

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MARINE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT „GRIGORE ANTIPA” CONSTANȚA - HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Alexandru Ș. BOLOGA¹

¹ Prof., PhD, Full member of Academy of Romanian Scientists (bologa1813@yahoo.ro)

Abstract. *This bilingual monograph has been published by the Publishing House of the Academy of Romanian Scientists, Bucharest, 414 pp, in 2022. The Foreword belongs to Ph.D. biologist Valeria Abaza, Director General of the National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa” Constanța.*

Content: Introduction, **1.** The Black Sea - About scientific research on the Black Sea, *Brief general characterization, Water balance, currents and vertical distribution, Eutrophication, Fishing, Biodiversity, Invasive species, Political guidelines, Final considerations, Selective bibliographic marks, Some aphorisms,* The main contemporary research institutions around the Black Sea, International organizations that also target the Black Sea and Sea of Azov, **2.** Founders of Romanian marine research - Emil Racovitza, Grigore Antipa, Ioan Borcea, Maria S. Celan, Ileana Cautiș, **3.** Marine research structures along the Romanian littoral prior to the establishment of the National Marine Research Institute at Constanța - „Professor Ioan Borcea” Marine Zoological Station (Agigea), Bio-Oceanographic Institute / „Dr. Grigore Antipa” Fishery Research Station Constanța, Biology sector of „Traian Săvulescu” Institute of Biology (Bucharest-Constanța), Hydro-meteorological Station Sulina, Marine sedimentology laboratory, **4.** The National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa” - The Romanian Marine Research Institute, Rear Admiral Eng. Constantin Tomescu, Commander Jacques-Yves Cousteau at Constanța, The visit of the delegates of the Romanian Marine Research Institute in the USA, Hopes for new naval equipment, The creation of the National Salvation Front at the Romanian Marine Research Institute from Constanța on December 25, 1989, The National Institute for Marine Research and Development ”Grigore Antipa” and its Semicentennial (2020), **5.** The Romanian research at over 100 years, **6.** Romania and the cooperation with the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea, **7.** The Bystroe navigation canal in relation to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and the Black Sea ecosystem, Stories from abroad, References, Selective bibliography in the mass media, Acknowledgements, Index of authors, Index of terms, 5 Annexes.

The volume is illustrated by 89 black / white and colored figures.
It is followed by reviews in Romanian and English.

Keywords: The Black Sea, marine sciences, National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa”, Romania, Constanța.

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Motto

*To our illustrious predecessors Emil
Racovitza, Grigore Antipa and Ioan Borcea*

Introduction

Man has always wanted to know, face and enjoy the beauty, challenges and riches of the seas and oceans of the world that obviously seemed endless to him.

The name of the Pontic basin comes from the double name: Pontus Euxinus in antiquity and the Black Sea in modern times, both having a common and analogous source. The ancient peoples knew the Iranian term *akhšaena*, meaning "dark", "gloomy", "black". Sailing in the Black Sea, the Greeks took from the natives the word *akhšaena*, which they took for the insufficiently known sea at first as *Pontos axeinos* (inhospitable sea), an ominous name which they later replaced with *Pontos euxinos* (friendly sea), as the Storm Head will later become the Head of Good Hope. The Romans emphasized the word *pontus*, which characterizes the sea in general. Westerners, who entered this sea after the Mongol conquests, named it *Mare Majus*, *Mar Maggiore* or *Mer Maiour*, the greatest sea, instead of the Black Sea. The name of the Greatest Sea was taken over by Italian sailors from the Jews who prayed to God to protect them in their activities on the Mediterranean. In the cartographic documents, portolans (nautical charts), the Black Sea appears with the same name. It is an extension of the realities of integration in the Mediterranean maritime space of the Black Sea as well, from a commercial and maritime point of view, of course also politically (Abulafia, 2014).

The name was also taken over by the chancellery of the first rulers of Muntenia and Moldavia, as the “great sea” appearing as the extreme limit of the possessions held at the end of the 14th century. Since then it returns to the color connotation. In Greek *mavri thalassa* appeared since 1265 in the treaty with Venice, and *Mare Nigrum* appears from 1338. The present name *Black Sea* (Marea Neagră in Romanian) is identical in all the languages of the six coastal states: Черное море (Russian), Чорне море (Ukrainian), Черно море (Bulgarian), სვო ზღვა (georgian) and Kara Deniz (Turkish), respectively.