

Journal of
Mechanics of
Materials and Structures

PREFACE

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Volume 3, N° 6

June 2008



mathematical sciences publishers

PREFACE

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The International Symposia on Trends in Continuum Physics have been held every three years since 1998. The first three events took place at the Poznan University of Technology in Poznan, Poland. The fourth and most recent one took place in Lviv, Ukraine, for the first time outside the European Union. All the symposia were jointly planned and organized by B. T. Maruszewski (Poznan University of Technology), W. Muschik (Technische Universität Berlin) and A. Radowicz (Kielce University of Technology).

One of the main aims of those meetings has been to bring together scientists from Eastern Europe working in different fields of continuum physics, widely understood, as well as those from Western and Central European countries, in order to extend their cooperation and to create new connections and acquaintances.

Special emphasis was placed on the representation of various concepts applied to different physical fields interacting with each other. The scope of the Symposia includes fundamentals of continuum physics, new trends in thermodynamics and in electrodynamics, physics of materials (encompassing defective crystals, ferroic crystals, liquid crystals, molecular crystals, high-temperature superconductors, semiconductors, plasma, polymers, amorphous media, smart materials, and anomalous phenomena such as auxetics and negative thermal expansion), biophysics, multiphase systems, and multiscale problems.

The chairs of the Fourth International Symposium on Trends in Continuum Physics (TRECOP'07), where most of the articles in this issue were presented, would like to acknowledge support by the sponsoring institutions who made the meeting possible. They are:

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