

*In Memory of the Centennial Birthday  
of  
Prof. Dr. Mahmoud A. El Sherbini*



***Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed El-Sherbini***  
***(1909 - 1998)***

He was born in Menia Al Kamh, Sharqia, January 22nd 1909 and died June 11th 1998. Professor El-Sherbini is considered one of the pioneers of physics in Egypt. In 1926, he joined the one year old Faculty of Science of the Egyptian University and was awarded the B. Sc. degree with honor, in Physics and Mathematics in 1930. His M. Sc. degree (1932), entitled "*Third Order Terms in The Theory of Stark Effect and Three Dimensional Periodic Orbits in The Field of Non-Neutral Atoms*" was supervised by Professor Ali Moustafa Mosharafa. He joined King's College in London (1932) to work on his Ph. D. thesis under the supervision of the Nobel Laureate, Sir O. W. Richardson, on "*Electron Reflection in The Low Energy Region*".

On his return to Egypt in 1935, he was appointed lecturer in the Physics Department, Faculty of Science, the Egyptian University. He was the first graduate of the Egyptian University to obtain a Ph.D. degree in Physics. He became assistant professor in 1945 and he left the Egyptian University in Cairo (named University of Fouad The First, at that time) to join University of Farouk The First, in Alexandria (named Alexandria University in 1952), to become the head of the Physics Department. In 1949 he became Professor of Physics at the Faculty of Science, Alexandria University, (the first graduate of the Egyptian University to be Professor of Physics), Vice Dean (1950 – 1952) and Dean (1957 – 1961). Professor El-Sherbini was the head of the Physics Department, which he founded, for more than 20 years (1945 – 1969), he was Emeritus Professor till 1998. He established the Physics Department and is one of the founders of the Faculty of Science, Alexandria University.

Professor El-Sherbini has a great contribution to physics teaching and research in Egypt. His work on Stark effect for strong fields was recognized as one of the most accurate in this area (Quantum Mechanics, Pauling and Wilson, McGraw- Hill). His pioneering work on crystal rectification is among the best of its type and was the first research work on Solid State Physics in Egypt. His discovery of inverse rectification at low temperatures was the base for the theory developed by Holten in 1951. He established a centre for nuclear studies at Alexandria University equipped with a Cockcroft and Walton accelerator, the first accelerator in Middle East universities.

Professor El-Sherbini has established the Egyptian Physical Society and the Egyptian Journal of Physics in 1968, and was elected the first president of the Society and the first editor in chief.