

PART IV – ANNIVERSARIES, COMMEMORATIONS

PhD. UNIV. PROF. NECULAI BARABAȘ – AT THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

CONSTANTIN TOMA*

Born on the 16th of November 1943, in Bacau, Neculai Barabaș attends the primary, secondary, high-school and university studies in Bacau (being a graduate of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences – Pedagogic Institute of 3 years, class of 1964); subsequently he also graduates the Faculty of Biology – Geography, specialization Biology – Botanic at the ”Al. I. Cuza” University in Iasi, class of 1969, his bachelor degree thesis referring to “*The flora and vegetation of the outskirts of Bacau city*”.

In 1978 he becomes PhD in Biology of the University in Bucharest, his thesis having the topic: “*Research on the vegetation of Tazlau basin* (Bacau county)”.

Teaching activity. Starting with the school year 1964-1965 he is professor of biology in Garleni commune and museum curator in Bacau city; during the school year 1970-1971 he is professor at the Pedagogic High-School in Bacau; during the academic year 1971-1972 he is substitute assistant at the Pedagogic Institute for 3 years, in Bacau.

From 1964 until 2007 he is employed at the Museum of Natural Sciences in Bacau, as: museum curator (1964-1974), director museum curator (1974-1979), museum curator (1979-1987), head of department (1987-1989), director museum curator (1989-1995), 1st degree scientific researcher and director (1996-2007), scientific researcher from 2007 until the present moment.

From 1990 until 2007 (when he retires) he also professes at the Faculty of Sciences and Letters at the ”Vasile Alecsandri” University in Bacau: lecturer (1990-1991), senior lecturer (1991-1996) and professor (1996-2007). During this period he teaches classes and conducts practical works of vegetal biology for the following subjects: Plant morphology and anatomy, Systematic botanic and Phytocoenology, he guides field applications,

bachelor degree theses, methodological – scientific papers for the obtaining of the 1st teacher degree in the pre-university education. In order to support his students, he publishes 2 lectures and 1 guide for practical works, organizes a teaching herbarium of over 1200 sheets and a nucleus of scientific herbarium with over 8000 sheets, to which a permanent exhibition with biology thematic on the hallway of the Faculty of Sciences and Letters – Department of Biology is added.

Scientific activity. Between 1968 and 2008 he published 113 scientific papers with botanical character, as sole author or in collaboration, having the following objectives:

- Floristic and phytogeographic research of certain areas in Moldova, in particular in Bacau county; he discovers 19 species of new angiosperms for the flora in Romania and over 100 new species for Moldova.
- He realizes the ”*Flora districti Bacoviensis*” – 7 centuries.
- Collects 750 species (in 100 copies each) for desiccates printed in Cluj, Iasi and Bacau, by thismaking exchanges with 56 institutions from 32 world countries.
- Phytocoenological, ecological and vegetation mapping researches (over 350 vegetal associations in different areas of Moldova).
- Inventory and ecological study of ligneous plants grown as decorative in Moldova.
- Ecological and productivity researches in terrestrial ecosystems in hill and mountain areas, including natural reservations and national parks.
- Elaboration of botanical micro-monographs, as guides for students and professors of biology in the pre-university education, for the knowledge of the flora in the outskirts of certain places in Moldova: Bacau, Roman, Adjud, Piatra Neamt.
- Floristic study of certain protected areas in the counties of Bacau, Botosani, Galati and Suceava. In 2006 he coordinates the realization of a bilingual atlas of the natural reservations in Bacau county.

* “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Faculty of Biology, ctoma@uaic.ro

The publishing activity of Professor Neculai Barabas is especially prolific. Besides the original scientific articles (113, published in different national specialized magazines), he published, alone and in collaboration, a series of syntheses of certain value and utility, such as: “*Floristic and geo-botanical bibliography on Moldova, Bucovina and Maramures*”, “*Coenotaxonomy and characterisation of the vegetal groups in Romania*”, “*Romania’s phytocoenological bibliography*”, “*Romania flora atlas*”, “*Phytocoenological breviary*”. Moreover, he published 67 popularization articles.

He coordinated the publishing of the following collective volumes: “*Habitat 76*”, “*The era of man*”, “*Science and contemporaneity*”, “*Ecology and protection of ecosystems*” (10 editions). He is the sole author of the books: “*My aquarium passion*” (1993) and “*Aquarium plants*” (2007), and co-author of the book “*Museum pedagogy*” (1998).

Among the 21 volumes (books) are: 1 mycological dictionary, 6 scientific essays and museology papers, 4 university lectures, 6 scientific theses. In 2000 he also published a paper abroad, in Beijing (China), in the World Traditional Medicine magazine, volume III.

The organisational activity conducted by PhD. Professor Neculai Barabaş is impressive, distinguishing him by exceptional managerial qualities; he is the reader of the new location of the Museum of Natural Sciences. Here he managed to endow the specialty laboratories, to realize floristic and fauna collections, dioramas, to form a large number of researchers and museum curators. Under his guidance 20 volumes from the series “*Studies and Communications*” of the “Ion Borcea” Museum Complex of Natural Sciences were published, magazine distributed in a large number of libraries

worldwide and unanimously appreciated by the specialists.

In his capacity of professor and director he has organized 21 national scientific sessions at the Museum Complex of Natural Sciences (18) and at the University in Bacau (3), as well as an international mycology seminary (two editions), he took part himself in various regional and national scientific reunions, he realized numerous itinerant and temporary exhibitions, symposia, conferences, round-tables etc. He contributed to the realization of the permanent exhibitions from the Vivarium, Astronomical Observatory, “Ion Borcea” Memorial House, to the organization of a pilot formation and professional training centre for museum curators in the field.

His presence in various commissions, committees, national associations, denotes the appreciation he enjoys from the scientific world, the energy he has at his disposal, his organizational skills, his spirit of initiative.

For almost 50 years he dedicated himself to the activity of teacher and researcher in the realm of botanic and for as many years he was the soul of the Museum of Natural Sciences in Bacau, for which he built a new location, he continuously enriched its plant, animal and rock collections, made it famous in many countries in Europe and not only. He collaborated fruitfully with all specialized museums in the country, he took part in the training of the staff in the institutions of the Ministry of Culture.

We congratulate him with all warmth for his qualities of teacher, researcher, initiator and organizer of many actions meant to contribute to the progress of biology and museology in our country and we wish him a sincere “Happy Birthday”!!

6th of December 2013