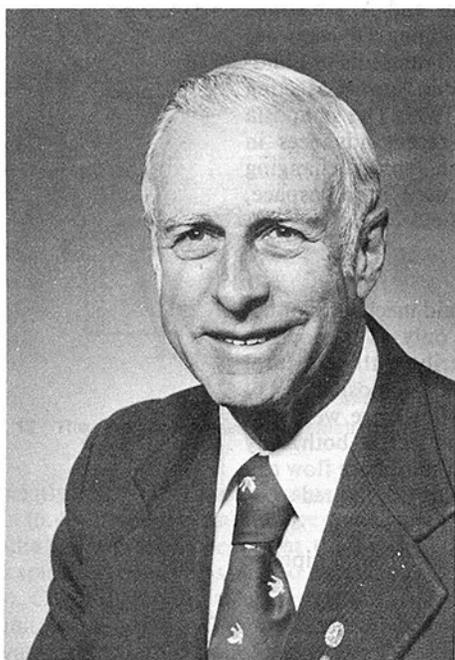


PROPOSED GENE MERCHANT GOLD MEDAL



In recognition of many outstanding contributions to the manufacturing engineering, research and education by Dr. M. Eugene Merchant we are proposing to honor him by setting up "Gene Merchant Gold Medal" to be presented annually to an Outstanding Production Engineer by the Production Engineering Division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. We are soliciting your personal and corporate contributions to establish this award.

Gene Merchant's contributions to production engineering span over a period of four decades. His pioneering research on the analysis of forces in machining (known as Merchant's diagram) is the basis for all metal cutting practice and research. This classical work provided impetus for most of the current manufacturing research. His vision of the future led to the development and implementation of the Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM), Flexible Manufacturing Systems (FMS), Factory Automation and ultimately to the Factory of the Future. His classical work on the nature of friction, the action of cutting fluids and the mechanics of grinding is still widely referred to in the literature. He is recognized internationally as an authority in manufacturing and is widely sought as a keynote speaker at many international conferences and as an adviser to many technical committees.

Gene Merchant's contribution to many professional societies is particularly noteworthy. He served as President of the International Institution for Production Engineering Research (CIRP), American Society of Lubrication Engineers (ASLE), and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and Vice-President (Research) of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). He is a Fellow of the American Society of Lubrication Engineers, American Society for Metals, Ohio Academy of Science; Life Member of the Engineers and Scientists of Cincinnati; Member of the National Academy of Engineering; and Honorary Member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the International Institution for Production Engineering Research. Gene Merchant has been extremely active with many national and international professional organizations in setting up of the standards to metal cutting practice.

Gene Merchant's many honors and awards include: the Otto Benedikt Prize of the Computer and Automation Institute of Hungary, the George Schlesinger Prize of the City of Berlin, the AM award of the American Machinist magazine, the Tribology Gold Medal of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (London), The Distinguished Contributions award of the San Fernando Valley Engineers Council, the Richard Memorial award of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, The Medal of the Polish Institute of Metal Cutting, the Distinguished Alumnus award of the University of Cincinnati, the Research Medal of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, The National award of the American Society of Lubrication Engineers, the Engineer of the Year award of the Technical and Scientific Societies Council of Cincinnati and two Honorary doctorates (Sc.D) from the University of Vermont and the University of Salford (U.K.)

We sincerely hope that you and your organization will share our conviction that Gene Merchant's extraordinary contributions to manufacturing deserve setting up of this award. The success of this effort will depend on you. Thus far we have collected close to \$5,000. With your support we can reach the goal of \$15,000. Please send your tax-deductible contribution in the name of Production Engineering Division of ASME and mail it to me to the following address:

Ranga Komanduri
1322 Ruffner Road
Schenectady, NY 12309

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (office; (518) 385-8012, home (518) 393-3861). We sincerely thank you in anticipation for supporting this noble cause.

Ranga Komanduri