

On the 4th of March 2015, at the age of 102, Professor Giuseppe Grioli, one of most distinguished members of the School of Italian Mathematical Physics, has passed away.

He was born in Messina, on the April 10th 1912. He graduated with honors first in Physics and later in Mathematics from the University of Messina. Then Renato Einaudi, his supervisor, suggested him to move to Rome where he meet Antonio Signorini who soon recognized him to have an exceptional aptitude for research. Einaudi and Signorini introduced the young Grioli to Mauro Picone who was the founder and director of the Istituto Nazionale per le Applicazioni del Calcolo (INAC) of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) in Rome. In 1938 Grioli was called for an interview by Picone and immediately took the place vacated by Wolfgang Grobner.

In Rome Grioli had the opportunity to meet many mathematicians as Amaldi, Segre, Severi, Fantappiè, Bompiani, Conforto and to work with Tolotti, Ghizzetti and especially with Fichera who became a very good friend of him.

In 1949 he was appointed full professor of Rational Mechanics at the University of Cagliari but in the same year he was given a Chair at the University of Padua where he worked for all his carrier. Since 1968 he was Dean of the Faculty of Sciences for seven years during the youth protest period. In Padua he created a distinguished School with many Students. After his retirement he was appointed Professor Emeritus of the University of Padua.

In 1969 he was appointed member of Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in the section Mechanics and Applications of Mathematics.

He was member of many scientific academies and institutions and he was in particular among the founders of the ISIMM Society. Moreover for many years he was in the Scientific Committee and also President of the National Group of Mathematical Physics (GNFM) of the CNR.

For his research activity in 1973 he was awarded the Premio Linceo for Mathematics, Mechanics and Applications.

Among several research fields developed by Grioli we mention: the dynamics of rigid bodies and in particular the determination of a particular precessional motion that is now universally known as *Grioli's precession* ; the non-linear extension of the so called Cosserat continuum in which the couple stress is taken into account and the stress is not symmetric anymore (asymmetric theory) ; several contributions in non linear elasticity with a priori inequalities for stress, limit of rigid body as limiting case of deformed ones, etc..

The research of Grioli had an international echo also because Clifford Truesdell recognized soon the importance of his research and in general of the Signorini School and he diffused the results (mainly written In Italian) in the famous volumes published in the *Handbuch der Physik* . Truesdell invited Grioli to write a book in the Springer series of Natural Philosophy , "Mathematical Theory of Elastic equilibrium" (1962) which is still considered a reference book for all people that work in Continuum Mechanics.

On the occasion of his 100th birthday the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science of University of Messina organized a conference attended by many of the students of Professor Grioli and many of his

colleagues of the Accademia dei Lincei in testimony the of his extraordinary contribution -to the development of science, as well as the esteem and affection that all the national and international academic community has always shown for his noble character and humanity.

Tommaso Ruggeri