

## OBITUARY

### PIETRO CAPARRINI (1923 - 1986)

*Pietro Caparrini was born in Vinci (Florence) March, 15, 1923. He graduated from the University of Pisa in Industrial Mechanical Engineering in 1947. «Libero docente» in Agricultural Engineering with Design Applications at the University of Catania, he was awarded the chair in 1965. Here he founded and directed the Institute of Agricultural Mechanics and, later, the Institute of Applied Mechanics in the School of Engineering. He then transferred to the University of Calabria where he was appointed to the chair in Agricultural Mechanics in 1974. He was subsequently given the chair of Applied Mechanics in the School of Engineering. He was founder and director of the Department of Mechanics and member of the School's Administration Board. His work organizing and developing the Institutes and Departments he directs was flanked by intense scientific activity on problems of agricultural mechanization, of technical and economic aspects of the use of driving and operating machines, also from the point of view of technology and plant organization.*

*In 1979 he was awarded the chair of Mechanics of Machines and Machines in the Engineering School of the University of Florence. In 1981 he was director of the Institute of Mechanical Engineering. In 1983 he promoted the constitution of the Department of Industrial Mechanics and Technologies, of which he remained the Director until his death. During the same period he was a member of the Board presiding over the school's Committee for Experimentation. In 1984, 1985 and 1986 he was coordinator of the courses of specialization in Agricultural Mechanics held in collaboration with the Foreign Ministry for foreign graduate students.*

*At the end of 1985 he was elected to the executive council of AIMETA, actively serving the Association as treasurer for the few months which were left before his death.*

*Pietro Caparrini's activities are the concrete sign of his generous and total dedication to the University and to research. His friends, colleagues and his numerous students mourn their loss, all the more profoundly for the humanity and sincerity he showed toward all.*

Paolo Citti

### RICCARDO F. BALDACCI (1917 - 1986)

*Riccardo Francesco Baldacci, member of the Editorial Board of Meccanica, passed away on August 24, 1986.*

*R.F. Baldacci was born on October 4, 1917 in Pisa. He studied mechanical engineering on the University of his town, where he graduated cum laude in 1941. During the war he made his military service as a naval officer and received two decorations for his military valor.*

*Back in Pisa, he became Assistant (1945) of «Scienza delle Costruzioni» (Strength of materials and structural mechanics) and pursued his studies with L. Donato, G. Albenga, and L. Tonelli. From 1948 to 1955 he was appointed professor of «Costruzioni rurali» (Rural buildings) and later – from 1952 to 1955 – of «Tecnologie generali» (General technology), at the University of Pisa. He received his Libera Docenza in 1952 and took the chair in «Scienza delle Costruzioni» at the University of Genoa in 1955. At this University he remained until his death; he was director of the Institute of «Scienza delle Costruzioni» and – from 1973 to 1979 – dean of the Faculty of Engineering. He was also a full member of the Academy of Sciences of Genoa and member of the national «Accademia dei XL».*

*Well versed in mathematics, prof Baldacci was able to join a deep knowledge of theoretical mechanics with a wide practice of structural engineering. His large culture allowed him to reach important and sometimes fundamental results, and to exert a decisive influence on the development of the Italian researches on the strength of materials and the science of structures. His more relevant contributions concern a rigorous revision and improvement of basic concepts and usual treatments of the engineering application of elasticity, of the technical theory of stability and of other fields of structural mechanics, starting from the non linear mechanics and by means of advanced mathematical methods. His great treatise «Scienza delle Costruzioni» (UTET, Torino 1970-1976) has become a necessary reference for any student and scholar in this subject.*

Edoardo Benvenuto