

Comment on the volume:

DOI: 10.13111/2066-8201.2010.2.4.29

RESEARCH TRENDS IN MECHANICS, Vol. 4

Editors: Ligia MUNTEANU, Veturia CHIROIU, Tudor SIRETEANU

Editura Academiei Române, București, 2010

The site www.imsar.ro of the Institute of Solid Mechanics of Romanian Academy (IMSAR) announces the issuance in the Publishing House of Romanian Academy (PHRA), over the past seven years, of no less than twelve collective volumes, entitled: *Proceedings of the Annual Symposium of the Institute of Solid Mechanics* – 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007; *Topics in Applied Mechanics*, vol. 1/2003, vol. 2/2004, vol. 3/2006; *Research Trends in Mechanics*, vol. 1/2007, vol. 2/2008, vol. 3/2009, vol. 4/2010. The thirteenth volume, entitled *Advance Engineering in Applied Mechanics*, issued in 2006, is curiously missing. Dr. Tudor Sireteanu and Dr. Veturia Chiroiu, reputed Romanian scientists, are the main Editors of these publications, that are, in fact, collections of less or more extended papers of the IMSAR researchers. Some contributions written by members of universities and research institutes from Romania and abroad are also present.

Let us shortly introduce the volume mentioned in the title, the freshest in the series. An Editors Foreword evokes the memory of the Academician Radu Voinea, recently passed on. The volume collection consists of sixteen so-called chapters, independent of each other. Here are some of them: *On the multifunctional nanofibers based on carbon nanotubes and auxetic foams*, by Miruna Beldiman, Ligia Munteanu, Mihaela Poienariu; *Natural period of the building nonlinear systems*, by Dinu Bratosin; *On computational dynamics of tool-soil interactions*, by Carmen Debeleac; *On the phenomenological universality with application to mechanics*, by Ligia Munteanu, Pier Paolo Delsanto, Antonio Gliozzi; *A review on the vibration isolation and localization of the energy*, by Iuliana Popescu, Cristian Rugina, Cornel Secara, Stefania Donescu; *Dynamic behaviour of structures with hysteretic characteristics. Application to seismic engineering*, by Tudor Sireteanu, Marius Giuclea, Viorel Serban; *Decentralized control of large-scale systems*, by Adrian Toader, Tudor Sireteanu, Veturia Chiroiu, Dan Dumitriu. These papers and reports represent consacrated research groups of IMSAR in areas such as dynamics of systems and elastic structures and methods and strategies for robotics and mechatronics.

As it is known, the heart of any review must be an assessment of the book. However, we will only discuss how well the book has achieved its goal. Obviously, the purpose of the book seems to be achieved, as it serves to put into practice a “strategy” applied in these years, when evaluating the research institutions is dependent on the scores derived from the number of academic publications issued (articles, books, scientific papers). “Publish or perish” is the slogan haunting throughout the scientific world and therefore among our researchers working in public institutions. So it is that the number of books and articles have got to grow obsessively and to prevail in the expense of quality of the research and its rigorous evaluation. So it is that ten years ago, for example, a project of a scientific-technical book for the PHRA had to pass through a fine sieve to promote the quality. Very interesting to mention, the manuscript had to pass a report on the adequacy and fluency of language, and this report must be done, not insignificantly, by an Academician of the Philological

Department of the Academy. It's hard to conceive that these rigours might be maintained in today's economic austerity and pressure of the avalanche of requests for publication (do not forget that PHRA is the only prestigious "state publishing house"). In chasing quantity at any price, the result can only be the dilution of the scientific content of publications.

On the other hand (every medal has two sides!), the positive lesson offered by the performance of the IMSAR is that of perseverance and seriousness in achieving the intended purpose. Why would INCAS not follow this example, of collecting (and selecting!) its own and others' research works, to print them in volume-books, at a traditional and prestigious publisher, such as PHRA, volumes that would be representative for the research in the field – fluid mechanics, aerodynamics, flight dynamics, aerospace structures etc.?

Ioan URSU