

Editorial



„Genius loci” – special virtues and meaning of a place. The World Academy of Materials and Manufacturing Engineering has a few such places, which are especially important for it. Surely Gliwice – with a seat of the WAMME Academy and the Silesian University of Technology which has taken it under its roof, giving the seat, belongs to them. A special role for the WAMME Academy plays Zakopane, a winter capital of Poland. A beautiful town at the foot of a charming and dangerous range of Tatra mountains and a sleeping knight – a wonderful mountain Giewont, watching over the town. The Academy was established here and the meetings of the General Assembly of the WAMME Academy and their main International Scientific Conferences on Achievements in Mechanical and Materials Engineering and Contemporary Achievements in Mechanics, Manufacturing and Materials Science have taken place here already for several times. Those conferences took place in Cracow, a city having a special meaning for world culture, including on the Wawel Hill, in the former seat of the Polish Kings and in the Collegium Novum of the Jagiellonian University, the oldest Polish academic university. The important meaning for the WAMME Academy has also Wisła – a pearl of the Silesian Beskidas, Rydzyna with its castle of the King Stanisław Leszczyński, historical Gdańsk with its City Hall in the Old Town and Sopot with the oldest pier at the Baltic Sea and a historical Grand Hotel. In all those places during the last 16 years AMME and CAM'S conferences took place, that is why those places became close to WAMME fellows and its sympathizers of whom a few thousands participated in those events, including ca. 2 thousands from ca. 50 countries from all world continents.

This year it was decided to broaden the circles of places having an important meaning for the WAMME Academy. The 16th AMME'2008 conference will take place in Ryn on Mazuria in North-East Poland, recognised as one of the most attractive tourist and landscape regions in Europe. The Mazuria District is a part of the Polish East Baltic Lake District between the Old Prussian Lowland and the Ilawa Lake District in the west, the Lithuanian Lake District in the east and the North Mazuria Lowland in the south. The lake district includes rows of terminal moraines of three main phases of Vistula glacial period, what decides about the varied lie of the land, including ranges of moraine hills, depression without ebbs, kames, eskers and in the southern part also saunder fields. In the makeup of the Mazuria Lake District, the Region of Great Mazurian Lakes, commonly called as the District of Thousand Lakes belong, although in fact over 2700 of those lakes are of 1 ha in area each, and numerous lakes taking ca. ok. 7% of the area of that lake district. There are among others 2 biggest lakes in Poland – Śniardwy and Mamry, and also others like: Niegocin, Nidzkie, Roś and Tały. Rivers having their sources in the Mazuria Lake District (Omulew, Rozoga, Szkwa, Pisa, Elk) and Pregola (yna with Guber, Angrapa) belong to a river basin of Narva. The most valuable natural complexes are the Mazuria Landscape Park, separated as regions of protected landscape, taking the area of ca. 40 000 ha, including ca.18 000 ha of forest and ca. 15 000 ha of water with Mamry and Śniardwy Lakes. Moreover, in the area of the Mazuria Lake District there are 114 nature reserves. There are over thousand monumental trees, among which there are among others: Royal Oaks in Ruciane and the Oak over Mukre on the lake shore. There are 139 erratic blocks, of 19-metre-perimeters, and fields of those blocks, called "Fuledzki Horn" and "Dobieński Horn" and "Bachmanowo" are protected as reserves. In the region of Mazuria there are many navigational routes mainly for yacht tourism and also for tourist and leisure cruises, among others: Giżycko – Węgorzewo. Giżycko – Mikołajki – Ruciane Nida, Mikołajki – Pisz and Mikołajki – Ryn, and also numerous kayak routes, among others: Krutynia river that is streams joining a few dozen of lakes and Sapina river beginning from the south bank of Kruklin Lake.

The Conference will take place in the historical walls of Teutonic Knights Castle in Ryn, situated in the beautiful hill between Rynskie and Olów Lakes. That medieval stronghold was built in stages and in the past it looked in a completely different way than at present. The oldest information about the Teutonic castle which gave the beginning to the settlement and the later town comes from the chronicles of Wigand from Marburg dated 1377. The first phase of the building is dated for the second decade of the 14th century till 1376. The second phase of the building began in 1377 by founding encircling walls, 4.5 m thick and becoming narrow to 2.5 m, on orthogonal projection of 44 m x 52 m, with a huge settlement outside castle walls. Two wings: south-eastern and north-eastern were planned then (southern and northern ones were 56.5 m long, and eastern and western ones – 44.8 m and their internal width equaled 17 m). On the other sides that quadrilateral was

closed with curtain walls and an untypical square tower situated in the western corner. In 1391 Fryderyk von Wallenrod – Konrad Wallenrod's brother, the Great Master of the Teutonic Order became the first commander in Ryn.

Then the conversion of the Castle was made, among others in a basement creating a huge room with a cross-vaulting, on the first floor the Chapel with distinguished windows with the chapel house and a flat of the commander being next to it and the armoury situated above it. The highest storey was surrounded by defensive porches and the communication in the wing was ensured by storeyed cloister. In the south-eastern side of the Castle there was a settlement inside castle walls, and all was surrounded by a moat watered from Olów Lake.

In 1525 after the liquidation of the Teutonic Order in Ryn there was the seat of the office of a starost of the Duchy of Prussia in Ryn and it was converted, and then again in the 17th century when the south-western wing with the gate and the north-western wing, and then yet a few times. In the 19th century the Castle became a private possession and after the next conversion on 5th August 2006 the Hotel was opened in it.

It is the second biggest building in Poland of that type, situated in an undulating terrain, among fabulous lakes meandering sometimes in long channels, full of wonderful bays and peninsulas.

Each time the Conference on Achievements in Mechanical and Materials Engineering is an occasion to meet many specialists from the mentioned thematic fields from very many countries of the World. Surely, it will be the same this year. The best papers prepared by the delegates of that conference will be published in scientific journals. Nothing can be replaced by scientific discussions and disputes and visions of new scientific inquiries which usually takes place during meetings of outstanding scientists from the whole World. The Conference is accompanied as usual

by the General Assembly of the World Academy of Materials and Manufacturing Engineering WAMME, and also the expected handing of Honorary Awards of Professor Fryderyk Staub Golden Owl for the most active scientists cooperating with the Polish scientific societies and also Professor Jan Adamczyk awards for outstanding young scientists for the best PhD theses which was established one year ago. The AMME'2008 Conference is accompanied by annual meetings of the Materials Science and Engineering Commission of the Branch of the Polish Academy of Science and also other important accompanying events: this year among others the 14th International Scientific Conference on Contemporary Achievements in Mechanics, Manufacturing and Materials Science CAM'S'2008. I wish all the delegates the nice impressions from the stay in Poland and on hospitable Mazuria, fruitful scientific debates and new constant relationships of scientific cooperation. Of course, as usual I invite the conference delegates for the preparation of papers, mainly full ones, which fulfill high editorial requirements in order to share with P.T. Readers of the Journal AMME hoping that they will fulfil their expectations. The Journal is constantly at the disposal both of P.T. Authors and P.T. Readers.



Gliwice, in May 2008

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