

Dr. William Prager elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering.

October 14, 1965

Dr. William Prager, recently appointed Professor of Applied Mechanics in the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Sciences at the University of California, San Diego has been elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering, it has been announced by the Academy in Washington, D. C.

Dr. Prager is one of 27 new members elected "in recognition of their outstanding contributions to engineering theory and practice or to the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology." The group of new members is the second to be elected since the Academy was established with 25 founding members in December, 1964. The election brings to 70 the total membership in the NAE.

Dr. Prager, an outstanding pioneer in the field of applied mechanics, structures, and applied mathematics, was elected to the Academy for his contributions to the field of applied mechanics. He served for more than 20 years as Professor of Applied Mechanics and as Chairman and Founder of the Division of Applied Mathematics at Brown University and is generally acknowledged to be the world's foremost authority in this field.

Dr. Prager is, in practice, a mathematical engineer. His field of study includes the theory of structures, elasticity, plasticity, and numerical analysis. He was born in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 1903. He received a Doctorate in Civil Engineering from the Institute of Technology in Darmstadt, Germany, in 1926 and is the holder of honorary degrees from institutions and universities in the United States, France, Italy, and Belgium.

He served as a lecturer at the Institute of Technology in Darmstadt for two years and at Gottingen for four years before being named Professor and Director of the Institute of Mechanics at the Institute of Technology in Karlsruhe in 1933. A year later he was named Professor of Mechanics in Istanbul and Consultant to the Ministry of Public Education in Ankara, Turkey.

In 1941 Dr. Prager moved to the United States and joined the faculty at Brown University. He founded the Division of Applied Mathematics at Brown in 1946 and was named Chairman of the Physical Science Council in 1953. From 1959 until joining the faculty at UCSD, Dr. Prager served as L. Herbert Ballou University Professor at Brown.

He founded the Quarterly Journal of Applied Mathematics and has served as Managing Editor since 1943. During his academic career he has served as Visiting Professor at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden; as a Guggenheim Fellow and Visiting Professor at the Federal Polytechnic Institute in Zurich, Switzerland; and, for the past two years, as Resident Consultant at the IBM Research Laboratory in Zurich, Switzerland, while on leave from Brown.

He is a Fellow of the Society of Mechanical Engineers and was named winner of the Society's Warner Medal in 1957. During 1961-62 he served as Chairman of the Society's Division of Applied Mechanics. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Civil Engineers, from which he won the van Karman award in 1960; and a member of the Mathematics Society, the Society of Rheology, the Institute of Management Sciences, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Polish Academy of Science, and was named winner of the Panetti Prize from the Turin Academy of Science in 1963.

He is the author of 170 scientific papers and 20 books, the most recent of which deals with Fortran Programming and Numerical Analysis.