

In Memoriam

Prof. Dr. ADRIAN MOȚIU
1930-2004



Adrian Moțiu was born on August 7, 1930, in Cluj. After graduating high school, he became a student of the Faculty of Chemistry of the Victor Babeş University in Cluj. In 1953 he was appointed as head of laboratory at the Department of Mineralogy within the Faculty of Geology and Geography. On September 15, 1954 he was promoted as an Assistant, and then in 1962 as Lecturer. In 1970, he occupied the position of Assistant Professor in Geophysics. Meanwhile, Adrian Moțiu registered as a PhD student in Chemistry under the coordination of Academician Raluca Râpan. He defended his PhD thesis on April 12, 1970. In 1990, Adrian Moțiu became a university Professor and in 1995 he retired at the age of 65 and became Consulting Professor. During his active career he spent significant periods of time abroad for study and specialization (Hungary, and most of all, the USA). His teaching activity drew the interest of disciplines: Geochemistry, Physics of the Earth, and Geophysics. Prof. Moțiu has published, as single author and in collective works, about 50 scientific papers in specialized journals in Romania and abroad (USA, France, Germany, Bulgaria), as well as an important book titled “*Elementary Treaty of Physics of the Earth*”, which is greatly appreciated by the specialists in the field. After December 1989 he was actively involved in the political life of Romania as a member of the Romanian Senate.

Adrian Moțiu was remarkable for his intelligence, persistency, enquiring mind for finding the truth (of any kind), work capacity and force of conviction; he was able to find further arguments even when a cause seemed lost or exhausted. He was passionate for sports, a fan of nature and of excursions; he used to organize sports and recreation trips for small groups

of friends and colleagues from the university. Prof. Moțiu was warmly regarded by colleagues and students, for the latter of whom he represented a spiritual father as a tutor of several generations, appointed by the faculty and by the department. At the same time, Prof. Adrian Moțiu remained in the minds of those who met him as an active actor on the sociopolitical stage.

Most of his life can be compared to a ship in the middle of the ocean, sometimes led by waves, other times by the captain, sometimes wrecked on islands with active volcanoes and imminent dangers, and other times on quiet islands lacking natural risks. There is no doubt that our colleague, Adrian Moțiu, was an adventurer on the ocean of life. More probable, the seemingly quiet person, who was in fact a restless fighter, was living a great part of his life in the search for a peaceful salvation. Whether he finally found it or not, we will never know.

Prof. Adrian Moțiu has passed into the world of shadows (on March, 25, 2004) at the age of almost 74. The early disappearance of a distinguished professor, scientist, and leader of the sociopolitical life of Romania after the events in December 1989 left an empty space that is difficult to fill; we, his friends and colleagues miss him a lot. It is certain that future generations will notice his role in the academic evolution of Cluj University, and will record his sociopolitical merits from more than one decade of active and committed involvement.

Ioan MĂRZA & Iustinian PETRESCU