

Short Note

JERZY BARZYKOWSKI – THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Jerzy Barzykowski was born on the 11th of February 1930 in the town of Kielce, Poland. During World War II, in spite of the strict constraints imposed by German authorities on education in Polish schools, he attended clandestine classes. From 1943 to 1945 he actively supported the underground scouting organisation (*Szare Szeregi*) by participating in anti-German actions on behalf of Home Army Intelligence. In 1948, Jerzy Barzykowski entered the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy in Kraków (currently: AGH University of Science and Technology), Faculty of Communication Sciences; next, he moved to Warsaw University of Technology, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, where he received the first engineering degree in 1951, and the M.Sc. degree in 1954. In 1950, being still a student, he was employed by Professor Witold Kotowski as a teaching assistant at the Chair of Electrical Engineering Fundamentals. In 1952, he decided to start his academic career at the newly established Military Academy of Technology in Warsaw (WAT) by joining the staff of the Chair of Electrical Engineering. In the period 1955–1963, he also worked as a teacher at a secondary technical school of communication technology for adults, since 1959 as a vice-head. After receiving the Ph.D. degree from WAT in 1967, he was appointed to the position of Reader in 1970; after receiving the D.Sc. degree from WAT in 1979, he was promoted to the position of Professor in 1990, and to the position of Full Professor in 1992. Jerzy Barzykowski served at WAT as: Director of a Research Unit (1964–1972), Director of the Chair of Electrotechnology (1972–1975), Deputy Director of the Institute of Instrumentation Science and Automatic Control (1975–1981), and Director of that Institute (1981–1995). In 2005, he retired from full-time employment after a 55-year career.



During the time of his outstanding academic service, Jerzy Barzykowski lectured on electromagnetic field theory, fundamentals of electrical engineering, theory of circuits and systems, theory of signal processing, electrical metrology, and experimentation techniques. He has authored 15 course books. His research interests have been concentrated on measurement and instrumentation. In the 1970s and 1980s, together with his collaborators, Jerzy Barzykowski made several important contributions to the theory of dynamical weighing. The results of his work, including several patented inventions, led to the construction of the first Polish band-conveyor balance. By the end of 1970s, his interests evolved towards measurement instrumentation for medical applications. His research work in this area resulted in the development of a range of novel systems used widely in clinical practice, in particular in the fields of orthopaedics, traumatology and rehabilitation. Some of his achievements were awarded with the Gold Medal and Honourable Mention at the 44th Chamber for Innovation in Brussels (1995) and with the Bronze Medal at the Chamber for Innovation in Geneva (1996). From 1993 to 2004, Jerzy Barzykowski was involved in the work of the State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN) as Chairman of the T10 section on measurement science and technology, and as Member of the KBN Board of Directors.

Jerzy Barzykowski has authored or co-authored more than 100 papers, numerous books and research reports. Many of his innovative solutions have been patented. He has been advisor of 12 Ph.D. students. He has reviewed more than 150 grant proposals and over 65 Ph.D. or D.Sc. theses. Therefore, his achievements have been recognized by numerous awards. He received, moreover: the Award of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Award of the Polish Federation of Engineering Associations (NOT), the Award of the Ministry of Mining and Energy, the Award of the Polish Academy of Science (PAN), as well as 19 awards of the President of WAT. He is also the recipient of the following State distinctions: the Officer's Cross and Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, the Gold Cross and Silver Cross of Merit, the Medal of the Commission of National Education, the Medal and Title of the Outstanding Teacher of the Polish People's Republic, "the Tempest Operation" Commemorative Decoration, the Home Army Cross, the Partisan Cross, the Veteran of Battles for Independence Decoration, and numerous decorations for outstanding professional work.

In all his professional roles – as a researcher, academic teacher, university- and State-level administrator – Jerzy Barzykowski combined his passion, diligence and responsibility with healthy optimism. He realised very early that steady progress towards modern metrology in Poland would be impossible without extensive involvement of young scientists. He has put, therefore, a lot of effort in their formation combining scientific skills with a sense of duty and responsibility. I feel particularly indebted to him for being my unrivalled master during my service to KBN from 1993 to 2004.

Jerzy Barzykowski is an exceptionally cheerful, friendly and good-tempered person. He is married, has 3 children (Małgorzata, Marek, Marta), 7 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. He is interested in history of the Polish November and January uprisings. His favourite leisure activities are tourism and angling .

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