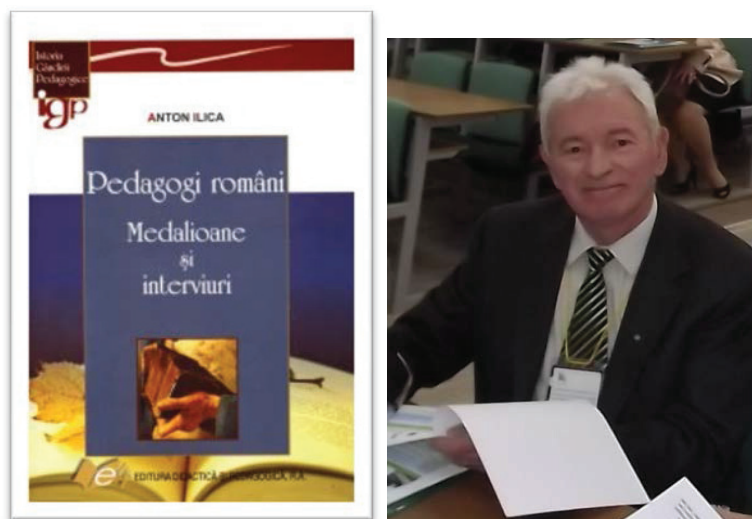


**ANTON ILICA'S BOOK: "ROMANIAN PEDAGOGUES" –  
MEDALLIONS AND INTERVIEWS"**

(Didactic and pedagogic Publishing House, București, 2015)



The volume written by Prof. Anton ILICA, PhD of the Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad, entitled "**Romanian Pedagogues–medallions and interviews**" is an attempt to highlight the evolution of educational sciences in Romania from its beginnings to contemporary times through the theoreticians of this field of knowledge known as pedagogic sciences. The work analyses the scientific activity and important biographical data of educational personalities who have made a contribution to the improvement of public and educational social life, beginning with Iosif Moesidax (Dobrogeanu), Gheorghe Asachi and Gheorghe Lazăr, Petru Pipoș, Ioan Slavici, continuing with Spiru Haret, G. G. Antonescu, C. Narly, I. Găvănescul etc. and closing with contemporary pedagogues (S. Cristea, C. Cucuș, I. Cerghit, I. Neacșu, C. Crețu, L. Șoitu, M. R. Niculescu, E. Joița, V. Popeangă etc.). The author creates medallions for professors and pedagogues of Aurel Vlaicu University of: Alina Roman, Gabriela Kelemen, Dorin Herlo and Anton Ilica. Each of the almost 70 pedagogic personalities benefits from a "bibliographical medallion", a syntactic presentation of their scientific life and activity followed by the answers to an interview consisting of 10 identical questions related to controversial issues in the social-educational field. Each pedagogue's point of view on these controversial issues creates a interesting dialogue between pedagogues whose opinions complement or confute each other. The volume can be considered a scientific work because of the issues it approaches but also considering the following reasons:

- Pedagogy as science makes a contribution to the development of theoretical foundations of educational institutions and assists teaching activities;
- The over 70 pedagogues selected to represent educational sciences in contemporary Romania benefit from original presentations, their most significant writings are analysed, concluding with synthesis of scientific expressiveness;
- The interviews are arguments for the identification of scientific thinking and social action with the purpose of improving educational exercise;
- Analysis and assertions are centred on rich bibliographical resources listed according to APA rules.

In foreign literature such volume has not been identified yet, although there are some monographic presentations of personalities in the field of pedagogy and psychology (J. Dewey, L. Goleman, C. Perrenaud, I. Piaget etc.). Here is the author's synthetic consideration: "*The volume cannot be considered closed and finalized. I consider it an open edition. Contemporary pedagogues have an unfinished work. New texts and new re-readings can offer pleasant surprises. The text is proved incomplete, each idea is open for more elaborate and comparative comments, more coherent citations and more detailed explanations; but mostly they should benefit from a valuable selection based on scientific and logical criteria. Additions to the primary text do not "end" the reading but provide it with a wider "opening" because they know that options presented by reading are always subjective, open and unfaithful. I have the intention of promoting a more genuine picture of Romanian contemporary pedagogy within the European scientific community. The distribution of the same interview to all pedagogues of the present generation was a challenge which proved me that there are some divergent opinions on understanding the scientific meaning of national pedagogy. Some colleagues have provided thorough answers while others have answered only out of kindness. Time was insufficient for some colleagues to find enough meditative moment, develop an opinion and participate in a dialogue "from the same ark" (personally, I regret it because I have willingly assumed the blackout in writing the medallions for one or the other professor of pedagogy and I did it out of professional solidarity!). The answers provide an excellent intellectual performance, an indirect dialogue on the same issues in the field of pedagogy. Various, convergent or divergent opinions are arguments for a solid debate on the repositioning of pedagogy among authoritarian sciences which analyse education.*"

The novelty in terms of pedagogical scientific literature consists of the following:

–The aim of the volume is to transmit a coherent message about the contribution of pedagogues to the evolution of social life in our country;

–The analysis of pedagogues' activity seen as scientific personalities in the field of education is a diagnosis of their scientific qualities and virtues;

–The volumes gives a comparative and referential perspective on the status of scientific pedagogy in our country in comparison to the pedagogy of other countries;

–Approach of the manner in which issues pertaining to educational sciences have consequences on the social and public life; the approaches are the expression of reflexive and critical approaches.

Prof. Ion Albulescu, PhD (Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca), who wrote the foreword of the book, support the above statements in the following quotation: *“Professor Anton Ilica sought to present in this volume the most remarkable contributions to the anfractuous evolution of Romanian pedagogy, some of them becoming „classical places” of this field and also to create a series of portraits and significant interviews with Romanian contemporary pedagogues. The author highlighted their contribution to the development of scientific knowledge. Thus, outstanding personalities in the history of Romanian pedagogy and important works of our pedagogical culture find in Prof. Ilica a subtle interpreter. In his endeavour, Prof. Anton Ilica has willingly taken the path of core reconstruction of certain issues which master beliefs, pedagogical issues and thinking initiatives which represent the peculiarities of a belief. His arguments on the relevance of appeal to history in current pedagogy are strong.”*

The volume addresses to all teachers from secondary education, students from social - humanistic and technical faculties, who intend to become teachers after attending the pedagogical module, scientists in the field of education as well as scientific communities in the country or abroad. It is an exquisite contribution released by Editura Didactică și Pedagogică Publishing House from Bucharest, benefiting from professional graphic conditions. The volume has an obvious impact on national pedagogy.

G. KELEMEN