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**OBITUARY**

**Ewald Werner**

## **Obituary to Professor Horst Lippmann**

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Horst Lippmann, born on May 7, 1931 in Dresden, studied abstract mathematics and theoretical physics at the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald from 1949 to 1953, where he completed his PhD thesis for the topologist W. Rinow and in 1955 was awarded the title Dr. rer. nat. At the Research Institute of Metal Forming in Zwickau he began to concentrate on mechanical engineering, in particular plastomechanics, which remained his most important field of work up to his death; a field which he significantly coined. In 1957 Lippmann transferred to Hannover to the Institute of Mechanics led by Eduard Pestel, where he also acquired his *venia legendi* in the subject of mechanics. In 1961 he was conferred a Privatdozent. Together with colleagues of Pestel, in particular Oskar Mahrenholtz, he became involved in plastomechanics to make up for the deficits in German research. At the same time his active cooperation in the research group for metal forming of the German Iron and Steel Institute (VDEh) also began, of which he was a member for more than 40 years.

In 1965 Horst Lippmann relocated to the Technische Universität Braunschweig as full professor at the Institute B of Mechanics and in 1971 he took over the direction of the Institute of Mechanics and Mechanics of Materials of the Universität Karlsruhe. Since 1975 he led the Institute A for Mechanics at the Technische Universität München, which he supervised together with the State Office of Material Testing for Mechanical Engineering until his retirement in 1996.

Horst Lippmann was highly esteemed as a researcher and an academic teacher and, due to his friendly nature much liked. He was an author of widespread textbooks and monographs. In 1967 he authored the

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Professor Horst Lippmann, Professor Emeritus of Mechanics at the Technische Universität München and former editor of the Archive of Applied Mechanics from 1986 to 1996, passed away on August 9, 2008

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E. Werner (✉)  
Lehrstuhl für Werkstoffkunde und Werkstoffmechanik, Technische Universität München, Fakultät für Maschinenwesen,  
Boltzmannstrasse 15, 85748 Garching, Germany  
E-mail: jahn@wkm.mw.tum.de

book “Plastomechanik der Umformung metallischer Werkstoffe” together with O. Mahrenholtz and in 1968 the textbook “Schwingungslehre” was published. Plastomechanics was the subject matter of 1977 in the edited two-volume compilation “Engineering Plasticity” in which he contributed immensely as well as in his book “Mechanik des Plastischen Fließens” (1981). Lippmann’s steady interest in mathematics manifests itself impressively in his book “Angewandte Tensorrechnung” (1992, 1996). From his pen originated an additional 150 scientific publications, which dealt with the plasticity of granular media as well as the plastomechanics of forming. His interest in this topic led Lippmann to the scientific observation of rockbursts, a topic that he pursued in almost 30 publications. In particular these publications contributed to the 1985 award of the title Dr. mont. h.c. distinguished by the Montanuniversität Leoben. Apart from this honorable doctorate, his scientific services and achievements appointed him into the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften (1988), into the Russian Academy of Sciences (1993) and into the Deutsche Akademie der Technikwissenschaften (2002). Furthermore he received an honorary membership into the Polish Society for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (1991), received an honorable medal “Marine Drinov” from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1996) as well as the Materials and Mechanics Prize from the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers (1997).

The time after his retirement also showed his persistent scientific nature. Professor Lippmann mentored further graduate students and wrote several overview articles on the topic of forming of slender parts, participated actively in the faculty and institute and was to his successor a profound and reserved advisor.

Representative of his honorable activities for the scientific community, he served as dean and vice-dean in Braunschweig, Karlsruhe and Munich. For many years he was rector at the International Centre for Mechanical Sciences (CISM) in Udine, Italy and he was listed as a long-time member of the board of trustees at the Erich Schmid Institute of Materials Science of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Horst Lippmann was associated with the Mathematischen Forschungsinstitut in Oberwolfach for more than 50 years. Here he founded the conference series “Mechanics of Materials”, organized together at first with George Herrmann, later with Reinhold Kienzler and the author of these lines.

Professor Lippmann’s scientific achievements were closely intertwined with his inspiring career as an academic teacher. More than 10,000 students completed his courses in mechanics and he led over 50 young researchers to their doctorate degree.

Horst Lippmann was married for almost 50 years to his wife Martina. Two sons were born out of their marriage. He spent half of his last 3 years together with his wife at their vacation home on Crete, where he unexpectedly passed away. The funeral took place in the close-circle of his family in Tutzing. His family, colleagues, students and friends miss Horst Lippmann much and will keep his memory in great honor.