

FLORKIN Marcel

Born: Liege, Belgium (1900)

Died: Liege, Belgium (1979)

Florkin graduates as a physician in 1929 at the University of Liege, where he succeeds Henri Frédéricq to become in 1934 the titular head of the department of biochemistry. He applies himself to the evolutionary biology about which he writes in 1944 an internationally acclaimed book. Together with other Belgian scientists (a.o. Christian de Duve and Putzeys) he is co-founder of the “Belgian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology”. In 1952 he becomes the first president of the International Union of Biochemistry after being one year earlier the initiator of the Belgian Biochemical Society (s.a. Bigwood). In addition to being the Belgian delegate at the yearly UNESCO meetings, he also contributes to preserve the traditions of the Walloon culture. In this connection his main interest concerns the medical history of Liège and the surrounding area around 1800. During WWII he starts up an illegal society for the intellectual and artistic progress of the Walloon region. He also contributes to the leftist newspaper “Combat”.