

BALESCU, Radu Constantin

Born: July 18, 1932 (Bucharest, Romania)

Died: June 01, 2006 (Bucharest, Romania)

Biography

His father is Romanian, his mother Belgian and Radu obtains the Belgian nationality in 1959. He studies in Bucharest from 1943 till 1948 and at the Athénée Royal d'Ixelles from 1948 till 1950.

At the Free University of Brussels (ULB) he obtains a PhD in chemistry in 1958 and is till 1961 the assistant of professor Ilya Prigogine. His academic career as professor starts in 1960. Between 1962 and 1968 he is professor at the University of Liège, visiting professor at the University of Texas (1970-1971) and guest professor at the University of Kyoto.

He becomes emeritus professor in 1997.

In 1970 he is appointed corresponding member of the Belgian Academy of Science, Humanities and Fine Arts and given promotion as effective member and in charge of the Class of Science in 1989.

He is very early recognized internationally: honorary member of the Academy of Romania, is awarded the Von Engelprize (by the International Conference on Phenomena in Ionized Gases) and the first scientist to receive the Hannes Alfvénprize of the Plasma Physics Division of the European Physical Society. He is involved in the European fusion programme as head of the research unit of the ULB team in the Euratom-Belgian State association. The main Belgian prizes he obtains are the Jan Stas Prize (1959), the Théophile De Donder Prize (1961) and the Francqui Prize (1970).

Realizations

Balescu's research mainly concerns the subject of statistical physics and charged particles (the Balescu-Lenard collision operator) and the theory of transport of magnetically confined plasmas. His main publication is the three volume work on "*Transport Processes in Plasmas*": Volume I: *Classical Transport*; Volume II: *Neoclassical Transport* (1988). Volume III "*Aspect of Anomalous Transport in Plasmas*" published in 2005. Vol. I and II have been translated into Russian (1978) and Chinese (1995)

His full bibliography includes 6 books and about 200 papers.