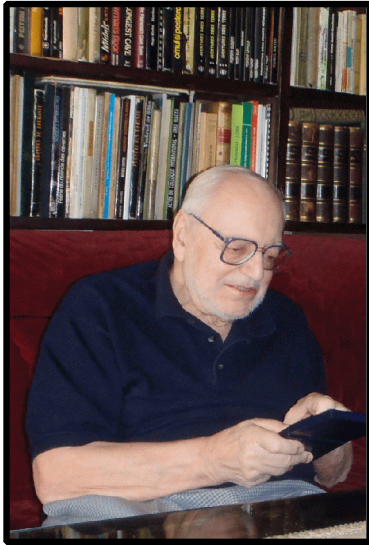


In memoriam:



MARCIAN DAVID BLEAHU

(March 14, 1924 - July 30, 2019)

On July 30, 2019, the Romanian geologist, speleologist, geographer, mountaineer, explorer, writer and Romanian politician, honorary member of the Romanian Academy within the Geonomic Sciences Section, Marcian-David Bleahu, ceased his life.

Born on March 14, 1924, in Braşov, Marcian David Bleahu graduated, in 1949, the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Bucharest, and in 1974 obtained the title of doctor at the University of Cluj- Napoca with thesis on the geology and morphology of karst and caves.

He worked at the Department of Geology of the University of Bucharest, from 1949 to 1961, but was removed from education on political criteria and resumed his university activity after 1989, when he founded the Ecological University, being named dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, later becoming the Faculty of Ecology.

Between 1949 - 1994, he was a geologist, researcher and held various management positions, including director, at the Geological Institute of Romania. From 1949 to 1952 he headed the Geology Service for the works of the Danube - Black Sea Canal, and in 1953, he conducted the geological researches in order to design the Bucharest Metro. He was part of the inter-ministerial commission for the earthquake analysis of March 4, 1977. Between 1985 - 1994, he was part of the team that founded and managed the National Geology Museum in Bucharest.

Author of 41 books and 126 specialized scientific papers, over 400 articles on different topics and a lecturer with over 500 public appearances, including radio and television, a pioneer of multimedia use in conferences, Marcian Bleahu is one of the most important scientific personalities of the second half of the 20th century in Romania. It is known for its scientific contributions to the development of global tectonics theories (with applications in the study of the Carpathian geology), for the pioneering and development of the speleology but also for the popularization of science and ecology in Romania.

Marcian Bleahu was also an active politician. During the student years, he sympathized with the National Liberal Party, without being part of any political party.

After the Revolution of December 1989, Marcian Bleahu, together with Toma George Măiorescu, set up the Ecological Movement in Romania (M.E.R.), thus materializing his professional belief in the protection of nature and the environment. He was elected senator in the elections of May 1990 for the first post-communist Free Parliament and he became Minister of the Environment from 1991 to 1992. In this position he elaborated a whole legislation (another pioneer) and tried to integrate Romania in the international conventions and programs on the environment.

International recognition came in 1992, when he was appointed vice-president of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro.

He was also a senator in the legislature 1996 - 2000 on the part of the Ecological Movement of Romania, respectively of the Ecological Federation of Romania and was part of the Foreign Policy Commission and of the parliamentary group of National Liberal Party (P.N.L.).

In 2008, he was appointed honorary president of the Green Party, the successor of the Romanian Ecological Federation (F.E.R.), the year in which he was decorated with the Order "Star of Romania" in the rank of Knight.

He was buried at the Bellu Catholic Cemetery in Bucharest.