

## ACADEMICIAN NICOLAE N. CONSTANTINESCU – EXCEPTIONAL PERSONALITY AMONG THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY ECONOMISTS

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**Rezumat.** *Articolul prezintă în mod sintetic, o caracterizare a personalității profesorului și omului de știință N. N. Constantinescu, așa cum o consideră unul din discipolii săi.*

**Abstract.** *The article presents, briefly, a characterization of the professor and scientist N. N. Constantinescu as one of his disciples considers.*

**Keywords:** Nicolae N. Constantinescu

**Academician Nicolae N. Constantinescu** was an eminent teacher for generations of students from the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, some of them becoming members of Romanian Academy, Scientists Academy in Romania and Romanian academic community: famous researchers, teachers and economists.

**Academician N. N. Constantinescu** was also a moral and professional model for numerous other persons who had him teacher and whose lives and careers were intersected at a given moment – only within AGER professional association for whose creation he militated.

Owing to his extraordinary activity and papers, he contributed to the development of economic school in Romania. He represented a genuine *mentor* and professional and moral exceptional model, a school and opinion leader in economic scientific research.

His whole masterpiece and activity demonstrates the scientific coherence and professional skill, beyond his age from a man who obviously represented a real *model* for generations of students.

It is often told that, successful careers are also due to the teachers who know to discover the students' qualities, to model defects and guide them to the fields where they have real inclinations. They will become the mentor disciples.

Teachers are models to be followed for the disciples. And those who had the chance to know Academician N. N. Constantinescu, certainly could identify such a human and professional model; even if they did not become necessarily the teacher disciples.

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Concerning myself, I consider being essential not to forget my roots and to bring a pious homage and my deep reconnaissance to all those who “*invested*” in me confidently, as man and thirsty “*teacher*”, on this way often thorny you are going to *do it, to have, to be and to become*.

Academician N. N. Constantinescu, whom generations of students from *Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest* said symbolically “the *N. N.*”, holds a special place in my mind and soul. That is why, although the choice was not easy at all, because God arranged med several exceptional “*meetings*” in my passing existence, I chose to evoke the personality of distinguished Academician N. N. Constantinescu.

I consider myself happy to have the opportunity that life put me in the way exceptional personalities who marked me, in a way or another, my aspirations, confidence in people and why not, trust in my own forces.

I come from a family in which love for *humanist sciences* was developed. I am the first economist in my family. I am not the first teacher and I recognize even for my father memory, a distinguished teacher who served school for 50 years put his soul in everything he did, I was determined have a special respect or teaching staff.

On such a background, *the first university course in economy* took place I heard from older students that this course will be taught by *real titanium*, namely *the chief of this chair*. I recognize that I had big emotions. I was very pleasantly surprised that, in fact, the person who appeared in the hall was not as the robot portrait I had imagined and my fear was not justified.

On the contrary, I was moved and impressed by *attitude of a genuine intellectual*, doubled by a *non dissimulated modesty and human heat*. I respected him **first of all as teacher and man, Academician Nicolae N. Constantinescu**. At least this is my perception over him at courses, examinations, scientific seminar and sessions of scientific communications, where he knew to stimulate our spirit of competition, but first of all, wishes to know something more, to dialogue one another, to learn one another.

I was especially impressed by **attention the teacher paid to listen our ideas**, thus testing he had a gift few people take into consideration anymore today: **gift to respect listening the others**.

It was so special as it came from a man with an exceptional socio-professional status. The professor gave us confidence and makes us believe in our ideas.

The same we found at the professor and after we ended faculty and we had to occasion to collaborate with him. For instance, I cannot forget the moment when he tried to promote, in the pages of the newspaper *Economist*, **opinions of students about privatization**.

I should confess that it was one of the promotions of students I worked with great pleasure. I was very enthusiastic, at the beginning of 1990 and students, due to the way the teacher tried to stimulate them to express their ideas, and offered them some responses full of pertinence, and published, almost totally, their opinions.

I benefited of a full treatment of thoughtfulness along the elaboration of the Ph.D. theses. I did not forget that when I had the impression that the theses looks like an *unfinished symphony*, he encouraged me and supported me. He paid my attention that I tend to be perfectionist and this is not a virtue necessarily. Especially if I even wish to perfect it, nobody can be against me.

On his opinion, it really fulfils the exigencies needed to support a Ph.D. thesis.

I knew from the other colleagues how exigent the teacher was and how often they had to do again the theses to have the ok for support. And I could not believe that me who did not dare to give him it to be read, considering I had a lot to work, I was in the situation to start the support (it is true after years of work).

On my opinion, this is the real form to help someone when you feel that man has real need. Beyond anything it was an important lesson of live and today, anytime I notice that my students heed an encouragement, I do it without hesitation and I am glad anytime I feel I had an effect.

*Human* lesson is much more difficult to teach than all the other lessons. I myself had the chance to meet in life high personalities who taught me this lesson. Paradoxically, I learned this lesson from “*high*” people I met and who did not look at me “*jewel*” although I knew myself and who are they, being impressed by shelves of books in the library, they had written before I met them directly.

Life is a way full of obstacles. It knows ups and downs, sometimes troubles. I want to evoke something which initially I hesitated to make public.

I cannot forget when, in October 1998, although in a physical form not so brilliant, on a hospital bed, *my dear professor* whose *psychic force* I always admired, he found the power to tell me when I left: *WONDERFUL YEARS!!!* He did not address this wish for the first time. Then and there this wish had a special effect over me.

It is told that “*God ways are not easy*”. I followed his wish and with emotion, I visited him once again on December 6, 2000, on the occasion of his anniversary.

I wanted to see him every day but it was not possible, it was the last time I saw him because on December 14, 2000, the life clock stopped for Academician in this world and went to eternity gates!

He had a hard fancy soul and intellectual generosity. I cannot forget the guide to perfection of my professor, who at a Ph.D. examination specified me among the others that “...*more someone dominates the science, wider his views become and more extend over the narrow margins of his specialty ...*”.

I also learned from my Professor that who wants to make science, should take off preconceived ideas, which most of times stand against scientific truth you want to find out.

He told me once, when I wrote, I should think that “...*someone, maybe eternity, watches me from the back!*”.

Then I could not penetrate this subtle message. Maybe I did not succeed to clarify it today as well.

Nevertheless, when I wrote these lines, I wrote them as if there from eternity, he could read them and find something I could not confess when he was alive: as much I estimated and appreciated him and as much I feel his absence!

