

Preface

The organization of an international symposium on the History of Machines and Mechanisms (HMM) every 4 years is the main activity of the Permanent Commission (PC) for the History of Mechanism and Machine Science of IFToMM, the International Federation for the Promotion of Mechanism and Machine Science. The first two symposia, HMM2000 and HMM2004 were held at the University of Cassino in Cassino, Italy in the years 2000 and 2004. The third symposium, HMM2008, was held at the National Cheng Kung University in Tainan, Taiwan in 2008. The fourth symposium was held at Vrije University in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in 2012. The present volume contains the proceedings of HMM2016, the fifth International Symposium on the History of Machines and Mechanisms that was held at Queretaro University in Queretaro, Mexico, from June 7 to 9, 2016.

The mission of IFToMM is to promote research and development in the field of machines and mechanisms by theoretical and experimental methods, along with their practical applications. The aim of the international symposia on HMM is to maintain an international forum for the exploration of the history of machines and mechanism. Since the emphasis is on the history of technical systems and their applications, the scope of the symposia is wide. Relevant topics are also the history of theories and design methods, biographies, the history of the institutions involved, the relations with other disciplines, the history of engineering education, and the social and cultural aspects of machines.

History is not simply full of exciting and entertaining stories. Historical investigations put our own present-day activities in a wider perspective. They help us define who we are. Moreover history remains a source of ideas.

This book is meant for researchers, graduate students, engineers, and all others with an interest in the history of machines and mechanisms. We believe that it can inspire and motivate them.

After the review process 23 papers by authors representing ten different countries were accepted for publication in the proceedings of HMM2016. One glance at the table of contents is enough to see that we succeeded in bringing together an interesting group of people with a stimulating variation in subjects. We are very

satisfied with this result and we thank the authors for their valuable contributions and for the efforts in submitting in time the final versions of the papers.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the members of the scientific committee:

M. Ceccarelli, University of Cassino, Italy, Chair
T. Chondros, University of Patras, Greece
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