

## **XV Symposium on Advanced Problems and Methods in Fluid Mechanics**

**Jachranka, September 6-12, 1981**

OUR FIRST Symposium on Advanced Problems and Methods in Fluid Mechanics took place in 1954 about the time when the first issue of Journal of Fluid Mechanics has been published.

Recently in the 25-th anniversary volume of J.F.M its originator, George BATCHELOR, our close friend who helped us in the development of our symposia wrote:

“Fluid mechanics is only a small corner of physical science. But the subject is large enough for a person to spend a lifetime happily roaming within its boundaries. It has an unusual feature of embracing pure and applied science, and it spreads into oceanography, astrophysics, physical chemistry, biology and all branches of engineering. Any conclusions reached for fluid mechanics are likely therefore to have some validity for other fields”.

The aim of scientific gatherings, like ours, is in many respects similar to that of scientific journals. These journals were founded when it became obvious that new links of communications should be added to the already existing ones, private letters and meetings.

These personal contacts could not of course, be fully replaced by journals and retain their great importance. Published papers are like a nicely dressed dish served in the dining room. When, on the other hand, we meet in person, we try to present the process of the mental work, to show a part of the kitchen, where the dish is prepared. And, of course, this type of communication where both our efforts and our results are displayed, is much more personal. This is what we are here now for.

There is, however, also another important feature of scientific gatherings. They bring together scholars from many countries, facilitate better understanding between people from places far apart, people grown up in very different societies.

The discussions about Poland's geographical situation have been going on as long as our country exists. However there is little chance, that our location will be changed in the future and we have to live where we are, between the Carpatian mountains and the Baltic coast, right at the crossroads of Europe. But our permanent and unchangeable location offers us a unique chance to contribute to strengthening the links between East and West of the Old and New Continents. We are sure that our previous meetings have greatly promoted this opportunity by providing adequate surroundings for mutual discussions between scientists from socialist and non-socialist countries.

Those who spent these few memorable days in Jachranka shared with us, dwellers of this land, our day to day worries and learned about our great hopes for the future. All these reflections of an external life were with us without asking for being invited.

We are most obliged to all participants who decided to join our meeting in spite of expected difficulties and rumours about our everyday life.

The Symposium seems to indicate that the field of our common interest, fluid mechanics, is now, after a period of laminar development, entering a transition period to some turbulent regime. The great general lectures and contributed papers witness a large number of new unexpected results and unknown paths, often destroying the picture we formed in our minds and got accustomed to.

We would like to thank very cordially all speakers, chairmen and participants for helping in our endeavour to make our Symposium interesting and successful.

*W. Fiszdon, R. Herczyński*