

## THE OLTENIA MUSEUM, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCES 90 YEARS OF EXISTENCE (1923-2013)

*This short exposure intends to conduct a tribute dedicated to the celebration of nine decades of existence of the Department of Natural Sciences of the Oltenia Museum, Craiova. For this purpose, I have as informative support my life experience of eight decades, as well as my professional, teaching, educational, scientific activity of half a century at the Faculty of Biology, Iași, the participation in numerous scientific congresses in Europe, the reviewer activity for some works on Entomology published in the Journal of the Museum for 7 years and information available on the Museum website.*

*Our life is influenced by all known or unknown, visible or invisible, physiological, ecological, natural, local, mental factors, by the will and light of knowledge, by motivated work and objectives in the context of local resources and in line with the steps of society civilization.*

*The concretization of the local values of the Oltenia Museum, Craiova, Department of Natural Sciences, represents the holistic transformation of the specialists' experience, builders of scientific collections over time, especially from the zoogeographical area of Oltenia.*

*The patrimony of the Department of Natural Sciences, under the leadership of the Head of Department, Dr. Chimișliu Cornelia, in collaboration with the Museum management team and the experts of the museum resulted in Collections, exhibitions, scientific, cultural and educational events, scientific activity.*

*The department has ten types of collections, grouped in two scientific fields: Mineralogy and Biology. The Entomology collections are representative and impressive comprising 53,870 specimens of insects from three sources: purchases (20.84%), donations (14%), own collections (65.15%). Their own collections are the result of the museum specialists' activity over time who presently are persons with a university degree, many of them even with a PhD title.*

*The educational value of the Department has resulted in the organization of exhibitions that played a documentary-scientific and cultural-educational role, inciting those people interested in, especially young people, pupils or students, but also other categories of visitors, to deepen their knowledge.*

*Natural objects, images play a stimulating role on memory, representation, understanding and learning. A proverb points out: "It is better to see once than to speak several times about that object." Thus, there were organized fundamental exhibitions: Physical-geographical conditions and ecosystems of Oltenia, Oltenia Terra-fossilis and the permanent exhibition The universe and our solar system, which incites to reflection on the vastness of the universe, its organization and structure, its permanent existence in balance and movement.*

*The organization of the **Annual Scientific Sessions** and the publication of the works in English in its own journal, which is already included in international databases, are remarkable and thus, the Museum, as well as the Department, is among the leading institutions of Romania in the field.*

*I participated in eight such sessions (2005 -2013) directly, by my own works, or indirectly, as scientific reviewer for some works of Entomology. These sessions provided the opportunity for the participation of specialists from different museums from some counties of Romania, of academics from the Faculties of Biology from Iași, Bucharest, Cluj, Sibiu, Craiova, etc., from certain Romanian research institutes, as well as specialists from nine European countries, such as Slovakia, Turkey, Moldova, Bulgaria, Italy.*

*The organization of scientific documentary trips, with all the participants in order to see special natural places, nature monuments, geological phenomena, etc. of Oltenia is a generous feature of the Oltenia Museum.*

*The prestige of the Oltenia Museum, respectively of the Department of Natural Sciences, is the cumulative prestige of the management quality, of the quality of the involved people, creators of collections, activity, of the society civilization and of the times we live.*

*I express my appreciation and wishes for more and more progress and achievements over many years, towards the horizon of the future!*

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