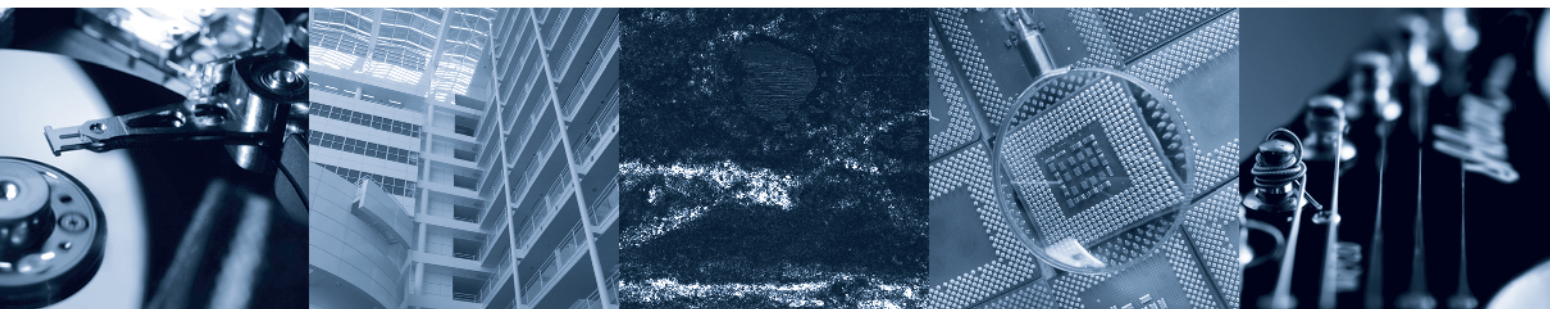




Volume 53
Issue 1
January 2012
Pages 1-64

Published since 1978
formerly as Archives of Materials Science
or Archiwum Nauki o Materiałach (in Polish)

Archives of Materials Science and Engineering



Editor-in-Chief Prof. Leszek A. Dobrzański

International Scientific Journal published monthly
by the World Academy of Materials
and Manufacturing Engineering

<http://www.archivesmse.org>



PUBLISHED SINCE 1978 – formerly as Archives of Materials Science or Archiwum Nauki o Materiałach (in Polish)

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Institute of Engineering Materials and Biomaterials of Silesian University of Technology, Gliwice, Poland

Financial support

The efforts to achieve the financial support of the Journal in 2012 from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Poland have begun.

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This Journal is sent to individual receivers from ca. 50 countries of the world and is delivered to the National Libraries and Universities and also to other scientific institutions in ca. 50 countries of the world. The electronic system of Reading Direct allows to access to the electronic version of that journal on-line, in the promotional period free of charge. This Journal is included in the reference list of the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education (9 points). The Journal is cited by Abstracting Services such as:



The procedure of its registration in the databases of Compendex, CiteSeer, GetCited, Web of science, Engineering Village, Public Knowledge Project, Edith Cowan University's Institutional Repository, Journals Online and Inspec has begun.

Journal Registration

The Journal is registered by the 1st Civil Department of the District Court in Gliwice, Poland at number 278.

Publisher



INTERNATIONAL
OCSCO
WORLD PRESS

International OCSCO World Press
ul. S. Konarskiego 18a/366,
44-100 Gliwice, Poland

e-mail: info@archivesmse.org

Bank account: Stowarzyszenie Komputerowej Nauki o Materiałach i Inżynierii Powierzchni

Bank name: ING Bank Śląski

Bank address: ul. Zwycięstwa 28, 44-100 Gliwice, Poland

Account number/IBAN CODE: PL76105012981000002300809767

Swift code: INGBPLPW

Gliwice – Sao Paulo – Athens – Osaka – Doha – Worcester – Auckland – Szczecin – Singapore

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Printed in Poland.

Dear Readers!

Over 5 years of publishing Archives of Materials Science and Engineering, the issue of which we give over to the P.T. Readers, a new unwritten tradition has been established at the onset of the next 5 years of publishing the Journal. Each issue begins with a short note from the Editor in Chief recommending reading one of the selected papers published in the journal together with a selected materialographic photo or sometimes another graphical symbol. Today we present a photo of one of the most distinguished professors of the Silesian University of Technology – Full Professor Gabriel Wróbel, DSc, PhD, MSc, Eng. He is a Deputy Director of the Institute of Engineering Materials and Biomaterials of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, a very active Fellow and Deputy of the Secretary General of the World Academy of Materials and Manufacturing Engineering and the Member of the Association of Computational Materials Science and Surface Engineering.



He celebrated his 60th anniversary on 20th January 2012

and was born in Siemianowice Śląskie. He lived in Bytom in 1953-1980 where he completed the First Degree State Music School in 1965 and performed in the *Bytom Nightingales* choir. In 1970 he completed the Secondary Technical School of Power Engineering in Bytom in the field of power engineering and started his university course at the Faculty of Mechanical and Power Engineering of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice. By being in touch with the Faculty's distinguished Professors such as Jan Szargut, Antoni Jakubowicz, Janusz Dierych, Józef Wojnarowski and many others his initial interest in physical and nuclear power engineering shifted to the field of mechanics and strength of materials. This was driven by a possibility of extending the curriculum of the studies as part of an individual field called applied mechanics. He was granted the degree of Master Engineer in 1975 and took up a doctoral course at the Institute of Heat Engineering of the Faculty of Mechanical and Power Engineering of the Silesian University of Technology he graduated from in 1977. He prepared his PhD theses entitled "Methods of linear algebra in the system formalisation of mechanical objects" under the supervision of Prof. Józef Wojnarowski, D.Sc. Eng. and defended it in 12th March 1982 in the discipline of "Mechanics" at the Faculty of Mechanical and Power Engineering of the Silesian University of Technology and was awarded the title of PhD. He defended his DSc theses on 24th January 1992 on "The lattice representation of the elastic medium for the numerical analysis of machines' bearing components" and the Council of the Faculty of Mechanical and Power Engineering decided to confer upon him a title of Doctor of Science. From September 1994 he was a head of the Division of Plastics Processing and Application of the Department of Machine Technology and from 2000 of the Department of Metal and Polymer Materials Processing. Since 2004 he has been heading the Division of Metal and Polymer Materials Processing of the Institute of Engineering Materials and Biomaterials at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the Silesian University of Technology. He is a Full Professor of Science since 25th September 2009. Since 2009 he has also been acting as the Deputy Director of the Institute of Engineering Materials and Biomaterials for Didactic and Research Affairs. In 2010 he was awarded the position of an Ordinary Professor of the Silesian University of Technology. In the beginning, the scientific activity and interests of Professor Gabriel Wróbel were related to a widely understood field of mechanics with special focus on the aspects applied in machine construction. Since 1994 Professor Gabriel Wróbel has also been interested in polymer materials and polymer-matrix composites. The scientific issues he is currently pursuing concern the impact of structural and material characteristics of cylindrical wound, laminated structures on long-term life at high temperatures; the use of carbon as a filler of polymer composites; optimisation of the viscoelastic deposition process of drawn polyethylene lining for the fabrication of dual-layer coatings and for reconstructing such coatings; the acoustic diagnostics of the condition of the selected composite materials in polymer matrix, subjected to ageing and fatigue processes. He is also involved in investigating composite materials undergoing the activity of corrosive environment. Another field of his interest are polymer materials recycling technologies, the functional characteristics of recyclates according to the secondary processing process parameters, recipes of recycle and the filtration process efficiency. The area of his current interest is the strength of polymer materials, rheology and plasticity theory of polymer composites, acoustic and thermovisual methods in diagnosing the processes of ageing and fatigue degradation of polymer materials, the material and strength parameters of new installation techniques; methods of optimum formation and structural synthesis of load-carrying structures. He created his own Scientific School. He supervised three completed PhD theses, with the next two pending and he has promoted many engineers and master engineers. He was also engaged in scientific and research efforts of the subteam of the technology foresight contractors in the field of polymer and FORSURF foresight dealing with investigating the development prospects of surface technologies in Poland. He is a member of the Scientific Committee and participates in the works of the Polymer Materials unit of the Materials Science Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences. As a deputy of the member of the Committee Supervising the Operational Programme Technical Assistance he is actively involved in the works of this body since 2007. He has been a Knight of the Cross of the Order of the Rebirth of Poland since 2010. He has held numerous industrial and scientific internships at home and abroad, including several times in Bilbao, Spain. He is respected in his working environment by his colleagues and students and at a domestic and international arena for his ethic values and exemplary attitude. He is a recognised Authority, with an extensive track record in the development of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice and the development of the field of polymer materials and polymer-matrix composite materials processing developed owing to his activity. Outside his work he is interested in the philosophical aspects of expressing time as a key to an attempt to understand the world and oneself. His main hobbies include winter sports, mountaineering, canoeing, sailing, travelling, popular and scientific literature, philosophy.

On the 60th birthday jubilee, Friends and Colleagues dedicate to Professor Gabriel Wróbel this special issue grouping several papers in the scientific areas he is interested in, and also wish all the best and all the success, further dynamic development of his scientific career, further achievements in his cooperation with his students, high spirits, happy family life and good health.

As usual I encourage P.T. Authors to publish their works in successive issues of the journal, wishing the interesting reading of those published in the given jubilee issue.

Prof. Leszek A. Dobrzanski M Dr hc
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