



Excerpt from Caiete ARA 11, 2020

ALEXANDRU BARNEA (17 February 1944 – 8 May 2020)

On May 8, 2020 we all lost a distinguished archaeologist and classicist, an emeritus professor, a man of rare human qualities. Remarkable connoisseur of Greco-Roman antiquity, with encyclopaedic knowledge, Alexandru Barnea will always be remembered for the generosity he has shown to his students and collaborators. Whatever the topic, from history to archaeology, from literature to history of religion or philosophy, he was a passionate, witty and elevated discussion partner.

Alexandru Barnea was the spiritual mentor of many generations of historians and archaeologists. In 1992, Alexandru Barnea joined the Faculty of History of the University of Bucharest, at the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology and in 1996 he became the Dean of the Faculty of History. His work as a researcher at the Institute of Archaeology was brilliantly intertwined with the teaching and guiding activity of young students and later master's or doctoral students.

He graduated the Faculty of Classical Languages of the University of Bucharest in 1967, and a year later he joined the Institute of Archaeology. He defended his PhD at the Faculty of History in Bucharest in 1983, a thesis on economic life on the Lower Danube during the Late Roman time, prepared under the guidance of Acad. E. Condurachi. He participated along with his father, distinguished archaeologist Ion Barnea, in the great archaeological campaigns from Noviodunum, Niculițel, Giurgiu, Murfatlar - Basarabi, Mangalia, Enisala, Dinogetia - Garvăn, Tropaeum Traiani - Adamclisi. Since 1975, he has become the scientific manager of the last two mentioned sites, thus continuing the archaeological research undertaken by his father. The archaeological excavations of Dinogetia and Tropaeum Traiani, much diminished due to particularly difficult conditions in the last communist decade, were to be amplified after 1992, with consistent funding that made it possible for new sectors to be opened. Since 1994, generations of students have learned and practiced archaeology at Adamclisi. They thus got in touch with the field work and many of them finally chose this profession. Undoubtedly, Adamclisi was a school for a long series of students.

There are countless directions in which Alexandru Barnea has been involved. From the leadership of the Faculty of History, to important contributions related to the legislation on archaeology and protection of monuments, and to the establishment of the Archaeology Service within the Ministry of Culture. He was also involved in defining the role and rules of procedures of the National Archaeology Commission, and also to the Society of Historical Studies in Romania. He was also deeply engaged, as were his former professors, Iancu Fisher and then Eugen Cizek, to save the Society of Classical Studies in Romania.

He is the author of over 150 scientific publications, and one of the authors of great syntheses such as *La Dobroudja romaine* (1991 - with Alexandru Suceveanu) or *Tratatul de Istorie a Românilor* (Treatise on the History of Romanians, published by the Romanian Academy). He participated in numerous international congresses and conferences and held prestigious titles and awards, including the Vasile Pârvan Award of the Romanian Academy (1981) and the National Order of Merit in the rank of officer conferred by the Romanian Presidency (2000).

Alexandru Barnea would have still had many things to offer, many years from now. We are left today with the memory of a great teacher, from whom we had the greatest privilege to learn.

Adriana Panaite