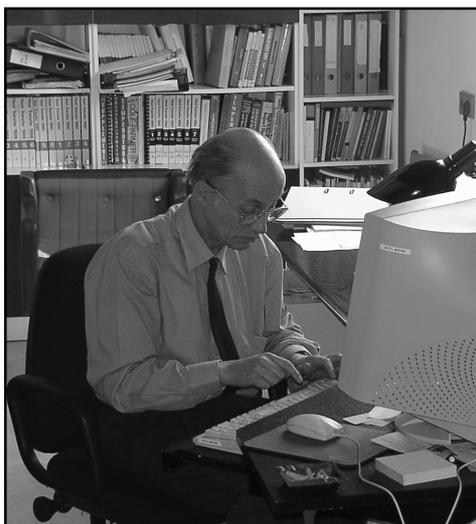


*in memoriam*

**TOOMAS TIIKMA**  
16.10.1945–12.09.2004

The head of the Chair of Department of Thermal Engineering of Tallinn University of Technology Professor **Toomas Tiikma** was a man of science who devoted himself to continuation of research in the field of heat and mass transfer, a scientific school founded by Professor Ilmar Mikk and Member of Estonian Academy of Sciences Harri Käär.



Toomas Tiikma was born in Tallinn to the family of intellectuals. His father Boris Tiikma lectured the course of theoretical mechanics and mathematics at Tallinn University of Technology (TUT). He is well remembered and respected by numerous engineers of the older generation.

Toomas Tiikma's mother was a teacher in English. Home library in a family fond of education and knowledge was a great assistant in shaping T. Tiikma into a high-level engineer and a scientist of vast knowledge and experience.

Having finished Tallinn 2nd Secondary School in 1964, he entered TUT to study thermal engineering. His fellow students remember him a modest student with a lot of different interests, who, besides studying well, was engaged in hiking and photography and was deeply interested in political

and social matters. His excellent behavior and polite manners were highly appreciated by his teachers and fellow students.

In 1969 he graduated from TUT with a *cum laude* diploma in thermal engineering. He had joined the research work at the Department of Thermal Engineering as a student already, which logically led to continuation of his work there after graduation. This department was his only working place for life.

T. Tiikma started his work as an engineer, continued as a research worker and a department manager of Research Laboratory of Industrial Thermal Engineering at TUT (1969–1989). He defended the Cand. of Science thesis in 1975. The dissertation dealing with the problems of radiant heat transfer was carried out under the supervision of Prof. I. Mikk who had achieved outstanding results in this field of heat engineering. T. Tiikma was most fascinated by radiant heat transfer.

In 1984 T. Tiikma was accredited a senior research scientist. Since then pedagogical work became the main activity of T. Tiikma. In 1989–1997 he was an associate professor, since 1997 – professor of the Chair of Thermal Engineering.

Besides his main interest – regularities of radiant heat transfer – T. Tiikma found time and good will to get productively involved in several other problems of thermophysics and boiler techniques. Together with fellow authors he published several papers on thermal efficiency of heating surfaces of boilers, fuel combustion, calculation designs of small boilers, heat conductivity of porous materials, and lately especially on the impact of acoustic effects on fuel combustion, heat transfer in boilers, and removal of ash deposits from heat transfer surfaces. He is a coauthor of over a hundred papers published mostly in authoritative journals of thermophysics.

T. Tiikma improved his training at Belgrad University (1980), St. Petersburg Institute for Mechanics and Physics (1992). He often took part in conferences and seminars (Germany, Brighton University in UK).

He often supervised PhD and MA dissertations as well as numerous BA and diploma theses. His death has deprived several PhD and MA candidates of his helpful supervision.

T. Tiikma's knowledge of IT was always up-to-date. He was an indisputable leader in compiling programmes, their implementation and upgrading, and forwarding them in the net.

Toomas Tiikma was a leading lecturer in all the subjects concerning thermophysics. He lectured a basic course of heat and mass transfer for students, and special courses of thermophysics for post-graduates and PhD candidates. Thanks to his initiative and with his participation, a lot of methodological publications have been published: a two-volume basic course of heat and mass transfer (1998, 2000), a collection of tests (1998), chosen chapters of thermophysics (2000), a book on equipment of heat and mass transfer (2000), lecture notes on industrial furnaces (2001), and drying practice (2002). Therefore, the speciality of industrial heat engineering is

nearly fully covered with literature in Estonian. T. Tiikma paid particular attention to the terminology of heat engineering, and he was involved in compiling Estonian-English Technical Dictionary.

Toomas Tiikma's willingness to help everybody was legendary – he simply could not stay indifferent when someone needed his help; the person himself should have had a certain amount of tact not to misuse his kindness. However, just that trait must have been the actual reason why a lot of students, postgraduates and PhD candidates wanted him to be their tutor and supervisor because in trouble they were sure they would have never been let down. Correctness and stability were the very characteristics of his personality.

T. Tiikma was an exceptionally unusual person in his attitude towards work, with his profound theoretical and practical knowledge and a working office always lit earlier and later than those of the others.

It is extremely regrettable that this wonderful man neglected his own personal needs.

*Department of Thermal Engineering  
of Tallinn University of Technology*