

Miscellanea

Professor Grigore POSEA at the age of 85 years

Our professor, **Grigore POSEA**, is celebrating, in 2013, 85 years of age. An age that finds him in full scientific creation, approaching, with the same known spiritual force, current and new knowledge areas about The Earth. It is very difficult to realize a summary of a life and scientific activities with outstanding results *the Professor* reached after a continuous and very carefully organized work, touching a unique level in the geographic literature.

The particular valences of the scientist and Professor Grigore Posea are circumscribed to the renewing ideas in Romania's regional geomorphology, the contribution to the development of the geomorphological school in Bucharest (and other universities), as well as an intellectual model proposed for contemporary and for the other generations. In other words, the Professor is a model not only by what he has written, but also by training scientists, because of the accuracy and objectivity of reality in life and profession. All this is due to the love and respect for profession and family which stayed on first, not being neglected regardless the implications requested by the career at the University of Bucharest, yet started at the University of Cluj-Napoca under the careful guidance of Professor Tiberiu Morariu.

Born **85 years** ago (15/12 October 1928) at Nehoiu, somewhere at the contact between the Carpathian Mountains and the Buzau Subcarpathians, he began his studies in his native town, then continued at the Military High School (known for the rigor and discipline required to students), which he graduated in 1948. Higher education was received at the University of Bucharest, as student of the Faculty of History and Geography and then of the new Faculty of Geology and Geography, which he graduated in 1952.

Professor Posea began his career in science at the Institute of Geography, as an assistant, and after only one year he was admitted as full time PhD student at the only doctoral supervisor at the time,

academician Professor Tiberiu Morariu, at the University of Cluj, with a thesis called on "The Lăpuș Country - Geomorphological Study" finished in 1958 and published after four years. Thanks to the results achieved in the doctoral internship and the problems demonstrated with valid arguments, his tutor offers him a job. In 1960 he reaches the position of lecturer and becomes one of the most appreciated teachers – a fact supported by stories of former students (some of them, his future colleagues) – at the seminar, tutorials or lectures, but especially during the many field applications he coordinated.

In 1960, Professor Posea returned to the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geology and Geography, as a senior lecturer, position occupied as result of a contest. Here, he manages to create an exceptional academic environment, thanks to the experience gained at Cluj, an environment conducive to achieving a prestigious higher education. Subsequently, he becomes Dean (1961-1963) and also General Director in the Ministry of Education (1962-1966), Dean (1972-1976), Director of the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy (1975-1976), Head of Department, Chairman of the Romanian Society of Geography, President of the Romanian Geomorphology Association, member of numerous editorial boards etc. During this period, due to his well-known tenacity, he had many recognized scientific and academic achievements and also created a well organized geographic school, with many young people trained especially in the many field trips that he organized. We can say, beyond any doubt, that most of the teachers of the Faculty of Geography at the University of Bucharest went through the classrooms and seminars where the professor disseminated geographic knowledge.

One must also remember the training session that Professor Posea attended in Paris (1967). Remarkable teachers, among which N. Al. Rădulescu, I. Conea, V. Mihăilescu, N. Popp, M.

Peahă etc. focused and directed the Professor's scientific future by discourses which were held in lecture halls, laboratories and discussion during the field trips (things that professor Posea tells us from time to time, especially during field trips that were quite numerous in the recent years).

Since 1990, Professor Posea has also created a new geographical school in Bucharest, being one of the founding members of the Spiru Haret University. The Professor works in two universities the with the same tenacity, starting at 8 am and ending ... do not know what time (most of us leaving before he leaves the office).

Many at the sometime Professor's eminent students became geography teachers of the University and also doctors. We mention a few names who have made their mark in the Romanian higher education and research, as I. Ilie, A. Nastase, S. Ciulache, M. Ielenicz, N. Smith, M. Geanana, Florina Grecu, Maria Pătroescu, E. Vespremeanu, Gh. Măhăra, I. Povară, Al. Badea, C. Goran, M. Cârciumar, Iuliana Armaș, N. Cruceru and others, people showing some thinking abilities and skills induced by Professor Posea. Many faculty colleagues, lately colleagues at the University (in Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca), happily tell about their work along with *the Professor*.

The hard work in the office and in the field has generated many valuable studies, which were a key pillar of support in deciphering and explaining theoretical and practical problems of Romania's relief, both on large spaces (e.g. the Danube's Gorges, the glaciations in the Carpathians, regionalization of Romanian Carpathians etc.) as well as confined, local spaces (e.g. contact of Vlășiei and Târgoviște-Ploiești Plains, Săliște Depression etc.). Do not omit, but we do not have the required space to present the master's works, many of them scientifically marking many of the geographers, teachers or researchers, works that were awarded the highest ranking academic distinctions.

The Professor's scientific heritage has become an important educational and scientific support: over 30 books, 350 articles, nearly 50 contracts, over 10 maps, many undergraduate textbooks, creator of scientific laboratories, research station, organizer of symposia and national and international congresses, etc., are just some of the many scientific references. Being given the opportunity and the chance to spend many years close to *the Professor*, we have noticed how accurately and thoroughly he works, regardless of the situation or circumstances. The resulting works have suffered a long time thinking, rethinking, proofreading, editing, etc., so almost all

remained and will remain true scientific works. The geomorphological imprint of the Professor is to be found in the development of general and regional geomorphology, things that are even today support points in deciphering some theories and concepts. Thus, the issues discussed by the Professor such as the terraces (important as landforms and as cutting, age, relative altitude, etc.), leveling surfaces (not necessarily preserved as old forms, but especially as stages in the evolution of landscape over time), pediments and glacises, piedmonts (as shapes and relationships with erosion landforms), morpho-chronological scale (over Romanian territory, in relation to systemic genetic), geomorphological regionalization, the Carpathian glaciations etc., all can be found in the theoretical and practical Romanian geographical education. We can also notice some courses/papers (not to mention many textbooks and teaching aids for schools), published alone or in collaboration, currently recommended to undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD students. All these gives us the belief that Professor Grigore POSEA is one of the most representative scientists in the country, creator of schools, prestigious specialist and also a teacher who has never forgotten the geography in secondary education.

We must not overlook the family at home: his wife Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aurora Posea, who followed him with honesty both in life and profession, understanding the sacrifice and devotion to the profession, and his son, Cristian Posea, a doctor by profession, who is a real ongoing support of the teacher.

We quote our colleague and friend from Cluj, Professor Dr. Ion Mac who called him, on the anniversary of 75 years, "...*the first magistrate of the second great generation ...*".

We are glad that we had the chance to work together with the Professor, who has given us, as part of his reign, attitude towards work and respect for geographical academic world, but most of all the guidance that we had for accomplishing our PhD thesis.

We hardly try to complete this brief overview of our Professor wishing him good health, long life and fulfillment.

Many Happy Returns of the Day, Professor Posea!!!

List of main works:

- *Geomorfologie generală* (1970), Edit. Didactică și Pedagogică, București;

- *Relieful României* (1974), Edit. Științifică, București;
- *Geomorfologie* (1976), Edit. Didactică și Pedagogică, București;
- *Enciclopedia Geografică a României* (1982), Edit. Științifică și Enciclopedică, București;
- *Geografia de la A la Z* (1986), Edit. Științifică și Enciclopedică, București;
- *Câmpia de Vest a României* (1997), Edit. Fundației România de Mâine;
- *Geografia fizică. Terra cămin al omenirii și sistemul solar* (1998), Edit. Enciclopedică, București;
- *România Geografie și Geopolitică* (1999), Edit. Fundației România de Mâine;

- *Vulcanismul și relieful vulcanic (hazarde, riscuri, dezastre, relieful vulcanic din România)* (2001), Edit. Fundației România de Mâine;
- *Geografia Fizică a României*, vol. I (2003), vol. II (2004), Edit. Fundației România de Mâine;
- *Geomorfologia României* (2002, 2005), Edit. Fundației România de Mâine;
- *Relieful resursa de bază a turismului. Geodiversitate și geomorfosituri* (2012), Edit. Fundației România de Mâine;
- *Geografia României* (tratatul de geografie, vol. V) (2005), Edit. Academiei Române, București;
- *Harta geomorfologică a României*, 1:400000 (1980), Edit. Didactică și Pedagogică, București;
- *România – unitățile de relief*, 1:750000 (1984), Edit. Științifică și Enciclopedică, București.



In the Parâng Mountains – 2012



Near “bray” Lechința – 2013

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- * * * (2003), *Volum omagial, Grigore Posea. Tezaur geografic. Personalități ale științei românești*, Vol. 1, Edit. Universitară, București.
- * * * (2008), *Volum omagial, Grigore Posea, Analele Universității Spiru Haret, Seria Geografie*, 11, Edit. Fundației România de Mâine, București.

Florina GRECU, Nicolae CRUCERU