PROFESSOR IORDACHE ION
ON HIS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Professor Ion Iordache reached the age of 75 years. Forever young and dynamic, the ornithologist Ion Iordache wants to prove that “sparrow everything stays put” and we cannot argue him because somatic he really looks like that. Although they are a lot of ornithologists, just one presented his doctorate with the thesis “Biostatistics and ecological study on populations of two species of sparrows Passer domesticus and Passer montanus in Moldova” And if we take in consideration the fact that he has been for much years the tenured of the Ethology course, he must have the secret of the youth without senescence and the secret of the life without death. The experience accumulated in the field of Vertebrate’s Zoology allowed him to be an elite hunter and more than that, a great theoretician of the wildlife resources. Such all the hunters and fishermen, Professor Iordache Ion is a skilful narrator; He offered to his students and to all animal lovers some captivating books as: The wonderful world of birds, The zoo-VIP Curiosities from the creatures world, Wild mammals from Romania, The stunning exotic birds and much others.

Endowed by nature with the gifts of writing and narrating, he managed to put in his books enough information to awake the interest, the pleasure of reading and the
ambition to go all the way.

Didactician and methodist of academic rank, Professor Iordache Ion managed not only to polish generations and generations of biology teachers and gave them several valuable editions and versions of the valuable textbook of “Teaching biology”, but also to give his lectures of Vertebrates Zoology, Ethology, Phylogenesis, design.

The zoologist, ornithologist, hunter and ethologist Ion Iordache without abilities in the preparation of the biological material would be, still, an unfulfilled specialist. His specialization in this field appeared like a hobby from the moment he took the hunting rifle in his hands and he became assistant at the Department of Zoology. The secrets of biological material preparation were shared to his students in the course and the practical work of “The technique of biological material preparation”, course that he honoured it for a number of years.

Experience was required being harnessed not only in the field of academic education, but also socially. I still think that the birth Fates have foreshadowed his road of life. How else, Professor Ion Iordache became director of the Natural History Museum in Iași, which belongs to the “Al. I. Cuza” University. “The right man in the right place.” This is the first Museum of Natural History from the Romanian Countries. It has been honoured by a number of great personalities, including: Ioan Borcea, Nicolae Leon, Ion Botez, Nicolae Macarovici, Constantin-Visarion Mândru, Nicolae Valenciuc that was followed by Professor Ion Iordache. Trying to implement a Museum of Man in the framework of the Museum Complex honoured him, pity that was not understood and was not helped by the leadership of the University. I hope that this dream will be accomplished in the future.

The leading activity of the Museum was smartly and happily correlated with that of the Head of the Department of Zoology, Ecology, in the period 1993-2005.

The involvement in the social life, at the level of a scientist had to be accomplished as President of the Scientific Council of the National Park Ceahlău. The function would seem purely scientific, actually, there were and still are a lot of conflicts of interest between organizers and beneficiaries, which shouldn’t appear in a State law, but which to us appear; in solving them it is required tenacity and social intelligence.

Born on 15.08.1938 in the village “Alexandru Odobescu” from Buda, Buzău, in a family of working people, who made all the efforts to give children in schools, Iordache (Tache) he went to school in his native village (1944-1948). He still remembers the troubles caused by the Great World War. He made middle school to Dumitrești, Putna county, today Vrancea (1948-1951), and secondary school at “Middle School for 10 years” from Râmnicul Sărat, today College “Al. Vlahuță”. Being a child who loved books, his parents decided to maintain him at college, although times were hard and there were many children. Thus, in 1954, became a student of the Faculty of Natural Sciences-Geography at the University “Al. I. Cuza” from Iasi.

In college he enjoyed the existence of a great throng of professors and scientists, between the: Mihai Constantineanu, Zicman Feider, Olga Necrasov, Petre Jitariu, Constantin Papp, Nicolae Macarovici etc. Through his adolescent look, his nice aspect of the image and personal charm he was quickly loved by his co-workers, especially of girls. With a social intelligence developed, proved that he is a witty and a great colleague, Ion Iordache became meanwhile the famous Tache or Tachiță, that is how I met him too and it was a real pleasure being around him. With a developed sense of observation, a curious type, always willing to jokes and pranks (more or less innocents) Tachiță became this
agreeable and searched by both colleagues and the young academics. Our approach has been favoured by the fact that during studentship we did some practical applications together. It remained in our memory the beautiful and educative practical applications made through the country by train (with carriages equipped for sleeping).

Noted for its qualities, the young graduate became in 1960 assistant at the Department of Zoology, at Vertebrate Zoology discipline, honoured at that time by the eminent Professor Zicman Feider. The year 1960 was a memorable year for the history of the “Al. I. Cuza” University; it was celebrating the centenary of the establishment of the University. This event attracted the attention of the authorities, encouraging the boost of students and teachers.

From the beginning I found some similarities between the young assistant and his teacher: stature, social intelligence, the size of cranial capacity and not only this. Being assistant, he was closer to us, the students. I was in the final year of study and living in the “Olga Bancic” house, next to University. We were playing cards at meal. Suddenly Mister Tache opens the door speaking out loudly: “come in Mister Dean!” We remained as paralyzed, we got no cards to hide, we experienced great emotions until we realized it was a prank.

In 1962 we became work fellows, with me being assistant at Invertebrate Zoology, at Professor Mihai Constantineanu. Becoming colleagues our relations became closer too. We had met better in the applications made in the nature with the students. Meanwhile we became organizers of practical applications together with other colleagues: Constantin Piscă, Constantin Toma, Mihai Mititiuc, Gheorghe Vițelariu, Dumitru Mititelu etc.


The young teacher made some postgraduate training courses both at home and abroad:
- The use of radioactive isotopes at the Institute of Atomic Physics in Bucharest (1963);
- Method of teaching sciences at the University “Al. I. Cuza” Iasi (1972);
- Stages of specialization and documentation in Germany, Poland, USSR etc.

Apprenticeship in scientific research had made it to the teacher Zicman Feider. In some happy circumstances he associated in the scientific research with the heads of work Nicolae Valenciuc and Viorica Simionescu, who already were dealing a specific theme, the order Chiroptera, respectively rodents (Small rodent mammals).

His first scientific paper was published in 1962, in collaboration with Zicman Feider, N. Valenciuc and V. Simionescu “La croissance relative chez l’Atherinepontique (Atherinapontica Erch. 1831) et considerations sur le rythme de croissance des deux sexes ches la poissons”.

Follow a series of papers on bats made with his late colleague N. Valenciuc, with who makes a friendship in the real sense of the word, based on collaboration and mutual respect; they published together 31 scientific papers.

Being initiated in the Ornithology field, Mister Ion Iordache begun to channel his efforts into this area, publishing a series of papers alone or in collaboration. Become an ornithologist recognized and appreciated, he began to initiate into this field some of his students or ornithology enthusiasts from other Universities, who are today known
ornithologists. In this sense we could nominate numerous publications with Carmen Gache, M. Grebinişan, T. Glăvan, S. Trelea etc.

Deserves particular attention how Professor Ion Iordache managed to initiate and form his son as ornithologist, Lecturer dr. Ion Constantin. The first works published together, father appears as first author, and then, after the son became a good sistematician, he turns into the first author, then takes off and independently publishes the results obtained in research. This algorithm we meet either in the collaboration with Lecturer dr. Gache Carmen, who is a famous ornithologist both at home and abroad.

Being a skilful pedagogue Professor Ion Iordache understood that you cannot really be academic and scientist if you do not form in your area a number of disciples to continue your research and to develop them. There are many ways how you can form a number of specialists: graduation papers, dissertation, degree works, the doctoral specialization. It is enough to mention that, through the leadership of 158 graduation papers, more than 50 dissertations and 106 degree works, an impressive number of disciples enjoyed his precious and relevant guidance. The successful completion of 26 doctoral theses, most of them from the ornithology field, enable us to consider that Professor Ion Iordache contributed at the formation of high academic specialists, in this manner initiating a School of Ornithology at the University “Al. I. Cuza” from Iaşi.

Research of chiropterology and ornithology are particularly important through both their theoretical value (fundamental) and practical (applied). Professor took an impressive research activity under contract. He coordinated eight research grants with internal financing and one with external financing. Most of them are devoted to the complex study of the protected areas from Moldova. In the same area of research enrols the International Grant too, realized with Scanagri-Denmark: “Present situation of forestry and ecosystems in the Ceahlău Nature Reserve as a result of the word felling and the human activities”.

The scientific work of Professor Ion Iordache honours him. He published more than 130 scientific papers in prestigious journals in the country and abroad. He printed alone or in collaboration a number of 26 books, of which ten are university textbooks.

Especially rich is the didactic activity of the teacher Ion Iordache.

Being stopped at the Department of Zoology, the young assistant participated at Vertebrate Zoology practical work and practical applications of students. As assistant he led the Vertebrate Zoology practical work for long time together with his predecessor and friend, Professor Valenciuc Niculai. They published together in 1983 a practical volume of Vertebrate Zoology. Leading the students practice at the Marine Biological Station “Professor dr. Ioan Borcea” from Agigea, he elaborated in collaboration with Professor Mustata Gheorghe, a Practical Guide to the Black Sea, being helpful for the students.

Regarding the teaching of Vertebrate Zoology course that he honoured for a long period we have to mention that he had as model his predecessors, Professors Zicman Feider and Valenciuc Neculai; such as they had, he provided a special design for his lectures, to make it more enjoyable and appreciated by students. Endowed with the gift of teaching and valences of pedagogue, Professor Ion Iordache delivered lectures of high academic appearance. Except the Vertebrate Zoology, he also taught: Ethology, The method of Teaching Biology, The Damage and the Rebuilding of Ecosystems, Hunting and Forestry Resources, Vertebrates Phylogen, etc. His courses had been appreciated by students, and the optional ones had been preferred both for the richness of scientific information and the
emphasis on environmental issues and ethological ones and the illustration of the lectures with images from animals’ life.

For 34 years the colleague Ion Iordache led the pedagogical practice at the Faculty of Biology. And he wasn’t just a pedagogical practice organizer, but an expert in the area. He honoured the course of “The method of teaching Biology”, an initiation way in the profession of Biology teacher.

At the Faculty of Biology had been organized, without interruption, practical applications with students in nature, from the beginning of XX century, from the ones initiated by Professor Borcea Ioan. The practical applications in nature and the summer biological practice of students ensured them the direct knowledge of nature, in his entire complexity and beauty. The organization of this activities demands knowledge, audacity and responsibility. It can only be realized in team, by specialists that encase different areas of research (Botany, Zoology, Entomology, Herpetology, Ecology, etc.), which reunited ensure a pleasant, workable and educative atmosphere. Professor Ion Iordache had been irreplaceable from that kind of teams. In the practical applications is realizing the bound between students and teachers. According to its realization, the Biology teacher will go out, as well, in the nature with their students.

The knowledge, managerial capacities, social intelligence and the particularly charm of Professor Iordache made him an appreciated teacher, courtly by students (especially by girl students), Tache, Tâchiţă, being one of “the most loved between tellurians”.

We cannot include everything here, but it is appropriate to say a few words about his involvement in the university life. As Head of the Department of Zoology-Ecology managed to coordinate the activity of his colleagues and to solve a series of managerial problems that assured a quality academic education. He involved directly into the organization of Faculty’s scientific sessions and put the bases of the Ornithology laboratory.

As a recon of his methods from the didactic and scientific activity, Professor Ion Iordache had been chosen in different functions:

- Head of the Department of Zoology-Ecology;
- Director of the Museum of Natural History;
- Member of the Board of the Faculty of Biology;
- Member of the Commission no. 4 CNCSIS;
- President of the Romanian Society of Ornithology (1997-2005);
- Member of the “Working groups of Granivores Birds” Institute of ecology Warsaw.

Professor Ion Iordache is a member in the Editorial Committee of several journals:

- Scientific Annals of the University “Al. I. Cuza”, Animal Biology Series;
- Studies and Scientific Communication. The Museum Complex of Natural Sciences “Ion Borcea” Bacău;
- General aspects of biology, chemistry, informatics, mathematics and physics. Oradea University.

The didactic, scientific and social work of Professor Ion Iordache has been rewarded by various degrees and diplomas:

- Diploma of PROFESSOR EMERITUS of the University “Al. I. Cuza”;
- Honorary citizen of his native village Buda, Buzău;
Professor Iordache Ion on his 75th anniversary

- Founder of the Church in the village Alexandru Odobescu.

But the greatest reward comes from his post-graduate students and from dozens of graduated generations that he built during his academic career.

After retiring, Professor Ion Iordache managed to coordinate the work of a big number of post-graduate students, who successfully sustained their post-graduated theses. He participated at the Faculty’s scientific sessions and of other academics institutions. He developed and still develop a mentoring activity within Scientific Council of the Park Ceahlău and not only.

When you are looking for Professor Ion Iordache, you do not find him; it is said that he is home, to Buda to take care of his mother, in Călimani, in Ceahlău or in different PhD commissions.

Professor Ion Iordache is a true Ahasverus of retired academics. Very dynamic, with an enviable youth for the third age, he can become a model for those who passed from Chair to Holiday eternal kingdom.

At the age of 75 years we wish him health, peace of mind and the love of those close to him (especially from the feminine side).

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