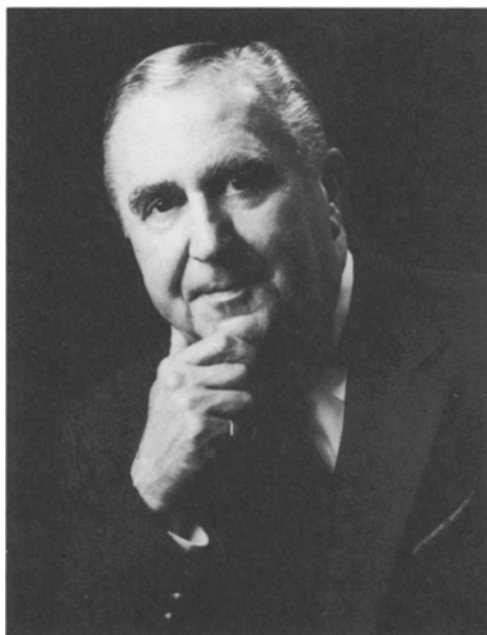


## **In Memoriam: Professor Yeram S. Touloukian, 1920–1981**



**Professor Yeram S. Touloukian: 1920–1981**

### **THERMOPHYSICS HAS LOST A GIANT LEADER**

Thermophysics has suffered a heavy loss, a loss of a giant leader whose impact will be felt throughout the scientific and technological communities. With the unexpected death of Professor Yeram S. Touloukian on June 12, 1981, the thermophysics family is left without its main pillar of support, its source of strength, and its guiding light. No single individual has done as much for the advancement of the thermophysics field as has Professor Touloukian. His name has become synonymous with thermophysical properties, which he molded into a highly respected field of study in its own right.

Professor Touloukian was born of Armenian parents in 1920. He received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Robert College, Istanbul, Turkey. In 1939, he went to the United States to pursue his graduate studies. He received the master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, in 1941, and the doctorate degree from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, in 1946. After graduation, he became an Assistant Professor at Purdue University; in 1957 he was promoted to full professorship. In 1967 and 1970, he was appointed to the chairs of Distinguished Alcoa Professor of Engineering and Distinguished Atkins Professor of Engineering, respectively.

Professor Touloukian was a great engineer with a broad scientific knowledge and a deep perception of the needs of reliable properties data by the technical and scientific communities. His lifelong ambition was to make available properly documented and carefully evaluated data on thermophysical and related properties of materials. With exceptional personal dedication and effort, he singlehandedly established the Thermophysical Properties Research Center (now known as CINDAS) at Purdue University in 1957, which he directed until his death. In addition, Professor Touloukian's intense belief in the importance of high-quality research influenced and motivated numerous investigators all around the world and led to the establishment of some of the best research facilities in thermophysical measurements.

Professor Touloukian never hesitated to start something new once he was convinced of its usefulness and needs. His role and effectiveness in starting new conferences, forming committees and task groups, and numerous other activities in the thermophysical properties field, on both national and international scales, are very well known. One of the most recent examples is his vital role in the establishment of the *International Journal of Thermophysics*. The Journal, in its second year of publication, owes its existence to Professor Touloukian's foresight, determined efforts, and constant support.

Professor Touloukian's monumental and extremely important contributions were recognized and appreciated by people and organizations in engineering as well as in scientific fields. Throughout his career, he received numerous awards and honors from both national and international organizations. Among those are: The American Society of Mechanical Engineers Heat Transfer Memorial Award, the International Thermal Conductivity Conference Award, the Gold Medal Award of the Associazione Termotecnica Italiana, and very recently, the award of the International Thermophysics Congress, which was presented posthumously. All of these awards recognized his outstanding leadership in the international thermophysics community, his unique perceptions and guidance in thermophysics research, and his pioneering and major contributions to the thermophysical properties literature.

One of Professor Touloukian's most significant contributions has been

the education of young students and followers in the field of thermophysics over the past quarter of a century. Many of his grateful students are determined to carry proudly the torch that he has lit and pass it on to the future generations.

Those of us who have had the opportunity of knowing Professor Touloukian personally will miss his dynamic personality, his youthful enthusiasm, and his warmth. His faith in humanity and his optimism for the future have given us self-confidence and strength. He had a genuine concern for people and never hesitated to extend his helping hand. He has left behind many strong and enduring friendships. We will miss him very much, yet we are very thankful for being fortunate enough to have known him in our limited lifetimes. We will cherish, for the rest of our lives, the pleasant and valuable memories we have had with him.

Let our resolve to support continuation of his ideals and projects be a humble indication of our gratitude and appreciation for all of the things he has done. There can be no better tribute to Professor Touloukian than our continued work in thermophysics with the enthusiasm, vigor, dedication, and the sense of perfection that he had and always wanted us to share.

We dedicate the *International Journal of Thermophysics* to the memory of Yeram S. Touloukian.

Ared Cezairliyan  
*Editor*