

In Memoriam

PROFESSOR Dr. KAZIM M. ERGIN (1915-2002)



The international community of Earth Scientists is saddened by the death of Dr. Kazim M. Ergin on November 24, 2002. Dr. Ergin possessed the rare distinction of excelling in both the applied and theoretical aspects of geophysics, with remarkable accomplishments in both industry and academia.

Dr. Ergin was born in 1915 in the city of Gaziantep, Turkey, where he received his pre-college education. In 1937, while pursuing a degree in mathematics at the University of Istanbul, he was awarded a scholarship from the "Mineral Research and Exploration (MTA) Institute" to study geology in Germany. After a short while there, his studies were interrupted owing to the impasses created by World War II. He went on to gain a B.Sc. in Geology at M.I.T., and his M.Sc. (1943) and Ph.D. (1950) degrees at Caltech.

His contributions on "Energy Ratios of the Seismic Waves Reflected and Refracted at a Rock-Water Boundary" and "Partition of Energy among P- and S-waves at a Rock-Water Boundary" are well known. Following some post-doctoral research at CALTECH, Dr. Ergin returned to his native country Turkey where he progressively assumed the offices of Chief Geophysicist and Chair of the Department of Geology at MTA, directing all geoscience-related exploration activities of the Institute. During this period he was credited, among many other accomplishments, for organizing and directing the preparation of a much needed 1/100,000 scale geological map of Turkey.

After this successful period of applied exploration at MTA, Ergin followed academic pursuits. In 1953 he joined the celebrated Istanbul Technical University (ITU) as an instructor and was later promoted to the rank of full professor in 1956. Professor Ergin became involved in all aspects of the activities of the Faculty of Mining at ITU, eventually becoming the Dean of the Faculty of Mining and the President of ITU.

Dr. Ergin was the very first professor to teach applied geophysics in his country. He was instrumental in establishing the Department of Geophysical Engineering at ITU, which has since gained prominence in the region. He trained a great many people over the years, both at undergraduate and graduate levels, many who went on to become successful geophysicists. He was also a successful consultant with many mineral deposit discoveries of commercial importance, including a contribution to the discovery of the huge copper deposit of Cakmakkaya. His technical output was prolific, including the first book in Turkish on applied geophysical methods, and many papers published in various international journals and bulletins. His achievements and contributions on behalf of the many committees, foundations and groups are too numerous to list. In 1992, in recognition of his invaluable contributions to the foundation and development of Geophysical Sciences in Turkey, TUBITAK honored Dr. Ergin with its prestigious "Service Award".

Ergin was married to Remziye Melek, a wonderful lady and soul mate. Together they lived a very fulfilling, happy life for almost fifty-seven fabulous years. Their devotion to each other was truly exemplary. They were blessed with two lovely children - daughter Mrs. Fusun Ozguner, and son Bulent Ergin. Dr. Ergin is also survived by his six grandchildren.

Kazim Ergin will be greatly missed. He excelled as a teacher, a scientist, an explorationist, a theoretician, a humanitarian, a husband and a father. Those who had the good fortune of being associated with him appreciate the benevolence of this extraordinary man. Members of his family, his students and colleagues will always remember him with love, admiration, appreciation and a deep sense of indebtedness and gratitude. He shall live in our thoughts forever.

Peter I. Bediz
Tuncay Taymaz