

Dear Readers,

The issue you are holding in your hands is the first one of the 25th volume of Control and Cybernetics, meaning also the 25th year of its appearance. The twenty five years of Control and Cybernetics, virtually equivalent to the last quarter of the 20th century, were "full of sound and fury", at least in this part of Europe, called Central or Central-Eastern. Yet, our journal appeared steadily year after year serving faithfully Polish and international scientific community.

The anniversary of our journal coincides also with the 20th anniversary of the Systems Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences which publishes the journal. Thus this is definitely an extraordinary year for us!

On the occasion of our 25th anniversary we decided to give you the opportunity to see the Editorial Committee in its almost full composition. Sitting from the right are Olgierd Hryniewicz, Associate Editor, Zbigniew Nahorski, Editor-in-Chief, Krzysztof Kiwiel, Associate Editor, and Joanna Runowska, Editorial Assistant. Standing is Jan W. Owsinski, Executive Editor. Missing from the picture is Associate Editor Jan Sokołowski.



Control and Cybernetics was founded in 1972 due to the initiative of Professors Roman Kulikowski and Andrzej Straszak who formed, together with the executive editor Jerzy Thieme, its first Editorial Committee. The purpose of the journal was clearly stated in the editorial note of the first issue "*The main objective of the journal is to stimulate the development of cybernetical sciences by publishing the most interesting papers. Cybernetical sciences in the broadest sense refer to a collection of general concepts, principles, theories, tools, problems, methods and techniques associated with control and information in various systems (e.g. physical, technical, biological, social).*"

With small corrections of terminology the original aim of the journal is valid until now. And owing to the efforts of the Editors who, besides the persons mentioned before were, chronologically, but at different periods of time, Professors Kazimierz Malanowski, Jakub Gutenbaum and Jerzy Hołubiec, a high scientific level of the published papers has been constantly maintained. This was certainly done with considerable help from the reviewers without whom it would be impossible to check thoroughly so many papers on so diverse subjects covered by this journal of a clearly interdisciplinary character. The present editorial committee looks back with the highest esteem to the achievements of the combined work of both the persons named here and those working anonymously.

In this 25th volume we plan to publish, exceptionally, five issues, that is - one more than in a regular volume. This extra issue will be offered free to all those who paid the normal subscription price of the volume.

Following the present special issue - number one in 1996 - the second one will comprise a special section on soft computing approaches in optimization and control, edited by Takeshi Furuhashi, and the regular paper section, devoted to fairly similar questions.

Then number three, 1996, will be another special issue on the subject of quite a long standing in our journal, this issue bearing still tentative title *Distributed Parameter Systems: Modelling and Control*, and edited by Bożena Lopuch, Kazimierz Malanowski and Zbigniew Nahorski.

The fourth issue will again be a regular one, while the fifth, another special, edited by Jan Sokołowski, will be devoted to questions related to shape optimization.

We hope that our Readers will enjoy this 25th volume and find the papers published in it necessary to include in their list of standard references. We also hope that this year will be a milestone in all our Readers' scientific career.

Zbigniew Nahorski
Editor-in-Chief

Roman Kulikowski
Director
Systems Research Institute