

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE HUNGARIAN MEMBER COMMITTEE OF IFToMM

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the foundation of IFToMM

The Theory of Machines and Mechanisms as an independent subject was introduced in 1952 in the field of Hungarian higher technical education. There were two bases for it at that time: the Budapest University of Technology and Economy (BME), (former Technical University of Budapest), and the University of Miskolc (ME), (former the University of Heavy Industry of Miskolc). The subject "Mechanisms" was read by L. Buzás in Budapest (in 1954 E. Filemon was invited by L. Buzás to teach the subject). In Miskolc Professor Dr. Z. Terplán and Professor Dr. I. Sályi Jr. introduced the subject. The main task for the first few years was the organisation of teaching. In addition to the subject-matter of instruction collected from books written in Russian, German and English some special topics on "Mechanisms" and various other subjects were already being taught. The textbooks of the Russian Professors I. I. Artobolevskii and Sz. N. Kozsevnikov, already translated into Hungarian, constituted a great help of us. In a short time both universities mentioned above printed their own lecture notes (written by L. Buzás in Budapest, and by Prof. Dr. Z. Terplan in Miskolc). The first textbook was published in 1958 with the title "Mechanisms", written by Prof. Dr. Z. Terplan. The first colloquium on the subject of the Theory of Machines and mechanisms (TMM) was organised by the University of Heavy Industry of Miskolc in 1960 with Hungarian and foreign participants. Later, other international scientific meetings, (in 1961, 1963, 1966, ...) the subject of which was gears and mechanisms, took place in Miskolc, with more and more foreign participants.

Since 1960 the number of experts dealing with the TMM began to grow. So, when the establishment of the international federation "IFToMM" was first discussed in 1965 in Varna, Bulgaria, Prof. Dr. Z. Terplán and Prof. Dr. I. Sályi Jr. took part of the discussion. By that time, there already was a small supporting group of experts in Hungary. In 1967 a Kinematic-Kinetic Committee was founded within the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The members of this committee were machine engineers having connection with the TMM in some form or other. This committee, chaired by Professor Dr. Z. Terplán, assumed the management of Hungarian affairs of IFToMM.

In 1969 in Zakopane, (Poland), Hungary was one of the countries that signed the foundation documents of IFToMM. The Chief Delegate of Hungary was Professor Dr. Z. Terplán, who signed the document, Professor Dr. I. Sályi Jr., Professor Dr. Á. Bosznay, E. Filemon, and A. Hartl were the members of the delegation. (Unfortunately, A. Hartl disappeared from the IFToMM community.)

In 1970 the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) reorganized its committees and from that time the Academic Committee for Machine Design has been responsible for the Hungarian Member Committee: HMC (former Hungarian National Committee. (HNC)) of IFToMM. From the very beginning, the subscription fee has been paid regularly by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The first president of the governing body of the HMC of IFToMM was

Professor Dr. Z. Terplán. (He relinquish his chairmanship to E. Filemon in 1996, who has been responsible for subjects mechanisms and robotmechanisms in BME).

Since 1970 the HMC has taken part in the activity of IFToMM. A Hungarian member was send to all of the Permanent Commissions of IFToMM., some of which held its yearly meeting in Hungary, in Miskolc: 1972- the “Commission for Cooperation with Industry” (Z. Terplan), in 1980- the “Commission for Standardization of Terminology” (I. Sályi Jr.), in 1983- the “Commission for History” (E. Filemon).. More-and-more Hungarian members was send to the Technical Committees of IFToMM.

In 1973 another textbook was published, the title of which is “Mechanisms” by Professor Dr. I. Sályi Jr.

To establish still closer scientific links by personal contact, the HMC of IFToMM invited experts from foreign countries. At the suggestion of the HMC of IFToMM, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences invited Dr. Academic Professor I. I. Artobolevskii, First President (later Honorary President) of IFToMM, who visited Hungary in June of 1977. It was his last visit abroad before his tragic death in the autumn of 1977. Dr. A. Morecki (Secretary General of IFToMM) in 1977, and Dr. J. Phillips (Member of the Executive Council of IFToMM) in 1978, also visited Hungary. Besides the Hungarian participants, experts from Australia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, The Netherlands, Japan, Canada, Poland, German Democratic Republic, German Federal Republic, Romania, Italy, Switzerland, U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. participated in the “6th Symposium on Mechanisms and Gears” in 1978, organised by the HMC in Miskolc.

Since the ‘80th an extensive Hungarian involvement in IFToMM at a high level has been recognizable. Examples include: Hungarian Secretary General (1984-87, E. Filemon); Hungarian Executive Member (1980-83, E. Filemon and 1996-2003, G. Stepan); Hungarian Chair of a Permanent Commission (1982-89, E. Filemon); Hungarian Chair of a Technical Committee (2002-05, G. Stepan and 2005-, A. Dobroczeni); Hungarian Member of the Nominating Committee (1992-1995, E. Filemon, 2000-2003, E. Filemon and 2007-11, G. Stepan); Hungarian Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal “Mechanism and Machine Theory” (2006-, G. Stepan); several Hungarians are currently members of Permanent Commissions and Technical Committees (B. Laczik, I. Biro, S. Simon, A. Dobroczeni, G. Erdos, G. Stepan, Gy. Patko, L. L. Kovacs, I. Simon, E. Filemon, A. Toth, L. Forrai).

The active participation of Hungary has been widely recognised by the IFToMM Federation for 40 years. At the present time the Federation has grown to include 44 Member Countries/Territories.

Unfortunately Academic Professor Dr. Zéno Terplán and Professor Dr. István Sályi Jr. are not with us to see this.

The life of Prof. Zéno Terplán, Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, command respect. He was able to achieve that the Committee of Machine Design was established in the frame of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. This committee served for the Hungarian

Member Committee up to present and on. As the Chair of the HMC he never forget that IFToMM was founded for the purpose of promoting the development of the theory of machines and mechanisms, and the broad introduction of the results of theoretical and experimental investigation into practice. He was convinced that the responsibility of the Federation is to establish and broaden scientific contacts between organisations and persons from different countries, to organise international congresses, to exchange of scientific and technical information in every possible way, to organise visits by specialists, and with his comprehensive mind he was able to put all of this into practice. He attended the first 9 congresses of IFToMM, and he presented lecture on 8 of them. He served as an active member on the Permanent Commission for History and the Technical Committee for Gearing, He as scientist on gearing and machine design was acknowledged all over the world. He was a well known historian on technical sciences, as well. At the University of Miskolc, the Department of Machine Elements was established by him, and he was the head of it for 39 years (1949-1989). He retired in 1991. After a long, and serious illness, the likeable Professor Passed away on the 18th of January, 2002.

István Sályi Jr. was a Professor and researcher of international renown. Through his professional activities he was actively involved in the Hungarian and international scientific life and community, worked for a great number of committees at university, and Academy of Sciences level and also held various posts in them. He was an active participant in the international conferences preparing the establishment of IFToMM and served as an active member on the Technical committee for Linkages and on the Permanent Commission for Standardization of Terminology for decades. His scientific and research activities involved analysing the kinematic and dynamic relations of mechanisms. He also initiated a closer examination of the non-linear vibration phenomena of mechanisms and encouraged his colleagues to do the same. As full professor he retired in 1989 from the Department of Mechanics at the University of Miskolc. He died an unexpected death on 17, October, 2001.

I resign myself to all deceased members of the IFToMM Family, worldwide, with grateful respect. The community shall respect and preserve they memory as cared.

On behalf of the IFToMM HMC I wish to express my sincere thanks for the friendly atmosphere all during of its history. This is why IFToMM is so unique among the scientific federations. I have pleasant memories of the 40 years of IFToMM.

Professor Dr.habil Elisabeth Filemon PhD DSc

Chair of the Hungarian IFToMM Member Committee

Budapest University of Technology and Economics

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Dept. of Applied Mechanics

1521 Budapest, Pf. 91. Hungary

Tel.: +36 1 463 1367, Fax: + 36 1 463 3471

E-mail: efilemon@mm.bme.hu