

A Brief History of the Applied Mechanics Division of ASME

Preface

The Executive Committee of the Applied Mechanics Division decided that, as one of the activities marking the 50th Anniversary of the Division, a brief history should be prepared and published in the JOURNAL OF APPLIED MECHANICS. Prof. Paul M. Naghdi generously undertook this onerous task. The Applied Mechanics Division owes him a debt of gratitude for the effective manner in which he has carried out the assignment. In doing so he has contributed more than a brief history of the Division. He has also located and collected a wide range of materials relating to this history, which will be permanently preserved in a national archive.

The Applied Mechanics Division owes its foundation to the initiative of Timoshenko and his recognition in the 1920's that, in the United States, the pursuit of Applied Mechanics lacked the identity and status that it deserved. In the 50 years since its foundation, the Applied Mechanics Division has done much to rectify this. However, this forward motion can be continued only if the Division maintains a receptivity to new ideas and points-of-view.

R. S. Rivlin
Chairman
Applied Mechanics Division