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## PROFESSOR DR. ION PIȘOTA (1925 – 2008)

Liliana ZAHARIA

Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest,  
Bucharest, Romania  
zaharialil@yahoo.com

At the beginning of 2008, University Professor Dr. Ion Pișota, prestigious teacher and scientist of the Faculty of Geography within the University of Bucharest and outstanding personality of the Romanian geographical community, departed from this life.

Professor Ion Pișota was born on June 6, 1925, in Hrupiștea, a small settlement in Greek Macedonia, from where he and his family came to Romania in 1927, where he got Romanian citizenship. Between 1941 and 1945, he attended the Tulcea Boys High School and later on, in 1947 he entered the Faculty of Geology – Geography at the University of Bucharest, where he continued to excel until 1951, when he graduated. In the fall of 1950, he took up a tutor position in the field of Hydrology at the same faculty passing subsequently through all the stages of academic hierarchy until he became, in 1971, a University Professor. Even after he retired, in 1996, he continued his academic activity as a consultant professor within the same department and faculty that he served with passion and devotion for more than 50 years.

In 1964, Professor Ion Pișota got his Ph. D. in Geography, after presenting at the University “Babes – Bolya” of Cluj Napoca an original thesis written under the guidance of Professor Dr. Docent Tiberiu Morariu. His Ph. D. paperwork entitled *The glacial lakes in the Eastern Carpathians. A hydrology study* was published in 1971



by the prestigious Romanian Academy Publishing House. Since 1969, when he himself became a Ph. D. coordinator, he actively guided more than 20 people to get their Ph. D. in Geography.

Professor Ion Pisota wrote alone or in cooperation university textbooks (*Hidrologie, Hidrologie – Lucrari practice, Hidrologia României, Hidrologia uscatului, Biogeografie*) and took part in the elaboration of geographical monographs (*Județul Covasna, Județul Harghita, Geografia Văii Dunării Românești, Hidrografia Defileului Dunării* in the volume *Geografie – Grupul de Cercetări Complexe "Portile de Fier"*). Likewise, he had important contributions, which were included in prestigious synthesis geographical volumes, such as *Enciclopedia geografică a României, Geografia României* (volumes I and V) and *Atlasul R.S.R.* At the same time, he published over 100 papers and studies in various specialty publications both at home and abroad.

Through his numerous papers dealing with the lakes lying on most physiographic regions of Romania, in which various limnological aspects were investigated, and especially through his Ph. D. paperwork, Professor Ion Pișota has contributed to the progress of Romanian limnogeography.

The teaching and scientific activity of Professor Ion Pisota was highly appreciated over the time and consequently he was awarded many prizes and distinctions. The most important of these are the First Prize of the Ministry of Education (1970); the Labor Medal (1964) and the Labor Distinction of Class III (1966) granted by the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania; the Honors Diploma for his entire scientific and teaching activity (1998), granted by the Faculty of Geography at the University of Bucharest; Honors Diploma and medal awarded with the occasion of the celebration of a century of geographical education at the University of Bucharest; Diploma of Excellence "Simion Mehedinți" and medal awarded for his entire scientific work, as well as for his important contributions to the development of the Romanian education.

Throughout his illustrious career, Professor Dr. Ion Pișota held several administrative positions such as Head of Physical Geography Dept. (1976 – 1978); Head of Meteorology – Hydrology Dept. (1991 – 1994); Specialty Reviewer for higher education (1951 – 1955); Specialty Inspector (1955 – 1958); and Chief of the University Education Office within the Ministry of Education (1958 – 1968).

By his teaching performance and scientific contribution, especially in the field of Hydrology, Professor Ion Pișota has joined the golden gallery of remarkable Romanian geographers. Thus, he will continue to live in the memory of the tens of generations of students whom he passionately trained, while his works will defy the passing of time remaining valuable sources of information for the generations to come.