

Dear Readers

The current issue of our quarterly starts with sad news. Professor Henryk Bałuch, an outstanding specialist in the field of railways, passed away on 8 March 2020. The Professor was always a special person for people connected with our Institute. He started working at the then Central Research and the Development Centre of Railway Technology (COBIRTK) in 1963, continued at Science and Technology Railway Centre (CNTK) and at the Railway Research Institute working for 57 years. In the COBIRTK he held the position of Deputy Director, then the Director, contributing to gaining significance and authority of our Institute. He left a legacy of monographs, which constitute the basis of knowledge to date in the field represented by the Professor, i.e. “Permanent Way Diagnostics”, “Optimization of Track Geometry Layout”, “Supporting Decision Making in Railways”. In 2017, the Railway Institute’s publishing house published Professor’s last book entitled “Threats to Permanent Way”. Professor Bałuch also made great contributions to our quarterly, serving until 2014 as the Editor-in-Chief of “Railway Reports”.

Professor Henryk Bałuch’s great scientific and organizational achievements were accompanied by such special personality traits, that were remembered by everyone who had the opportunity to meet him, as, above all, erudition and at the same time great modesty and outstanding personal culture. These qualities not only won him friends, but he was also a role model, the highest standard to which we should strive in our professional life.

He will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the editorial team,

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Editor in Chief