



IN MEMORIAM A.D. DIMAROGONAS (1938–2000)

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This memorial tribute to the late Professor Andrew D. Dimarogonas is in two parts. The first part is a brief account of his life and his professional career and achievements. The second part is a bibliography of his publications.

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1. HIS LIFE AND CAREER

Andrew D. Dimarogonas (1938–2000) was widely recognized as a distinguished authority in various specialities of mechanical engineering. He made important contributions to the mechanical design and vibrations. His last appointment was as W. Palm Professor of Mechanical Design and the Director of the Manufacturing Program in the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Washington University, St. Louis, MO.

Born in Piraeus, Greece, in 1938, he received the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering degree from the Athens National University of Technology (NUT) in 1961, having been awarded a national scholarship. Between 1956 and 1961 he was a union and political activist, elected to leadership positions in local and national student unions and the Youth Division of the United Democratic Left party (EDA).

He served in the Greek Army (1961–1962) in the Technical Corps and was honourably discharged.

After that, he worked in Greek Industry and the Public Power Corporation (PPC) of Greece as a distribution network design engineer, 1962–1967, and was a lecturer at the NUT. By the C and IZ decrees of the military junta he was dismissed in 1967 from the PPC and the NUT together with many other democrats—faculty members or government employees—as dangerous to the “social establishment” of the dictatorship.

He then decided to immigrate to the United States in 1967 and worked for the Turbine Department of the General Electric Company as design engineer and later was promoted to technical leader—dynamics and technical leader—mechanical development of the Large Steam Turbine Division, Schenectady, New York, 1967–1974. He was a consultant in the manufacturing sector since then, dealing with such diverse products as balancing machinery, automotive fuel pumps, intelligent equipment design and non-destructive testing, industrial automation, engine rotor dynamics and the development of a 500-railroad car. In parallel, he was a graduate student at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) (1968–1970), was awarded a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering (ME) in 1970 and was appointed adjunct assistant professor of ME there (1970–1972).

In 1972, he was appointed Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

In 1974, the junta in Greece fell and he was reinstated to the NUT and PPC retroactively. He was then elected Chaired Professor of Machine Design at the University of Patras (UP)

in Greece and, subsequently was elected by the faculty as Director, Design Division, Chairman ME, and Dean, School of Engineering at the UP (1974–1983). He also served as national trustee of the Greek Council of Peace, member of the governing board of the Technical Chamber of Greece and chairman of the Mechanical Engineering Accreditation Board. In 1977 he ran (unsuccessfully) for the Greek Parliament in the Patras district.

In 1982, he protested against the Socialist Government University Reform Bill (giving control of the universities to political parties) and stepped down from university administration. Later, he took a sabbatical leave from the UP to become general technical manager of the steel manufacturing company Metallourgiki-Halyps, a Hoesch affiliate (1983–1985), supervising 800 professional and technical employees involved in production, renovation, and computer integration.

In 1986, he returned to the U.S.A. and was appointed W. Palm Professor of Mechanical Design at Washington University in St. Louis, a position he retained until he passed away on April 23, 2000. In 1993, he was appointed Springer Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley for that academic year. In 1999, he was appointed Emeritus Professor at the University of Patras.

He was a Fellow of ASME, and the Society of Design and Process Science, a Professional Engineer in the State of New York and Greece, and author of over 15 books, over 150 research papers and six patents. His design portfolio includes several biomedical devices, a 500-t railroad car, several industrial and institutional facilities, a full line of industrial laundry equipment and several electric power distribution systems. He became founding chairman of the annual International Poetry Symposium (now in its 16th year) and founding editor-in-chief of the Gordon & Breach/Harwood Academic Publishers international journal SYNOPSIS: The Greek Studies Index. His latest research has been in design theory, intelligent manufacturing systems, bioengineering design, engineering diagnosis and prognosis and history of science and engineering.

His books on computer-aided machine design in 1988 and computer programs for mechanical engineers in 1993 won him international acclaim as a leading expert in the field of mechanical design. His books in 1976, 1992 and 1996 on Vibration Engineering and in 1983 on Rotor Dynamics study the behaviour of cracked structural members and rotating machinery. This is a hugely important technological problem for aging turbo-generators, aircraft, and other rotors (generally, built in the 1960s with 30-y operating life spans). Professor Dimarogonas' methodology for monitoring vibrations of these systems permits the diagnosis of the need for correction or replacement. He had tremendous depth of understanding of the physical phenomena involved, of their analytical modelling and also in corroborating techniques of numerical analysis.

In his latest book *Machine Design: The CAD Approach* by John Wiley and Sons, Professor Dimarogonas presents the historical evolution of the art of design in a way to put the rules of an axiomatic foundation. The philosophical foundation of knowledge, aesthetics and ethics are discussed in order to identify their implications in engineering design. According to the author the first design theory was part of the aesthetic theory. Beautiful included also functional (useful) and ethical (good) implications. Their development and the relation of the function with the form and the ethical dimension prevails throughout the book, forming the intuitive knowledge required for machine implementation with methods of artificial intelligence. Computer methods in analysis and design are used throughout the book making it a valuable text in the field.

Professor Dimarogonas recently turned his expertise towards biomechanical design and structural fault diagnosis and prognosis, which led to the development of a machine to diagnose osteoporosis using a wide-band sound sweep excitation and a similar machine for non-destructive diagnosis of fatigue of materials before the crack initiation and propagation

stages. He received five patents in this area since 1995. (Several older patents in the areas of turbomachinery and machinery automation were assigned to the sponsoring organizations.)

During his career, a strong interest in history continually manifested itself in chapters of various books, technical papers, lectures, and a particularly notable two-volume history of technology (published in Greek). In his book (co-authored with S. Haddad) *Vibration for Engineers*, his historical sketches of great engineers and scientists include those of Pythagoras, Galileo, Newton, Euler, Gauss, Lagrange, Laplace, Hertz, Stodola, and Timoshenko. Reviews and letters concerning his work on Pythagoras, for example, have appeared in *Scientific American* (July 1990, p. 25), *R&D Magazine* (September 1990, p. 3), *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (May 9, 1990, p. A10), *Science News* (May 12, 1990, p. 295), and *New Scientist* (July 14, 1990, p. 23).

As an engineer–historian, Professor Dimarogonas scrutinized many major scientific libraries in the United States and Europe for source material. He documented that the fundamental axioms of design were discovered during the middle of the last century in Europe and traced the origin of vibration theory to Archimedes and others of that period by unearthing obscure documents in continental libraries. He brought to light certain important historical developments in the field of dynamics and vibrations that were either glossed over or not fully understood.

Andrew D. Dimarogonas received the 1999 ASME Engineer–Historian Award for his many works on integrating the history of mechanical engineering. “He is truly a renaissance man worthy of considerable recognition”, noted History and Heritage Committee chair J. Lawrence Lee. His historical research often challenges current claims on innovation today.

He served as a consultant for major corporations, such as General Electric Co., Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, Norca Machinery Corp., Alfa Laval of Sweden and local companies in St. Louis, such as Carter Automotive, Hunter Engineering, Coin Acceptors, Inc., EckAdams Corporation and several law firms on patent disputes and product liability.

He was a frequent author of articles in Greek national daily newspapers, and in English language magazines on political and educational issues, such as *Electrical World*, *Mechanical Engineering News*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Science News*, *Scientific American*, *New Scientist*, *R&D Magazine*, *Business Week*, *Popular Mechanics*, and he presented several well known lectures and keynote addresses on engineering and the arts.

In 1964, he married Catherine, his college-years sweetheart since 1957, who survives him with their two sons: James (Demos) who is a Ph.D. candidate at Washington University and Peter (Panagiotis) who works for the Hyundai Motor Company in Athens, Greece.

2. HIS PUBLICATIONS

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RECENT PATENTS OF ANDREW DIMAROGONAS

Dimargonas' work in Biomechanical Design and Diagnosis and Prognosis has led to the development of a machine to diagnose osteoporosis using a wide-band sound sweep excitation and a similar machine for non-destructive diagnosis of fatigue of materials before the crack initiation and propagation stages. Several older patents in the areas of turbomachinery and machinery automation were assigned to the sponsoring organizations.

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