

STEVO KOMLJENović
1930–2020

Professor Stevo Komljenović, a distinguished Serbian scientist who worked in the field of theoretical mechanics, passed away on April 20, 2020 in Belgrade, Serbia. Amid the coronavirus crisis, this loss could have passed quite unnoticed.

Stevo Komljenović was born on March 8, 1930 in Veliki Gradac, near Sisak, Kingdom of Yugoslavia. He graduated from the Technical High School in Belgrade in 1950. Then he got admitted to the University of Belgrade, majoring in Mechanics at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. In 1958 Komljenović was appointed Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Belgrade, as a member of the Department of Physics-Mathematics and, later on, Department of Mechanics. He spent a year in Warsaw, at the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1962. He defended his PhD thesis entitled *Plastic flow with a nonsymmetric stress tensor* at the University of Belgrade in 1964 under the supervision of Academician Tatomir Anđelić. Two other committee members were Professors Vlatko Brčić and Rastko Stojanović. His research interests included Mechanics of Continuum, Theory of Plasticity, and Variational Principles. Dr Komljenović was elected as Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Kragujevac in 1966. Professor Komljenović transferred to the Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in 1970. Important papers from the early stage of his career include:



- *Mechanics of reversible processes in a continuum with couple-stresses,*
- *Derivation of field equations for the classical continuum from the variational principles,*
- *Variational principle applied to the state of deformations in space of deformations,*
- *A criterion of flow for ideally plastic materials,*
- *A new framework for the continuum theory of plasticity.*

Later on, he published the following papers:

- *The laws of conservation of one-dimensional motion of nonlinear continuum*, Publ. Inst. Math., Nouv. Sér. **23**(37) (1978), 103–107;
- *Noether's theorem and the isoperimetric problem in continuum mechanics*, Theor. Appl. Mech. **5** (1979), 44–50;
- *Constitutive equations for plastic bodies*, Theor. Appl. Mech. **6** (1980), 77–80;
- *A generalization of the contact transformation and their application in continuum mechanics*, Theor. Appl. Mech. **7** (1981), 83–87.

Dr Komljenović served as Director of the Institute in the period 1981–1985. I had the privilege to share the office in the Institute with him from 1988 till 1992. Professor Komljenović used to come to work every day very early, around 5 am, and usually studied by noon or so. He was a gentleman and scientist in the proper meanings of the words. His gentle disposition and smile, discreteness and politeness, and, devotion to science provided interesting and unusual mentorship for me as a young researcher. I still remember his clear instruction that every scientific work needs to be finalized and articulated as a paper. He was quite shy and almost never discussed at scientific councils, but we were able to recognize what he considered to be the right position. That was in consonance with his reputation of a very knowledgeable researcher who was, at the same time, very selective in publishing his own papers. Professor Komljenović was a referee for the most prestigious journals of that time.

Dr Stevo Komljenović passed away at the age of 90 and was buried in the Central Belgrade Cemetery on April 24, 2020. His bright personality and vivid intellect will stay in our memories for ever.

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