

Historical Development of Marine Sciences in Romania

Alexandru Ș. BOLOGA*, Adrian BAVARU

Academy of Romanian Scientists / Constanța Branch

* E-mail: bologa1813@yahoo.ro

Abstract. Almost a century and a quarter passed since the first Romanian active participation in a major historical oceanographic research cruise, on board *Belgica*, in the Antarctic waters (1897). The following development of marine sciences in Romania is due to several scientists e.g. Emil Racovitza, Ioan Borcea, Grigore Antipa and others, and to their institutional establishments such as the Marine Zoological Station at Agigea-Constanța (1926), the Bio-oceanographic Institute in Constanța (1932), the National Museum of Natural History in Bucharest (1934) a.o. Various other professors, researchers and museographers contributed over time with their valuable achievements and results to the progress of this broad scientific field of investigations. Witness stands also Romania's affiliation to many regional and international scientific organizations and bodies, like the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (since 1925), UNESCO (since 1955), the International Ocean Institute (since 1996) etc. Romanian leading marine research and development institutes, as well as new created marine environment devoted NGOs, added their contributions to a variety of R-D-I programmes and projects at national, regional and international level in the last decades.

Keywords: Marine sciences, the Black Sea, Romania, research and development, quasiquicentennial.

The present Centenary of the Great Union in Alba Iulia in 1918 has to be honored also by evoking the development of marine sciences in maritime Romania. Before and after this event of national greatness and significance, marine research has evolved in research institutions, mainly in Dobrogea along the Romanian Black Sea coast and institutions of higher education in Bucharest, Iassy and Cluj-Napoca, thanks to great personalities. Various scientific achievements and contributions certifies the devolment of marine sciences in Romania.

A documented and illustrated initial booklet was published by Dr. Raoul I. Călinescu on the „*Insula Șerpilor – schiță monografică*” („*The Serpent Island - monographic outline*”), with 8 figures, 7 drawings and one map (Călinescu, 1931): I. Introduction, II. Petrographic structure and geological evolution, III. Climate, IV. Soil, V. Flora, VI. Fauna, VII. The man, VIII. The importance of the island, Summary, Zusammenfassung. It is the single major island in the Black Sea. As explained much later by Dr. Dominuț Pădurean in his comprehensive monograph „*Insula Șerpilor*” („*The Serpent Island*”), this island was lost by Romania, in favour of the USSR, militarily in 1944 and politically in 1948 (Pădurean, 2004).

Another interesting „page of economic history” constitutes the booklet „*Este Marea Neagră săracă în pești?*” („*Is the Black Sea poor in fish?*”), by Dr. economist