

**THE ROMANIAN COMMITTEE FOR THE HISTORY
AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.
CONSTANȚA BRANCH**

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Abstract. The Romanian Committee for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology/ RCHPST, belonging to the Romanian Academy, currently has seven branches: Argeș, Brașov, Cluj-Napoca, Constanța, Craiova, Iași and Timișoara. The Constanța branch was established in 1993. It currently includes full members, associates and collaborators who represent various scientific and technical fields (agriculture, physics, biology, marine sciences, history, medicine, engineering, seamanship, archival research, etc.); some of the full members are also members of other academic institutions, such as the Academy of Romanian Scientists, the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the General Association of Engineers in Romania, as well as from abroad. This branch organizes an annual scientific symposium with diverse topics, more recently a Symposium on “History of Construction” and occasionally other scientific events. The annual scientific symposia usually include between three and five oral presentations; some are published in the journals of RCHPST.

Keywords: *RCHPST, Constanța branch, history, history of science, history of technology.*

Introduction

The history of science and technology researches and records the emergence and historical development of science and technology with all their disciplines (Bologa, 2017).

The Romanian Academy joined the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST) in 1957 and the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC). The Romanian Academy established the National Committee for History and Philosophy of Science on November 29, 1959. The Division of History of Technology was organized in 1992. This national committee represents the Romanian Academy in international fora. The Romanian Committee for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (RCHPST) is directly subordinated to the Presidium of the Romanian Academy, based on Art. 22 of the Statute of the Romanian Academy.

The Romanian Committee for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (RCHPST) was set up at the initiative of Acad. Traian Săvulescu, president of the Romanian Academy, and based on this initiative it was requested that the sections of the Romanian Academy each propose a delegate, a representative personality, to the Committee (Murariu, 2015).

The presidents of the Committee were the Academicians Mihai Ralea (1957-1964), Athanase Joja (1965-1972), Ștefan Milcu (1972-1982, 1994-1997), Ștefan Bălan (1982-1991), Mihai Drăgănescu (1992-1994, 1998-2010), Dan Berindei (2010-2018), Bogdan C. Simionescu (2018-present).

I have met, known and heard the last four since 1970.

At the first scientific session, in November 1972, 24 papers were presented, out of 34 titles entered. Since 1972 the sessions have become annual, with events planned to take place in spring and autumn. In 1973, the first operating regulations were discussed. The XVIth Congress on the History of Science was organized and chaired by Professor Valeriu L. Bologa, M.D., in Bucharest, in 1981. The congress enjoyed the laudatory appreciation of the numerous Romanian and foreign participants (Izsák and Bologa, 1995). One year after its establishment, RCHPST included, among many other scientists, Academician Emil Pop (1897-1974), biologist, from the “Babeș-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca (Bologa and Fabian-Grozavu, 2008).

Since 1992, RCHPST was reorganized, comprising three divisions: History of Science, Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, History of Technology.

In accordance with the statutes of the respective international bodies, the general objectives of RCHPST are:

- stimulating and promoting research-development in the field of history and philosophy of science and history of technology;
- establishing links between Romanian scientists and researchers and between these and those abroad, as well as the connection with various institutions, societies, and journals in these fields of research;
- dissemination of scientific data related to research in the field through the publication of journals, organizing congresses, symposia, annual scientific sessions, conferences, colloquies, round tables, etc., exchange of scientific publications and information.

RCHPST currently publishes its own scientific publications *NOESIS*, in international languages, accessed in 23 countries and *NOEMA*, currently online, accessed in 60 countries. The Division of History of Science of RCHPST edits the magazines *STUDIES AND COMMUNICATIONS / DIS* (accessed in 97 countries) and *COLUMN* (accessed in 57 countries), in Romanian with abstracts in international languages. Both last mentioned publications have recently been

included in the international database CEEOL (The Central and Eastern European Online Library). These publications, of academic value, make known the Romanian scientific results in the field and at the same time constitute an object of exchange with similar publications from abroad.

RCHPST branches were established at the initiative of Academician Mihai Drăgănescu.

Brief history of the founding of the Constanța branch of RCHPST (1993)

Over time, I have felt more and more the passion for the history of science, in general, of Romanian science and marine sciences, in particular. I definitely owe it to my father from Brașov, Emil I. Bologa (1916-2005), M.D., himself interested and author of publications on the history of Romanian medicine (e.g., Bologa, 1964). And, probably, no less to my uncle from Cluj-Napoca, Professor Valeriu L. Bologa (1892-1971), founder of the Department of History of Medicine in Romania (which today bears his name) at the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca (Duțescu, 1976; Bologa, 1995; Bologa, 2015).

Here is one of the many opinions about Professor V.L. Bologa: „From the precious string of the intellectual elites descending from Transylvania who, through deeds and work, have indelibly marked national culture, comes the iatro-historian, the doctor, the headmaster, the talented publicist and erudite researcher of Romanian ethnoiatry, the scholar from Cluj Valeriu L. Bologa (1892- 1971)” (Mihailide, 2019). He remained in the history of national and universal science as the founder of the history of Romanian medicine, scientific researcher and creator of institutions. To him belongs, among many other valuable scientific “contributions” (as he himself considered them) the volume *History of Universal Medicine* (Bologa, 1972).

In the *Romanian Journal „Victor Gomoiu” of History of Medicine / Acta Romaniae Historie Medicinae* (Editorial Board, 2011) Professor Vasile Sârbu, M.D., the founder of the Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy within the “Ovidius” University of Constanța (1990), praises him, giving Professor Valeriu L. Bologa the well-deserved place in creating the scientific discipline *History of Medicine* and the Institute of History of Medicine in Cluj, for the first time in Romania, considering him a “professional” iatro-historian, extremely active and prolific in the medical Cluj-Napoca (Sârbu, 2011).

It has also been recorded by his biographers: "*The speech of V.L. Bologa, the head of our delegation* [at the International Congress of the History of Medicine in Madrid-Alcala in September 1956], *delivered in Romanian* (emphasis added), *made a stir and remained unforgettable*. In his speech, *Professor Bologa used Romanian words only of Latin origin* (emphasis added), *making a deep impression on the delegates, especially on those from Latin countries*. The

conclusion of the XXIInd International Congress of the History of Medicine, held in Bucharest in 1970, took place in Constanța, where the final meeting was chaired by Professor Bologna: *The speech given and the speeches addressed to each delegation from abroad delivered by Prof. Bologna in their own languages (emphasis added), deeply impressed those present at this solemn meeting.*” (Izsák and Bologna, 1995).

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The personal initiative of creating a Subcommittee or a Branch, of the Romanian Committee for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, affiliated to the Romanian Academy, in Constanța, existed before 1989, before the old Tomis became the youngest centre of high education in Romania, by creating the “Ovidius University” in Constanța in 1990 (Călinescu, 2004; Călinescu and Popișteanu, 2006; Lăpușan and Ciupină, 2011).

But it was only materialized in the content of a letter addressed by the author to the Romanian Academy in the sense of the intention explicitly mentioned. It remained unfinished until 1993, when the late scientific secretary of the time, the very meticulous and the overly devoted and kind, Constantin Iugulescu, Doctor of Pharmacy, who was born and died in Bucharest (1924-2006) (Fig. 1), responded to the yellowed letter, neglected by the authorities until then, but carefully preserved by him.

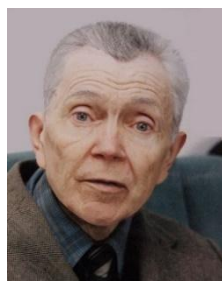


Fig. 1 Lecturer, Doctor of Pharmacy, colonel (R),
Pharmaco-historian, Constantin Iugulescu

Dr. C. Iugulescu became known as *the parent and perpetual secretary* of the Romanian Society of History of Pharmacy, whose initiation and realization he accomplished in 1991. (<http://muzeuistoria-farmaciei.ro/iugulescu-bucuresti/>)

He wrote to me, asking me if I still maintain my interest and availability regarding the old initiative to set up the representation of RCHPST in Constanța. I had other professional and private interests and obligations at the time, but I answered

him, of course in the affirmative, without delay. I have collaborated permanently, efficiently and with great pleasure, with a person of such level and quality.

Thus, we owe to Constantin Iugulescu, with all acknowledgement and gratitude, the success of the establishment of the RCHPST Branch in Constanța, by Professor Alexandru Ș. Bologa, biologist, in 1983.

Also full of solicitude was the contact often maintained with Professor Dumitru Murariu, biologist (Fig. 2), corresponding member of the Romanian Academy and First Vice President of RCHPST, as well as with the former scientific secretaries, as active, devoted and efficient as their predecessor mentioned above, Professor Ștefan Iancu, engineer (Fig. 3) and Colonel (R) Valentin Marin, Doctor of History (Fig. 4), to whom the Branch also owes its full appreciation for the results obtained as a result of the fruitful collaboration uninterrupted so far. The collaboration consisted mainly in organizing scientific events in Constanța, publishing articles on the history of science and technology of the members of the Branch in the Committee's journals and its representation in national and international events.



Fig. 2 Professor Dumitru Murariu, Doctor of Biology



Fig. 3 Professor Ștefan Iancu, Doctor of Engineering



Fig. 4 Colonel (R) Valentin Marin, Doctor of History

Passionate and prolific secretary of the Constanța branch was from the beginning, at the proposal of the author, Eng. Petre Covacef (1936-2015), alias *nea Petrică stabilopod/Ol' Petrică tetrapod* (Fig. 5), an authentic Dobrogean, concerned not only with engineering but also with its history.



Fig. 5 Engineer Petre Covacef

During the collaboration, in the beginning inside the National History and Archaeology Museum of Constanta/MINAC (the headquarters of the second City Hall of Constanța municipality, which hosted the Constanța branch of RCHPST between 1993-2013), intellectually enriched by unconventional dialogue during friendly meetings at “Colonade” (with one or two bottles of *Fetească Albă* (until his health would gradually deteriorate), he would write 14 books, mostly documented, instructive and interesting. Among these, *The Port of Constanța - the Port of Anghel Saligny*, *The Story of the Genoese Lighthouse*, *The Queen's Nest*,

Alone among the tetrapods, The Onomastics of the streets of Constanța, The Living Cemetery from Sulina, etc.

Among the very interested and active members were the regretted Dr. Gheorghe Șerpoianu, engineer, and Professor Garabet Kümbetlian, engineer (in his translation *The Predecessor From the Hill*) and at present Professor Aurel Lup, agronomist, Professor Vasile Sârbu, M.D. and Professor Ana Maria Grămescu, engineer, all professionally asserted and established personalities, cultured and very communicative.

I have met *Herr Professor*, as I used to address Gari Kümbetlian, as a direct result of our common passion for the history of science and technology and for the German language. He was passionate about these fields, and not only in the profession, but with a much wider range of such interests. After the establishment of the Constanța branch, the erudite professor immediately became a full member. I had heard only words of praise and appreciation about him from the Maritime University. He was one of the most active, persevering, and prolific participants in our scientific symposia.

His contributions and interventions were always learned, interesting, attractively and suggestively delivered, commented and illustrated. He spoke to us many times about institutions, Romanian and foreign scientists, significant events in the history of science, technology and culture, sometimes about his own performances; he was fully aware of his professional value; he kept permanently in his coat pocket the list of the notorious Academies in the world, in the order of their seniority, for the explanation and documentation of his interventions; he also always had his own unique proposals and suggestions for future meetings.

In a congratulatory card he addressed to me at one point, he wrote that *he perceived me as a close relative:... him being from Brașov (after his father), myself - (half) from Sibiu (after my mother); him having been a student at Johannes Honterus (Andrei Șaguna) in Brașov (Kronstadt), myself - at the gymnasium of Samuel von Bruckenthal high school in Sibiu (Hermannstadt), him being a doctor of biology, myself - in the theory of elasticity; both of us cheerful, optimistic and confident in life,...* (Constanța, August 10, 2016). I naturally enjoyed the publication of his book *Memories and Stories* (Kümbetlian, 2016), documented and richly illustrated, which I received with gratitude, with a beautiful dedication. I also offered him, shortly after, jokingly telling him “in exchange”, my own volume *In the flight of the years...* (Bologa, 2017b). He was a good listener, narrator, and counselor.

He was also a devoted, inspired and diligent organizer of scientific events of local or national interest and rank. For example, the conferences of the Romanian Engineers Association and the conference “Days of the Academy of Technical Sciences of Romania”, organized together with the “Ovidius” University of Constanța, between October 6-7, 2017.

He had a pronounced predilection for puns/wordplay, many of them his own *ad hoc* creations, with a truly astonishing ease; of all those he (re)produced, happily, here is at least one, based on the spelling of the German language, which he mastered well, rendered in his memory: *In Constantza habe ich liebe Genossen / In Constantza habe ich Liebe genossen.*

The mentioned museum, in Ovidiu Square, hosted us hospitably, with the support and kindness of the spouses Petre and Zaharia Covacef, archaeologist, in the *Painted Hall* when the audience was larger, or in the smaller *Ovidiu Hall*, when there were fewer participants; we usually continued the debates at the restaurant with the terrace from across the street (the current “Pizzico”), with a few glasses (but not of refreshments).

Starting from 2013, after signing the Collaboration Act, on May 1, 2013, the Branch holds its annual and occasional activities at the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the “Ovidius” University of Constanța, with the particularly efficient and benevolent support from Associate professor Anca Constantin, engineer, daughter of the renowned Professor of History Adrian Rădulescu (1932-2000), historian and archaeologist, former director of the Museum, first Prefect of Constanța County and Rector of the “Ovidius” University after the Revolution.

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The Branch continues to be led by Alexandru Ș. Bologa - president and Anca Constantin - scientific secretary. It currently has full members, associates, and collaborators. Different scientific and technical fields are represented (agriculture, physics, biology, marine sciences, history, medicine, engineering, seamanship, archival research, etc.); some of the full members are also members of other academic institutions, such as the Academy of Romanian Scientists, the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the General Association of Engineers of Romania, as well as from abroad. This branch organizes an annual scientific symposium with diverse topics, usually on the last Saturday of May, more recently the annual Symposium on “The History of Construction” and occasionally other scientific events.

The annual scientific symposia usually comprise between three and five oral presentations, given by full members, associates or collaborators of the Branch, some of which are transmitted to RCHPST for publication in one of its journals.

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In 2020, at the initiative of RCHPST, the Constanța Branch organized the 13th edition of the *Initiation course into the history and philosophy of science and technology*, in Constanța, on March 02-13.

The course was organized at the initiative of the Romanian Academy / the Romanian Committee for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, under the auspices of RCHPST Constanța, the Academy of Romanian Scientists / Section of Biological Sciences and the „Ovidius” University of Constanța / Faculty of Civil Engineering, by the course director Alexandru Ș. Bologa, biologist and course secretary Anca Constantin, engineer. The course was attended by 39 students, from different professions - teachers, engineers, lawyers, officials, of whom 26 graduated, with graduation papers held in accordance with explicit methodological requirements, which were published in the volume *Graduation papers RCHPST Constanța 2020*, editors A.Ș. Bologa and A. Constantin, Ed. Ex Ponto, Constanța, 374 pp.

The handing over of the *Graduation Certificate* was postponed due to the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in the spring of 2020, and would take place at the University’s reopening.

At the beginning of the course, in addition to the organizers, the Rector of the „Ovidius” University of Constanța, Professor Sorin Rugină, M.D., the Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Professor Ichinur Omer, engineer, the former Rector, Professor Victor Ciupină, physicist, Professor Vasile Sârbu, M.D., and the Director of the National Military Museum “King Ferdinand I” Constanța Branch, Costin Scurtu, Doctor of History took the floor.

Economist Florica Prodan, Deputy Director of the Constanța Branch of Banca Transilvania, sponsor of the collective volume *Dobrogea at 140 Years after its Union with the Romanian State - an Example of Westpontic Multiethnic Understanding*, Alexandru Ș. Bologa (Ed.), Ed. Ex Ponto, Constanța, 2018, 322 pp also participated.

Representatives of the local press were present, especially from the newspaper “*ZIUA de Constanța*”, who follow the activity carried out under the aegis of RCHPST and who published three articles online about it and about the course.

The course was introduced by Professor Dumitru Murariu, Doctor of Biology, with a speech about Emil Racoviță.

Also at the beginning, Dr. Valentin Marin, col. (R), gave the oral presentations *RCHPST of the Romanian Academy - short history, present and perspectives* and *Methodological clarifications regarding the preparation of the course paper*.

The lectures were given by 20 scientific personalities invited from Bucharest, Brașov, Constanța and Craiova: Academician Bogdan C. Simionescu - Chairman of RCHPST, Academician Viorel Bădescu, Professor Dumitru Murariu, corresponding member of the Romanian Academy and First Deputy Chairman of

RCHPST, Dr. Valentin Marin, scientific secretary of RCHPST, Eng. Radu Bellu, Professor Alexandru Ș. Bologa, biologist, Professor Doina Carp, mathematician, Associate professor Anca Constantin, engineer, Professor Victor Ciupină, physicist, Paolo Diviacco, physicist (Italy), Professor Ana-Maria Grănescu, engineer, Professor Elena Helerea, engineer, Professor Alexandru I. Herlea, engineer (France), Professor Stoica Lascu, historian, Professor Aurel Lup, engineer, agronomist, Professor Gheorghe Manolea, engineer, Associate professor Mihail Niemesch, lawyer, Associate professor Daciana Sava, biologist, Professor Vasile Sârbu, M.D., and Professor Dumitru O. Unc, M.D.

The varied scientific and technical fields, exemplified in the course, focused on the challenges of 21st century science and historical considerations on the foundations of mathematical modeling, socialist agriculture in Romania, cartography, botanical research, the centennial institute Emil Racoviță, marine sciences, Dr. Maria S. Celan, scientific and technical approaches to water, pioneer Romanian physicists, Romanian premieres in the world of medicine, Tomitan medical histories, technical history, Eng. Petrache Poenaru, civil engineering, industrialization and deindustrialization, Dobrogean railways, research methodology in the physical and engineering sciences, members of the Romanian Academy in Dobrudja, the representative historians of Dobrogea and Romanian Law.

Of the 20 lecturers invited to give lectures throughout the course, 17 accepted their publication and 12 sent them in a timely manner, appearing in the volume *Lectures RCHPST Constanța 2020*, editors A.Ș. Bologa and A. Constantin, Ex Ponto Publishing House, Constanța, 252 pp.

The organizers thanked the students for their interest in the history and philosophy of science and technology by attending the lectures and completing their graduation thesis, the scientific coordinators who guided the students during the elaboration of the papers ensuring their scientific endorsement, as well as the RCHPST leadership, especially the scientific secretary Dr. Col. Valentin Marin and the “Ovidius” University of Constanța for the permanent qualified support given to the organization of the course in the best possible conditions.

The President of the branch represented RCHPST with his own scientific papers, being mandated by the Romanian Academy through this Committee, financially supported by the organizers or on his own, in international congresses and conferences on the history and philosophy of science and technology, which were particularly diverse, instructive and interesting and took place in Hamburg -

Munich / Germany (1989), La Jolla / USA, Quingdao / China (1998), Kalinigrad / Russian Federation (2003), Naples / Italy (2008) and Bergen / Norway (2019).

The Constanța Branch submits to the *RCHPST The annual activity report*, including an updated List of its members, organized scientific events and related annexes, in printed and electronic versions.

NOESIS Journal also records in 2020 the contributor A.Ș. Bologa, from RCHPST Constanța Branch, with articles of history of science (positions 337, 375, 406, 449, 499, 502).

Several conclusions

1. RCHPST Constanța Branch celebrated 27 years of existence.
2. Through the composition of its full members, associates, and collaborators and through the scientific events it organizes, the Branch respects, reflects and fully promotes the statutory concerns of RCHPST.
3. A large part of the subjects of history of science and technology approached by the members of the Branch were published in the RCHPST journals *Noesis*, *Noema*, *Studies and Communications / DIS* and *Columna*.

Acknowledgements

The author thanks Professor Ana-Maria Grămescu, Doctor of Engineering, for her suggestion of writing this article, possibly to be completed by the Presidents of other RCHPST Branches.

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