

Accepted Manuscript

Preface

IONEL HAIDUC– *A Life Dedicated to Science* –

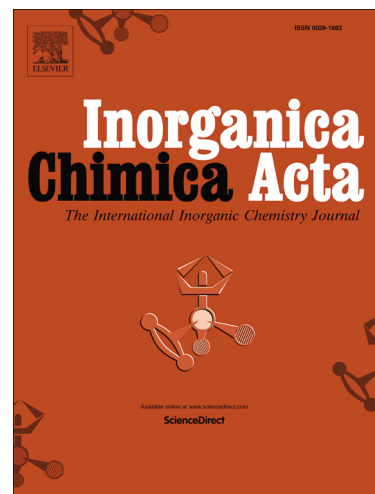
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PII: S0020-1693(18)30241-X

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ica.2018.02.012>

Reference: ICA 18122

To appear in: *Inorganica Chimica Acta*



Please cite this article as: M. Andruh, IONEL HAIDUC– *A Life Dedicated to Science* –, *Inorganica Chimica Acta* (2018), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ica.2018.02.012>

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IONEL HAIDUC

– *A Life Dedicated to Science* –

“The systematization of the existing experimental data is always useful because it reveals new possibilities and raises new problems both in the fundamental research and the practical applications.”[1]

Sixty years of life were dedicated by the protagonist of this sketch with constant passion and devotion to a science which was defined by himself as *“a great love at a first glance”*. With enthusiasm, deep study and a continuous interest for acquiring advanced knowledge and new skills, **Ionel Haiduc** transformed, step by step, his hobby (chemistry) in a successful profession.

He was born in 1937 in Cluj-Napoca and his whole life and career were strongly linked to this Romanian city and the Faculty of Chemistry of the Babeş-Bolyai University where he obtained the BSc in Chemistry in 1959. His bachelor thesis was published shortly after the graduation as his first book (*Introduction to the chemistry of inorganic rings*, Ed. Academiei, Bucureşti, 1960, published in Romanian). In 1964, he obtained the equivalent title of a PhD in chemistry at the “M. V. Lomonosov” Institute of Fine Chemical Technology in Moscow under the guidance of Academician K. A. Andrianov, with a thesis based on his studies upon inorganic and organosilicon polymers. He completed his formation as a researcher in USA, where he developed postdoctoral research in organometallic chemistry with Professor Henry Gilman, at Iowa State University (1966-1968) and with Professor Robert Bruce King at University of Georgia (1971-1972). After returning from USA, he became full professor of inorganic and organometallic chemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca.

The scientific interests of Ionel Haiduc were focused on several areas: inorganic ring systems, coordination and organometallic chemistry of main group elements, supramolecular organometallic chemistry, biologically active metal compounds (including antitumor activity), nomenclature and systematization in inorganic chemistry. Recently his attention is paid to the new concept of *inverse coordination* [2].

The valuable contribution of Ionel Haiduc to the international scientific community in the field of inorganic and organometallic chemistry is best summarized in his publications: 9 books (published in English or Romanian, some of them being also translated in Polish or Greek), 35 chapters in collective volumes and more than 350 original and review articles. *The Chemistry of Inorganic Ring Systems* (Wiley Interscience, London, 1970) and *The Chemistry of Inorganic Homo- and Heterocycles* (co-author – Bryan D. Sowerby, Academic Press, London, 1987, 2 vols.) were thoroughly up-dated surveys upon inorganic ring systems and marked his continues interest in this field. *The Chemistry of Metallorganic Compounds* (published in Romanian, *Chimia compușilor metalorganici*, Editura Științifică, București, 1974) served at that time as a unique source of information in the field for the Romanian students and it represented the beginning of Organometallic Chemistry in Romania as well. It was later followed by *Basic Organometallic Chemistry* (co-author – Jerry Zuckerman, Walter de Gruyter, Berlin, 1985), *Organometallics in Cancer Chemotherapy* (co-author – Cristian Silvestru, CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida, USA, 1989 – vol. I; 1990 – vol. II) and *Supramolecular Organometallic Chemistry* (co-authored by Frank T. Edelman, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, 1999), in a succession which is relevant for the evolution of the research interests of Ionel Haiduc to provide detailed insights into the coordination and the organometallic chemistry, moving from synthesis and molecular structure to applications and newly developed concepts. As the Nobel laureate Jean-Marie Lehn, the father of the *Supramolecular Chemistry*, noted in his foreword to *Supramolecular Organometallic Chemistry*, the book is *“a thorough description and incisive analysis of organometallic compounds and bonding features, in terms of the concepts and relationships with supramolecular chemistry”*. Moreover, Jonathan W. Steed appreciated in his book review published in *Crystal Growth and*

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