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Journal of Sound and Vibration 263 (2003) 961–962

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JOURNAL OF  
SOUND AND  
VIBRATION

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## Preface

This special issue includes papers presented at the symposium honoring Professor Arthur W. Leissa's 70th birthday that took place at the US National Congress of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in June 2002 at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia. Thirty-nine papers, dealing with various aspects of applied mechanics, were presented in seven sessions by leading international authorities that are also friends of Art. A photograph taken at the banquet held during the symposium is also shown.



The symposium was very successful and as a tribute to Art, we decided to publish some of the papers presented in special issues of two archival journals; namely the *Journal of Sound and Vibration* and the *International Journal of Solids and Structures*.

The eight papers in this issue document some of the advances in vibration of plates, thin layers and structures.

The diversity of the topics covered in this special issue, and in the symposium, reflects the breadth of contributions of Art to the field of applied mechanics. A brief account of his contribution to the field is given subsequently. We trust that the readers of the journal will benefit from the new ideas and results presented in the papers.

Also, we take this opportunity to congratulate Art for his invaluable contributions to the field of applied mechanics, to thank him for his warm friendship, and to wish him many more years of happy, healthy and professionally fulfilling life.

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