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Cluj-Napoca

IN MEMORIAM



Prof. Dr. Ioan POP
(29.04.1922 - 10.04.2018)

The *Alma Mater Napocensis* academic community, alongside the Romanian botanists, mourned the passing of the man who, since 1944, committed himself to the study of plants and training of specialists – Professor Ioan POP.

An educator devoted to his university, exuberant in teaching, meticulous in writing materials for students, fair in assessing each of them and extremely willing to give unconditional support, Professor Ioan Pop was also a passionate, tenacious, demanding, critical and very rigorous researcher, as well as a modest and generous man.

Such a personality should be and has been honoured by his colleagues, collaborators and former students on his 60th, 75th, 80th, 85th and 90th birthdays, through conferences, scientific sessions or symposia that were dedicated to him.

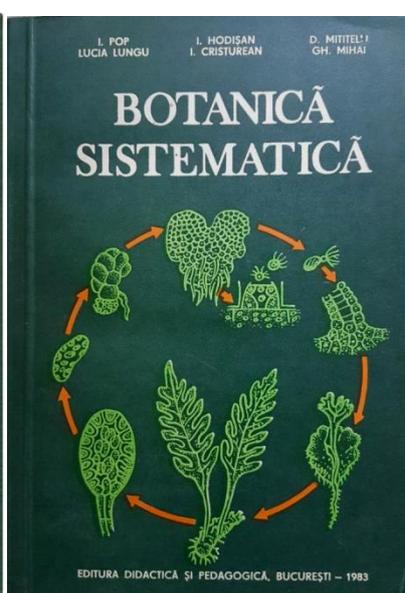
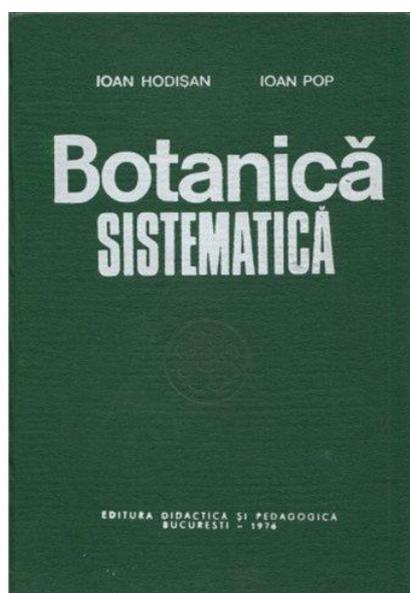
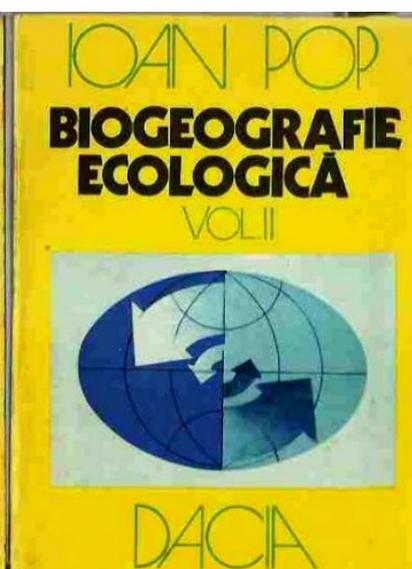
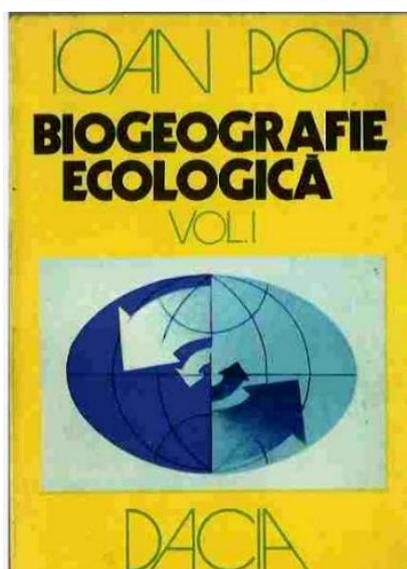
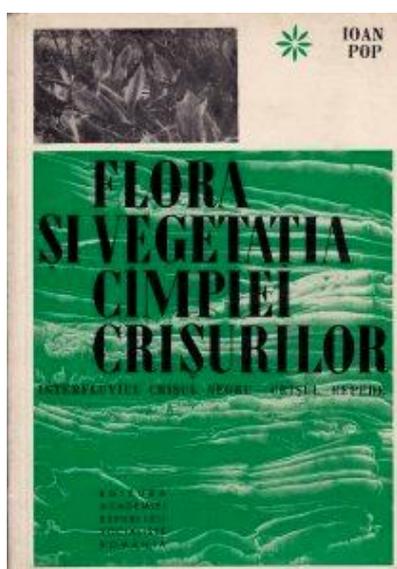
The Professor's personality was honoured by the Management of Babeș-Bolyai University, which awarded him (in 2012) the *Diploma of Excellence*, “... for his long-time high-performance research work in the field of botany, for his exemplary devotion to teaching and his deep commitment to Alma Mater Napocensis”. The same distinction was bestowed on him (the same year) by V. Goldiș University in Arad, and the “Planta Europa” Association, on the occasion of their 5th Conference (Cluj-Napoca, 5–9 September 2007), awarded him the *Silver Leaf*.

The scientific accomplishments of the researcher Ioan Pop was recognized by the

Romanian Academy, which conferred on him two awards: in 1956 the *“Emil Racoviță” Award* for his articles regarding the role of calcium salts in rhizogenesis, and in 1980 the *“Emanoil C. Teodorescu” Award* for his monograph *The flora and vegetation of the Zărand Mountains*, of which he was editor.

The interest of specialists in the research conducted by Professor Ioan Pop is demonstrated by citations, as well as by the correspondence (found in the family’s archive) and the articles exchanged with distinguished colleagues from Austria, United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Czechia, Switzerland, France, Germany, Italy, ex-Yugoslavia, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary, Canada, USA, Japan, etc.

He left a legacy of 150 scientific articles, most of which were published in Romania, 6 monographs (e.g. regarding the flora and vegetation of the Crișurilor Plain, Zărand Mountains, the vegetation of Cluj county, the vegetation of limestone massifs or salty soils in Romania), and 5 manuals (e.g. Systematic botany, Ecological biogeography, Nature protection in Romania).



His name is linked to 12 phytotaxa described as new to science (including the species *Asperugo erecta* and the hybrid *Spergularia x salontana*), two plant orders (*Stipo eriocaulis-Festucetalia pallentis* and *Betuletalia pendulae*), 5 plant alliances (e.g. *Papavero-Thymion pulcherrimi*, *Thymo comosi-Festucion rupicolae*), and 25 plant associations (e.g. *Conietum maculati*, *Corno-Fraxinetum orni*, *Scolymetum hispanici*, *Dauco-Matricharietum inodorae*), as well as 39 infracoenotaxa.

But, above all, Prof. Ioan Pop leaves behind the specialists trained under his guidance, who in turn will pass on his inquisitive spirit and his receptivity to novel creative elements.

This is why, as a former student, colleague and collaborator, but especially as a beneficiary of the generous Master, I wished his passing to be marked in the pages of the journal that has published many of his articles and monographs.

Farewell, distinguished teacher and colleague!

Vasile CRISTEA