



From:

G. Maggetto

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To:

W. Leonhard

Dr.-Ing.
Prof. for Control Engineering, Director of
Contr.Eng. Laboratory, Tech. Univ.
Braunschweig
Referee of Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
(DFG) for Control Engineering
Co-Editor of Journal "Archives of Electrical
Engineering", Springer Verlag
Chairman of EPE-Conference Aachen
Dr. Eugene Mittelmann Award of Industrial
Electronics Society (IES) of IEEE
Fellow of IEEE, Ind. Appl. Society (IAS)
Automatica-Award (IFAC)
Dr. h.c. of Free University of Brussels
VDE-Ring of Honour
Author of 8 books on various aspects of control;
author and coauthor of about 70 papers
(Institut für Regelungstechnik, Braunschweig,
Hans-Sommer-Strasse 65/66, Postfach 3329
D-3300 Braunschweig)

Dedication

Werner LEONHARD is "retiring"! This event will take place in spring 1993 and will leave everybody who has ever met him for a couple of hours or days with a deep feeling of spleen or of incredulity. Is that true?

When looking at some data at my disposal, I can then only realise that it is possible. He was born in 1926 at Weiden, Germany. After two years of military service he attended the Technical University of Stuttgart, where he received the Dipl.-Ing. and Dr. - Ing. degrees respectively in 1951 and 1954. This was followed by an important and fruitful industrial career, first at Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA where his last position was Fellow Engineer, afterwards, starting in 1959, at Siemens Schuckert-Werke, Erlangen, Germany where he made major contribution to the design of the transistorized multi-loop drive control systems (later adopted by companies worldwide) and to the design of the first solid-state programmed and computer-controlled rolling mill drive system in German steel mills. In 1963 he started his academic career by joining the Technical University of Braunschweig where, besides successive different administrative positions (Director of Laboratory, Head of Department, Dean, ...), he was a remarkable teacher. He introduced digital methods to the control of power electronics and electrical machines. More than 400 diploma students and 50 Dr. Ing. candidates had the luck to work under his leadership.

His high scientific competence coupled with his ability to present difficult topics in a way that made them appear very simple allowed him to travel everywhere in the world to present as an invited speaker the results of the work he was leading.

Concerning conference activities and publications, he has been co-Editor of the Journal "Archives of Electrical Engineering", originator and Chairman of the two first IFAC Symposia on "Control in Power Electronics and Electrical Drives" (1974 and 1977, Düsseldorf, Germany) and the VDI/VDE Conference in 1982 "Microelectronics in Power Electronics and Electrical Drives" (Darmstadt, Germany). He is author of seven books on various aspects of control, among them a state-of-the-art book in English on "Control of Electrical Drives", one of the best references in the field.

As Publisher of this EPE Journal I would not omit to cite his remarkable survey published in the two first issues entitled "30 Years Space Vectors, 20 Years Field Orientation, 10 Years Digital Signal Processing with Controlled AC-Drives, a Review".

Werner LEONHARD received the Eugene Mittelmann Award of the IEEE Industry Electronics Society in 1986 and was made Doctor Honoris Causa of the Flemish Free University of Brussels in 1988.

In 1978, Werner Leonhard visited for the first time Brussels, attending the ICEM Conference and as co-organiser of this event I had the pleasure to have my first contact with him. This has been followed by many others but it is my pleasure to recall some of them because we had a lot of discussion around the creation of a European Conference on Power Electronics and its Applications. We had these meetings in Lyon, Toulouse, Darmstadt, Lausanne and endly in Brussels. Many other friends attended these meetings but the arguments of Werner Leonhard were the most convincing to go ahead in this attempt to unify a number of events in the Field into this now world renowned EPE event.

In the name of all EPE friends, let me simply say:

— "Thank you, Werner, and see you, surely, very soon".