

Obituary

Henry Vartan Kehiaian (1929 to 2009)

Dr. Henry V. Kehiaian died on December 18, 2009, in a clinic close to Paris. Henry was born in Bucharest, Romania, on August 12, 1929, to parents of Armenian descent. Parts of his primary and secondary education were at the German School in Bucharest. Henry studied chemistry at the University of Bucharest and then moved to Poland to study for a Ph.D. with Prof. Swietoslowski at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IChF PAN). It was at IChF PAN that Henry married Krystyna Sosnkowska, who remained a scientific collaborator throughout his career. In 1970, Henry and his family moved to France.

In France, aided by Prof. Pannetier, Henry joined the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and spent about 10 years at the Centre de Recherches de Microcalorimétrie et de Thermodynamique (CRMT) in Marseille, first as Maître de Recherches, then as Directeur de Recherches. In 1977, to his great satisfaction, he was granted French citizenship, and in 1982, Henry fulfilled one of his dreams, which was to live in Paris, by working at the Institut de Topologie et de Dynamique des Systèmes (CNRS and Université Paris 7), led by Prof. Dubois, where he remained after retirement in 1994 to continue his research.

Henry's dedication to science was impressive. He published more than 150 research papers, and as editor-in-chief of thermodynamic properties for the prestigious Landolt–Börnstein series he coauthored four volumes; the last will appear in 2010, and Henry was contributing to the last days of his life with the devotion that we all knew he gave. In 1973, Henry founded the *International Data Series* (IDS) and served as editor-in-chief until 1994. In 1995, Henry founded ELDATA, *The International Electronic Journal of Physico-Chemical Data*, and in 1991, in cooperation with Wichterle in Prague, Czech Republic, he established a database for vapor–liquid equilibria (ELVM).

In 1977, Henry started the thermodynamics of organic mixtures (TOM) project which focuses on the systematic determination, collection, and interpretation of thermodynamic data of liquid nonelectrolyte mixtures. It was the organization of the TOM project and the resulting DISQUAC (dispersive quasi-chemical) model, that combined a group contribution approach with a statistical-mechanical model, that Henry cherished most. Through his scientific achievements, he was a highly esteemed member of the international community and was an associate editor of the *Journal of Chemical and Engineering Data* from 1989 to 1996. He also served on the editorial boards of *Fluid Phase Equilibria*, *Journal of Solution Chemistry*, and *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*. He was a member of CODATA, a titular member of the IUPAC Commission 1.2 on Chemical Thermodynamics, and an honorary member of the Romanian Academy of Sciences. When preparing a manuscript, Henry strove meticulously for clarity and succinct presentation and always provided comprehensive citations. His collaborators appreciated, albeit perhaps not at the time, his direct criticism, which was on occasion tough, yet honest and constructive. In addition to his reputation as a scientist, Henry was known for his hospitality, his esprit and joie de vivre, and his knack for gourmet experiences that led to his own humorous self-description of “refugié gastronomique”. We, the undersigned, recall nostalgically many visits to restaurants of repute in France, Italy, Spain, Austria, and Germany. Indeed, Henry was also known for his ability to fluently converse in at least nine languages.

While Henry's scientific achievements provided the foundation of his international reputation, his personality was the basis of lasting friendships, and he will be fondly remembered. The guild of chemical thermodynamicists has lost an esteemed colleague, and we have lost a valued friend.

There will be a workshop at the AICAT 2010 Congress, on May 26–28, in Trieste, Italy, in honor of Dr. H. V. Kehiaian, and the selected papers will be published as a special section in this journal.

Jean-Pierre E. Grolier
Université Blaise Pascal, Aubière, France

Emmerich Wilhelm
Universität Wien, Vienna, Austria

JE100232K