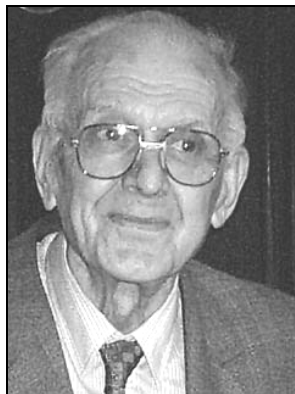


IN MEMORIAM

To the memory of Prof. DIMITER G. ELENKOV



The team of the Institute of Chemical Engineering at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences was prepared to celebrate the 90th anniversary of his former director and teacher Prof. Dimiter G. Elenkov. Unfortunately he passed away some days before - on October 18, 2009. Therefore, the words to be said will be *in memoriam* of his long and fruitful life.

He was born in Radomir, Bulgaria. He was graduated in St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia in 1943 and later – graduated as chemical engineer in industrial chemistry at the State Polytechnics of Sofia. Since 1947 he is consecutively an assistant professor in analytical chemistry at the Faculty of Mechanics, State University of Varna; in medical chemistry at the Medical Academy of Sofia and in physical chemistry at the State Polytechnics of Sofia.

He was elected as associate professor in “Processes and apparatuses in chemical industry” in 1956 and in 1965 – as full professor. During the period 1959–1966 he was Deputy-rector of the Higher Institute of Chemical Technology in Sofia, charged with the school scientific activity. In the period 1972–1980 he was Deputy director of the United Centre of Chemistry at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and in 1980–1988 – President of the Higher Testimonial Commission at the Bulgarian Government.

He was a Bulgarian representative and member of the Steering Board of the International Centre for Heat and Mass Transfer in Minsk, ex-USSR (now Belarus).

Prof. Dimiter G. Elenkov is the founder of chemical engineering in Bulgaria. He was Head of the chair “Processes and apparatuses with control and automation” at the Higher Institute of Chemical Technology in Sofia (now University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy) until 1972. He had accomplished a substantial work on the establishing of Department of Chemical Engineering at Prof. Assen Zlatarov University of Burgas, Bulgaria. He was the first *Doctor of Sciences* in this area (since 1967); *Professor-in-Honour* (1978) and *Doctor Honoris Causa* of the Saint Petersburg State Institute of Technology (1982). He was awarded with numerous state awards. As recognition of his contribution to the development of Bulgarian chemical science and chemical engineering in particular, the academic body of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences elected Prof. Dimiter G. Elenkov as its Corresponding Member in 1977.

Since 1961 Prof. Dimiter G. Elenkov was Head of the Department for Mass Transfer Processes at the Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, grown in 1972 in the Central Laboratory of Chemical Engineering. As a head of the latter, Prof. Dimiter Elenkov continuously concentrated his efforts for its development, either of the personnel and the research base. In 1986 the Central Laboratory was upgraded into the Institute of Chemical Engineering with total staff of over 80 persons. The research area of the institute included: heat and mass transfer in homogeneous and heterogeneous systems; chemical and biochemical reactors; methods of chemical engineering in environment protection; automation and computerization of the related processes. The development of all these scientific areas in Bulgaria is closely associated with the name of Prof. Dimiter Elenkov. He is author of more than 200 research papers, the majority of them being published abroad in well-known journals of chemical engineering.

He is an author and co-author of many patents, some of them, like the equipment for removal of sulphur dioxide and particulate matter from industrial gases, modern adsorbers and absorbers, unsteady-state reactors for sulphur dioxide oxidation, *etc.*, were successfully applied and still operate in Bulgarian industry.

The contribution of Prof. Dimiter Elenkov in training and development of thousands of highly qualified chemists and chemical engineers is outstanding. His students, from their part, created, maintained and still maintain the chemical industry of Bulgaria that for many years is a basic profitable branch of Bulgarian economy.

It could be stated that there are no Bulgarian scientists and engineers working in the field of chemical engineering who is not feeling his strong impact – either through his textbooks and lectures, scientific supervision or practical advices.

There are dozens of doctors, promoted their theses in the field of technical chemistry under his supervision. All of the present professors working in this field have been his PhD students or co-researchers. Today they use to teach, to lead research and to run enterprises in Bulgaria and abroad.

With the death of Prof. Dimiter Elenkov our chemical engineering community lost an outstanding scientists, teacher and good friend.

Sofia, November 24, 2009

The colleagues from the
Institute of Chemical Engineering,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences