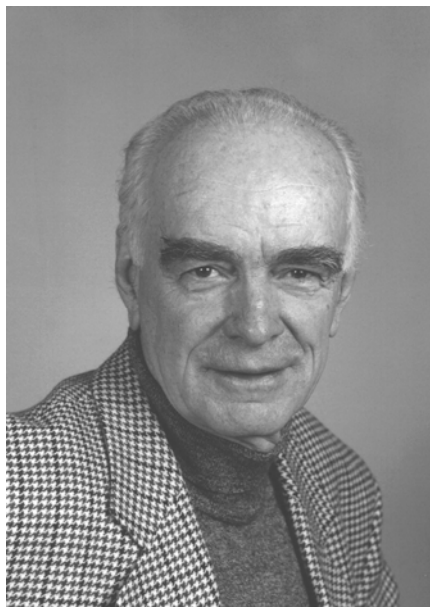


**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Professor PhD Hans Adam Schneider**  
**(1929-2014)**



Professor Schneider is without any doubt one of the marking personalities in the “Al. I. Cuza” university of Iasi during the years 1965-1979.

Hans Schneider was born in September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1929 in Zărnesti, Braşov County, and died May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in Freiburg, Germany. He undertook studies at Honterus German high school in Braşov between 1940 and 1948 and bachelor studies at the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry in Timişoara during 1949-1954. In 1957 he defends his doctoral thesis, completed at the Academy’s Physical Chemistry department under the supervision of the academician Ilie Murgulescu in the field of gas phase reaction kinetics, the field in which he will work for the largest part of his life. He is sent for a year (1962-1963) with a postdoctoral fellowship at the URSS’ Academy of sciences Institute of physical chemistry in the

laboratory led by the academician N. N. Semenov, Nobel prize laureate for chemistry in 1956 which he shares with Sir Hinshelwood for fundamental contributions in the *Mechanism of chain reaction*.

During 1965-1979 he is acting professor at the Physical Chemistry department of our universities' Faculty of Chemistry. During 1965-1968) he teaches the *Chemical Thermodynamics* and *Chemical Kinetics* courses, after which he only teaches kinetics until 1979. As head of the department he organizes research in the field of *Kinetics of chain reactions in gas phase*, of which he was an extraordinary specialist, together with PhD student Lucia Odochian and Dumitru Lazar, discover the "cold" *flame phenomenon in the combustion of methane*. He also start research in the Physical chemistry department regarding *thermogravimetry*, field of study which was continued into the present by professors Natalia Hurduc and Lucia Odochian (deceased, August 2014)

In parallel, together with PhD students of the Petru Poni Institute of macromolecular Chemistry of Iași, he develops a new research theme, that is *polymer compatibility*, the capacity of various polymers to form polymeric solutions and alloys to be more precise. Of these PhD students who defended theses in this field I will mention Cornelia Vasile, C-tin Cașcaval, Ana Onu, Nicolae Aelenei, etc.

At the arrival of professor Schneider in the department there was no specialist in Quantum Chemistry or Chemical Thermodynamics. Professor C-tin Ghirvu, a young man at that time, was sent at the Academy's Centre of physical chemistry to complete his thesis in *Quantum chemistry* under the supervision of the academician E. Sahini. Professor Cameluța Beldie was in the process of completing her PhD thesis at the university of Bucharest, named *Ternary electrolyte solutions' thermodynamics*. After only eight

years from the arrival of professor Schneider in Iași the department of physical chemistry was strongly invigorated.

He was visiting professor at the Institute for Macromolecular Chemistry at the Freiburg University in Germany and Dean of our university's Faculty of Chemistry. In 1979 he leaves Romania to settle in Freiburg. He becomes full-time professor at the University of Freiburg in 1985 until his retirement in 1996.

As a former student of Professor Schneider for the Chemical thermodynamics and Chemical kinetics courses I can make some appreciations about the professors' courses scientific level as well as about his didactic skills. The level of the courses' contents was obviously the same as that of great universities in Europe and USA. It was easy to tell that professor Schneider would prepare his courses with complete seriousness before presenting himself in front of the students. All the mathematical demonstration, for both courses, was carried out on the blackboard with chalk in his hands, to the tiniest details. In exams he would accentuate the understanding of the phenomenon. After the mathematical analysis each examined student would get at least three question about the phenomenology of the mathematically studied subjects. For each unsatisfactory answer two points would be deducted of the students' grade!

We must underline that the first course of Physical chemistry in the country was taught at the University of Iasi by Professor Petru Bogdan in 1906, which in 1915 founded the first department of Physical chemistry. After Professor Petru Bogdan's death in 1944, the continuity of research in the department for the following 38 years was greatly affected due to the harsh conditions after the war. Through the arrival of Professor Schneider

(1965) a bridge was created from the Physical chemistry of illustrious Petru Bogdan to the Physical chemistry of Professor Schneider.

Professor Schneider was a member of numerous scientific societies such as American Chemical Society (ACS), American Physical Society (APS), International Confederation for Thermal Analysis (ICTA), Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh), Gesellschaft für Thermische Analyse (GEFTA), Romanian Association for Polymer Science. Professor Schneider was awarded the Honoris Causa title of “Gh. Asachi” Technical University of Iasi and also awarded title of Honorary Professor of “Al. I. Cuza” University of Iasi.

### **References:**

1. <http://150.uaic.ro/personalitati/chimie/hans-adam-schneider/>

*Prof. Gelu Bourceanu, PhD*