



Excerpt from Caiete ARA 7, 2016.

ALEXANDRU VULPE (June 16, 1931 – February 9, 2016)

Alexandru Vulpe's career as an archaeologist specialized in Romanian pre and proto-history spanned six decades and left an unsurpassed record of seminal works on both Bronze and Iron Age.

Alexandru Vulpe was born on June 16, 1931, in Bucharest, and as a child and teenager developed a keen interest in archaeology and ancient history, as it was only to be expected, as he was the son of two reputed Romanian archaeologists: Radu and Ecaterina Vulpe. He began studying history at the University of Bucharest in 1950 and graduated in 1954, defending his thesis on *Political Ideas in Early Stoicism*. In 1968, under the supervision of Ion Nestor, Alexandru Vulpe defended his PhD thesis *The Hallstatt Necropolis of Ferigile. An archaeological monograph*, at the University of Bucharest.

Most of his academic work took place at the "Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology in Bucharest, where he developed his archaeological career: a junior researcher in 1965, he was promoted senior researcher grade II in 1990 and senior researcher grade I in 1991. He was Head of the Prehistory Department between 1991 and 2011 and the Director of the "Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology from 1999 until his death.

He was Associate Professor at the University of Bucharest between 1990 and 1994 and Professor of Prehistory until his retirement in 2001.

He had a powerful influence on Romanian archaeology and history, an influence that manifested in many ways: by his excavations in nowadays reputed prehistoric sites, by his teaching at the university, by his own writings, by his works as editor and reviewer, by the friendships he established with the scholars of his own and the younger generations. His writings were very diverse: from prehistoric field reports, to general syntheses on Romanian ancient history. His works ranged from highly specific and original books and papers published in peer reviewed journals, to contributions to more popular periodicals. He wrote a vast amount of shorter notes and book reviews. Since 1999 he was Chief-Editor of *Dacia*, one of the most reputed archaeology journals in Romania.

In 1976 he was appointed Corresponding-Member of the German Institute of Archaeology. At the time of his death he had been a member of the Romanian Academy for 20 years (Corresponding Member from 1996 to 2001 and full member since). The honorary degree of *Doctor honoris causa* was conferred upon him by the West University in Timișoara in 2007 and the same year he was elected Honorary Member of the Archaeology Institute in Iași.

He had countless friends, in Romania and abroad, some of whom he had known for a lifetime.

Those who knew Alexandru Vulpe will remember him for his broad outlook on life and his many interests, for the swiftness and sureness of his mind, for his receptivity to new ideas and methods in archaeology, for his incredible power of work even at an older age.

Adina Boroneanț

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