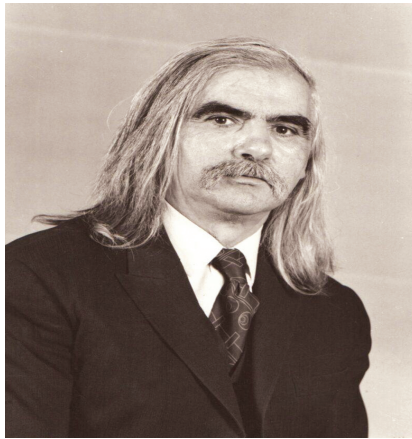


*IN MEMORIAM*  
*STELIAN NEAGOE (1938-2021)*

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Stelian Neagoe**  
*(1938-2021)*



On the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, the historian Stelian Neagoe passed away, into the Lord's Kingdom, after a long and intense suffering. He was 83 years old. He was born on October 5, 1938, in the village of Glebești in Olt County, the son of Oltenian, about whom, after meeting him, you could repeat, together with Petre Pandrea, the beautiful words from his text on "Sociology and metaphysics of Oltenia": "It would be desirable not to forget the Magical Bird [the messenger of the fairies] too often. This bird is found in the soul of every Oltenian, in a blue secret of the soul, in a nest of the heart. Many of us strangle her early, when she's a naked chicken. Others listen to her first songs and are frightened, because they find it ridiculous and will not be practical enough. Let us keep it as a sacred testimony, this Magical Bird, which means a burning aspiration to infinity, to good, to truth, to love, to charity and to beauty, to enchantment. The Magical Bird is the desire for perfection, the nostalgia for the Adamic paradise. He is the very icon of the ever-creative young spirit." (Petre Pandrea, "Sociology and metaphysics of Oltenia", Meridian, Year VII (1944), no. 28-21).

He was the Director of the Institute of Political Science and International Relations "Ion I. C. Brătianu" of the Romanian Academy for five years (1997-2002) and he made a major contribution to the perpetuation and promotion of this

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institution. Despite those who wanted him imprisoned or “transformed”, Director Stelian Neagoe won all the battles and today we have an Institute of Political Science and International Relations under the auspices of the Romanian Academy primarily due to its tenacity.

Professionally, Stelian Neagoe had the fatal privilege of writing and fruiting his research and historical studies in the spans of the centuries between two millennia, while traversing the avatars of two political systems. Today, as yesterday, his books have appealed especially to the general reading public because they have continuously kept their spirit alive, scrutinizing, objective, the author producing works that do not compromise the circumstances and ephemeral ideological circumstances on the scale of history. In the 1980s, he published unbeatable works as unpublished documentary information, detached as much as possible from subjectivism, which passed with difficulty through the forks of vigilant censorship. The triumph of reason against violence, the interwar university life in Cluj, the History of the Union of Romanians from the beginning at Cuza Voda are the solid arguments with which their author made a name in Romanian historiography. Also, before December 1989, he showed interest in editing, for the first time, texts belonging to emblems of Romanian spirituality – Nicolae Iorga or Octavian Goga.

Starting with 1990, the historian erupted spectacularly and efficiently with reference author's books and, as editor, with fundamental works of the great statesmen and politicians who contributed decisively to the creation of Greater Romania. Among the author's books stand out the History of the Union of Romanians from Cuza Vodă The Founder to Ferdinand I The Integrator, the encyclopedic volumes of modern and contemporary political history of Romania. As it has become common now, the series of special cases of important politicians such as Barbu Catargiu, Gheorghe Tătărescu, Constantin – Titel Petrescu, Petre Pandrea and others.

Last but not least, we must mention the unusual publishing flow through which the author of editions aspired to offer on the book market valuable political works of King Carol I, Al. Marghiloman, Titu Maiorescu, I. G. Duca, Grigore Gafencu, of the career diplomats Raoul Bossy, Dan Geblescu. Above all, enthroned the memorialistic saga of Constantin Argetoianu, to which the editor linked his name with confessed zeal.

A profound and proven scientific researcher, Stelian Neagoe continued to make his way, until the end of his career, to archives and libraries so that, every time, he would surprise us with new journalistic appearances – the unmistakable mark of the historian.

In a Romanian world that seems more and more in crisis of authority and landmarks, the historian Stelian Neagoe is a sure landmark of professional meticulousness and honesty. And the man Stelian Neagoe, a stenic and exemplary example of severe candor and unwavering moral commitment in the name of ideals that today, too often, will be obscured.

May God rest him in peace!

“Ion I. C. Brătianu” Institute of Political Science and International  
Relations of the Romanian Academy  
<https://larics.ro/istoricul-stelian-neagoe-a-trecut-la-domnul/>