

<i>Travaux du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle</i> «Grigore Antipa»	Vol. LII	pp. 589–593	© 2009
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## COMPTES RENDUS

**DUMITRU MURARIU, SORIN GEACU, 2008** - *Bibliographia Mammalogica Romaniaae*. 342 pp., Editura Academiei Române, București. ISBN: 978-793-27-1667-0.

This book is a very valuable editorial appearance, completing the first variant, published in 2003 as an article in the journal *Travaux du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle "Grigore Antipa"* (Volume XLV, pp. 401–477), which, that time, included around 1800 bibliographical titles. After only three years from its first publishing, in 2008 this edition was released but as a book, much improved.

This kind of paper was expected for a long time, taking into consideration that many articles dedicated to the Romanian mammals were published along time in different national or local journals and periodicals, which are not easily accessible to the general people. Thus, the paper is a valuable reference point for those deeply interested in the knowledge of mammals of Romania.

As it was mentioned in the foreword, the authors' purpose was to increase the interest in mammal study of the young people very fond of biology.

The two authors consulted a very large number of scientific periodicals of different fields, journals of different Romanian universities, hunting, zootechnical or veterinary magazines, succeeding in gathering around 4500 bibliographical titles, in which books, scientific papers or informative notes on the Romanian fauna, are also included, beginning with old books as "*Descriptio Moldaviae*" by Dimitrie Cantemir, dated in 1714 and finishing with the latest releases.

Although the first synthesis on mammals from the entire territory of Romania was made in 1931, by the well known bio-geographer Raul Călineascu, entitled "*Mamiferele României. Repartiția și problemele lor biogeografice-economice*" ("Mammals of Romania. Their biogeographical and economical distribution and problems"), the study on mammals from the Romanian territory developed only in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when a large number of papers of fauna, systematics, ecology, palaeontology and even genetics and molecular biology were published.

After 2000, in the series of monograph papers „*Fauna României*” (“Romanian Fauna”), five volumes dedicated to mammals were published. For four of them, one of the authors of this bibliography, Dr. Dumitru Murariu, was the senior author or co-author, on this occasion consulting exhaustively the available bibliographical sources.

Release by one of the best-known publishing house, that of the Romanian Academy, „*Bibliographia Mammalogica Romaniaae*” consists of 342 pages, in which bibliographical titles are numbered and ordered alphabetically, after the first author's name, and than after the chronological order of the release date. Besides the title list, the book also includes four separated indexes. Thus, there is an index of the

scientific names of the mammals mentioned in the listed papers, an index of the vernacular names of the mammals species and the indicatives of the respective papers, a geographical index with localities, counties, hydrographic basins, mountain massives and other geographic units, and also an index of the authors.

GABRIEL CHIŞAMERA

**GIOVANNI PINNA, 2006** – *Animali impagliati e altre memorie. Ricordi di un direttore di Museo con note di Museologia*. Editoriale Jaca Book. Museo e Beni Culturali. SpA, Milano: 1-240.

By this book, the third of the collection “Museum and Cultural Goods” (*Museo e Beni Culturali*) the well-known scientist Giovanni Pinna addresses those who want to approach museology, as well as the visitors who ask themselves what there is behind the showcases. The clear text helps the reader to understand better what a museum of natural sciences is and which are the aspects of the theoretical and practical work, starting from the specialist to the leader of one of the greatest European museums. Therefore, the volume bases on a life time experience in museology and that is why the book represents not only the author’s biography but also a treatise of practical museologic activity which provides data on all activity fields from this «delicate and fragile cultural institution», as Giovanni Pinna characterizes a museum.

In „Some pages of introduction” (pp. 11-36) the author presents the reasons which made him to write this book (*Why this book?*). He talks about the complexity of a museum, in which an unique and unrepeatable proper culture is forming, «museum culture», by objects, space, history, understanding, time, society, which makes museums to be different one another. As there is no pattern for an universal museum, also there is not a “standard” curator. Always, this job is different in each museum, according to the cultural identity and the social part of the respective museum, in a certain moment and in a certain society. The relation between museum and museology is emphasized, it also being the object of their activity.

The author’s childhood memories on the repeated visits at the *Museo Civico di Storia Naturale* (Civic Museum of Natural History) of Milan, the first contact with the mollusc collection, and so on, are included in the chapter *Vaticinium ex eventu*. It is followed by “*The first look on museum and museology*” – 16 pages with a rich illustration with old images, including those from the Second World War, when the museum was bombarded and fired. Footnotes are also interesting because they do not provide only bibliographical information but also of general education. Among other information he explains different names given to the specialists in a museum. For instance, the Italians use the term from French, „conservator”, while others adopted the Anglo-Saxon term, „curator”.

The volume consists of 3 main parts.

The first part, **YEARS AS MUSEOLOGIST IN PALAEONTOLOGY** (pp. 37–79), has four subchapters: *Ammonites, fossil crustaceans and reptiles*;

*Collecting and displaying; Lombardy region and the relaunch of the local museums; Ulrico Hoepli Planetarium Management.*

The author's collaboration with *Museo Civico di Storia Naturale* of Milano began in February 1964, when he was appointed at the Department of Palaeontology. From that moment, he will harmoniously combine the laboratory activity with that in the field, the editing of the scientific papers with that ones for the general public, the trips at the foreign museum followed by the rehabilitation and modernization of the items displaying with the deposit reorganization and all the other activities which are carried out in a museum of natural history. From the first pages of the Part I, Giovanni Pinna underlines the idea that the scientific research is essential for the cultural economy of a museum, idea supported since 1975. Museum collections have no value if they are not studied, and an item is not displayed only for its beauty but especially for its documentary value by scientific interpretation. As palaeontologist, Giovanni Pinna was preoccupied by the theories and hypotheses regarding the great biological extinctions, along the years, disappearances of the dinosaurs, biological evolution in general, but also the evolution of the ideas in palaeontology. He described new species and has his own theory referring the causes of the dinosaur extinction. The hundreds of papers of science popularization were published with the permanent conviction that they represent each specialist's duty, and one of the most important for a museologist, as the collaboration with written media, television, etc.

As member of the Committee of Museums from Lombardy Region, palaeontologist and curator of the greatest Lombardy museum of natural history, in the '70s Pinna had the opportunity to participate to the foundation and development of some museums of this region, as those from Besano or Voghera.

In 1980, the Planetarium of Milan is available again to the general people, a planetarium donated 50 years before (1930) by the well-know editor Ulrico Hoepli. Giovanni Pinna had an important part in the reorganization of this institution, so much loved by the Milan people. He succeeded in surpassing financial difficulties and transformed the Hoepli Planetarium in a more modern instrument, more attractive, both for children and adults.

The second part, MANAGEMENT YEARS (pp. 81-220), includes the period 1981-1996, when Giovanni Pinna was the director of the Civic Museum of Natural History of Milan. The second part begins with an introduction and a general presentation (pp. 81-112) of what the museum represents, its organization, different theoretical and practical problems which he faced along years. *A base philosophy; Social – cultural analyses of the museum – territory ratio; Confrunting history; Development strategy; Regaining of the cultural prestige of the museum; Activity triennial reports; Functional organization of the museum; Labour organization and The part of the manager between control and communication* are the main themes approached at the beginning of the Part II. They are followed by six independent chapters.

In *SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION* (pp. 113-138) the author talks about one of his main objectives as director: the development of the scientific research within the museum, the base for the appearance of an intrinsic culture of museum. *The museum*

*is opened to science history and philosophy; Museum facing the human evolution; Under the bureaucracy control; Scientific publications; Scientific drawing and Library, heart of the museum* are also themes approached in this chapter.

From the second one, *COMMUNICATION ORGANIZATION* (pp. 139–142) we keep some ideas. Always, culture is a good which cannot be bought and that is why it is not a merchantable product. The museum cannot merchandize its primary product, that is why it has to sell a sufficient quantity of secondary products in order to reach an acceptable profitability which can justify the diminishing of the quality of the cultural offer of the museum, and so on.

*RENEWAL OF THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION* (pp. 143–174) represents one of the most important chapters, of current importance for several museums of the world. It includes nine subchapters: *Starting point; Rearrangement criteria; Presentation stages of the exhibitions; Presentation way; Information organization; Denying of positivism and the introduction of the museum history; Reconstruction of the natural environments; Organization of the palaeontologic exhibition; Darwinian theory of evolution and man's evolution*. Renewal of the permanent exhibitions, presentation modernization, but preserving the museum specificity, tradition were benefic transformations, capable of making the Civic Museum of Natural History more attractive and richer in information. The wonderful dioramas, admired by the visitors all over the world were made also in this period when Giovanni Pinna was director. Clear and detailed explanations of each stage of the “museum renewal” form a real “text book” for those who want to do such changes.

In the next chapter *MANAGEMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS* (pp.175–194) the author approaches some themes: *Collection enriching, Attention to the market rules, Catalogues and inventories are also instruments of knowledge, Collection conservation, Xiloteca Cormio's adventures*.

In the *ORGANIZATION OF THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES* (pp. 195–218), last but one chapter of Part II, in the beginning, the author reminds us two of the main roles of museum: creation of the cultural patrimony and the transmission to the general public, i.e. to society, the significance of this patrimony. There are presented and analysed the different ways in which this communication with the public can be made within the museum. He presents numerous examples and underlined with a rich illustration. Further the chapter continues with some themes, separately approached. Thus, in the Museum book-shop, the author discusses the necessity of such a department, a meeting place with different personalities of the intellectual world. The chosen slogan for all events which carried on during the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the museum foundation was: “Civic Museum of Natural History of Milan 1838-1988: 150 years of science”. *Publications for visitors, Museum for children, Visitors or public?* are the other subjects which Giovanni Pinna raised for discussion.

In the last chapter, *A FARWELL WITH FEW REGRETS AND MUCH SELF-PRIDE* (pp. 219–220), which end the managing period and, in the same time, the 32 years spent in museum, Giovanni Pinna justified his decision of resigning, by the multiplying and continuous diversification of the bureaucratic – management obstructions in front of a good development of the museum. That one who led this

institution for 15 years and who succeeded in transforming it in a modern institute, with a plenty of activities, loved by the town citizens and appreciated all over the world, near by museums of Madrid, Vienna, Paris, London, Frankfurt and Stockholm, left the institution to which he dedicated the greatest part of his life. With the directors of those museums, Giovanni Pinna met periodically and discussed solutions to the common problems of the museums of natural sciences.

Part III, *AFTER MUSEUM* (pp. 221–236), is also divided in three themes: *Long collaboration with ICOM*; «*Nuova Museologia*»; *Museology around the world*, includes the author's numerous activities, after he left the Civic Museum. His collaboration with museums of the entire world and the organization of international meetings, the foundation of the journal «*Nuova Museologia*» in 1999, today the official journal of the Italian Association of Museologic Studies, organization founded together with Teruzzi in 2005, and so on, are only some of the author's present activity. Giovanni Pinna's publication list, uncited in the text, ends this volum.

Each page of Giovanni Pinna's book reflects the permanent combination of the naturalist's life with his work, at many levels and the harmonious mixture between all these activities, dedicated to science and its presentation to the general public.

Numerous footnotes and photos, generally representing the history of the Civic Museum of Natural History of Milan complete favourably the volume.

GABRIELA ANDREI