives of Mechanics kindly offered a possibility of publishing a special Conference issue of the journal to commemorate the 34th Solid Mechanics Conference and at the same time, to allow some papers presented (and not published yet) a quick editorial processing. On behalf of the Scientific and Organizing Committees of the Conference, I express our grateful acknowledgment to the Editorial Board. Also, I wish to thank the authors who have contributed to this special Conference issue.

Warsaw, November 18, 2003

Kazimierz Sobczyk
Chairman of the 34th Solid Mechanics Conference