

Preface

The Strength of Materials Laboratory of POLITEHNICA University in Timisoara celebrated in November 2008 its 85th anniversary. The Laboratory was officially opened in 1923, in the presence of the Governing King FERDINAND and Prime Minister I. C. BRATIANU. The laboratory was equipped with the support of the Rector of Politehnica School in Timisoara, professor Traian LALESCU, and Strength of Materials professor, C. C. TEODORESCU. The first tests attended by students were held in 1923, and the first student “*Laboratory notebook*” was published in 1924. In 1931, the laboratory hosted the visit of King CAROL the Second and Prime Minister N. IORGA.

Over the years, the Laboratory has developed considerably and now represents one of the main facilities for Strength of Materials research and teaching in the Western side of Romania. Special mention should be made of the important contributions in Strength of Materials and Fatigue - theoretical, experimental and teaching aspects - of Acad. Stefan NADASAN, Prof. Lazar BOLEANTU, Prof. Iosif HAJDU, Dr. Mircea RATIU, Prof. Tiberiu BABEU, Prof. Ionel DOBRE, Prof. Constantin CRISTUINEA Prof. Nicolae NEGUT, Prof. Ion DUMITRU.

In order to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the lab, POLITEHNICA University of Timisoara organized an international conference - „*Strength of Materials Laboratory at 85 years*”. The conference that brought together scientists from 12 countries represented a forum for the latest analytical, experimental and numerical developments in the field of Strength of Materials, Fracture Mechanics and Fatigue. The conference program consisted of five plenary sessions with key note lectures provided by the attendees and one poster session.

This volume is a collection of the papers presented at the „*Strength of Materials Laboratory at 85 years*” conference, held in Timisoara, Romania, during 21 - 22 November, 2008. The proceedings of the conference were structured in four parts: Metallic Materials, Composite Materials, Construction and Building Materials and Bio – Materials. The proceedings were published with the financial support of National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS) of the *Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Youth* through the Research for Excellence grant 202/20.07.2006.

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Editor
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