

ODERFELD Jan (1908-2010), mathematician, engineer, aircraft engine specialist. He was born on 19th February 1908 in Częstochowa, the son of → Stanisław and Eugenia Maria née Grünbaum (Drzewocka).

He was a graduate (1924). In 1930, he graduated from the Mechanics Department of the Warsaw Polytechnic (PW). In 1949, he received his doctorate in mathematics. In 1955, he attained the title of Associate Professor and, in 1961, he gained the title of Professor. His research work was in the theory of mathematics and mechanisms, as well as in machine optimisation.

He headed a construction group of the Polish Skoda Works of the Warsaw - Okęcie Aviation Engine Manufacturing Plant and, in 1933-1939, of the State "Warsaw" Aircraft Plant. In 1940-1945, he headed the "Rolnik" Mechanical Workshop in Skierniewice. In 1945-1951, he was director of the Polish Standardisation Committee in Warsaw and a contract lecturer at the Wawelberg and Rotwand School of Engineering in Warsaw. In 1951-1978, he was head of the Department of Applied Mathematics at the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) and the Department of Machine Theory at Warsaw Polytechnic.

He published over 170 papers on aircraft engines, standardisation, the theory of machines and mechanisms and the statistical applications of materials. He was the author of numerous design works: aviation jet engines (1931, 1959) and piston engines (1938) and, peripherals of digital machines (1967). He retired in 1978.

He was a member of the Society of Mechanical Engineers and Technicians (from 1936), of the Polish Mathematics Society (from 1951) and the Warsaw Scientific Research Centre (from 1982). He was honorary chairman of the Polish Committee in Machine Theory and Mechanisms and of the PAN Committee on Machine Construction.

He was awarded the Officer's Cross of the order of Polonia Restituta, the State Education Medal (KEN), as well as departmental decorations. In 2008, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Warsaw Polytechnic. In 2012, a plaque was unveiled, in his memory, at the H. Sienkiewicz IV Liceum.

He died on 17th March 2010 and was buried in the Evangelical-Augsburg cemetery in Warsaw.

Sienkiewiczacy, pp. 112-113.

Juliusz Sętowski