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**PROFESSOR ALEXANDRU V. GROSSU (1910 – 2004)**  
**COMPLEX PERSONALITY**  
**OF THE ROMANIAN SAVANTS' GALLERY**

GABRIELA ANDREI

Abstract. He was born in Ciorani (Vrancea) in a family of farmers. In 1934, he graduated the Faculty of Sciences – University of Bucharest. He got the PhD degree in biological sciences, with “*Magna cum laudae*” in 1939, with a thesis on the gastropods from Bucegi, guided by Professor Andrei Popovici Bâznoșeanu. Timișoara, 1939–1952: professor, school inspector, director of the Loga College, lecturer at the Institute of Medicine. From 1952, in Bucharest: professor and director of the Pedagogical Institute (1952–1955), professor, chair chief and dean of the Faculty of Biology (1955–1975). 1955–1957: director of “Grigore Antipa” Museum of Natural History. He re-organized the museum and founded “*Travaux du Muséum*”. 1975–1990: consulting professor. He led 30 doctorates. Abroad he was recognized as one of the greatest malacologists of the 20th century. He was member of numerous scientific societies, always joining educational activity with the research one. He described tens of taxa new to science: he published over 160 papers of malacology, out of which three are volumes on *Mollusca* of “Romanian Fauna” and the monograph paper, in four volumes, *Gastropoda Romaniaae*. A part of his collections, of a great documentary value, is in many museums of Romania, first of all in “Antipa” Museum, to which professor was deeply attached.

Résumé. Né à Ciorani (Vrancea) dans une famille d'agriculteurs. Licencié de la Faculté de Sciences – Université de Bucarest en 1934, Docteur ès Sciences Biologiques avec „*Magna cum Laudae*”, en 1939, avec une thèse sur les gastéropodes de Bucegi, avec le Prof. Andrei-Popovici Bâznoșeanu. Timișoara 1939–1952: professeur, inspecteur scolaire, directeur du Collège Loga, Conférencier à l'Institut de Médecine. Dès 1952, à Bucarest: Professeur et directeur de l'Institut Pédagogique (1952–1955),

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professeur, Titulaire de Chaire et Doyen de la Faculté de Biologie (1955–1975). 1955–1957: Directeur du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle "Grigore Antipa". Il a réorganisé le musée et a fondé „*Travaux du Muséum*”. 1975–1990: Professeur Consultant. Il a conduit 30 doctorats. Reconnu à l'étranger comme un des plus importants malacologues du XXe siècle, membre de nombreux sociétés scientifiques, il a toujours joint l'activité pédagogique à celle de recherche. Il a décrit pour la science des dizaines de nouveaux taxons; il a publié plus de 160 ouvrages de malacologie, dont les trois volumes de *Mollusca* de la „Faune de Roumanie” et la monographie en quatre volumes *Gastropoda Romaniaae*. Une partie de ses collections, d'une grande valeur documentaire, se trouve aujourd'hui dans plusieurs musées de Roumanie, notamment au Muséum Antipa, auquel le Professeur est resté profondément attaché.

Key words: Prof. A. V. Grossu, malacologist, new taxa, Chair and Dean, Faculty of Biology, Director Antipa Museum, *Travaux du Muséum*, *Gastropoda Romaniaae*.

There are almost four years since the greatest Romanian malacologist, Professor Alexandru V. Grossu, passed away silently, in the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2004. He was a man who built his life brick by brick, on a solid foundation. The knowledge and understanding of his complex personality can be anytime and anywhere an example.

«By the Professor Dr. Docent Alexandru V. Grossu's disappearance the Romanian biology is poorer, losing the best master and an international scientific authority in the malacological field. He was a very good example for the young people, of success in life due to an honest correct continuous work and relations with all around him, in society, and of devotion to the others» (Murariu, 2004).

He was born on 14<sup>th</sup> of July 1910, at Ciorani, commune Pufești (Vrancea). His parents, Vasile and Tasica Grossu were farmers, which belonged to some families established for many generations on these fertile lands, full of history.

Hereditarily, he had a strong health, with thirst for knowledge, tenacity and perseverance. Being fond of order, honest and correct and with a huge working power, he succeeded to surpass modest conditions of his family with 11 children by his own force. Since childhood he was serious, knowing what he wanted and fought for his ideals. He never forgot his native place, family, friends and all those who contributed to his evolution.

He attended primary school in Ciorani, then he followed „General Averescu” Gymnasium from Adjud. From the 3<sup>rd</sup> class of gymnasium he supported himself by giving private lessons. So, he became professor at 15 years old! At the same age he made the bookkeeping of the “Locomotiva” Association from Adjud, for a monthly salary of 1,000 lei. Because of the financial problems he had to give up to the courses at two high-schools where he had been admitted. For going to the “Unirea” High-school from Focșani he signed in a dental workroom. He got skilfulness from his father. The work in this workroom meant not only the learning of the dental technics but also an important step for the young man's maturing. During that period he knew some special people, who respected and appreciated him and who marked his life. Among them, there were Dr. Al. Comșa, with whom he played chess and pushed him to study further on. As a member of the scout crew he made many trips outside town together with the leader of the scouts, Professor Ion Dănilă. “*L-am iubit mult, l-am respectat pe profesorul Dănilă și cred că el m-a influențat, într-o mare măsură, în alegerea profilului meu de viitor biolog*” (“I loved and respected Professor Dănilă and I think that he influenced me in choosing my future biological profile”) (Grossu, 1995). Together with his good friend Mauriciu Weiss, a very good dental technician, he organized a football team, “Macabi”, in Focșani. He always considered that the sport is absolutely necessary in maintaining a good health. He himself was a talented sportsman. After the dental workroom was

dissolved, he returned in his village, as an external student in the 6<sup>th</sup> class of the “Unirea” High-school. For the exams he learnt 14-15 hours per day, after a programme he made himself and which he respected, as he would do all his life. Step by step his characteristic features came to light, completing his strong later personality.

He knew some foreign languages, as German. He loved trips. He observed nature in details. He played violin which he bought himself at 15 years old. Beginning with the 7<sup>th</sup> class he attended the “Unirea” High school courses. Even if the financial state of his family was modest, the understanding atmosphere made him to pass over it.

In 1930 he became student of the Faculty of sciences, Natural Sciences Department, at the University of Bucharest. From those year he succeeded to support himself with the obtained scholarships and even a salary of 1,000 lei as a warehouseman, at the Committee of the holders of scholarships Association. He lived in a building for the best students, put at their disposal by a great philanthropist, the landowner Ion Stănescu. In 1927, the Society of the naturalist students of Bucharest was founded, where, as an active member, he presented several scientific conferences. In June 1934 he graduated the University. Immediately he went in for the doctor’s degree, at Professor Andrei Popovici-Bâznoșanu. The following period is considered by Professor Grossu of a great importance for the building of his personality. Between 1935–1936 he worked in Bucharest, as deputy professor at the high-schools “Spiru Haret”, “Matei Basarab”, “Mihai Viteazu”, accumulating a good pedagogic experience. In the autumn of 1936, sustained the capacity exam in order to become full professor in the secondary school. The exam was very difficult, with many theoretical and practical tests, and it was held in Iași in the following year. Examining board was formed of Professor C. Motaș, G. Radian and N. Macarovici. The young Grossu was among the first ten candidates.

On 21<sup>st</sup> of December 1939, at the University of Bucharest, he held the thesis for the doctor’s degree with the title “Systematic ecological and biological contributions on the gastropods from Sinaia region (Bucegi-Gârbova massives)” and got “*Magna cum laudae*”. “*Profesorul Bâznoșanu a fost pentru mine un susținător permanent, până în ultimul moment, încurajându-mă și dându-mi sfaturi în momentele grele. Îi păstrez o neștearsă recunoștință și o frumoasă amintire*” (“For me, Professor Bâznoșanu was a permanent supporter, till the last moment, encouraging me and giving me advice in the difficult moments. I keep him a deep gratitude and a beautiful remembering”) wrote Professor Grossu after more than 50 years, (Grossu, op. cit.).

In August 1939, becoming full professor in the secondary school, he chose to work in Timișoara. There, he became friend with professor Dionisie Linția, passionate ornithologist, whom he met at the Zoological Station from Sinaia. Together with Professor Linția, he spent many hours in the museum, where his friend was director, as well as in the dermoplasty workroom. He helped very much Professor Linția making the proof and arrangement of the three volumes “*Ornis Romaniae*”, published in 1956.

In 1940 he knew Lucreția Zbegan, pediatrician, with whom he married in 1941. The first child, Doina-Valentina, today a very good biologist and manager of an institution, was born in the autumn of 1942. The second one, Alexandru-Valentin

was born in December 1943, exactly when their father went to war. Unfortunately, his son, passed away in full university activity, not reaching 40 years old ...

Between 1942 and 1943 he was mobilized in Bucharest. When waiting to go in mission he succeeded in finishing and translating in German a catalogue of the Romanian gastropods, paper which Professor C. Motaş asked for it in order to be presented at the Academy. The catalogue has 83 pages and it was published at the Academy Publishing House, in 1943. It represents a synthesis of the known data up that moment on the gastropods from Transylvania, Moldavia, Muntenia and Dobrogea. In the same year, after he returned to Timișoara, he met Emil Racoviță, who organized several conferences. He was impressed by Racoviță's way of „îmbărbăta și dădea speranțe tuturor” („encouraging and giving hope to everybody”).

In the autumn of 1952, he was called in Bucharest by the Minister of Education, and was announced that he had to move in the capital for becoming director of the Pedagogic Institute. He had to organize everything, he himself making all kinds of work, professional staff being absent. But, within some months, the order and discipline replaced the chaos and the first research themes began to be carried on.

In 1954, Alexandru Grossu was confirmed university professor of zoology and doctor in biological sciences, although he had got the title of doctor since 1939!

In 1955, the Pedagogic Institute was dissolved. Alexandru Grossu was transferred as professor at the Faculty of Biology where he worked till his retiring, in 1975. During this period he was the chief of the Vertebrate Zoology Chair and dean of the Faculty of Biology (1957–1962).

In the autumn of 1955, minister of education of that time, Ilie Murgulescu, a scientist of a high quality, proposed him the position of director of the “Grigore Antipa” Museum of Natural History. He accepted gladly this position to which he dedicated very much. He loved the work in a museum since he worked together with Professor Linția. He was a passionate collector and he already had a nice mollusk collection. Also, this time he was appointed to put an end to the chaos which ruled here and to finish some arranging works. Museum visiting had been suspended. Therefore he had to give back to this institution the fame which it had during Antipa and Motaş periods. Immediately after he was appointed, on 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 1955, Professor Grossu stated to organize the museum. In the very first meeting with the staff *„au fost propuși șefi de secție, (...) au fost numiți gestionari care să răspundă și să aibă grijă de averea muzeului, colecțiile, ... (...). Au fost repartizați preparatori și laboranți la fiecare secție (...). S-a propus și inventarierea bunurilor din muzeu (...). Important și necesar a fost și organizarea unui plan de cercetare științifică (...). S-a fixat locul de muncă al tuturor salariaților, câte una sau cel mult două persoane într-o cameră (...). Totul a fost făcut în așa fel încât lucrurile să meargă bine și să se știe ce sarcini are fiecare.”* (“Chiefs of departments were proposed, (...) administrators were appointed in order to be responsible and take care of the museum wealth, collections ... (...). Technicians were distributed in every department (...) It was proposed an inventory of the museum goods (...). It was important and necessary that a scientific research plan to be organized (...). The working place of every employee was established, being distributed a person or two at the most in every laboratory (...). Everything was made to be carried on in good conditions and everybody to know what he is responsible for.”) (Grossu, op.cit.). Old serious scientists and those newly employed formed a real team. Among them

there were some well-known specialists as Victoria Iuga, Mihai Băcescu, Iosif Lepși, Eugen Niculescu, Igor Sienkiewicz and others. Even if the period spent in the museum was short, less than two years, the professor succeeded in organizing it which was in a complete drift. This thing was possible because, as Dr. Medeea Weinberg (that time at her very beginning of her way and today a famous dipterologist) said: “*he was never been influenced negatively by malicious persons, appreciating especially honesty and correction. (...) He always supported young people. He was right, strong, diligent promoting a barracks discipline. Through his own example, day by day, he succeeded to lay down this discipline to the personnel. (...) He was very concerned to have a specialist for every large faunistical group of Romania, who was able to let to the succeeding generations important collections*” (Andrei, 1992, 2000).

As soon as the rehabilitation of the building and the arrangement of the conference hall were finished, in 1956, the museum was reopened for the general public. Therefore the publishing of an illustrated guide became necessary. A researcher team worked to this guide and only after 5-6 months since the professor became director, it was at the visitors' disposal.

Fifty years ago, Professor Grossu supported Antipa's idea of constructing a new building in the park of the Museum. This one had to include the researchers' laboratories and an Institute of Zoology. Encouraged and supported by the minister Ilie Murgulescu, he handed the plans for this building. Unfortunately, because of a future “systematization” of Victoria Square the approval way of the plans was stopped. A new building was not constructed even now, even if there were subsequent steps and approvals. The botanists were much lucky because, within the period when Professor Grossu was the dean of the Faculty of Biology, he succeeded in getting the necessary approvals and a new building for the Botanic Institute, which was constructed in 1960–1961. The opening was on 27 of October 1961, on the occasion of the centenary celebration of the Botanical Garden (Tarnavski, Diaconescu, Spiridon-Bădescu, 1968).

During one of his meeting with the chiefs of departments, it was proposed the creation of a publication of the Museum, in foreign languages, idea which was received enthusiastically by all scientists. As a result of a well documented report, made by director Grossu and with the support of the minister Ilie Murgulescu, the publishing of this journal was approved. The Minister gave the money necessary for the printing. Thus, in 1957, *Travaux du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle “Grigore Antipa”* was born, today became being known all over the world. Unfortunately, when the first issue was published, professor Grossu was not in the museum anylonger. Even if in a period of less than two years he succeeded in organizing it so that the thing carried on normally, both in research activity and in public relations, at the end of May 1957 the professor is suspended from this position. To his protest to the ministry, he was told that it not about a dismissal but a promotion. Indeed, after some months, in the autumn of 1957, he was appointed dean of the Faculty of Biology.

Always, professor Grossu had a deep respect for the forefathers' achievements. During this short period as a director, he required the organization of the Museum archive and the displaying for the general public of some writings and objects which belonged to Emil Racoviță, in the expedition to South Pole. Personally, he ordered Antipa's entire correspondence.

From those who followed him as director of the Museum, the Professor appreciated especially Acad. Mihai Băcescu's contribution and that of his successor, Dr. Dumitru Murariu, to regain the fame of this museum, important research centre and promotion of science.

As dean of the Faculty of Biology (1957–1962) he considered important the organization of the Vertebrate Zoology Chair which he managed, as an example for the entire faculty. Besides the arrangement of the available spaces and the preparing of the educational materials, the Professor obtained supplementing funds for field trips and also then the researching theme were established which later would become the theses for the doctor's degree of the university professors. After the organization of the deanship, of the secretaryship and the ending of the research plans for the correspondence-course department, for the pedagogic training and so on, the dean Alexandru Grossu promoted some lecturers as professors. Thus I. Tarnavski, Tr. Ștefureac, N. Șanta, N. Botnariuc, C. Rabega, who had the doctor's degree before 1945, participated to a contest where their title was recognized and became university professors. Also during the period when he was dean, he appointed the lecturers P. Raicu and C. Zarnea, later professors, for the fields Genetics and Microbiology, who „*au onorat cu succes aceste discipline, organizând ficare dintre ei, laboratoare bine dotate, în care s-au efectuat numeroase teze de doctorat foarte valoroase*” („honoured successfully these fields, each or them organizing well equipped laboratories where numerous very valuable theses for the doctor's degree were made”) (Grossu, op. cit.).

In the autumn of 1962 he was relieved from the position of dean, by his request.

Professor Grossu was continuously concerned of the doctoral candidates in the field of Vertebrate Zoology. After 1975, when he remained as a consulting professor in the University, he kept his laboratory from the faculty and came almost daily for continuing his scientific activity and relation with the candidates. Between 1962 and 1983 he guided 30 doctorates.

Collaborating with V. Pop and Șt. Gyurko, from the University of Cluj, and Z. Feider, from the University of Iași, he published the course “Vertebrate Zoology”, in 1964. The book had three editions and it was awarded by the Ministry of the Education. Also for helping the students and young naturalists from schools, he drew up “*Îndrumătorul pentru lucrări practice de Zoologia Vertebratelor*” („Guide for practical works in the vertebrate zoology”).

Combining permanently the pedagogic activity with the educational one he succeeded in remaining faithful to the mollusc study to whom he dedicate almost 70 years of his life.

During 1955–1962 the professor published the three volumes on “*Mollusca*” of the *Fauna of Popular Republic of Romania*: 1955 – “*Pulmonata*”; 1956 – “*Prosobranchia and Opisthobranchia*”; 1962 – “*Bivalvia*”, the last one receiving the Prize of the Romanian Academy.

In fact, his retiring represented a very fruitful period, when he made the vast monograph book, in four volumes “*Gastropoda Romaniae*”: 1981 – “*Clausiliacea and Achatinacea*”; 1983 – “*Arionacea, Zonitacea, Ariophantacea and Helicacea*”; 1986 – “*Prosobranchia and Opisthobranchia*”; 1987 – “*Succineacea, Cochlicopacea, Pupilacea*”. This monograph book represents other thirty years of work which add to the previous ones. The volume from 1983 received the Prize of the Romanian Academy.

“*Gastropods of Romania. Compendium: marine, freshwater and land snails*” was published in 1993, and it is a paper useful to any malacologist or a person fond of nature. In the same year, in the volume 33 of *Travaux du Muséum d’Histoire Naturelle “Grigore Antipa”* he published “The catalogue of the Molluscs from Romania”, a very appreciated paper also by the foreign scientists.

Since 1956, professor was asked to collaborate as specialist with CENTROCOOP, who started then to export snails. Annually, tones o snails left, especially to France. Regarding these exports, in 1964 he was sent in France by the Ministry of Foreign Trade, together with the veterinary surgeon Gomboși. The purpose of the trip was to clear some problems arised in the export of living snails. The correct analysis of the causes and the objective report which he presented when he returned led to the solving of the problems. On this occasion he visited several factories of snail processing and mollusk farms. When they came back they brought a rich documentation for the developing of this branch in Romania, too. A snail farm was built in Satu Lung, near Brașov, but later it was dissolved because of the lack of funds.

Another problem followed by the professor was represented by the damages made by the slugs in field cultures and greenhouses. On this subject he wrote many papers and collaborated at the great Treatise of Agricultural Zoology, initiated by Constantin Manolache.

The professor dedicated a part of his studies to the endemic mollusks. A special interest he had on the problems of biogeography and ecology, and especially on the gastropod systematics. He described over 80 taxa new to science (Andrei, 1995) and reported many new species for Romania.

Variability and the differentiating criteria between species rose interest to him. In this field, together with Călin Tesio, a good specialist with a lot of laboratory experience, used on the mollusks biochemical methods, for the first time in Romania.

He was also interested in vertebrate study, especially on birds, because of his contacts with the passionate ornithologists Dionisie Linția and Dimitrie Radu, as the professor asserted.

Along the years he collaborated with palaeontologists and archaeologists.

From the 200 papers (Annex I), around 160 are on malacology, published both in Romania and abroad, in well-known journals from Germany, Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, the United States, and so on.

Since 1936, Alexandru Grossu became member of numerous malacological societies all over the world (Annex II). He went abroad many times, participating to congresses and symposia, experience and scientific information exchange; he knew numerous personalities of the science world. It is extremely long the list of the scientists with who exchange material and corresponded, established at over 7,000 letters in 1995. I mention that only in Germany he contacted 50 specialists, in Italy 35, in France with 20, with over 20 in the United States, and so on, many of them coming here, in Romania.

He made the first trip abroad in Kishinev, Moldavian Socialist Republic (ex-USSR), in 1957, joining to a group of students. In 1958, he participated at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Zoology from London. In March 1961, he made a visit in the Soviet Union, in Moscow and Leningrad, where he met and became friend with the young I. Starobogatov, later a very well-known malacologist, and I. Likharev, already known.

In 1961, he participated to the Symposium “Fauna of the Central Europe” from Budapest. Since 1958, at the Congress from London, some specialists as Dance, Regteren-Altena, Zilch, together with Professor Grossu discussed the necessity of the creation of a new European union for mollusc study. Four years later, Alexandru Grossu will be one of the founding members of the European Malacological Union – “Unitas Malacologica Europaea” (UME), which opened on 21<sup>st</sup> of September 1962, in London, at the first European Congress of Malacology (In 1977, at the Congress from Amsterdam, UME was entitled “Unitas Malacologica” (UM) becoming an international malacological union). The congresses of the Union take place every three years, when a new committee is elected, whose purpose is to prepare the next congress. In 1968 he participated at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress of Malacology in Vienna.

In June 1974, he made a documenting visit in France, following mainly the pollution problem and the culture of the marine mollusks, which he presumed it possible also in Romania, at the Black Sea. He visited an oyster farm from Marennes, on the coast of Atlantic, where he informed on all the steps of oyster breeding, a difficult process but profitable. As he used, he visited as many museums as possible and, of course, the Museum of Natural History of Paris. Personalities of the French scientific world, as Marazanof, Lucas, Tardy, Chevalier and others joined him while visiting the museum. He was honoured and appreciated by the French colleagues. As a matter of fact, foreign scientists always recognized his value and appreciated him sincerely, writing eulogistically on his scientific activity and dedicating him new taxa (Annex III). In 2001, he received the Honorary Diploma of the German Society of Malacology of Frankfurt a. M. – Deutsche Malakozologische Gesellschaft, on the occasion of 65 years of scientific activity.

In September 1974 he participated, together with Dochîța Lupu, at the 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of Malacology from Milano. At the symposium “Polymorphism in mollusks”, which preceded the congress, Professor presented a paper on the protein electrophoresis as a new method in systematics, received with a lot of interest. At the congress of Milano, he was elected member of the Committee and vicepresident of UME. He accepted proposal for organizing the Congress of malacology in Romania, in 1983. But, despite of all efforts and necessary steps taken by Professor Grossu, the congress was not held in Romania.

Mollusc collections he made, especially by the collecting from the numerous field trips, as well as by exchanges with foreign scientists, are impressive.

*“Vacanțele sau concediile de odihnă le petreceam întotdeauna făcând muncă de teren, care îmi aducea mari satisfacții, alături de odihnă, de deconectare, de plăcere. Îmi împlenteam astfel odihna cu munca și drumeția, munca fiind marea mea pasiune, marea mea bucurie și pot spune, marea mea distracție; ea îmi răsplătea toate încercările și eforturile și îmi stimula dorința de a merge și de a studia mai departe”* (“I always spent my holidays and leave of absence working in the field, and brought me great satisfactions, besides restless, pleasure. So, I combined the restless with work and travel, work being my great passion, my great joy and, I can assert, my amusement; it rewarded all my efforts and stimulated my wish for going and studying further on”) (Grossu, op. cit.).

The most part of collections are held by the different romanian museums.

Professor Grossu remained deeply attached to the “Antipa” Museum, making a lot of donations, especially Romanian molluscs. Probably, a moment of high emotions was “Antipa” Museum organized for him the anniversary of 90 years of life (Figs 1-3).



Among the most important donations to the Museum were: European molluscs preserved in alcohol, over 11,000 specimens (Grossu, 1997); a marine, freshwater and land mollusc collection (shells), with over 4,800 specimens of 484 species (Grossu, 1999) and a study collection, of Romanian malacofauna (shells), with over 150,000 specimens of hundreds of species, originating in very numerous collecting points (Grossu, 2003).

Professor left, for his family benefit, a collection of over 4,400 species with over 25,000 specimens, in a perfect conservation state, besides a huge specialized library.

“*Știința nu are granițe, ea servește la descifrarea problemelor necunoscute și nu este influențată de un anumit regim politic. Rezultatele științifice sunt puse în slujba societății, creând bunuri și adevăruri necesare întregii omeniri. Așa se explică faptul că, indiferent de schimbările socio-politice pe care le-am traversat, eu mi-am continuat cu aceeași pasiune drumul meu de cercetare, servind în același timp cu patriotism neamul și țara, în toate împrejurările și în toate sarcinile pe care le-am avut*” („Science does not have borders, it solves the unknown problems and it is not influenced by a certain political regime. Scientific results are for society, creating goods and necessary truths for the entire humanity. That is why, no matter the social-political changes are, I continued my researching way with the same passion, at the same time serving both my people and country, under all circumstances and all chalanges I had”) (25<sup>th</sup> of February 1995).

If some people want to become “great people” at any cost, no matter they have or not the necessary qualities, Professor Grossu wanted and succeeded in making important things for his people, for Romania. It is sad that he couldn’t enjoy the title of honorary member of the Romanian Academy which he surely would have deserved, as recognition of his entire activity, not only in the strict field of science, but permanently for society, eager to let as much as possible to the next generations.

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#### PROFESORUL ALEXANDRU V. GROSSU (1910 – 2004) PERSONALITATE COMPLEXĂ ÎN GALERIA SAVANȚILOR ROMÂNI

#### REZUMAT

Prof. Alexandru V. Grossu (1910-2004) s-a născut în Vrancea, la Ciorani, într-o familie de agricultori. În 1934 este licențiat al Facultății de Științe-Universitatea București. Cu o teză asupra gasteropodelor, la Prof. Andrei-Popovici Băznoșeanu, în 1939, obține, cu “*Magna cum laudae*”, titlul de doctor în Științe biologice. Între anii 1939-1952 îl găsim la Timișoara, ca profesor, inspector școlar, director la Colegiul Loga, conferențiar la Institutul de Medicină. Din 1952 revine în București, unde va fi profesor și director al Institutului Pedagogic (1952-1955), profesor, șef de catedră și decan al Facultății de Biologie (1955-1975). Ca Director al Muzeului de Istorie Naturală “Grigore Antipa” (1955–1957) reorganizează instituția și înființează *Travaux du Muséum*. În 1975 devine Profesor consultant și va conduce 30 de doctorate.

Îmbinând permanent activitatea pedagogică cu cea de cercetare, a descris zeci de taxoni noi pentru știință și a publicat peste 160 de lucrări de malacologie, dintre care, cele trei fascicule de *Mollusca* din *Fauna RPR* și monografia *Gastropoda Romaniae*, în patru volume. Membru a numeroase societăți științifice. O bună parte din colecțiile sale, de mare valoare documentară, se află astăzi în muzeele din România, Muzeul Antipa deținând cele mai importante donații.

Prof. Grossu este recunoscut de străinătate drept unul dintre cei mai importanți malacologi ai secolului XX.

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#### Annex II: List of the societies whose active member he was.

1. Deutsche Malakozoologische Gesellschaft of Frankfurt am Main (from 1936)
2. Malacological Society of London (from 1947)
3. Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland (from 1947)
4. Unitas Malacologica Europea, Geneva (from 1962)
5. Nederlandsche Malacologische Vereeninging (from 1965)
6. Californian Malacological Society (from 1966)

7. Unitas Malacologica USA (from 1969)
8. Société française de Malacologie, Paris (from 1969)
9. Société Belge de Malacologie, Bruxelles (from 1970)
10. Società Italiana di Malacologia, Milano (from 1970)
11. Időszakos Malacological Közlemenyek (from 1973)
12. Club Conchylia, Darmstadt (from 1975)
13. International malacology Association, Rome (from 1983)
14. Société française pour les études des Gastéropodes terrestres, Chartres (from 1990) honorary member

Annex III: Taxa dedicated to Professor Alexandru V. Grossu

1. *Argna grossui* Zilch, 1958. Arch. Moll., 87: 150. Frankfurt a. M.
2. *Alopia grossui* Hudec, 1970. Arch. Moll., 100: 77. Frankfurt a.M.
3. *Limax grossui* Lupu, 1970. Trav. Mus. Hist. Nat. „Grigore Antipa”, 10: 61-71.
4. *Turricaspia grossui* Golikov et Starobogatov, 1972. Oprideliteli Fauny Cernevo- Azovscovo Morei: 100.
5. *Hypanis caspia grossui* Scarlato et Starobogatov, 1972. Oprideliteli Fauny Cernevo- Azovscovo Morei: 214
6. *Bulgarica rugicollis grossui* Nordsieck, 1973. Arch. Moll., 103: 199. Frankfurt a. M.
7. *Grossuana* Radoman 1973. Priroda Mus. Beograd, Pos izdanja, 32: 1-30; Basteria, 37: 77-84.
8. *Deroceras grossui* Reischutz, 1975. Arch. Moll., 106: 25. Frankfurt a. M.
9. *Alopia rugicollis grossuana* Nordsieck, 1977. Arch. Moll., 107: 74. Frankfurt a. M.



Fig. 1 – At the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in the amphitheatre of „Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History (May 2001).



Fig. 2 – Professor A. V. Grossu presenting the reopening of some exhibition halls after the museum rehabilitation (May 2001).



Fig. 3 – At „Grigore Antipa” Museum together with Ioana Matache, Dochita Lupu, Alexandrina Negrea, Medeea Weinberg, Mircea Andrei (from left to right) (May 2001).