

# Michel George Malti

*November 7, 1895 — May 8, 1978*

Michel George Malti, professor of electrical engineering emeritus, died in Miami, Florida, on May 8, 1978, as the result of a stroke suffered several weeks earlier. He had made his home there since 1962, when he retired from Cornell to assume duties as director of electrical engineering at the University of Miami.

He was born at Deir-ul-Kamar, Lebanon, on November 7, 1895, the son of George Constantin and Mary (Shukri) Malti. After graduating from the University of Beirut, Lebanon, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1915, he received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1922. Undertaking graduate studies at Cornell while serving as an instructor, he received his Master of Electrical Engineering degree in 1924 and his Doctor of Philosophy degree with a major in physics and a minor in mathematics in 1927. He became an American citizen in December 1936.

With an active interest in international education he served as visiting professor of the University of Puerto Rico during the spring and fall of 1948, and at Roorkee University, Roorkee, India, during the years 1955 to 1957. He served as a member of the board of directors of the Asia Institute and as faculty adviser for Indian students at Cornell under arrangement with the International Cooperation Authority. He was honored in 1953 by the Syrian-Lebanese Society for his role in these areas. He served as faculty adviser to the Hindustan Association from 1945 to 1955.

Professor Malti's technical interests were in the area of general electric circuit theory and basic sciences. As a licensed professional engineer he served as consultant to the Elliott Company, the General Electric Company, the Westinghouse Company, the U.S. Navy during World War II, and the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory. Early in his career he was active in research, published numerous papers, and published two textbooks with John Wiley and Sons, becoming editor of a series of texts published by that company as well as of two sections of a general engineering handbook published by McGraw Hill and Company.

A fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, he served on its Electrophysics Committee from 1948 to 1950 and as vice chairman and later chairman on its Committee on Basic Sciences from 1950 to 1952. From 1936 to 1939 he served as chairman of its subcommittee on definitions and also on its subcommittee on applied mathematics.

Among his other societies and listings are the American Mathematical Society, the American Association of University Professors, Sigma Xi, Eta Kappa Nu, Phi Kappa Phi, Kappa Phi, and Tau Beta Pi. He was also a fellow at the Royal Society of Arts, London.

Devoted parents of a family of six children, he and his wife, Olga, upon his brother's death, adopted two of his brother's younger children, born in Lebanon, and shared with them the devotion they had earlier lavished upon their own children. Always an individual of strong conviction, he was constantly visible in the many issues that involved campus life and as an energetic man was constantly involved in many campus roles. He served as faculty adviser to the Cornell chapter of Eta Kappa Nu, faculty adviser to the Hindustan Association of Cornell, and president of the Cornell chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. He was listed in *American Men of Science* and *Who's Who in America* and its subvolumes. Professor Malti was seldom a passive member of any organization.

*Paul D. Ankrum, William H. Erickson, Howard G. Smith*