

## Obituary

(Professor Edmond Nicolau)

On September 2, 1996, Professor Edmond Nicolau, an eminent cybernetician and great intellect, died aged 74. This was, indeed, a great loss to the world of science. I have also lost a devoted friend and active collaborator in the fields of cybernetics and systems, as well as a valuable member of the Editorial Board of *Robotica*.

Professor Nicolau was born in Braila, Romania on June 3, 1922. He graduated in engineering, but he also obtained a degree in philosophy in 1978. After serving in the Telecommunications Ministry he joined the Bucharest Polytechnic. There he founded the Electronics Faculty; later on, he established the Faculty of Cybernetics of the Academy of Economic Sciences and became the first dean of the Faculty, as well as the Scientific Director of the Computation Centre of the Academy.

In addition to his work in Romania, he took part in the work of international bodies, viz. World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics (Director for Education), Association Internationale de Cybernétique (Member of the Administration Council), Institut des Hautes Synthèses (Technical International Director), Academy of Cybernetics Odobleja (Vice-President), Academy of Sciences of New York (Member), and many others. Furthermore, he has held many honorary positions in international organisations, e.g. Hon. Member of the Balkan Union for Fuzzy Systems and AI, Vice-President of the Cultural Association for Friendship Romania-Israel, etc. He was also a member of the Editorial Boards of various scientific journals, including those of *Robotica*,

*Kybernetes*, *Revue Internationale de Systémique*, *Cybernetica*, etc.

His publications were many and significant. He was the author or co-author of 70 books and author of about 500 papers in journals in 16 countries. His books have been published in several countries and in 9 languages. Most of the books dealt with cybernetics, systems, mathematical linguistics, modelling in science, artificial intelligence, etc. . . His contributions to science and technology were outstanding, attracting wide attention. As a result of his prolific activities, he was invited to deliver lectures in various countries, viz. Germany, Ukraine, Russia, France, Italy, Mexico, UK and Switzerland. Many international distinctions have been awarded to Professor Nicolau in recognition of his eminent work, e.g. the Honorary Fellowship of the W.O.S.C., International Prize for Culture A.C.M.E.O.R., Grand Prix of the Institut des Hautes Synthèses, and many others. His work for nearly half a century bears witness to the deceased's towering intellect, interdisciplinary interests and dedication to science . . . a veritable Renaissance man in a twentieth century setting, an example to us all. Our thoughts go out to his dear wife and family on their grievous loss. May they be comforted by the renown enjoyed by Professor Nicolau throughout the world and friendship of his many colleagues. We shall miss him greatly.

J. Rose  
Editor