

**DR. SILVIU POP**

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**Abstract**

It is hard to embark on a journey of rediscovery across the generations of time for one's own family. It is however a duty of love for each and every one of us.

The cuttings from a century old newspaper, the timeless gold of a medal, and a diploma on a parchment are the artefacts that continue to transcend from this long forgotten time.

**Key words:** Dr. Silviu Pop, Regency, Order of the Crown of Romania.

“On this sad day, it is my duty to inform you of the passing of Dr. Silviu Pop, ex-Chief President of this High Court and ex-prosecutor of the High Court of Justice.”

“A man of great statue, he possessed some of the greatest intellectual and moral qualities; with a deep entrenched love of his own co-nationals, a strong unwavering patriotism and a fervid devotion to the call of duty; he remained true to the motherland even in times of foreign occupation.” (**fig. 1**)

These are the words spoken by the Chief President of the High Court of Satu Mare at 9 o'clock on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1930. On this day, the main courtroom of the courthouse is quiet, temporarily at a standstill. Magistrates, lawyers, barristers and the public fill the chambers of the court with omnipresent expressions of sadness. Words of homage reverberate throughout, as people stand. The sounds and echoes; reflections of the thoughts and memories, cemented now and forever in time by the passing of their colleague.

Dr. Silviu Pop graduated from The Faculty of Law in Cluj. His diploma, a Latin scripture written on a large sized parchment, with his name transcribed as Silvius Papp, indicative of the Hungarian influence in Romania at that time. (**fig. 2**)

My grand grandfather, Dr. Silviu Pop, worked for over two decades at the High Court of Satu Mare, initially as a public prosecutor and then as Chief Justice. His appointment as Chief Prosecutor at the High Court of Cassation and Justice

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\* Nephew of Dr. Silviu Pop, Australia.

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represented a natural career progression given his professional, personal and interpersonal qualities. During his time as a magistrate, and at all times as a Romanian citizen, his pride and patriotism remained unshaken. “Even in times of foreign occupation, when such devotion entailed a dangerous wager, he remained a better man”. These are the words spoken by the Bar Dean of Satu Mare on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1930 at approximately 9 o’clock, inside a tribunal hall filled with emotion.

During the first reign of HM King Mihai I of Romania (1927-1930), Silviu Pop was given the chance to become part of the Regency. He refused out of modesty. He believed the honour to be too big for him. He continued to work with passion and devotion. At the High Court of Cassation and Justice he was highly regarded and respected for his outstanding intellectual and moral qualities, as well as his steadfast resolve. He was especially admired by his colleagues for his ability to resolve difficult and lengthy cases quickly and with clarity, upholding the highest standards and the law at all times. His most distinct talent was of extracting the essence from an unfolding of events; systematically and with coherence.

He was a man of remarkable kindness, honesty and righteousness.

He often spoke with his kids in Latin...

He died of encephalitis, as antibiotics did not exist in those times.

It was his wish that after his death, he be buried under a wooden cross, like an anonymous person on the Hill of Dej; there where in his youth he would walk and play with his kids (Vasile & Lenu a) while singing: “Româna ului îi place, sus la munte, sus la munte, la izvor...”(Romanian folk song).

Perhaps before his tragic death (12 May 1930), during the time when he was awarded Order of the Crown of Romania - Commander class (**fig. 3**), he would of looked at the medal and the Romanian Crown fused within it, and in reading ‘PRIN NOI ÎN ÎNE (By ourselves)’ he would have found in these words his entire life’s calling.





fig. 1. Dr. Silviu Popp.



fig. 2. Graduated diploma from The Faculty of Law in Cluj.



**fig. 3.** Order of the Crown of Romania - Commander class.