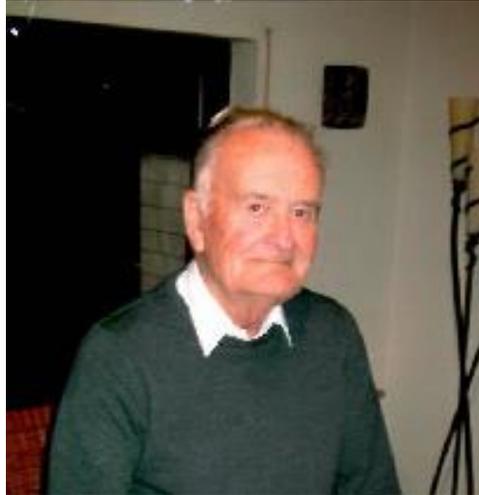


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Grădina Botanică “Alexandru Borza”
Cluj-Napoca



IN MEMORIAM: Dr. Eng. *Stelian* RADU (1928-2018)

Shortly after he turned 90 years old and was celebrated in Deva (on which occasion he amazed us with his vivacity and lucidity), and then in Bucharest, Dr. S. Radu passed away in Germany, where he was living with his son.

Born on 15 October, 1928 in Fântânele (Prahova county), Stelian Radu lost his mother at the age of 6 and his father at the age of 11 years, but these misfortunes made him stronger and more determined in his training.

After obtaining his baccalaureate (in 1947) at “Gh. Șincai” High School in Bucharest, he started his university studies at the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest, the Forestry section (1947–1948); following higher education reorganization, he continued his second year in Câmpulung Moldovenesc, and subsequently received a scholarship to continue his studies at the State Forest Technical Academy of Saint Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), from which he graduated with a diploma of merit. Fifty years after graduation, S. Radu wrote in the Journal of this Academy: “*We should all be aware of the truth that in the century about to start, if no forests are left, nothing will be left*”.

After a period during which he worked as a researcher at several Forest Research and Exploitation Stations, in 1972 he defended his doctoral thesis, published by the Ceres Publishing House (1974) under the title “*Culture and use of the eastern white pine*”.

For almost two decades (1963–1981), he was a researcher in Bucharest, being responsible for the development of technologies for sapling production and forestation, particularly with poplars and willows. In this period, he also received a 6-month FAO grant to study the cultivation of poplars in Turkey, former Yugoslavia, Italy and France.

In 1981, he returned to the Simeria Forest Research Station, first as a researcher, then as the head of the laboratory and as a director, respectively. He retired in 1997, at the age of 69 years.

After his retirement (in 1997), he continued to work, contributing to the elaboration of books (such as *“The Romanian virgin and quasi-virgin forests”*, 2001, editor V. Giurgiu, a volume also published in French the same year, by the ASBL Publishing House in Louvain-la Neuve, Belgium), to the management of the Grădiștea Muncelului-Cioclovina Nature Park (as the President of the Scientific Council, in the period 2005–2013), as well as to the publication of articles popularizing the forest riches of Romania, in Romanian, German or French journals and newspapers. About our centuries-old forests, S. Radu wrote in 2015: *“These forests are a Romanian miracle; they must be preserved and managed in a wise and sustainable manner”*.

For his entire work (including more than 130 published titles), he was awarded a number of distinctions, such as the “Scientific merit class III” (1973), the “Academic merit” (2013), or prizes (e.g., the WWF special prize, awarded in Chambéry, France, in 2008, for his activity related to the promotion and protection of Europe’s natural forests), and in 2012 he was elected a member of honour of the “G. Ionescu-Sisești” Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences.

In addition to his active participation in actions for nature protection in Romania or in the scientific meetings organized by us in Cluj-Napoca, Dr. S. Radu has wished to donate a number of volumes and excerpts from his personal collections to the library of the “Al. Borza” Botanical Garden.

In summary, these are the reasons for which we wanted to mark in the pages of our journal the passing into eternity of the dynamic and passionate forest engineer Dr. Stelian Radu, who was *“... not only a living legend, but also a genuine forest ambassador of Romania”* (as C. Stoiculescu characterized him).

Let us keep his memory alive!

Vasile CRISTEA