

Professor M. S. Konstantinov



With deep regret we announce that on April 8, 1991 after a short illness died Professor Michael Spirov Konstantinov.

Professor M. S. Konstantinov was born on March 22, 1921 and grew up in Sofia, Bulgaria. He graduated in Mechanical Engineering from Sofia State Polytechnic in 1949 and in 1950 began his carrier there as an assistant professor in Dynamics of Machines. He was promoted to an associate professor in 1962, and to a full professor in Mechanism and Machine Theory in 1971.

Professor Konstantinov was the founder and the first head of a number of departments at Sofia Technical University:

- Department of Mechanism and Machine Theory;
- Department of Robotics;
- Central Laboratory for Manipulators and Robots;
- Centre of Robotics;
- Postgraduate School in Robotics;

as well as the Department of Robotics and Mechatronics at the Institute of Mechanics and Biomechanics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

With energy and enthusiasm Professor M. S. Konstantinov contributed to the foundation of IFToMM (the International Federation for the Theory of Mechanisms and Machines) and served as its first Secretary General and as its Vice-president. He has always been actively involved in IFToMM activities as a Chairman of the Permanent Commission B (for education) and as a member of the Technical Committee for Robotics. Professor Konstantinov gave his wholehearted support for the organization of the 1st International Congress on Mechanism and Machine Theory (Varna, 1965) and the Symposia on Education in Mechanism and Machine Theory (SEMEMAT'75, SEMEMATRO'82) and the five summer schools on Practice of Robots (PRACTRO). For a number of years he was the national coordinator for the ISIR system.

In the field of Mechanism and Machine Theory and Robotics Professor Konstantinov was the author and co-author of more than 150 scientific publications in international journals, world congresses, symposia and conferences. Being a researcher with a broad outlook on Engineering Science, he actively contributed to the development of a number of disciplines related to mechanics, mechanism and machine theory, and robotics: structural theory, kinematic analysis and synthesis, dynamics and control, optimal design and application.

As a mark of distinction for his activities in the scientific community, Professor Konstantinov was honoured with a number of state medals, awards and degrees, among them The Cyril and Methodius Order, Honoured Degree for Technology, and others. He was Doctor H. C. of Dresden University. For his service in the Air Force, as a military pilot Professor M. S. Konstantinov was decorated with an Order for Bravery.

With respect and deepest sympathy, friends and colleagues gathered on April 10, 1991 in Sofia, to pay last tribute to the memory of Professor Konstantinov.