

Asim Orhan Barut: 1926–1994

Asim Orhan Barut was a wonderful physicist and friend. He was an outstanding researcher, publishing over 500 papers along with 6 books as author and 25 as editor—including his excellent *Theory of the Scattering Matrix*, his well-worn and famous *Electrodynamics and Classical Theory of Particles and Fields*, and his opus *Representations of Noncompact Groups and Applications* (co-authored with R. Raçzka). He was also an accomplished lecturer—his teaching style was blackboard and chalk—something he did well and with a flair. He often would think deeply about problems and then disappear to carry out detailed calculations in support of his many interests—from the foundation of quantum mechanics to classical and quantum electrodynamics.

Asim Barut was educated at the famous Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) in Zurich, where he received his PhD in 1952. In 1954, while in Zurich, he married Pierrette Gervaz, his partner in life. Together they had three children, Turan, Suzan, and Sibel. His breadth of interests was apparent early on. He went from doing experimental physics at the ETH to a post-doc in theoretical physics at the University of Chicago in 1953. He served on the faculty of Reed College (1954), Syracuse University (1956–1961), and the University of Colorado (1962–1994), where he held many positions and received many honors, including Co-director of the Institute for Theoretical Physics, and University Distinguished Research Lecturer.

Asim also directed many successful summer schools and workshops around the country and the world, ranging from the famous Boulder Summer Schools on Theoretical Physics to NATO Advanced Study Institutes on many subjects—often focusing on mathematical physics or fundamental issues. He was a sought-after speaker and lecturer who received such honors as the Turkish “Age of Sciences” Medal in 1991. But nothing meant more to him than the collaborations he enjoyed with his colleagues. Here

indeed was a role model for us all. Our *lieber Kollege*, Professor Asim Barut, lives on in his work and in our affection.

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