

Biography of Don Ángel Martín Municio



Don Ángel was born in Haro, a small village in the region of “La Rioja” (Spain), on November 30th, 1923. His parent, who was judge, was appointed to Salamanca, where Don Ángel studied Chemistry, getting his degree in 1946. He later studied at the University of Santiago de Compostela, where he got the Pharmacy University degree in 1948.

Don Ángel started his professional career in 1948 as organic chemistry assistant professor at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Madrid and continued in this position until 1951. During this period of time, he got a PhD in Chemistry in the Central University of Madrid. From 1951 til 1954, while Don Ángel was Fellow Scientist of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), he received a grant from CSIC to work in the

Rijks University of Utrecht (Holland). He also worked in the Max-Planck-Institute in Heidelberg (Germany) and got a PhD in Pharmacy in the Central University of Madrid.

In 1955 he received a grant from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to study in the Medical Research Council of Mill Hill (London, UK). Later, in 1963, he researched in the Twyford Mill Laboratories (London, UK) and, in 1965, he worked in the Organic Chemistry Department at the University of New Castle. From 1955 until 1966 he was Scientific Researcher and Biochemistry Section Manager at the Chemistry Institute (Spain) and from 1960 til 1966 he was representative for Spain at the OCDE. During the period 1965-72, Don Ángel was Director of the Biology Department of the Juan March Foundation. From 1967 until 1989, he was Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the Faculties of Biology and Chemistry at the Complutensis University (Madrid, Spain). During this period he was also appointed Director of the Biochemistry department of the Complutensis University.

In 1969, he worked in the Medical Research Council (Cambridge, UK) and since this year, he was the first Spanish member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO). Also, on February 11th, 1969 he became full member of the Royal Academy of Exact Sciences, Physics and Natural Sciences (Madrid, Spain) in the area of Natural Sciences and later, from 1985 til his decease, he was its President. In 1990, he received on behalf of the Royal Academy of the Exact Sciences, Physics and Natural Sciences, the IV Leonardo Torres Quevedo award.

From 1962 until 1990, Don Ángel was representative for Spain at the European Molecular Biology Conference and, from 1982 until 1990, he was also Vice President of the European Biology Conference. During the period 1982-86, he was Vice Principal for Research and International Relations of the Complutensis University (Madrid, Spain). While he worked in this position, he was introducer of Dr. John Kendrew as “Honoris Causa” Doctor by the Complutensis University and introducer of the Royal Highness Queen Elisabeth II when she was granted the Gold Medal of the University. Additionally, he was Director of the Basic Research Department of the Spanish Health Ministry for the Toxic Syndrome (1983-84) and Director of the Research Service of the Regional Plan of Oncology of the region of Madrid (1982-84).

From 1983 until 1997, he was member of the Board of the Ortega y Gasset Institute. In 1982 he was

elected full member of the Royal Spanish Academy (RAE) and in 1984, he became full member of this Institution. Later, from 1992 until 2000, he was the Vice Director of the Royal Spanish Academy. Don Ángel was one of the most active members of the scientific terminology seminar at the Royal Spanish Academy.

Don Ángel was member of the Board of the following Foundations: “Ideas and Historic Research Foundation” (since 1987), “Bilbao Vizcaya Bank Foundation” (1990-94), “Central Hispano Bank Foundation” (since 1994), “Entorno, Empresa y Medio Ambiente” (Environment, Companies and the Environment) Foundation (since 1996), “Scientific Foundation of the Spanish Cancer Association” (1989-2001), “San Millán de la Cogolla Foundation” (since 1998) and “Antonio de Nebrija University Foundation” (since 1998).

Since 1996 until his decease, Don Ángel was Vice President of the Board of the European Language Resources Association (ELRA). He played an important role both in the organization of the Language Resources and Evaluation Conferences (LREC) and in the management of the Association. The last LREC conference in which he was involved, took place in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in May 2002 and, was with no doubt, the most successful both in terms of number of participants (more than 700) and number of published papers.

He was also member of the Board of the Cervantes Institute since 1992 and member of its Board of Directors since 1996. Member of the “Colegio Libre de Eméritos” since 1990. President of the Scientific Board of the Foundation to Support the National Science and Technology Museum. Full member of the European Academy of Arts, Sciences and Humanities since 1992. Full member of the Academia Scientiarum et Artium Europaea since 1997 and Vice President of the Spanish section since 1999. Correspondent member of the Academy of Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Natural Sciences of Venezuela (1993). Honorific member of the Interamerican Medical and Health Association (USA, 1993). Distinguished lecturer in Biomedicine, granted by the School of Medicine of Louisiana State University (USA, 1993). Correspondent member of the Academy of Sciences of Colombia (1994). Honorific member of the Academy of Sciences of the Dominican Republic (1994). Correspondent member of the Academy of Sciences of Russia (1996). Honorific member of the Academy of Spanish Language of Colombia (1997) and correspondent member of the Academy of Sciences of Latin America (2001).

Don Ángel had a very good scientific reputation. He published several hundreds of scientific papers in International Magazines within the areas of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He was also author and editor of books within these specialties. Director and author of the Scientific and Technical Vocabulary of the Royal Academy of Sciences (issues 1983, 1988 and 1992), of the Dictionary of Essential Sciences (Royal Academy of Sciences, issues 2000 and 2001) and of the Spanish Energy Dictionary (Royal Academy of Sciences, first issue, 2002). Director of the Programme to Promote Scientific and Technological Culture (Royal Academy of Sciences, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001). Director of 53 PhD thesis. Author of essays, scientific publications and literary critics for scientific works. Attendant to hundreds of Conferences and Scientific Meetings. Director of Courses and Lecturer at many academic and research activities.

Don Ángel was owner of the “Medalla al Mérito Investigador” (Medal for the Worthy Researcher) of the Spanish Royal Society of Physics and Chemistry. Cross of “Alfonso X El Sabio”. Great Cross of the Military Merit. La Rioja Gold Medal. Honorific Medal to the Invention Sponsorship. Medal of the Complutensis University. Medal for the Merit of the Colombian Government and Gold Medal of the Spanish Cancer Association.