

THE 90TH BIRTHDAY JUBILEE OF PROFESSOR EUGENIUSZ BIELEWICZ



The year 2013 was the jubilee year of the 90th birthday of prof. Eugeniusz Bielewicz, the eminent civil engineer and scholar, who succeeded in harmonizing the fields of theory and practice, achieving significant results.

Eugeniusz Bielewicz was born in July 16, 1923 in Baranowicze (today in the area of Republic of Belarus). He took his primary and secondary education in Vilnius completing the latter in 1941. During the German occupation he worked at the car repair workshop, being involved neither in political nor partisan movements. In 1944, after the invasion of the Red Army he was arrested and deported to a coal mine 200 km south from Moscow, he worked there until the end of 1945, when he was released due to his bad health.

After the repatriation to Poland Eugeniusz Bielewicz took his university education in the years 1946-1950 at the Faculty of Civil and Hydro Engineering at the Gdansk University of Technology. While still being a student Eugeniusz Bielewicz became an academic teacher at the Department of Mathematics, after graduating he started to work at the Department of Structural Mechanics. The latter Department was his native institution to pass all the stages of an academic teacher, finally to become a full professor in 1983. His doctoral thesis was focused on three-dimensional vibrations of bridges due to a movable load, his habilitation thesis, in 1966, dealt with the static problems of viscoelastic shells. He promoted 12 doctoral theses (including the graduates from Hungary and Vietnam), reviewed 32 doctoral theses and 19 habilitation theses. Professor Bielewicz has authored, or co-authored, over 80 scientific papers and 4 academic textbooks. His textbook "Strength of Materials" is a renowned academic publication on theory

of structures, being used by successive populations of students, re-edited permanently (over 10 re-editions).

Throughout the years 1951-1981 professor Bielewicz was a part-time worker at the Design Office of Maritime Engineering, as a designer and a verifier. He took great advantage of his experience of that time in his upcoming scientific career. Professor Bielewicz headed a series of research works focused on model experiments of complex engineering structures. His results formed the basis for a design of unique structures, like railway station in Katowice (erected in 1972) or the monument-mausoleum in Lublin-Majdanek (unveiled in 1969) and a hanging roof of the Forest Opera in Sopot (design in 1962, completed in 1964). The engineering activity of professor Bielewicz took its pinnacle in the co-operation of the construction of the Church of St. Casimir in Gdańsk-Zaspa (1985-1990), a two-storey innovative structure.

Professor Bielewicz was one of the pioneers to develop applications of tensor calculus to the analysis of shell structures. The second key field of his interest was the application of probabilistic methods and reliability theory in the analysis of engineering structures. The latter was a field of a great number of scientific documents, doctoral and habilitation theses. Recently an important issue of Professor's interest was the concept of computational sciences, regarding highly developed computational tool a third basis of modern science, among two established ones – theory and experiment.

Professor Bielewicz used to be the Head of the Institute for Building Structures and also the Head of the Department of Structural Mechanics at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, he was chairing a number of Senate Committees at the Gdańsk University of Technology. He served as the Member of the Central Committee for Scientific Degree and Nomination for a number of its terms. He was an active member of the Committee of Civil Engineering and Hydroengineering of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Polish Society of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, being a Honorary Member of the latter. Professor Bielewicz was frequently prized for his engineering and scientific activity by the state, university and ministerial authorities. He was awarded many distinctions, prizes and medals, featuring the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta.

Professor Bielewicz is an outstanding academic teacher, in both didactic and pedagogical fields, a highly talented research worker, incorporating both theory and engineering practice. His attitude, industriousness and cordiality brought him a great esteem among his co-workers and a students' community. Professor Bielewicz is still active in the life of the Department, ready to advise the PhD students searching for their own research directions. Our University and Department community considers Professor Bielewicz a great Scholar, but also an outstanding Personality – our Friend.

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