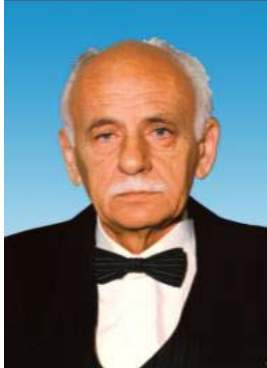


IN MEMORIAM

Professor Predrag V. Popović, PhD, Mechanical Engineer 1927 – 2012



Professor Predrag V. Popović was born on November 11, 1927 in Belgrade. He completed four grades of elementary school in 1938, and eight years of real gymnasium in 1946 in Belgrade.

He started his studies in Prague, only to continue them in 1948 at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Belgrade, Department of Aeronautics, where he graduated in 1955. He defended his doctoral dissertation in the field of engineering sciences, the area of machines for deformation processes, at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Niš, in 1972.

In 1956 he was employed in the company “Soko” in Mostar, where he worked until 1961 on the design of aircrafts and airplane manufacture technologies. In this period, he participated in the design and making of prototypes of the domestic Yugoslav Air Force aircraft “Galeb”, as the prototype’s statistician and main engineer.

From 1961 to 1963 he worked in the company “Krušik” in Valjevo, in the department of custom manufacture as the head designer.

From 1963 to 1966 he worked in the machine factory “Ivo Lola Ribar” in Železnik (in its designing office), as a consulting engineer for machines for deformation processes. His most important designs from this period are: the design of a family of eccentric presses with a unified driving mechanism, which was realized on the previously set original theoretical grounds of unifying driving systems in machines for deformation processes, and the design of a factory for chip board manufacture, whose hydraulic press for refinement was also designed on the basis of professor Popović’s original method of calculation, which enabled minimal elastic deformations of the desk during machine operation.

In October 1966, he was elected assistant professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering Sciences, University of Niš, teaching the subject “Machining and Machine Tools”, and then in 1971 he was elected associate professor, and finally full professor in 1975. In 1974 he was elected associate professor, and in 1975 full professor at the Faculty of Forestry in Belgrade. Professor Popović was an honored member – adviser of the Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia (AINS) since 2004.

Professor Popović was characterized by a broad and comprehensive work experience including ten years of working as an executive in industry on responsible and creative tasks, and then as an academic involved in both teaching at higher education institutions and carrying out scientific and research tasks; in the latter period, he still remained tightly and fruitfully related to industry and manufacture.

When he came to the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Niš, he founded the Department of Production Engineering, oriented towards deformation processes, with two laboratories:

Laboratory for Machining and Machine Tools, and Laboratory for Engineering Materials. He was Head of the Department from its foundation to his retirement. In this period, he made substantial changes in the teaching process, with his special contribution to realization of plans and programs for postgraduate studies in the field of deformation processes. He was also the first in our country to develop significant scientific and research programs and projects in the field which had been marginalized theoretically, and in whose realization he personally participated.

As Head of the Department, professor Popović was specially dedicated to educating young scientists, thus it is evident that, for several decades now, the Department of Production Engineering of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Niš, has been the strongest group of staff and other potentials in the field of means and methods for deformation processes, both in the region of former Yugoslavia, and in the country within its current borders. It can be easily stated that professor Popović stood out for his remarkable work on educating young experts and scientists in the field of deformation processes. In this respect, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Niš represents, so to speak, a school of sorts in this, both theoretically and practically interesting, field. It must also be said that he contributed significantly to the education of scientific personnel and the founding of postgraduate education in the field of plastic reshaping of materials in Novi Sad, Mostar, Banja Luka, Podgorica, and Kragujevac.

A permanent scientific verification of professor Popović, both in our country and abroad, was expressed over more than 180 published papers in scientific and professional publications, where quite a few of his bibliographical units have been quoted in books and published papers by domestic and foreign authors.

He was the Editor of journal “IMK 14 – Research and Development”, member of the editorial board of journal “Journal for Technology of Plasticity”, whose editor he was in 1977 and 1978. From 1975, he was also the editor of the journal of the Department of Production Engineering, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Niš, “Means and Methods of Deformation Processes”, which had thematic editions.

He was a member of the management organs of the Faculty and the University of Niš, the most prominent of which were: the first Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Niš (from 1971 to 1973), President of the Council of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Niš, from 1973 to 1975, and from 2004 to 2006.

Professor Popović’s scientific papers represented noteworthy studies and scientific contributions, especially in the field of machines and new technologies for deformation processes, thus they contributed significantly to the scientific thought and the field of production engineering. His scientific activities were connected to the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Niš in the field of production engineering, and permanently related to numerous manufacturing organizations, faculties, and institutes, which led to suitable conditions for the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering to become a significant point of scientific activities within this field.

It is also of interest to mention his opus of original research results: he was the first in the world to have discovered the occurrence of dynamic loads in machines with static effect (presses) in specific instances of technologies for deformation processes, which affected the development and application of new methods for examining this type of machines, as well as theoretical and practical solving of the occurrence of harmful phenomena in the operation of machines with static effect for plastic reshaping of materials.

Yet another, not less significant, opus are the papers resulting from his research in the domain of ecologizing manufacturing technologies, i.e. finding the most suitable technological processes for given manufacturing processes.

Through his years-long work, professor Predrag Popović gave a significant scientific contribution to the field of deformation processes, which is an important part of production engineering, where he managed to summarize his activities in practice, science, and the education of scientific personnel, through 23 defended doctoral dissertations, which indicates the high social value of his results.

Professor Popović was without a doubt a leading name in our country in the field of production engineering, and a renowned scientific worker. Serbian science, higher education, and machining industry remain inseparably connected to the activities of professor Popović.

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