



**Professor Roger H. Charlier, Belgium / USA,  
An Outstanding Personality of the Coastal Marine Engineering Has Left Us  
(1921-2018)**

Professor, scientific researcher and oceanologist Roger H. Charlier was born in Belgium / Antwerp on November 10, 1921, and died in Etterbeek on September 26, 2018, and was incinerated in the crematory of Brussels on September 21.

**Studies:** PhD (Doctor of Philosophy, Magna cum laude, Friederich-Alexander Universität Erlangen), LitD (Doctor of Letters & Human Sciences, Magna cum laude, Université de Paris, ScD (Doctor of Sciences / Doctorat d'Etat, Summa cum laude, Université de Paris - Sorbonne, LicScIEco (Université libre de Bruxelles & Colonial University of Belgium-Antwerp), Licenciante in Political, Administrative and Economic Sciences, Université libre de Bruxelles), Licenciante in Sciences (Université libre de Bruxelles), Certificate d'Etudes de Sciences Politiques et Administratives, Université Coloniale de Belgique), Postdoctoral Advanced Studies Certificate McGill University, Wartime Management of the Economy Certificate Industrial College Armed Forces, Pedagogy Curriculum Parsons University Certificate.

**Career:** Teacher at secondary (1941-42), newspaper correspondent (1945-50, 1984-1994), United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, deputy director (1946-48), University Travel Inc., travel project director (1948-71), director of Division of Educational Travel (1963-67), Polycultural University, Washington DC, associate professor of geography and chairman of department (1950-52), Berlitz

School, teacher (1951-52), Finch College, professor of physical sciences, chairman of department, and professor of mathematics (1952-55), Hofstra University, professor of geology and geography & chairman of department (1955-58), University of Paris, Faculty of sciences, adjunct professor of geology (1958-59), University of Minnesota, visiting professor of education (1959-60), Parsons University, professor of earth sciences (1960-61), research scholar (1960-61), Northeastern Illinois University, professor of geology, geography, and oceanography (1961-86), coordinator of earth sciences (1961-65), research scholar (1962-64), Romanian Academy, exchange senior scientist (1968, 1978-79), U.S. Information Service, lecturer (1971-84), Academy of Sciences of Bulgaria, exchange senior scientist (1979), University of Bordeaux, honorary professor (1987-), Lovania Publishers, staff (1988-95), University of Brussels, professor emeritus (1989). Writer.

**Functions:** Research Professor Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton FL; Professor Emeritus, Vrije Universiteit Brussels; id. Université de Bordeaux I; id. Northeastern Illinois University. Previously: University of Minnesota, DePaul University, Hofstra University, City University of New York, Escuela Superior Ciencias Marinas Universidad Autonoma de Baja California, University of Western New Mexico, Executive Director, Institute for the Development of Riverine and Estuarine Systems, Deputy Director (UNRRA) United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation Administration; Executive Director, Institute for the Development of Riverine & Estuarine Systems; Scientific Advisor to CEO Harbour & Engineering Consultants; editorial positions; vice-chair environment task-force Orde Belgische Raadgevende Ingenieurs (Order of Belgian Consulting Engineers); chair Work-Group environment & sustainability European Federation of Consulting Engineers Associations< executive advisor, Colruyt Engineering; executive consultant, SOPEX Engineering; Vice President European Operations, Environmental Protection Group (Chicago); Newspaper correspondent (Volksgazet, Nieuwe Gazet, Avenir Belge, Nouvelle Revue de Lausanne, Journal de Genève, Le sA Book of Readings (oir, La Dernière Heure); Belgian National Television and Radio, etc.

**Publishing activity:** over 12 books (e.g. Coastal Erosion, Springer Verlag, Ocean Power, Springer Verlag), co-editor 4 books (e.g. Ocean Sciences bridging the Millennium, UNESCO & China Press), over 452 scientific articles, 745 articles in journals and newspapers.

**Titles:** Cours d'analyse infinitésimale, 5 vols. (1940); Analyse mathématique (1941); The Belgians and the Flemings (1953); Antwerpen: die Bedeutung der belgischen Handelsmetropole im westeuropäischen Raum (1958); The Gifted: A National Resource (1960); Introductory Earth Science (1960); Introduction to Oceanography (1964); co-author Discovering Hawaii: A Series of Seminars (1965); The Physical Environment: A Brief Outline (1966); ed. Geography of the USSR (1967); Harnessing the Energies of the Ocean (1970); ed. with P.S. Charlier and J.J. Karpeck The World around Us: A Book of Readings (1971); The Study of Rocks (1971); The study of Oceans (1971); ed. A Digest of Master's Theses in Geography at Northeastern Illinois University (1972); contrib. Marine Resources (1972); Esquisse d'un cours d'océanographie générale (1973); contrib. The Oceans and Man (1975); Economic Oceanography (1977); contrib. Energy from the Sea (1977); Ocean Resources: An Introduction to Economic Oceanography (1978); contrib. Ocean Yearbook, vol. I (1978), vol. IV (1984); vol. IX (1989); Marine Science and Technology: An Introduction to Oceanography (1980); Our Physical Environment (1980); Marine Geology (1980); Tidal Energy (1982); contrib. Small Energy Resources (1987); contrib. Seaweeds of Europe (1992); with J.R. Justus Ocean Energies: Environmental, Economic and Technological Aspects of Alternative Power Sources (1993); contrib. Benthic Marine Plants and Eutrophication (1996); with De Meyer Coastal Erosion: Response and Management (1988); co-author Ocean Sciences, Resources, & Technology: A Guide to the Sea (1998); with A.S. Bologna Using Today's Knowledge for Black Sea Area's Development Tomorrow (2003); Oceans Bridging the Millennia (2004), a.o.

**Distinctions:** Chevalier de l'Ordre de Léopold, Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques, Medal of the Resistance, Medal of the Political Prisoner, Medal of War Volunteer, Medal of World War II with crossed swords (combat duty) and thunderbolts (intelligence and sabotage service), nominated for Commander Order of the Crown, Gold Medal of Mérite Touristique (Belgium), Great Medal of the Seal of the University of Bordeaux (France), Commemorative Medal of the City and Harbor of Ostend (Belgium), Platinum Medal Arts and Sciences, Gold Medal for the Advancement of Progress, etc., various fellowships (incl. Fulbright Fellow, Kellogg Fellow, IREX Fellow, French Government, Belgium, Monaco), Memorial Lecture Award of UN First President Paul-Henri Spaak (awarded by the University of

Bochum-Germany), scholarships, prizes and awards. Major of complementary army forces, Lt Col resistance Belgium,

**Affiliations:** Former President, vice-President, Charter Member, New Jersey Academy of Sciences, Corresponding Member Académie Nationale des Arts, Sciences & Belles-Lettre (France), nominated to Académie Royale de Marine de Belgique (2011), Charter Member of the Histoire de l'Océanographie Commission (UNESCO-IGO, Fellow NJ Ac.Sci., Fellow Geological Soc.Am., Fellow Am.Adv.Sci, Fellow NJ Ac. Sci., Foreign Honorary Member of Academia Oamenilor de Știință din România (Academy of Romanian Scientists) / Section of Biological Sciences (2011), and member of various professional societies.

Distinguished Professor Roger H. Charlier visited Romania for the first time in the early '70s, then in 1979 and several times after 1990. It was a privilege and joy to show him initially the premises of the Romanian Marine Research Institute in Constanța and the Natural Reserve of Marine Dunes from Agigea. The more and more pronounced restrictions imposed by the communist regime have considerably limited the possibilities of scientific collaboration desired and expected since his first visit. After the significant opening offered by the changes at the end of 1989, the contact has been resumed successfully.

Our fruitful cooperation targeted activities carried out with the International Ocean Institute (IOI) from Malta and aspects of Romanian history of oceanography. Under the aegis of IOI two Leadership Conferences were organized together with Professor R. Charlier, enjoying his unconditional help, in Constanța-Mamaia, Romania, in 2000 and 2002, respectively. The joint participations in the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th International Congresses on the History of Oceanography, in the USA (1993), China (1998), Russian Federation (2003), Italy (2008), respectively, remain certainly unforgettable moments of learning, pleasant conversation and good mood. His contributions have proved to be always extremely informative, interesting and agreeable.

It was an honour and pleasure to recommend the Professor's outstanding personality to the Academy of Romanian Scientists, whose foreign honorary member he became in 2011. His i) Laudatio was held by the President of the Academy, Professor Dr. General (R) Vasile Cîndea. The ii) inaugural speech concerned '*Crangon crangon*, endangered or merely on a *Via dolorosa*?'; on draft of this contribution to the Academy Annals Series on Biological Sciences he wrote:

*Crangon has caused us sleepless evenings but the final product was worth efforts and tears. Alex your contribution was inestimable*, Roger C., 9 May 2012 – sure enough to generous words as to the given sincere help. In spite of that hard work, exceeding midnight, during the World Football Championship, instead of having shown him more about Bucharest, was, as usually, agreeable. Later on he was also included in the Series Editorial Board, under his affiliation to the Free University of Brussels / Belgium The iii) Official response which ended the nomination ceremony was held by the undersigned.

Several joint publications, e.g. in *Noesis* of the Romanian Academy, Professor's Charles W. Finkl *Journal of Coastal Research and Sea Technology*, have materialized our scientific collaboration in the field of oceanography.

Professor Charlier's well-known multilingualism has obviously served considerably in consolidating his relationships with many *confrères* and collaborators in his areas of expertise.

But besides the professional continuous links it deals about a long friendship offered by a man of a sound professionalism, an exhaustive general culture and a vast personal experience in various matters. He has permanently manifested a particular generosity in sharing his knowledge, pieces of advice or copyright. And he was next, as a devoted parent, in some difficult moments, for example during my leadership of the IOI Black Sea Operational Centre in Constanța.

Last but not least, Roger Charlier had a very developed sense of humour which he manifested in the most diverse and unexpected situations, generating highly attractive academic exposures, and in addition the pleasure felt always in his presence

For sure the regretted decedent has marked many generations of his disciples through his complex, multilateral and non-formalized personality.

Many of us will remain grateful to Roger for everything he has given to us, professionally and personally, throughout his long and productive life. We will surely miss him in future moments of joy or annoyance. Few teachers and tutors leave behind such a profound trace in the existence and heart of others.

I feel a deep regret for the loss of Professor Roger Charlier, to science, his family and disciples, as a scholar, model and close friend.

Requiescat in pace!

PhD. Alexandru S. Bologna