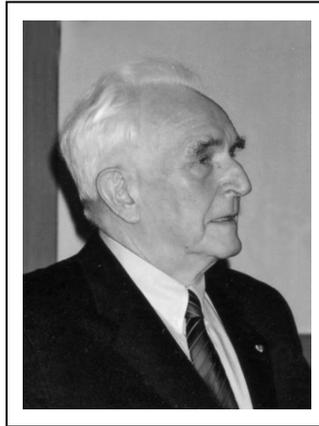


**PROFESSOR
JAN MARIAN KACZMAREK
1920–2011**



**Founder and First Edition-in-Chief
of the Advances of Manufacturing Science
and Technology Journal
1977-2003**

Professor Jan M. Kaczmarek, an outstanding learned civil activist and charismatic community worker well known in the Polish and world engineering industry, has died. As his former student, and then a friend of Professor, I would like to present his numerous achievements to highlight the scale of loss that Polish science and the associative movement has suffered.

Jan M. Kaczmarek was born on February 2nd, 1920 in Pabianice. He obtained a pilot license prior to starting his studies in Warsaw in 1938. One year later, he took part in his homeland defence as a pilot of the Polish air Force. He was wounded, but after finishing treatment at a military hospital in Vilnius, he took part in the Lithuanian Resistance Movement (1940-1942), and in 1942-1945 he served in the Home Army.

After the war, in 1945 he came to Cracow to continue his studies at the Academy of Mining (from 1949 known as the AGH University of Science and Technology). From 1947, while still studying, he started working as a teaching assistant in the Department of Product Engineering directed by Professor Witold Biernawski.

In 1948 Jan M. Kaczmarek obtained an M.Sc. degree in Mechanical Engineering. Ten years later, in 1958 he was awarded a Ph.D. degree, and in 1960 he got his D.Sc. degree. In 1962 he became an Associate Professor, and in 1969 he was appointed to a Full Professor position. In 1949-1968 he worked in the Institute of Advanced Manufacturing Technologies in Cracow of which he was Vice-Director (1953-1957), and then he became its Managing Director. From 1958, he directed the Department of Manufacturing Technologies in Cracow University of Technology, and in 1965-1968 he acted as a Pro-Vice Rector and Vice-Rector of this university. In 1965, he was elected as Corresponding Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

In 1968, Jan Kaczmarek moved to Warsaw. He acted as Chairperson of the National Committee for Technical Progress (1968-1972), and next as Minister of Science, Higher Education and Technology (1972-1974). Also, he was a Scientific Secretary to the Polish Academy of Science (1971-1980). In 1971, he became a Full Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Professor Kaczmarek's scientific activity was particularly fruitful in the 1950s and '60s. Not only his numerous publications appeared during that time, but also he wrote three books: "Principles of Machine Cutting" (1956, in Polish), "Principles of Cutting" (1969, in Polish; 1976, in English), and "Abrasion and Erosion" (1969, in Polish; 1976, in English). Because of the innovative character of those books and their complex presentation of the knowledge, they played a crucial role in the education of many generations of students, and they became widely popular among the workers in many branches of production engineering. Also, the English edition quickly won recognition in many countries. Therefore, Jan M. Kaczmarek, as the first Polish man, became member of the International Institution of Production Engineering Research – CIRP in 1961. In the period 1973-1974, he was elected as president of this elite international organization, and next in 1990 he became its Honorary Fellow.

The period of Professor's activity both in the National Committee for Technical Progress and as Minister of Science, Higher Education and Technology resulted in the development of significance and utilitarianism of scientific achievements. A lot of complex research programmes were initiated at that time and international co-operation became more active. What is more, Polish inventions and scientific achievements were introduced. Professor's three terms (9 years) in the Polish Academy of Sciences resulted in the development of many research institutes of the Academy, and some of them gained the highest European recognition.

In 1978, the Professor started working at the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research, Polish Academy of Sciences, where he directed the Institution of Mechanical Systems (to 1990), and then in the area of surface-layer engineering (1990-1995). This period of time, Professor dedicated to research works and technological engineering of surface layer, particularly to the methodology of microstructure of surfaces shaped technologically with using the new stereo-metric estimation of smoothness and load-bearing capacity of the surface and the construction of an ion implanter.

Jan M. Kaczmarek was a member of Polish Society of Mechanical Engineers and Technicians from 1949. He had a lot of responsibilities there, yet his chairmanship in 1980-1987 is unusually important. In 1998 he was awarded the title of Honorary Chairman, and earlier he had become Honorary Member of the Society (1972) which means that he was widely recognized in engineering areas. The Professor was the Chairman of the Supervisory Council of the Polish Federation of Engineering Associations from 1972 to 1976, and next in 1984-1990 he was the Chairman of NOT. In 2010, he was awarded the Honorary Chairman of NOT. What is more, he was a member of other social-scientific organizations, such as Warsaw Scientific Society, Technical Culture Society, and Polish Association of Universalism. Also, he was one of the founders of Academy of Engineering in Poland (1992), which is similar to the National Engineering Academy in USA. He was its Vice-President (1994-99) and from 1998 he became its Honorary Member. He contributed also to a creative development of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cracow, being its active member from 1989.

Professor Kaczmarek promoted 29 Ph.D.'s in engineering and six of them became professors. It was from his initiative that "Advances of Technology of the Machines and Equipments" – quarterly to Polish Academy of Sciences was released. He was its editor in-chief to 2003.

For his great scientific and technical achievements, he obtained honorary doctorates from Chemnitz University of Technology (1973), Bauman Moscow State Technical University (1974), Poznan University of Technology (2001), and Koszalin University of Technology (2003). Also, he was elected a member of the National Engineering Academy in USA (1976), the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1977), the Royal Academy of Sciences, Literature, and Arts of Belgium (1978), and Central-European Academy of Sciences and Arts (1998).

It is worth mentioning about the French *Medaille des Palmes d'Or Academiques* and *Grand Officier de la Legion d'Honneur*. As far as Polish orders are concerned, Professor was awarded the *Polonia Restituta Commander's Cross*, *Polonia Restituta Officer's Cross*, *Polonia Restituta Knight's Cross*, a series of *Medals of Merit*, military medals, *Copernicus Medal*, and others.

Professor Kaczmarek remained faithful to his motto that states „everybody, who cares about the development of the civilization, should – to the largest extent and according to one’s abilities and possibilities – act creatively and should not skip any opportunities that come out on one’s path. Doing so, one will have a positive influence on activation of the entrepreneurship and will improve conditions favourable to using effectively the results of creativity”.

Professor Jan Marian Kaczmarek died on October, 18th, 2011 in Paris.

Goodbye My Dear Friend
Kazimierz E. Oczóś