



Prof. Dr. Tuncay TAYMAZ

OBITUARY TO M. Kâzım Ergin*

MEHMET KÂZIM ERGİN, known to his colleagues and students as *Kâzım Hoca*, is the most distinguished, eminent and best Turkish geophysicist whose theoretical and experimental research contributed to every aspect of the geophysical sciences. He will always be remembered as one of the pioneering figures in advancing teaching of the Earth Sciences in Turkey, not only for his individual contributions but also for his influence on his colleagues and students.

Kâzım Hoca was also good administrator and proved his abilities to be director of the various institutions in Turkey. He also shared opinions of Lord Rutherford¹ of Cavendish Physics Laboratory and those of Sir Edward Crisp Bullard of Geophysics in Cambridge when running things:

- Running things requires confidence that you know what you are doing, a belief that it will all come out all right and the ability to say what you think without offending people.
- Another thing you must do is to spend time with people who are in trouble, either emotional, financial or scientific. This is a large part of any Director's job.
- The main thing is to keep as firm a hold as possible on scientific appointments.
- Whatever the consequences, you soon learn that, however unreasonable other people are, you have to remain calm, sympathetic and reasonable (an occasional explosion does no harm, but it must be rare and calculated).

Kâzım Hoca is a well-liked, both effective scientists and director, and was knighted for his services. Under his leadership the Geophysics Department at İTÜ played a major role in the establishment of geophysical sciences in Turkey, and his influence on others involved in these ideals was very extensive. He was very concerned with the welfare of his students and colleagues and went to great trouble to find them good positions. He made a large collection of scientific books and scientific periodicals over the years, and donated his collections to the Department library, known as *Kâzım Ergin Kitaplığı*.

Kâzım Ergin will be greatly missed. Those who had the good fortune of having been associated with him truly appreciate the benevolence of this extraordinary man. He was an outstanding humanitarian and an esteemed scientist. Further information can be obtained under <http://www.geop.itu.edu.tr/kisiler/ergin>

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