

**Petre Gherghe**

**– The researcher for whom the notion of pensioner does not exist**

As is well known, in modern times and in advanced democracies, in the appreciation of a society, the elements related to respect for human rights, which reflect a high level of civilization, and of appreciation of scientists, researchers in general, which means caring for progress, constant prosperity and maintaining competitiveness. And this is true for all sciences, from abstract to applied, from technical to humanistic. A researcher is extremely difficult to train, the process summing up the instruction done at maximum levels, with a total dedication to a field, with a lot of work and the ability to integrate into all the concerns for a topic. The experience accumulates over a long period of time and perhaps that is why many discoveries are made by older people, and the researcher remains dedicated to his ideas and work all his life.

The above notes undoubtedly fit the distinguished historian, archaeologist and university professor Petre Gherghe, appreciated throughout his career for seriousness, openness to professional collaboration, appreciation of colleagues and students, empathy or a special elegance in behaviour.

The historian Petre Gherghe was born on January 1, 1947, in the Buicești village, Butoiești commune, Mehedinți county.

He attended his first classes in his native village, then, for grades V-VII, he travelled daily, like almost all the children from the rural area of that time, in the commune centre, in Butoiești. He attended high school in Filiași (the Mixed Middle School was the name at the time), then became a student at the Faculty of History-Philosophy, specializing in History, at Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. He continued his training through specialization courses for museographers in the field of "archaeological excavations" (1975 and 1981). He obtained the academic title of PhD of History, in 1995, with the thesis *Contribution to the knowledge of the Geto-Dacian civilization from Oltenia*, at the National Institute of Tracology, Bucharest, scientific leader prof. Univ. Phd. Dumitru Berciu.

He participated in the interacademic exchanges between the Romanian Academy of Social and Political Sciences and the Polish Academy of Sciences, on issues of Latène Archeology (Poland, 1984) and in various other professional development programs, between 1986 and 1990.

He started his professional activity as a museographer at the Gorj County Museum. From 1981 he became an archaeologist, then chief archaeologist, at the Romanian Academy - Center for Social and Political Sciences (today the Institute of Socio-Human Research "C.S. Nicolăescu Ploșor", Craiova). During 1988-1990 he was Director of Dolj County Museum Complex, and in the years 1990-1991 he worked as a Counsellor and specialized inspector at the Inspectorate for Culture and Art of Dolj County. He then followed the didactic career, at the history department at the faculty of the Faculty of History-Philosophy-Geography of the University of Craiova: university lecturer (1991), associate professor PhD (1998), university professor PhD (since 2001). In the period 2000-2012 he held the positions of scientific secretary and vice dean.

His activity as an archaeologist aimed at researching the civilization of the Dacian, Roman and Roman-Byzantine eras in 31 archeological sites, of which 14 in Gorj County, 6 in Dolj, 4 in Mehedinți, 2 in Olt and 2 in Vâlcea County. To this, he also brought his participation on 2 construction sites in Dobrogea (Adamclisi - scientific manager prof. Ion Barnea and Capidava - scientific manager prof. Radu Florescu) and on the construction site at Sarmizegetusa Regia in Orăștiei Mountains - scientific manager prof. Hadrian Dicoviciu).

Bachelor's degree courses: *Ancient History of Romania, Introduction to Archeology, General Prehistory, General Museology* (specializations in History and History a foreign language), *History of human society* (specialization in Sociology, 2005-2008) and Master's courses: *Dacia and the Roman*

*Empire, Roman Archeology and Museology* (specializing in Research and Preservation of Historical Testimonies), *Archaeological Testimonies and Greco-Roman Sources Relating to the Carpatho-Danubian Space* (specializing in Receiving Greco-Roman Antiquity in Greco-Roman Culture - Faculty of Letters).

He is the author of over 160 studies and articles published in specialized publications (local, national and international), collective volumes, press, cultural and popular magazines and has participated in over 280 scientific sessions, symposia, colloquia, national and international congresses.

He was present to communicate the results of archaeological research at Radio Oltenia, Radio Bucharest, TVR, Tele Universitatea Craiova, TV Oltenia, Terra Sat and others.

In the period 1968-1981 he participated in the organization of new collections or museum points, in different communes of Gorj county, among which Arcani, Lelești, Runcu, Groșerea, Turburea, Siacu, Bărbățești, Stoina.

He works as a member of the editorial board or as a referent of several specialized magazines, including: *Litua. Studies and research*, Târgu Jiu; *Thracological Symposium*, Craiova, 1983; *Oltenia. Studies and communications*, vol. VII-VIII, Craiova, 1989; *Drobeta*, History series, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, after 1990; *Oltenia. Studies. Documents. Collections* (Founding Director of C.S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor, 1923) since its reappearance, in 1998; *Annals of Spiru Haret University*, History Series, Bucharest, 2007-2013. Editorial Secretary General, Editorial Secretary and member of the Editorial Board of the *Annals of the University of Craiova Magazine*, History Series, Craiova, 1996-2012.

He has been a member of Craiova Branch, of the National Institute of Tracology, since 1986 (during 1986-1989 he was its secretary); co-founding member of the "Romanian Archaeological Society", Bucharest (since 2000); co-founding member of the *History Society of Oltenia "Izvoarele"*, Craiova; co-founding member and head of the Archeology Department at the *Society of Friends of Science "Gb. Titeica"* Craiova, member in the National Commission of Archeology within the Ministry of Culture and Cults (2000-2008).

Printed books: *The illustrated history of Craiova* (collaboration), Dova Publishing House, Craiova, 1996; *Geto-Dacian settlements and fortresses from Oltenia* (with an Opening speech signed by Prof. PhD Dumitru Berciu.), Universitaria Publishing House, Craiova, 1997; *Monuments of Craiova* (collaboration), Helios Publishing House, Craiova, 1998; *Repertory of information and archaeological discoveries in Oltenia. Latène Epoch*, Editura Universitară, Craiova, 2001; *The historical dictionary of the localities from Dolj county* (collaboration), 3 volumes, Alma Publishing House, Craiova, 2004; *Faculty of Socio-Human Sciences* (2000-2008). Monograph (co-author), University Publishing House, Craiova, 2008; *Ancient History of Romania*, 2nd Edition, University Publishing House, Craiova, 2009; *Faculty of Social Sciences* (2000-2010). Monograph (co-author), University Publishing House, Craiova, 2010; *History of Craiova. Archaeological and numismatic testimonies* (in collaboration with Lucian Amon), Universitaria Publishing House, Craiova, 2010; *Roman and Roman-Byzantine lamps discovered in the territory of Suceava* (in collaboration with Mirela Cojoc), Universitaria Publishing House, Craiova, 2011; *Repertoire of information and archaeological discoveries from Mehedinți County* (Petre C. Gherghe, Romeo A. Popa), Sitech Publishing House, Craiova, 2013; *The Geto-Dacian settlement and necropolis from Spabii-Câmpul Spabiului, Gorj county*, Măiastra Publishing House, Tg. Jiu, 2015; *Lucian Rosu. The beginnings of art in Romania* (neat post-mortem edition, with updated text and *Instead of Preface* by Petre Gherghe), Sitech Publishing House, Craiova, 2014; *Roman lamps from Acidava and Rusidava, Olt County* (in collaboration with Mirela Cojoc and Laurențiu Comănescu), MJM Autograph Publishing House, Craiova, 2019.

Author of six university courses: *General Prehistory*, Reprographics of the University of Craiova, Craiova, 1994; *Introduction to Archeology*, Reprographics of the University of Craiova, 2000 (second edition 2008); *The Ancient History of Romania*, vol. I, Reprographics of the University of Craiova, 2003; *General Museology*, 2008; *Ancient History of Romania*, vol. II, Reprographics of the University of Craiova, 2010 (2nd edition at Mirror Printing House, Craiova, 2012).

References in: Aurel Golimas, Cristache C. Gheorghe, *Romanian Numismatic Bibliography*, Bucharest, 1984; xxx, *Studies and researches of ancient history and archeology*, INDEX, 1950-1984, 1-2, volume 36, Academy Publishing House, Bucharest, 1985; Eugen Comșa, *Bibliography on the Second Iron Age in Romania*, Bucharest, 1993; Constantin Preda (scientific coordinator), *Encyclopaedia of Archaeology and Ancient History of Romania*, A - C, Encyclopaedic Publishing House, Bucharest, 1994; Sever Dumitrașcu, *Romanian Archaeology at the end and beginning of the millennium. 101 archaeologists*, Oradea, 1995; C. Avram (coordinator), *Oltenian spiritual interferences*, Craiova, 1999; xxx, *Personalities from Oltenia. Dictionary*, Craiova, 1999; xxx, *Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Mebedinți County*, Prier Publishing House, Drobeta - Tr. Severin, 2003; Toni Dârțu, *Romanian personalities and their deeds, 1950-2000*, Iași, 2003; *Faculty of Socio-Human Sciences (2000-2008)*, Universitaria Publishing House, Craiova, 2008 (second edition 2010); *Who is who in Romania*, Encyclopedia and online platform with biographies of personalities, 2012; Rodica Pospai Păvălan, *People and books from Bălăciței Piedmont*, Romanian Writing Foundation Publishing House, Craiova, 2019; Ileana Roman, Tudor Rățoi, *Dictionary. Mebedinți County Encyclopaedia*, Prier Publishing House, Drobeta Turnu Severin, 2021; Romanian Academy, *Encyclopaedia of representatives of Romanian historical writing* (coordinators Victor Spinei and Dorina N. Rusu), Karl A. Romstorfer Publishing House of the National Museum of Bukovina, Suceava, 2021.

Nevertheless, there comes a time when people, after decades of work, move on to a lighter life, by retiring and changing their register of concerns. However, the professor, but especially the archaeologist Petre Gherghe, does not fit into such a characterization, because he has not detached himself, even now, from the old preoccupations. Every summer he is present on the archaeological sites from *Sucidava-Celei* (Corabia) and *Romula-Reșca* (Dobrosloveni commune), both in Olt county, concerned with the continuation of excavations and the training, together with colleagues from the university, of student groups, who come into internship. At the time of writing, he is working with several researchers on the processing of archaeological materials from the last decades of excavations in Sucidava, to send to print a new work on the exceptional archaeological remains here. He is, as I said from the beginning, a way of understanding the purpose of the researcher, for which there should not be the notion of pensioner, but only the idea of putting in the service of society, all the life, gained science and experience.

**Ph.D. Mircea Pospai**  
**Ph.D. Rodica Păvălan**

