



CENTENARY OF PROFESSOR IOAN V. NICOLESCU'S BIRTHDAY

Professor IOAN V. NICOLESCU was born at Dorohoi on 3rd May 1911.

He followed the courses of Laurian high-school in Botoşani and further on those of the Faculty of Sciences and of the Institute of Industrial Chemistry from the University of Bucharest. He took his license in physico-chemical sciences in 1933. In 1935 he defended his PhD in chemistry with a thesis concerning the synthesis and characterization of azoic dyes which was supervised by Professor Ştefan Minovici.

After graduation he worked as a chemist in sugar industry during two years.

In 1937 he was nominated assistant professor at the Department of Organic Chemistry from the Faculty of Sciences in the University of Bucharest. Further on, he was advanced as lecturer and in 1947 when the Faculty of Chemistry emerged from the Faculty of Sciences he was promoted as full professor of Chemical Technology, function that he held until 1989. He was re-attested as professor and docent doctor in 1955.

In 1962, a group which formed the Department of Chemical Technology and Catalysis of the University of Bucharest emerged from the department of Organic Chemistry; Professor I.V. Nicolescu was nominated the Head of this Department.

Between 1974 and 1982 he fulfilled the function of Head of the Department of Inorganic Chemistry and Technology at the Faculty of Chemical Technology from the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest.

Since 1949 until 1967 he was the leader of the Catalysis group in the Section of Organic Chemistry at the Roumanian Academy.

Since 1964 he supervised doctoral studies in the domain of Hydrocarbon Chemistry and Catalysis.

Professor I.V. Nicolescu was the founder of the school of Heterogeneous Catalysis in Romania, which he developed, consolidated and served with capability and devotion over 50 years, for the benefit of our chemical industry.

Distinguished professor, creator of school and science, Professor I.V. Nicolescu had a vast and complex research activity concretized in over 250 invention patents, scientific papers published in prestigious international and national journals, analysis and synthesis studies which aimed steadily the establishment of correlations between the composition, genesis, structure, physico-chemical characteristics and the activity and selectivity of the catalysts used especially in processes involving the conversion of hydrocarbons.

Based on these correlations, criteria for the selection, preparation and optimal exploitation of the catalysts in industrial reactors have been established and other important contributions for the basic knowledge of the preparation theory basis and the understanding of the contact catalysis effect have been brought.

The researches elaborated by Professor I.V. Nicolescu concerned domains such as: the thermo-selective aromatization of middle-oil cuts (process SARMIZA), the preparation of aluminas with tailored properties, catalysts for reforming of gasoline, of methane, for ammonia synthesis, for n-butenes oxidative dehydrogenation, catalysts for selective hydrogenation of acetylene from pyrolysis gaseous flows, for methanation of carbon monoxide, for selective Fischer-Tropsch synthesis and for the aromatization of light hydrocarbons.

He realized researches concerning the electronic properties of the semiconductor oxide catalysts in correlation with their catalytic performances for oxidation reactions as well as studies concerning organometallic complexes catalysts active for the dimerization of olefins and stereospecific polymerization of acetylene and for the demercaptanization of the gaseous and liquid flows resulted from oil processing.

Professor I.V. Nicolescu was a founding member and one of the leaders of AGIR and CNIT. He was member of the Managing of the Minister of Industrial Chemistry and a collaborator of Central Institute for Chemical Researches. He was the main author of several new or updated technologies and he implied himself in the creation and start-up of the first Catalyst Manufacture Plant at Vega Refinery in Ploiești. For all his training, scientific and public life activities he was awarded Romanian orders and medals, the prize of the Roumanian Academy, the prize of Minister of Education and the Honorary diploma of the French Society of Industrial Chemistry.

Professor I.V. Nicolescu was endowed with a high competence based on solid and wide physico-chemical knowledge, had a rich specialty experience, he was tenacious, perseverant, with a fine spirit for analysis and synthesis. He had an immense power and love for work.

He deeply loved people and he had an extremely rare encountered soul characterized by goodness and nobility. He offered his knowledge and experience to his students and co-workers with generosity, clearly, concisely and logically.

All around him he gifted good advices and generous friendship. The tireless work, the rigor and the correctitude characterized his entire life.

At this centenary anniversary we bow with respect and gratitude in front of his remembrance, Professor I.V. Nicolescu remaining one of the great servants of the chemical school and science in Romania.

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