

**MEMOIRS OF THE SCIENTIFIC SECTIONS – SERIES IV.
A BRIEF SURVEY**

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The first academic publication, whose main role was of including and making known the original contributions delivered, by reputed specialists in various domains, within the Scientific Section of the Romanian Academy, was issued as early as the year 1867, as the *Annals of the Academy*.

Along its historical evolution, taking the opportunity to illustrate crucial moments of the national history of the young state on its way to being founded: România, *Analele Societății Academice* has been published in three series, as follows: Series I (1867–1877), Series II (1879–1922), Series III (1923–1948).

Starting with Series II, in the year 1886 (after the creation, in 1872, September 12, of the first Scientific Section of the institution), the publication is re-defined as *Memoriile Secțiunii Științifice (Memoirs of the Scientific Section)*.

Series IV, with the titlature *Memoriile Secțiilor Științifice (Memoirs of the Scientific Sections)*, adopted for illustrating the new structure of the academic institution, whose scientific compartments had been reorganized in eight specialized sections, has been launched only 30 years later, in the year 1977, in Iași, at the initiative of acad. Cristofor I. Simionescu. As a new series with a considerably enlarged themes, stress has been laid on exact sciences: mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, earth sciences, medical sciences, technical sciences, agricultural sciences, informatics and computer science and technology, anthropology, history of science, in view of attracting an as large as possible number of contributors, specialists in various scientific domains interested in having their studies published in the pages of an academic journal.

In the *Preface* of the first volume opening the new series, Cristofor I. Simionescu – its founder and indisputable editor-in-chief – draws out the profile of the journal, which will publish:

- monthly scientific communications of the members of the Academy, as a means of making known the activities developed in the academic sections,
- synthesis studies approaching the most important domains of modern sciences, proposing original ideas and solutions,
- memorial communications and historical studies honoring the activity of our predecessors,

– reviews of the most valuable Romanian and/or foreign volumes issued in various scientific fields.

Professor Simionescu established a most prestigious Editorial Board, bringing together the greatest specialists of largely different domains, including academicians Emilian Bratu, Petre Jitariu, Ștefan Milcu, Elie Carafoli, Gh. Vrânceanu and others.

The first issue of Series IV of the MSS Journal, tome 1, 1977/1978 opens with a study of Dumitru Mangeron (*On the theory and applications of polywave or polyvibrating equations. I*), whose dedication is touching, indeed: “To the «GHEORGHE ASACHI» ENGINEERING SCHOOL of Jassy, first promotion (1813–1818). *IN MEMORIAM*”.

Among the most valuable men-of-science who supported, along the years, the *Memoirs*, special mention should be made of: Emil Luca, Pius Brânzeu, Gh. Gheorghiev, Adolf Haimovici, Ilie Murgulescu, Radu Miron, Costin Murgescu, Petru Caraman, Ion Curievici, Mendel Haimovici, etc.

In the following, we shall run over the most representative scientific contributions published in the journal issued in Iași.

For example, tome II/1979 includes a special section dedicated to the centenary of a reputed biologist, Ion Borcea (1879–1936), evoked by Olga Necrasov, Sergiu Cărăușu, Ion Agrigoroaie, while tome II/1980 mentions the 75th birth anniversary of another prestigious biologist of Iași, academician Petre Jitariu, for a long time president of the Iași branch of the Academy.

In the same volume, Alexandru Dobre writes an ample study devoted to the history of the Romanian Academic Society, outlining the main objectives upon which the institution focused its attention: “elaboration of such works that would essentially lead to the accomplishment of the spiritual unity of Romanians from all provinces: *Ortography*, *Grammar* and the *Dictionary of the Romanian Language*”, thus decisively contributing “to the fulfillment of the century-old ideal of our people – the independence and national unity of Romania”.

A study included in tome V/1982 (2), signed by Constantin Pavel, brings into attention the publication in Iași, 100 years ago, of the first journal of mathematics in: *Recreații științifice (Scientific recreations)*, whose thrilling and equally touching, indeed, motto refers both to the tradition of the past and to the expectations of the future: “Patriotism, progress, prudence” (Alexandru Ioan Cuza, 1860).

Volume 3/1982 includes a short presentation – signed by Ion Bulbonea – of the most representative revolutionary thinker of the 1848 Romanian generation, the visionary Nicolae Bălcescu, on the 130th commemoration of his passing away. As a writer, historian, philosopher and economist, Bălcescu dedicated his life and sacrificed himself to the idea of social and national emancipation of the Romanian people, considering the social progress a historical necessity, the essential condition of attaining “the divine freedom”. He was also a fervent supporter of the idea of national unity (“union... within the same political body”), his watchword being “Justice and Brotherhood”.

His progressive ideas have been taken over, along the epochs to come, by reputed historians (Felix Colson, J. Vaillant), as irrefutable arguments of those who defended the destiny of the Romanian people in the still separated by then two provinces: Moldavia and Wallachia.

Tome 1/1991 includes a note, *In memoriam* D. Mangeron (1906–1991), devoted to a legendary figure of the academic city of Iași, an enthusiastic mathematician, collaborator of Alexandru Miller, having contributed decisively to the promotion and recognition, at world level, of the school of mathematics since long known as the “«Alexandru Miller» Mathematical Seminar” of the University of Iași.

D. Mangeron has been oriented – by his prestigious professors: S. Sanielevici, C. Popovici, Gh. Vrânceanu – to study and develop mathematical analysis, mechanics and history of mathematics.

One of his main scientific concerns was the art of mathematical modelling of natural phenomena, with subsequent applications in mechanics.

Along the years, the ideas and results (e.g., *the equation of Mangeron*) of his PhD thesis (defended in 1932, with Marco Picone, the founder of the Institute of Computing at the University of Naples, as thesis adviser) came to be taken over by great mathematicians all over the world.

Tome XXII/1999 opens with a special section dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy, including studies devoted to the main scientific branches represented in the institution, signed by most prestigious names of scientists: thus, Gh. Platon mentions in his contribution the main directions of research in history, Petru Caraman devotes his study to the activities developed in the “Octav Mayer” Institute of Mathematics, Constantin Toma illustrates the works of the biologists of Iași, Liviu Ionesi – the geographical ones, V. Cotea presents the development of the agricultural sciences in the same region, Ioan Hăulică outlines the advances recorded, over the last half of the century, in medical sciences, Tudorel Dima describes the Institute of Socio-Humanistic Sciences, Maria Cristescu – the Section of Anthropology of Iași, Dan Gâlea evidences the main scientific concerns of the young Institute of Theoretic Informatics (formally established in June 1990, being included into the Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy). The main directions of interest of the young specialists include: image processing and pattern recognition, one-dimensional signal processing, natural language processing, fuzzy systems and neuronal networks, parallel computing, multimedia, computer-aided learning, theory of programming in distributed and concurrent computing systems, and biophysical models for neuronal structures.

Entering its 41th year of continuous publication, Series IV of *Memoirs of the Scientific Sections* remains a valuable journal for the scientific community in Romania and abroad, making its – sometimes difficult, yet resolute – way in the competition with the on-line publications of all types.

Taking advantage of this anniversary moment, the Editorial Board of the journal extends its gratitude and recognition to all those who, along the years, supported this valuable editorial initiative.