

IN HONOREM JIPA ROTARU - HISTORICAL RELIVINGS WITH HIS REIGN AT 80 YEARS

Marius-Adrian NICOARĂ¹

DOI <https://doi.org/10.56082/annalsarscihist.2021.1.7>

It was the spring of 1941. The black clouds of the war threatened again the borders of Romania already cut in the summer of the previous year. Somewhere, in a commune forgotten by God in the depths of Bărăgan, two months before the first red star bombs fell on the Romanian land, was born the one we are celebrating these days on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of his life and 50 service with dedication and passion of the country army and the Clio muse.

This is Mr. retiring commander, professor of history, Jipa Rotaru, PhD. Mentor of many of us, his reign succeeded, throughout his career, to support the formation of generations of patriotic officers, some of them standing out by obtaining the title of doctor of military science and history, under the careful guidance of his reign, only in the period 1990-2001 attending the doctoral school under his wand, no less than 38 doctoral students. This is perhaps the most important achievement of the professor, perhaps matched by that wonderful "Autumn School" from Maia, inspired named "*Historical Relivings in The XXI Century*" that our comrade and friend, has been organizing for a long time for more than 17 years, unconditionally supported by close friends who, like him, are preoccupied with efforts to bring historical truth to the fore.

Therefore, Mr. Jipa Rotaru was born on April 28, 1941 in Perișoru comun, Ialomița County, being the fourth of the seven children of the family, of christian-orthodox religion, in which father Niculaie Rotaru was a military foreman and mother Nuța (born Neculai), substitute teacher, who became a housewife after marriage in 1930.

The commander's childhood was spent mainly in Perișoru, where he attended primary school, and sequential in Cislău in Buzău County, where his father worked for four years between 1941 - 1944, at the stud farm where the young cavalry lieutenant Ion Antonescu had once worked, and where Mr. teacher got in contact with stories from the Marshal's past.

He attended the "*Ștefan cel Mare*" Military High School in Iași and Câmpulung Moldovenesc (1955 - 1959), then the "*Nicolae Bălcescu*" Military School in Sibiu (1959 - 1962) and the Faculty of History - Philosophy, history

¹ Associate member of the Academy of Romanian Scientists, Director of the Center for Historical and Archaeological Sciences of the European Institute for Multidisciplinary Research.

department, at the “*Alexandru Ioan Cuza*” University from Iași, (1969 - 1974) graduated with an average of ten.

As an officer he became attached to the Navy where he worked between 1962 and 1978, then he was enrolled in the Military Academy, where in only ten years he went through all the stages of his university teaching career: assistant, lecturer, associate professor, professor, and since 1988 he was a doctor in history (doctorate between 1984 and 1988, at the university professor doctor Nicolae Petreanu).

In 1988 he was appointed Director of the National Central Military Museum, to the arrangement of which he made his full contribution in the new premises, a position he held during the events of December 1989 when he managed to ensure the integrity of the vast heritage military history without the use of weapons and most importantly without the loss of any human life. He held this position for two separate terms: November 1988 - March 1990; March 1991 - September 1995, where he experienced the exhausting work of construction and inauguration, then the operating, with a consistent volume of activities provided by perfect content and quality, including the geographical area of manifestation (France, Moldova, United States of America, Turkey, Italy, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Austria, Ukraine, Hungary). At the end of his career, he returned to the Museum of the Romanian Navy in Constanta (December 1, 1995 - April 28, 1996) where he retired.

Mr. Jipa Rotaru is now at the height of his scientific creation, being the author of dozens of books and hundreds of studies given to us, to all Romanians, as a proof and basis of understanding our past, with shadows and penumbras that need to be definitively illuminated, for the benefit of future generations.

Authentic servant of history, commander (rtg) university professor PhD. Jipa Rotaru represents the model of military historian, based on a military career that ensured his military specialization "*Ab initio*": military high school, military school, officer activity, history faculty. In fact, he stated that: "*Unfortunately, the famous "soldier's rag" is a sine qua non condition of becoming a military historian. I can't call myself an art historian or a literary historian just for the simple reason that I'm really interested in those fields of research - art, literature!*"

A recognized authority in the domain, professor Rotaru also defines the condition of the historian after 1990, when historians are also divided, some being blamed for the way they wrote during the communist period and being "*weaker than the angel*", they gave up and withdrew in a shell, the ultimate goal of protection, while others, more courageous, continued to publish after '89, along with a variety of wonderful young civilian and military historians.

He says that is why history has not been put in its rights at all, it is a pity, because the opportunity was lost, very few historians remain consistent with

research, then many institutes and institutions where research was done were abolished, but he is optimistic and he says it wouldn't be wasted time, but it's not the same thing.

In a world where selfishness and envy are becoming general politics and strategy, the work of historian Jipa Rotaru is an oasis of light. For 17 years he has been pioneering, supporting with his own funds his soul project - *Historical Relivings* -, as many annual scientific sessions with the participation of reputable researchers in the field of history, from the country and abroad, which makes the world of historians talk of the "*historical school from Maia*", with 17 volumes of "*Historical Relivings in the 21st century*", under the high patronage of the Romanian Academy of Scientists and the Maia Catargi Branch, of the National Association of Clio Knights.

And it is no exaggeration, the researchers he came in contact with were amazed by his great openness to the news in the field of history, by his constant desire to learn new things, but also to share his great professional culture. Through the effort to conduct these scientific communication sessions, he sought the good of the community of historians and the involvement of the local and national community, in no case the personal success he no longer needs anyway. He looked for new and new forms and ways to promote his action and did his best to attract as much of the Romanian intellectuals as possible, including those from across the Prut.

The history of the Romanian nation and its army is the favorite field of Mr. Rotaru and there are at least three major themes in the works published by him so far: Alexandru Ioan Cuza, The Ruler; Romanian Navy, as organization and actions, mainly in the years of the Second World War; Marshal Ion Antonescu, especially his military career. They are approached according to the golden law of any historiography: "*sine ira et studio*", (without hatred and bias).

In all his works, the vast bibliography made mainly from primary sources, offers a complete discourse on the topics covered, which has led to the advancement of important steps in the field of our historiography. His research topics were presented in numerous national and international conferences, or radio and television shows.

In a period of rapacious material civilization such as the present day, the professor has struggled to remain a romantic of historical, spiritual treasures, which are hidden in archival documents, which with effort revealed, he has highlighted through his work, which brings back to life data and deeds committed by our forerunners that have been unjustly minimized or forgotten.

He started his teaching career as a lecturer at the Naval Training Center, continued by the university at the Military Academy, completed at the "Hyperion" University in Bucharest, "Andrei Saguna" University in Constanta or at the "Dacia - Decebal" University from Baile Herculane.

Many of his students, masters or doctoral students, knew from the first contact with Mr. Jipa Rotaru that they were in front of a great historian and professor, whom they had heard and read about. Our teacher has a valuable work, we are proud that he is our teacher, and that he has made the National Military Museum of Romania superlative.

One of the most important didactic and scientific activities is that of creator of historical school by guiding doctoral students in Military History, Military Science and Intelligence at the Academy of Advanced Military Studies, later the National Defense University "Carol I", where he has a significant figure of disciples: 38 doctors who assure him the great joy of being active in the field of historiography, with sustained journalistic activity and participation in scientific meetings, as distinct cultural personalities who write, guide doctoral students, teach in university education.

Even today he impresses with his athletic stature, imposing, with a large forehead and expressive eyes, sincere, which exudes a lot of warmth and kindness, being kind and communicative. Attracts pleasant sincerity and his way of being, the eloquence and the vastness of his knowledge, regarding the history of Romania. He is a scientist who loved his country and its history.

An extremely important thing for Mr. Jipa Rotaru is the ancestral orthodox faith, in which he lives and feels, which has developed his modesty and common sense as great moral values that he proves every day. In fact, a pilgrim to Mount Athos, he enjoyed the Romanian monks living there at the monasteries of Vatopedu, the Great Lavra, Prodromu, Saint Lake or Saint Peter with books whose authors he is.

He is also admired for his balanced and patient nature, wisdom, generosity and diplomacy. Very calmly, he often managed to hide his inner turmoil, being able to concentrate on the most difficult situations, to examine in detail all the problems that arose, and in his reign, he had enough. Among the complex personality dimensions of his reign, some other defining features of his reign should not be omitted: his gentleness, his vanity-free line of conduct.

He has been married since January 29, 1964 to the distinguished Mrs. Elena. Their daughter Luiza, a gendarme officer like her son-in-law Daniel, has the same passion as her father - the study of history. The great joy of her family is her niece - Anemona Andreea, a talented, smart and beautiful young artist, rewarded with national music awards.

Their house in Maia, rebuilt and modernized with a gazebo, also impresses with the flower garden in which tulips, roses and lilies predominate, the vegetable garden, the 35 fruit trees as well as the special space arranged for a few dozen birds (chickens and ducks), the "troupe" of dogs and cats, which creates moments of joy for them, in Bucharest the children take care of the modernization of the apartment, where they are fully owners.

Beyond all this, I have noticed in him a true cult of friendship, of honor - rare flowers in our times, when envy, resentment and all other evils haunt our lives and the souls of our contemporaries. The sincerity and affection with which he surrounds us every time in our meetings, given the age difference between us and his disciples and the common professional and personal concerns, to cherish him with all the same sincere love.

He was and is, the colleague and friend of many personalities such as: Vasile Cârdea, Gheorghe Buzatu, Vasile Mocanu, Aurel Pentelescu, Ioan Scurtu, Ioan Solcanu, Constantin Bușe, Nicolae Ciobanu, priest Alexandru Marinescu, Gheorghe Dumitrașcu, Horia Dumitrescu, Cristian Scarlat, Gheorghe Nistoroiu, Cornel Lungu, Leonida Moise, the colleagues from the History Section of the Romanian Academy of Scientists, and many others such as those from Chisinau; Ion Ungureanu, Ion Hadârcă, Grigore Vieru, Father Simeon Tatu, Vitalie Văratec, Doina and Ion Aldea Teodorovici etc.

There are many homage volumes dedicated to some of the most valuable historians, professors and researchers, in which he published important studies on topics, in general of modern and contemporary history, military, in particular. This is the case of the homage volumes dedicated to academician Dan Berindei, Gheorghe Buzatu, Florin Constantin, Ion Scurtu, Ilie Manole, Leonida Moise, Horst Rossachi, Constantin Moșincat, Florin Dobrinescu, Horia Dumitrescu, etc.

From the vast work of the professor, we mention the ones closest to his soul, such as: the syntheses of *Stalingrad and the history of a sacrificed army. The Third Army of Romania*; the work *Constantin Prezan - Ion Antonescu in the service of the creation of Greater Romania* which was introduced in the collection "Library of the Great Union December 1, 1918 - Alba Iulia, June 4, 2020 Trianon 1100 volumes" section "In defense of the Great Union", monograph *History of the Central Commission of Focșani*, awarded the „Dimitrie Cantemir Prize of the Romanian Academy of Scientists”, *Military History of the Romanian People*, published in the summer of 1989, *Assuming Responsibility* republished at Serebia Publishing House in Chisinau.

He is the author and co-author of a series of collections of documents and thematic volumes such as: *Perenniality of the Vlachs in the Balkans* (6 volumes), *Nicolae Iorga* (11 volumes), *Great political and cultural personalities in the Romanian Senate; The Liberation of Bessarabia (June 22, 1941-August 23, 1944)* published in Chisinau, or *History of the Romanian Senate*, coordinated by academician Dan Berindei.

He is a faithful contributor to the history and culture magazines *Document* - Pitești, *Revista de Istorie Militară* - Bucharest, *Anail* - the magazine of the Romanian Academy of Scientists and *Anal* - the magazine of Hyperion University, including online at: *Artemis* - Râmnicu Vâlcea, *Cetatea Cavalerilor* - Oradea, etc.

So, the homage remained the same strong character that is hugely valued, to which we constantly see and admit the increase of his memoir, the contributions that recommend the historian Jipa Rotaru among the elite specialists of national history, with achievements extremely difficult to match in regarding the military epic in the twentieth century, especially the era of the Second World War. For many of his disciples, Mr. Jipa Rotaru is a remarkable teacher, a scholar, a man of great dignity, and a true friend interested in encouraging the work of young researchers.

People meet and make friends, then they break up, each with his own way in life, but for many of his collaborators, his friendship with him will last forever, for the rest of his life, the meeting with him being a major event in our lives which marked our existence.

Now, on the anniversary of the beautiful 80th birthday, we wish the professor a long life, many books on the history of Romanians, much health, joy and new success, taking into account the message of the life of military historian Jipa Rotaru *"All I can say now, in this historical time, is that I trust the Romanian Nation, in the sense that it will find itself, with its authentic values. You can never go wrong when it comes to the core values of your nation."*

God help us and we are close to you, because we still have enough champagne in our cups to enjoy your new achievements!

Happy Birthday!

Buzau, January 10, 2022