

PROF. STOJAN SEDMAK

(9. NOVEMBER 1929. – 2. NOVEMBER 2014.)

During the preparation for the ESIS Hungarian National Committee related to the restructuring of meeting (7 November 2014) the devastating news came, the internationally known Stojan SEDMAK left us forever from this life. Personally, I could write a lot of about our personal meetings, the wisdom of his outstanding expertise, the life-philosophy of one of the professional leader personality of Southeast Europe, our lengthy conversations in Belgrade, Miskolc or at Szögi wine-cellar, in Sheffield, or about the impression gained from the events of the European Congress on Fracture (ECF), activities of our common co-workers, and of at least 30 years retrospective of our personal relationship and friendship. About the irrevocable fact, his dear co-worker, Ljubica Milović informed us by email on November 3, 2014, at 9:30 in the following way:

‘Dear Friends,

It is with deep personal regret that I inform you that my dearest professor Stojan SEDMAK passed away yesterday morning. Stojan died after a long struggle with cancer, the funeral will be held on Wednesday, November 5, and commemoration on Saturday, November 8, just one day before his 85th birthday, Ljubica’

This bad news is always projecting smaller or larger mosaic images and series of memories through in the human brain. I feel the same, which is started from the latest plans back in time. In Belgrade at the *NT2F14, Belgrade conference* in 2014, from 15 to 18 September¹ with my colleagues Szabolcs Szávai and the major members of the conference series, we have planned in full agreement that each program in the future will be organized as an event of presenting the life-work of an important personality. It was quite obvious, and all participants agreed with the proposal that the first and also the ‘foundation stone’ publication should be related to the name of Prof. Stojan Sedmak, who would have celebrated his 85th birthday on November 9, 2014. The members of the editorial board of 50-150 pages planned publication were elected and began their work. Despite of the disturbing news of Prof. Sedmak’s surging health status, it has been suggested that a personal meeting can also take place at the beginning of November in Kecskemét, Hungary. Unfortunately all this could have not happened. Thus I can look back to the past only relying on memories, to our meetings and those possibilities.

¹ New Trends in Fatigue and Fracture – NT2F14, <http://irc.inovacionicentar.rs/nt2f14>

Prof. Stojan Sedmak, who is an important professional personality of the former Yugoslavia on the fracture mechanics disciplines, was the regular participant of international conferences organized by European Structural Integrity Society every two years. These events were the following:

- ECF 1 Compiègne, France, 1976
1st European Colloquium on Fracture
- ECF 2 Darmstadt, Germany, Oct 9-11, 1978
2nd European Colloquium on Fracture
- ECF 3 London, United Kingdom, Sep 8-10, 1980
‘Fracture and Fatigue’
- ECF 4 Leoben, Austria, Sep 22-24, 1982
‘Fracture and the Role of Microstructure’
- ECF 5 Lisbon, Portugal, Sep 17-21, 1984
‘Life Assessment of Dynamically Loaded Materials and Structures’
- ECF 6 Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Jun 15-20, 1986
‘Fracture Control of Engineering Structures’
- ECF 7 Budapest, Hungary, Sep 19-23, 1988
‘Failure Analysis – Theory and Practice’
- ECF 8 Turin, Italy, Oct 1-5, 1990
‘Behaviour and Design of Materials and Structures’
- ECF 9 Varna, Bulgaria, Sep 21-25, 1992
‘Reliability and Structural Integrity of Advanced Materials’
- ECF 10 Berlin, Germany, Sep 20-23, 1994
‘Structural Integrity: Experiments, Models and Applications’
- ECF 11 Poitiers, Futuroscope, France, Sep 3-6, 1996
‘Mechanisms and Mechanics of Damage and Failure of Engineering Materials and Structures’
- ECF 12 Sheffield, United Kingdom, Sep 14-18, 1998
‘Fracture from Defects’
- ECF 13 San Sebastian, Spain, Sep 6-9, 2000
‘Fracture Mechanics: Applications and Challenges’
- ECF 14 Krakow, Poland, Sep 8-13, 2002
‘Fracture Mechanics Beyond 2000’
- ECF 15 Stockholm, Sweden, Aug 11-13, 2004
‘Advanced Fracture Mechanics for Life and Safety Assessments’
- ECF 16, Alexandroupolis, Greece, Jul 3-7, 2006
‘Failure Analysis of Nano- and Engineering Materials and Structures’
- ECF 17 Brno, Czech Republic, Sept 2-5, 2008
‘Multilevel Approach to Fracture of Materials, Components and Structures’
- ECF 18 Dresden, Germany, Aug 29 - Sep 03, 2010
‘Fracture of Materials and Structures from Micro to Macro Scale’
- ECF 19 Kazan, Russia, Aug 26-31, 2012
‘Fracture Mechanics for Durability, Reliability and Safety’

- ECF20 Trondheim, Norway, Jun 30 - Jul 04, 2014 'Fracture at all scales'
- ECF 21 Catania, Italy, Jun20-24, 2016 'Fracture and Safety'

By the italic letters are noticed those events at which both of us participated. By the historical fact it need to be noticed, that the organization of ECF9 belonged to Prof. Stojan Sedmak in Belgrade, but by the 'Yugoslavian occurrences' the ECF9 was hosted in Varna, organized by Stefan Vodenicharov. That was the evaluation's period, the first 'east-west R and D activity' (PECO program) financed by the Brussels' administration. Both of us, Prof. Vodenicharov and I participated in this evaluation procedure. Similar places of our personal meetings with Prof. Stojan Sedmak were during conferences and events organized with my colleagues. The most important are the following:

- International Colloquium an Mechanical Fatigue of Metals in Mályi (1983) and Miskolc (1994), Hungary,
- Teaching and Education in Fatigue and Fracture, organized together with Prof. Peter Rossmannith, Vienna (1993) and Miskolc (1994),
- NT2F conference series:
 - NT2F1 Metz (France) - April 2001
 - NT2F2 Hammamet (Tunisia) - May 2003
 - NT2F3 Ningbo (China) - November 2003
 - NT2F4 Aleppo (Syria) - May 2004
 - NT2F5 Bari (Italy) - May 2005
 - NT2F6 Kranj (Slovenia) - May 2006
 - NT2F7 Miskolc (Hungary) - May 2007
 - NT2F8 Ankarán (Slovenia) - October 2008
 - NT2F9 Belgrade (Serbia) - October 2009
 - NT2F10 Metz (France) - August 2010
 - NT2F11 Bari (Italy) - July 2011
 - NT2F12 Brasov (Romania) - May 2012
 - NT2F13 Moscow (Russia) – May 2013
 - NT2F14 Belgrade (Serbia) - September 2014

Prof. Stojan Sedmak, as an excellent teacher realized, very soon the importance of fracture mechanics in the assessing of the permissible operating conditions of structures. Therefore he started a series of 'Summer Schools' providing international participation already in 1980 together with Prof. Michael Wnuk² (1936-2014). These proceedings have been continuously published since 1987 with IFMASS (International Fracture Mechanics Summer Schools) acronym, by GOŠA Institute, Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, and/or the Structural Integrity and Life Society (DIVK). The latter was also established by Prof. Stojan Sedmak on March 6, 2001, and the current chairman is his son, Prof. Aleksandar Sedmak.

² See the WebSite of

<http://divk.inovacionicentar.rs/ivk/ivk14/057-IVK1-2014-News%201.pdf>

By reviewing the downloadable contents of IFMASS conferences³, programs, we can obtain a true picture about how complex and enormous was Prof. Sedmak's work in the dissemination of practical application of fracture mechanics principles. Probably the number of Internet search results (19.500), or appreciating comments, notes in 'LinkedIn' community site in connection with colleague Miloš D.⁴, and his son, the vice-president of ESIS⁵, the appreciating words of actual president of DIVK can perceive all that which is intrinsically related to a busy life and in its professional content.

To say goodbye is always a very difficult and painful for everybody because during our activities we are thinking on the 'Present' and never for the 'Past'. However, everybody confronts once that the 'Present' changes over into the 'Past' in both our earthly existence and in scientific activities

Dear Prof. SEDMAK, dear Stojan!

On behalf of the Hungarian experts, friends, allow me to say goodbye with one of the photos from you, which was taken at the IFMASS event, and where each participant thought only to the 'Present!'
Rest in peace!



Prof. László Tóth, DSc

³ See: <http://irc.inovacionicentar.rs/book-shop>

⁴ See: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/In-Memoriam-Prof-Stojan-Sedmak-4991909.S.5937495340360957956>

⁵ <http://www.structuralintegrity.eu/esis/component/content/article?id=84>