

PROF. DR. ALEXANDRU SUCEVEANU  
(11.03.1940 – 23.05.2013)\*

Magistro Doctissimo, Optimo Ac Sapienti Patrono



Professor Alexandru Suceveanu was, for most of the young archaeologists just starting out, a model of professionalism and also, selflessness. Over the discussions occasioned by the presentation of the archaeological excavation results within the National Session of Archaeological Reports, Professor Suceveanu always noticed the young colleagues with scientific potential and did not hesitate to appreciate and encourage them.

The fact that he wished to train and that in fact, he has trained a series of archaeologists on the archaeological excavation sites he conducted, is illustrated by the research teams he established and headed over the time. The most conclusive example is the team he formed at Histria at a time when he was in charge of this

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\* The life and scientific activity of Prof. dr. Alexandru Suceveanu can be followed in the volume dedicated to his 70th years anniversary (see M. V. Angelescu, I. A. Achim, A. Băltăc, V. Rusu-Bolindeț, V. Bottez (éds.), *Antiquitas Istro-Pontica. Mélanges d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne offerts à Alexandru Suceveanu*, Cluj-Napoca 2010, 19-26) and also on the site of the International Association Rei Cretariae Romane Fautores (<http://www.fautores.org/pages/obituaries.htm#Suceveanu>).

high order archaeological site of Romania (starting with 1989). Having thoroughly planned the sites to be investigated, Alexandru Suceveanu did not hesitate to include in the team young specialists, well trained in the field, who would ensure both high level archaeological research and the corresponding publication of the yielded results. Thereafter, he extended the team of the site at Histria by assigning important sectors of the site to several archaeologists with not only the Institute of Archaeology in Bucharest, the National History and Archaeology Museum of Constanța, but also the National Museum of Romanian History and the Faculty of History of Bucharest and others, located in farther areas of the country, like the Faculty of History of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași or the National History Museum of Transylvania from Cluj-Napoca. I confess that in 2001, when Professor Alexandru Suceveanu had proposed me to conduct a sector on this prestigious archaeological site (sector *Basilica extra muros*, together with Alexandru Bădescu with MNIR and Karl von der Lohe from the “Ludwig Maximilian” University of München), I was honoured, and also terrified of the huge responsibility I was given: the excavation was highly complex and I was familiar with the archaeological site only following the few visits I took there at the Professor’s request. Gradually though, under his guidance and especially owing to his passion and love for Histria, we all succeeded to love this site, to understand it and to try to reveal its secrets below the ground, at the level of his high demands. We thus performed 11 archaeological campaigns in the mentioned sector with great results, the sector team including over time over 30 students, MA and PhD students of the Faculty of History of the “Babeș-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca.

Professor Alexandru Suceveanu also had another quality: he succeeded to compose from specialists working with different institutions not only a research team, but a family! Most of us, for his fatherly way he protected and guided us, became very good friends. When the news of his untimely death reached us, we all realized that Professor Suceveanu had inspired to us all, those who had the honour to be around him, love for our profession, for a fabulous site and the life lesson of turning colleagues into most trusted friends. For all these things he built around us, for all he did for each and one of us, let his memory and everything he built last forever!

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