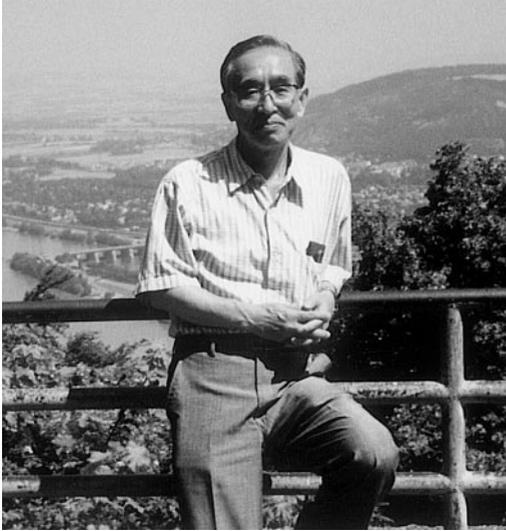




PREFACE



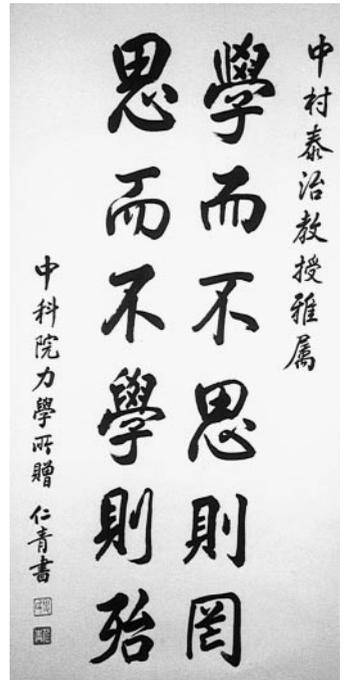
Prof. Y. Nakamura, at Leopard Hill, Vienna, 1994

THIS SPECIAL ISSUE of the *Journal of Fluids and Structures* is dedicated to the memory of Professor Yasuharu Nakamura, an eminent scholar and dedicated researcher and, for many years until his death in May 1996, an Associate Editor of this journal.

Professor Nakamura was distinguished for the high standards of his work, both in terms of the technical quality of his research and in its presentation. A cultured man, his favourite dictum was one of the aphorisms of life by Confucius, gracing the bottom of this page, which may loosely be translated as follows: “To learn without thinking is shallow (or superficial), while to think without learning is abstract and dogmatic”, thus exhorting the pursuit of

knowledge and wisdom, without neglecting the practical dimension of things. In all the realms in which he was involved, Professor Nakamura’s unexpected and untimely passing is lamented, and his energy and wisdom missed.

This Special issue is devoted to the area of research in which Professor Nakamura specialized, namely *Bluff-Body Fluid Dynamics*. His contributions have been enormous. In particular, one can single out (i) his investigations into the mechanisms of generation of complex fluid-dynamic forces in basic structural sections, such as 2-D rectangular prisms, circular cylinders and H-shaped sections, and (ii) the response of bluff bodies with such cross-sectional shapes to transverse flows; in both cases, mainly through precise wind tunnel tests. Some formulae for evaluating the reduced flow velocity for the onset of vortex-induced vibration and flutter of bluff bodies that he had proposed are still in practical use. Furthermore, at a more fundamental level, one must mention his discovery of the existence of a galloping instability for 2-D bluff-rectangular prisms at a lower reduced velocity range than the resonance due to von Kármán vortex shedding, and also his precise discussion of the significant effect of turbulence scale in bluff-body aerodynamics.



Sixteen papers have been contributed to this Special Issue; we are very grateful to all the authors for their worthwhile and topical contributions. It is hoped that this issue will constitute a milestone in bluff-body fluid dynamics, being therefore a fitting tribute to Yasuharu Nakamura. These papers collectively constitute a positive evidence of progress and an indication of future developments in this area. We are certain that this issue will be valuable to all those who study or who are interested in Wind Engineering and in Bluff-Body Aero- and Hydrodynamics.

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