

The 50th Issue of *Acta Musei Napocensis*

The year 2013 marks the well-deserved semicentennial anniversary of the yearbook issued by the National History Museum of Transylvania in Cluj, namely *Acta Musei Napocensis*, highly appreciated in a wide circle of Romanian and foreign historians.

This annual series came into being in the year 1964, at the initiative of Academician Constantin Daicoviciu, the Director of the Cluj museum, who also became head of the editorial board of this important publication. This anniversary is an opportunity for me, as a former member, for many years, and then as secretary of the editorial committee, to recall the words expressing full confidence in the future of the journal which were uttered by this erudite scholar when the first issue of *Acta Musei Napocensis* saw the light of print, in 1964: “We would like this herald of the Museum of History in Cluj to stand as witness to the work and thought of the museum members and of those who are among the collaborators of this institution. Like the Museum itself, and its Yearbook will embrace all the eras of our history [...]. Through its periodical publication, the History Museum in Cluj will establish ever closer relations with institutions and the specialists in the country and abroad, representing, at the same time, a new and eloquent testimony as to the achievements that are made in the field of science and culture...” (C. Daicoviciu, “Foreword” *Acta Musei Napocensis*, I, Cluj, 1964). In this context, I also wish to make known the names of the members who formed the first editorial board of the yearbook, which oversaw the launching of the journal and included leading personalities of the “Alma Mater” university life, of the History Institute and the museum in Cluj: Acad. Constantin Daicoviciu (Director), Acad. Ștefan Pascu, Professors Mihail Macrea, Hadrian Daicoviciu, Bujor Surdu, Kovács József, Ioan I. Russu, Vajda Lajos, Ferenczi István, George A. Protopescu, and Petre Bunta.

Over the course of time, the impressive amount of valuable works pooled by the editorial staff exceeded by far the compulsory number of pages for a yearbook. This led, starting from issues no. 26-30 (1989-1993), to the publication of the yearly journal in two parts, one being devoted to articles on prehistory, ancient history and archaeology, and the other focusing on problems of history, from the Middle Ages until the contemporary period.

However, the pages of the *Acta Musei Napocensis* journal are not limited to the publication of actual studies, strictly specialized on historical subjects, as they also include interesting articles, reports, notes and discussions, excavation reports, problems of museography, restoration-conservation, museum patrimony protection, art history, numismatics and phaleristics, travelogues, annual chronicles charting the archaeological projects or the activity of the various departments of this prestigious scientific and

cultural institution from Cluj, the list of its members' participation in various sessions or thematic workshops, both at home and abroad, the organization of various exhibitions by the museum itself or in collaboration, reviews, book presentations, bibliographical notes, stages abroad, the enrichment of the museum's patrimony collections by listing the items acquired from research, donations and purchases.

In addition to this, the yearbook published in Cluj mirrors the numerous contributions of internal and external collaborators. Year by year, the prestige of this journal has increased, there being a steadily growing demand for its issues from libraries, research institutes and universities both in the country and in Europe or America, its presence being signalled in a series of catalogues published by cultural institutions of global importance.

In conclusion to this "Foreword," we wish sincerely, from the heart, that this valuable publication may enjoy the success that will continue to ensure its foremost position among the most important specialized editorial achievements from the country and from abroad.