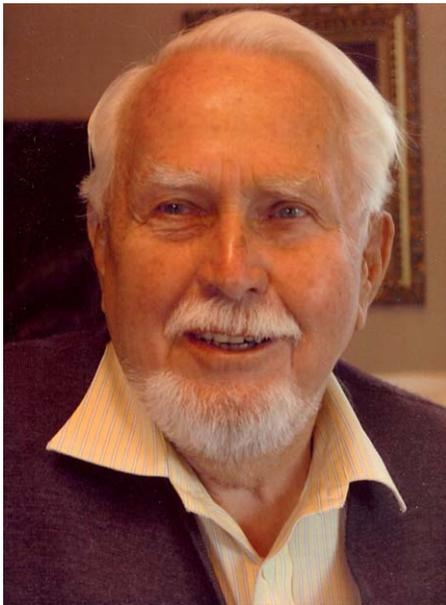


Obituary

M. Kleiber · E. Oñate

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Prof. Olgierd Cecil Zienkiewicz

Professor Olgierd C. Zienkiewicz (Olek) passed away in Swansea (UK) on January 2nd 2009.

Olek was a great scientist and an extraordinary person who enjoyed travelling to nearly every corner of the world spreading knowledge in the field of numerical methods and computational mechanics.

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The enormous legacy of Olek includes many scientific papers and books, several journals that he funded and edited and different international conferences he created which have become a reference in the world of computational engineering. We were very fortunate that he enthusiastically accepted to join the Editorial Board of ARCME since its creation in 1994 as one of the Advisory Editors. His continuous support and advice during many years has enormously helped to increase the quality, prestige and dissemination of the journal worldwide.

On a more personal basis we both had a special relationship with Olek. I (E. Oñate) had the opportunity to complete a Ph.D. in Swansea under Olek's supervision in the period 1975–78. Those were the days when the International Association for Computational Mechanics (IACM) was created by the initiative of Olek. Nowadays, the IACM, which I am proud to be the President, is the reference organization in its field grouping 37 organizations incorporating 55 countries in the world with interests on computational engineering and sciences.

As for myself (M. Kleiber) I also have no doubts that Olek greatly influenced my professional carrier even though I was not that lucky to have Olek as the supervisor of my Ph.D. Thesis. Because of the Polish links in Olek's family (he was born of a Polish father and English mother) and his entirely fluent command of the Polish language he was a frequent visitor to Poland for shorter or longer stays always rich in discussions on crucial current research issues. It was also very natural that among so many other distinctions he was elected a foreign member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and we are all proud that the prestigious medal of the Polish Association of Computational Mechanics bears his name.

The vitality of ARCME now entering on its second decade with an increasing scientific impact (Current Impact Factor =2.23) is perhaps the best homage that we can offer to Olek. His presence and advice will be very much missed but his scientific and personal legacy will remind vivid in our minds for ever.