

# Preface

This is the third volume of a series of books whose aim is to collect contributed papers on figures in Mechanism and Machine Science (MMS). This latest volume follows the first, published in 2007, and the second, published in 2010, both of which also represented a combination of very ancient and very recent scholars with the dual goals of both lending an encyclopedic character to the project and also emphasizing the significance of MMS through time.

The uniting characteristic of the project is that the papers all recognize persons whose scientific work resulted in relevant technical developments in the historical evolution of the fields grouped today under the banner of MMS. Biographical notes describing the efforts and experiences of these persons are included as well, but a technical survey is the core of each contributed paper. This third volume was made possible thanks to the invited authors, who have enthusiastically shared this initiative and have spent time and effort in preparing the papers in due time.

The stand-alone papers cover the wide field of the History of Mechanical Engineering, with specific focus on MMS. I hope that readers will take advantage of each of the papers in this book and future ones as an opportunity to gain further satisfaction and motivation for their work (historical or not).

I am grateful to the authors of the papers for their valuable contributions and for preparing their manuscripts on time. I also wish to acknowledge the professional assistance of the staff of Springer Science+Business Media and especially Ms. Anneke Pot and Ms. Nathalie Jacobs, who have enthusiastically supported this project with their help and advice in the preparation of this third book.

I am grateful to my wife Brunella, my daughters Elisa and Sofia, and my son Raffaele. Without their patience and understanding, it would not have been possible for me to work on this book and the dictionary project.

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