

**PROFESSOR IOAN SCURTU – EMBLEM OF ROMANIAN
HISTORIOGRAPHY TODAY.
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY**

Stoica LASCU

DOI <https://doi.org/10.56082/annalsarscihist.2020.2.5>

Our historiography of the last half century has travelled a path in consensus with the evolution of Romanian society itself – something easily noticeable, in my opinion, for an objective evaluator and devoid of passion or harmful and counterproductive political-resentment biases, which distorts realities, characters and attitudes. Of an evolution in which, it is true, politics has prevailed, in the given historical context, to a large extent – but not exclusively and deterministically – in outlining the directions of thematic approach of Historiography; respectively, of a scientific discipline for which depoliticization (again, to be emphasized, *nota bene*, in the given political context) and professionalization, at the beginning of the seventh decade, were trained, together with the venerable and consecrated professors, and young researchers and academics who they would become, in time, themselves consecrated representatives – and some also emblematic – of the Romanian historical science.

Among these young people who identified their lives with the service of the Clio Museum was today's octogenarian Ioan Scurtu (Born: November 27, 1940) – the well-known Professor (now retired) at the University of Bucharest (and since 2004, Professor at “Spiru Haret” University), founder and title member of the Romanian Academy of Scientists.

The professional, scientific and social-public evolution of his reign is, we could say, an expression of a destiny that, at the individual level, can represent an image of a representative human sample on the scale of our history of the last over five decades. He had the chance to attend the courses of a traditional educational institution – respectively, the first public school in Neamț County, dating from 1869 (and bearing, since 1893, the name of “Petru Rareș” – today, National College; but, in the spirit of the time, after 1948 the name of the well-known Voivode was given up), and where, in 1957, the adolescent Ioan Scurtu will support himself, at “Secondary School no. 1 from Piatra Neamț” – as it was called then –, the Maturity Exam. I do not know what determined the young Moldavian to choose a faculty that prepared scholars primarily for teaching, but it is certain that the choice proved to be splendid for his destiny and, on the whole, so fruitful for that scientific discipline. Again, I do not know the motivates that determined