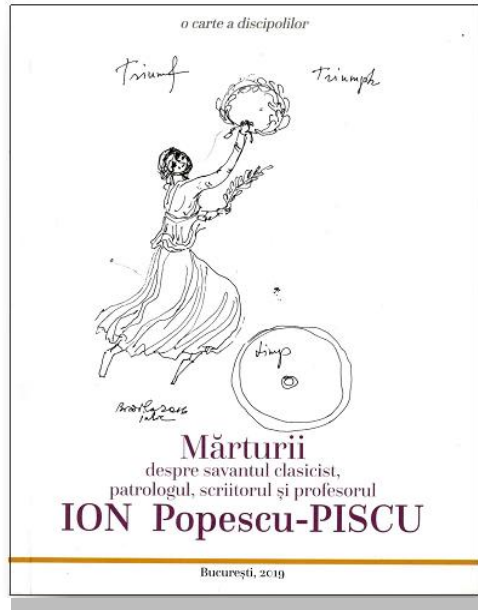


Testimonials about the Classicist Scholar, Patrologist, Writer and Professor Ion Popescu- Piscu

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Maria Popescu Dragomir și
Grigore Popescu Muscel
(coordonatori) – *Mărturisiri
despre savantul clasicist,
patrologul, scriitorul și profesorul
Ion Popescu-Piscu*, Editura
Bizantină, București, 2019, 375 p.



Published in the year 2019 on “Bizantină” Publishing House from Bucharest, the paper “Testimonials about the classicist scholar, patrologist, writer and professor Ion Popescu-Piscu (1909-1978)”, masterfully coordinated and illustrated by the renowned painters Maria Popescu Dragomir and Grigore Popescu Muscel is without a doubt an exceptional paper.

It is nearly impossible not to discover, while browsing the pages of this beautiful paper, the general intention of the authors to reconstruct, in the memory of the readers, the image of a true cultural personality of the last century, a savant, a patrologist, a writer and a renowned professor: Ion Popescu Piscu, the father of the renowned church painter, the maestro Grigore Popescu Muscel.

“A book of disciples”, this is the subtitle which accompanies the main name of the book, a volume of 375 pages, in which were reunited the memories full of honesty of the people who knew him, in any of the multiple facets of his complex cultural personality.

This interesting phrase reveals itself in its richness of meanings, through it being understood the fact that this book was written by the disciples of the

scholar Ion Popescu Piscu – the expression functioning in this case like a collective signature of all the people who participated in one way or another in the making of this paper, as well as the idea that the paper itself could be dedicated in fact to the disciples, as a model to follow.

Actually, this book dedicates a considerable number of pages to each of these sides of the praised remarkable cultural individuality, the classicist and patrologist, the translator, the poet, the writer and the professor Ion Popescu Piscu. The paper debuts otherwise with 2 “necessary” evocations, two praises full of meaning and significance, of the academic Professors Mihai Diaconescu and Constantin Prut, two names of reference in aesthetics, criticism and art theory.

The reconstruction process of the image of this prominent personality of the 20th century Romanian culture based itself on the successive presentation loaded with emotion of some confessions of the ones who today remind with reverence of the one who was a valuable model, a landmark, a pillar of strength of the autochthonous culture, a guiding light in the times of need in our history.

But maybe the most obvious qualities which come off of the eulogistic suite of descriptions which form this book are the ones which refers to the human quality of the one who was Ion Popescu Piscu, the evocations starting from his outer image, the one of an elegant man, always dressed in a suit and a tie, with perfectly polished shoes, to his inner image, from which emanates a distinct warmth and emotional support. The reader will have the occasion to get to meet a profound man, a complete man, a man preoccupied with the delivery of the feeling of moral, civic and intellectual duty of the generations which he guided.

The numerous confessions of the disciples – being in the face of a true confession of faith, of a voluntary eulogy about the one who guided at some point the steps of their own intellectual, cultural and spiritual development, also reveals a sum of professional qualities of the one who was their teacher and mentor fully aware of the role and power of education: seriousness, discretion, conscientiousness, verticality, punctuality, professional tact and modesty, qualities which could be synthesized in “The rule of Professor Piscu”, a rule which he asked the students to respect without fail. The essence of this rule reflects the simplicity of a sincere, traditional, in full accord with the civic common sense thinking, but especially the value of an ethic, intransigent model which could not be talked about without having in mind the term “correctness “. For a moment, the disciples, adult human beings today, accomplished, some of them becoming teachers in their turn, rememorize with intensity moments from their childhood as pupils, they would assist with emotion at the Latin classes hold by Professor Piscu. But the classes were not only Latin – the subject to which he manifests a totally unique exigency, but they were true moments of cultural, moral and spiritual

learning, the disciples taking part in a complex speech which combines the elements from different domains of classic culture, history or the grammar of the Romanian language.

But beyond talking of a certain person, this book talks about a set of values, about a lifestyle (discreet, but aware of its own value), about an exceptional human and professional model, transposed into a valuable lyrical accomplishment.

Back in the days, it was said that a person continues to live even when one is no more, as long as one's name is not forgotten, being recalled by the generations which followed him. Actually, this is the role of this paper, the memories of the disciples invite and oblige to remembrance, to keeping alive the image of a man whose human, spiritual and professional qualities add up to the one of a hero – just like his father and grandfather fallen in battle in the wars from 1877 and 1917. Ion Popescu Piscu participated as a fighter in the second World War, where he got the wound which tormented him for the rest of his life.

Extremely relevant is the testimony of one who once was his student, and now presents with an overflowing emotion the gratitude to the one who was Professor Ion Popescu Piscu : “If I could meet the Professor today, I would kiss his hand as if he were my father who turned my steps to honesty, discipline, correctness, meticulousity, perseverance and order in life”(Traian Popescu, Specialist in geology-geography, p.207).