

**ACADEMICIAN TATIANA CONSTANTINOV
AT THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY**

Anniversaries are beautiful at any age, because in a world where people become increasingly preoccupied, often just by their own becoming, we can take a short break to look around. It is a break that we take for the celebrated, because we exist and we are what we are also thanks to our colleagues, friends and especially our family and, in a way, we are as people see us. On the other hand, it is a gain for us too, because we can enjoy the opportunity of being together, even only by expressing our thoughts, to people we are close to and that we cherish. It is also an opportunity to find out that almost always, these people are much more than we knew. I am not using big words, if I say that the 70th anniversary of Academician Tatiana Constantinov is a celebration for our climatology.

Tatiana Constantinov was born in 1938 in Transnistria (RSSA Moldovenească, newly created in the RSS Ukrainian, former USSR), in a modest family of hardworking farmers, with great respect for education, which have endeavored to ensure at least for their children. This way started her life the youngest of the family, today Academician Tatiana Constantinov, from the school in her native village, the only high school in Romanian of the region, the choice of parents, which means something for those times and those places. Those were hard times. Then, between 1956-1961, she attended the State Pedagogic Institute of Tiraspol, one of the few institutions of higher education of the newly created Soviet Socialist Republics. At the Faculty of Geography, where she studied, the preparation was for the most part focused on areas of interest strictly for pre-university education, with a single destination, only staff for pre-university education, “the higher education in geography”, being the privilege of other territories. To be admitted to postgraduate doctoral studies she made lengthy and sustained efforts to be able to learn independently Physical Geography, Meteorology and Climatology at the required level, after university graduation, while she worked as a teacher at a middle school in Crasnoe village, Slobozia District. It was not easy at all, but her love for Geography and especially for Climatology won. Since then, the Academician has been a loyal servant of Climatology, to which, we can say that she devoted her entire life. She was accepted to doctoral studies at the State Hydro-Meteorological Institute of Odessa,

one of the two institutions in this field, both of great prestige, of the former USSR, the other one being the Hydro-Meteorological Institute of St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad). She sustained a doctoral thesis of great value in 1972, obtaining the title of PhD in Geographical Sciences at the University of Odessa. In 1992, she obtained the title of Doctor Habilitat in Geographical Sciences at the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

After that, she had an exceptional career in science, based on her capacity and on her strong-willed, enduring and passionate work since she graduated.

We can summarize:

- Experience as a specialist, 48 years;
- Experience in research, 41 years;
- Scientist at the Academy of Sciences, 37 years;
- Head of the Climatology Department of the Academy of Sciences, 28 years;
- Head of the Geography Department at the same Academy, 21 years;
- President of the Geographical Scientific Society of Moldova, for almost two decades;
- Current scientific title, academician.

How easily can we summarize a life! However, the road was long and, as that of many others, not without obstacles, and the results appeared in time. At 34 years, in 1972, she started her career as a researcher, being hired as an inferior scientific collaborator at the Department of Geography, in the RSS Moldova Academy of Sciences, where she was then promoted as superior scientific collaborator; in 1981 she became the head of the Laboratory of Climatology and then in 1988 director of the Department of Geography; since 1992, she has been the director of the Institute of Geography of Moldova Academy of Sciences, the current Institute of Ecology and Geography.

As a result of her scientific merits, Mrs. Tatiana Constantinov was elected correspondent member of the Moldova Academy of Sciences in 1995 and in 2000, academician. The basic scientific field studied by the Academician is Geography and Physical Geography, with a specialization in Climatology. Taking into consideration the importance of agriculture in the economy of Moldova, agro-climatology was one of the main branches of her research. Other covered areas were: environmental protection, natural resources' rational use and geographical informational systems.

Academician T. Constantinov possesses an unequaled scientific record. She is the author of more than 300 scientific papers as unique author, main author and in collaboration. She is the author of numerous treaties, monographs and specialized books, atlases, maps, for scientific and educational use. We can say that, most of Moldova's climatology achievements are related to the name of the Academician. An innovative character, she is also one of the first persons that made use of the GIS methodology in climatic and even geographic researches in Moldova and of other modern methodologies.

She is a tireless researcher, and I admire her even for what she achieved after the age of 65, namely in the last 5 years, the assessment criterion that seems to be today, sometimes, more important than the entire curriculum vitae: drafting the monograph regarding the hazards of the Republic of Moldova, being the first author of an agro-climatologic book and co-author of 3 monographs, 23 articles published abroad, 31 articles in internal publications; two groups of climate and risk maps and 8 climate maps; she is a member of the Editorial staff of the Encyclopedia of Moldova and I'm sure that the list is incomplete. She is a personality about whom we can say with admiration that she was indeed a path breaker in the field of science, which she served with devotion.

In the 38 years she held leadership positions, the Academician turned out to be a good manager, supporting and developing the structures to which she belonged, contributing decisively to the obtaining and arrangement of workspaces, equipment and technical computing, database, software and methodological support. She organized many national and international scientific events; she was publisher, editor and member of the editorial team of numerous publications. She contributed greatly to the promotion of science and especially Geography and Climatology, through conferences and media. Everything was achieved, as everywhere in the East, with a high consumption of time and nerves and therefore results are all the more admirable.

We cannot go forward without mentioning the strong ties she had with Romania. Of the 23 articles published abroad, 16 were published in Romania and of these, 10 were published in the magazines of the Department of Geography, the Faculty of Geography and Geology of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi. She is a member of the Editorial Board of the journal "Technical Geography" of the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. The Academician was a prestigious presence, almost customary at the scientific events of our department: "Dimitrie

Cantemir", GIS, climatology, and environment. She was also member of the organizing committees of joint symposia, editorial teams of the magazines "SIG" and "Present Environment and Sustainable Development", published by the Department of Geography, Faculty of Geography and Geology of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iasi. These are just some aspects of our close collaboration.

A complex personality, the Academician is member of the Scientific Council on Problems of fundamental geo-ecology in CIS and member of the Directors Council of the Economic Cooperation Center of the Black Sea basin.

The complex activity of the Academician also had didactic merits. She had a long collaboration with the Hydro-Meteorological Institute of the State University of Odessa; she teaches courses in meteorology, climatology and ecology at the State University of Moldova; she was the scientific coordinator of numerous graduation and master theses. She scientifically coordinated eight PhD and two doctor habilitis theses and she coordinates six doctors in science and two doctor habilitis during residency.

I met the Academician at a conference in Poland, 21 years ago. Since then, we have been connected by a lasting collaboration and would be an honor for me to say, friendship. This is because Academician Constantinov is a complex, open, direct, capable and hard working, involved and tenacious personality, with a sense of humor, that thinks and acts constructively and courageously. In an area and in times that feel more and more the lack of worthy models to follow, she is such a model for students, for PhD students and for her young colleagues. I am convinced that these lines, although we have tried, have failed to resume everything, because the Academician is herself an institution.

At her 70th anniversary, the entire group of climatologists of the University of Iasi, wishes her a happy birthday, much health and a lot of achievements in the years to come!

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