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Editorial

Since ancient times till nowadays materials have been the basis of the civilizational progress of humanity and in such a distant horizon of many thousands years of history of human civilisation one can talk about the development of materials engineering, as a component of the development of the material culture of humanity, though the name and the paradigm of a scientific discipline were found only around half a century ago. In Poland, the studies for a degree in materials engineering were started for the first time in 1971 at the Faculty of Metallurgy of the Silesian University of Technology in Katowice and the Faculty of Ceramics of the AGH University of Science and Technology in Cracow, and two years later in the present Faculty of Materials Engineering of the Warsaw University of Technology. However, the development of materials engineering as a scientific discipline dates back much earlier and has a close relationship with the development of higher education both in Poland and in Europe. In Poland in the inter-war period the three centres of research and knowledge of metallurgy and metal science were founded in the technical universities in Warsaw, Cracow and Lvov. In 1945 after the official end of the World War II, Professors from the Lvov Polytechnic University emigrated to the post-war Polish territory, stopping to concentrate in four areas, namely in Cracow, Gliwice, Wrocław and Gdańsk, where they became the core of the new Polish technical universities established there and moving there the traditions of the Lvov Polytechnic University. This impact is probably the strongest one at the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice. In 1945, after the war, the effort of the reconstruction of metal science education at Polish universities was taken by the alumni and associates of the outstanding Polish metal scientists of the interwar period. The Silesian University of Technology in Katowice, initially with a temporary seat in Cracow, and after a few weeks in Gliwice, which was considered as a permanent seat of the University only in 1947, as it remained to this day, was created by the Polish National Council's decree 65 years ago, on 24th May 1945, a few weeks after the end of the World War II. Since the foundation of the Silesian University of Technology in 1945 the Department of Physical Metallurgy, as one of dozens or so of four faculties of the University existing at that time, directed for nearly 25 consecutive years by Professor Fryderyk Staub (1899-1982). Currently, the branch of studies: Materials Engineering is carried out in Poland at 27 faculties in 21 universities, including 13 at the universities of technology, four at universities, and one in a school of higher education and two private schools. On 1st October 2009 the group of those units was also joined by the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the Silesian University of Technology when the studies at 2 macro-branches of studies based on the education standards of "Materials Engineering" were started. On 1st October 2010, in the year of 65th anniversary of the foundation of the University, students at the branch of Materials Engineering will be enrolled for the first time. In the year of the 65th anniversary of the activity of the Silesian University of Technology in the field of Materials Engineering the 16th International Scientific Conference on Contemporary Achievements in Mechanics, Manufacturing and Materials Science CAM³S'2010 in the name of "65 Years of the Tradition in Materials Science and Engineering in Silesia, Poland" will be organised in November 2010. In the given Issue of ACMSSE a few papers prepared for the invitation of the Editorial Team, after the presentation of suitable lectures at the 18th International Scientific Conference on "Achievements in Mechanical and Materials Engineering AMME 2010 are included. I wish P.T. Readers a nice reading of the papers and thank P.T. authors sincerely for the efforts in their outworking and preparation these papers for print.

Prof. Leszek A. Dobrzanski M Dr hc
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