

## ***In memoriam: GEORGE-EMIL BAIULESCU (1931-2009)***

George-Emil Baiulescu was born on August 4, 1931 in a famous family from Braşov, his grandfather being the first Romanian Lord Mayor and his aunt the President of Romanian Women Union. His ancestor, Bratu Baiul, 1760 – 1831 was archpriest and we can observe that George-Emil Baiulescu was scientist in a family of priests and lawyers.

George-Emil Baiulescu obtained his B.Sc. in 1954 from the Faculty of Chemistry, University of Bucharest and between 1954–1958 he was researcher at the Centre of Chemical Researches (Department of Inorganic Chemistry) of the Romanian Academy of Science. He obtained his Ph.D. title in 1960 and D.Sc. in 1970, and in 1971 he received the authorization to supervise Ph.D. students and thirty six persons obtained this title under his supervision. He worked from 1958 at the Faculty of Chemistry as assistant, lecturer, reader and professor, and in 1961, together with Professor Grigore Popa, founded the Department of Analytical Chemistry in the Faculty of Chemistry at the University of Bucharest. All his life he did all the best to improve the quality of Analytical Chemistry in Romania

His scientific activity is evidenced by more than 200 scientific papers in prestigious journals, such as *Analytical Chemistry*, *Trends in Analytical Chemistry*, *Analytica Chimica Acta*, *Analytical Letters*, *Analyst*, *Critical Reviews in Analytical Chemistry*, *Mikrochimica Acta*, and *Talanta*.

He published four papers in the most important journal for analysts, *Analytical Chemistry*:

- **Tetraphenylboric acid salts as stationary phases in gas chromatography**  
*George E. Baiulescu*, Vasile A. Ilie  
*Anal. Chem.*, **1972**, *44* (8), pp 1490–1495
- **Gas chromatographic separation of some unsaturated hydrocarbons using thallium(I) tetraphenylborate as stationary phase**  
*George E. Baiulescu*, Vasile A. Ilie  
*Anal. Chem.*, **1974**, *46* (12), pp 1847–1849
- **Thin-layer chromatography combined with microreactions for the identification of alkaloids in mixtures**  
*George E. Baiulescu*, Titus Constantinescu  
*Anal. Chem.*, **1975**, *47* (13), pp 2156–2160
- **Potentiometric determination of phenoxyalkylcarboxylic acids in pesticides**  
N. Ciocan, *G. E. Baiulescu*  
*Anal. Chem.*, **1978**, *50* (9), pp 1407–1408

For more than 30 years Professor Baiulescu was a member in the editorial board of Analytical Letters journal.

He developed researches in different fields such as: organic reagents, separation methods, ion selective electrodes, atomic absorption and emission spectrometry, molecular emission spectrometry, chromatographic techniques, sampling, and environmental analysis.

He worked for more than 40 years in environmental pollution, air and water, and some of his Ph.D. students developed researches in this field. The environmental studies consisted in the determination of: gases, such as sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide; cations from mineral, river and sea waters; and also organic pollutants from different type of samples.

His conclusion about all his activity is “No analysis is better than the sample itself”.

Professor Baiulescu published books in foreign and in Romanian publishing houses:

- in 1974 together with T. Nășcuțiu, *Physical Methods of Trace Analysis*, in Editura Tehnică, Bucharest,
- *Stationary Phases in Gas Chromatography* with V.A. Ilie as co-author (in 1975, published by Pergamon Press, Oxford),
- *Applications of Ion Selective Membrane Electrodes in Organic Analysis* with V.V. Coșofreț, in 1977 published at Ellis Horwood, translated in 1980, also in Russian, Mir-Moscow),
- *Education and Teaching in Analytical Chemistry* together with C. Pătroescu and R.A. Chalmers, (in 1982 published at Ellis Horwood, Chichester and translated in China, 1993),
- and *Sampling* (1991) together with P. Dumitrescu and P. Gh. Zugrăvescu (published at Ellis Horwood, Chichester and translated in China, 1996),
- in 2004-*Environmental Analytical Chemistry. Concepts*, Ars Docendi, together with A.I. Stoica and C.H. Lochmüller
- one chapter in *Gold Mining: Formation and Resource Estimation, Economics and Environmental Impact*, ”The Influence of Gold Mining Industry on the Pollution of Roșia Montana District”, together with A.I. Stoica and R.M. Florea in Nova Publishers House, 2009.

In 1990, Professor George-Emil Baiulescu founded the Romanian Society of Analytical Chemistry (SCAR) and he puts all his soul and energy to organize national and international conferences.

Thus, he organized the first Conference on Analytical Chemistry from Romania with international participation, in 1992 at Cluj-Napoca. Before December 1989, the National Council of Engineers and Technicians organized International Conferences at Mamaia (1969) and at Brașov (1971). After these Conferences, the leadership from the communist period did not allow any International Conferences. Before December '89 were organized only National Conferences, the last one being at Brăila (1989).

Also, every year the National Conferences on Analytical Chemistry and every two years (1994-Constanța, 1996-Craiova, 1998-Piatra Neamț, 2000-Brașov, 2002-Timișoara, 2004-Brașov) the International Conferences on Analytical Chemistry were organized.

In 2000, at Braşov was organized the “1st Romanian International Conference on Analytical Chemistry” in cooperation with the Division of Analytical Chemistry.

All the time he encouraged the students to participate at national and international conferences, because he considered that the best way to learn something is to be in direct contact with specialists. Also, George-Emil Baiulescu participated at a lot of conferences, with plenary and keynote lectures, and oral and poster presentations. He participated at most of the Euroanalysis Conferences:

- Budapest-1975,
- Helsinki-1981,
- Cracow-1984,
- Paris-1987,
- Vienna-1990,
- Edinburgh-1993,
- Bologna-1996-where he presented a keynote entitled Sampling,
- Basel-1998,
- Lisbon-2000,
- Dortmund-2002,
- Salamanca-2004,
- and Antwerp-2007.

He was invited as plenary lecturer at Sassari – Italy (1976), Zaragoza – Spain (1983) , Chiba – Japan (1991), Gdansk – Poland (1986, 1990, 1997, 1998 and 2001), Changchun – China (1994), Mansoura (1997) and Cairo (1998) – Egypt. He presented a plenary lecture at the meeting of the Chemical Society, England 1980, the theme of this lecture was to evidence the importance of method–instrument, man–instrument and method–man–instrument correlations.

Starting from 2001, every january he presented, with a great pleasure, conferences in Braşov at Baiulescu House, the house that his grandfather donated to Astra foundation, with following titles:

- 2001 – Nicolae Teclu
- 2002 – Environmental Pollution
- 2003 – Mineral waters from Romania
- 2004 – Education by teaching in Romania
- 2005 – Quality, reliability, flexibility
- 2006 – Corelation between pollution and stress
- 2007 – Corelation between air, water and soil pollution
- 2009 – Metals and life. Cadmium as pollutant

One of the passions of George was to climb mountains, and his favorite mountain was Piatra Craiului, but also the views of the seaside are not foreign to him.

All he made in his life was done with enthusiasm and energy, and he had capacity to send these to all his coworkers. George-Emil Baiulescu was a great personality, a mentor for all his Ph.D. students and not only for them.

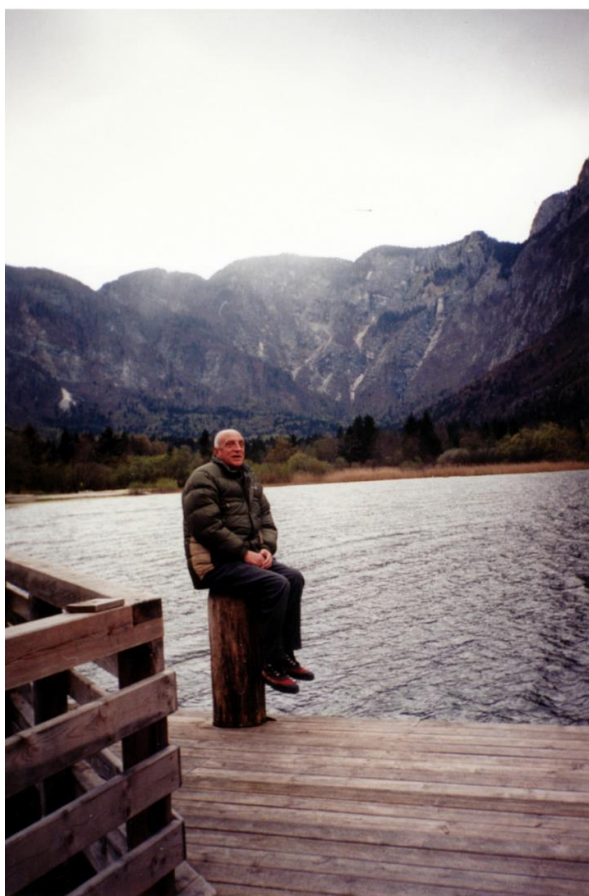
As a conclusion we can paraphrase a fragment from Romain Rolland:

*“Les grandes âmes sont comme de hautes cimes. Le vent les bat, les nuages les enveloppent; mais on y respire mieux et plus fort qu’ailleurs. L’air y a une pureté qui lave le cœur de ses souillures; et quand les nuées s’écartent, on domine le genre humain.*

*...Je ne prétends point que le commun des hommes puissent vivre sur ces sommets. Mais qu’un jour par année, ils y montent en pèlerinage. Ils y renouvelleront le souffle de leurs poumons et le sang de leurs veines. Là-haut, ils se sentiront plus près de L’Eternel.*

*Ensuite, ils redescendront vers la plaine de la vie, le cœur trempé pour le combat journalier”.*

A part of this Obituary will appear also in *Talanta* and in *Analytical Letters*.



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