

MARIA CISMARU

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF THE "TRANSILVANIA" UNIVERSITY IN
BRASOV, FACULTY OF WOOD ENGINEERING



*Motto: The world is as it is
And as the world are we ...
(Eminescu)*

Unfortunately, it rarely happens (in the world around us and to which we belong) to persist deeper in appreciating the nice character of a near person. We do it only after he leaves this world. Only then we start to memorize the beautiful moments spent in the company of that person, his or her gestures, deeds and professional achievements, love for family and for colleagues and suddenly we start feeling the absence of that person.

For this reason, the present memento represents a final tribute to **Professor Maria Cismaru**, a person who was fully dedicated not only to her family, but to her profession, too. Born in Braşov, Maria Cismaru was an eminent student of the Wood Engineering Faculty, becoming later a well known professor of this faculty. With more than 38 years of professional achievements, Prof.Dr.Eng. Maria Cismaru covered all the levels of the academic career: as assistant from 1975 to 1982, lecturer from 1982 to 1999, assistant professor from 1999 to 2003 and professor since 2003.

As colleagues, we can affirm that Prof. Maria Cismaru was gifted for this noble profession, being close to the students, guiding them with responsibility, seriousness and professional rigor. When a professor acts as a parent of those whom he teaches, then we can say about that person that has God's grace and Prof. Maria Cismaru was such kind of person. Perhaps now, from where she is, she will find out the secret of this mystery.

Along her professional career, Prof. Maria Cismaru has published 17 books, more than 70 scientific papers into journals and conference proceedings and she took part to 23 scientific and research projects, for 7 of them being project manager. The originality of her research work was rewarded with the innovation of 10 products valued in the wood industrial field.

Prof. Maria Cismaru had over all her existence, especially in the difficult circumstances of the disease, an attitude of great dignity and finally the understanding of the two major coordinates of the existence: the hope that she will win, on one hand, and the regret that she leaves behind things unresolved, on the other hand.

And above all this, beloved by students, appreciated by colleagues, Prof.Dr.Eng. Maria Cismaru managed to have a life of exemplary family, having two daughters who gave her five grandchildren - four boys and a girl. A destiny that shared the youth happiness with later burden of disease, for which never complained to their loved ones, as a decent person does.

Let us remember **Professor Maria Cismaru**, and in our quiet moments let's send her a good thought of peace, saying a prayer for her, too. May she rest in peace.

VALENTIN NĂSTASE

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF THE "TRANSILVANIA" UNIVERSITY IN
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Professor Valentin Năstase took his final journey in November 2013 in his own discreet manner, departing to a better world. He left behind a loving wife and two daughters, who were unconditionally devoted to him until the end.

His legacy, at the Faculty of Wood Engineering, is professionally, as well as humanly significant. The dignified austerity of his conduct, his sober and restrained elegance are still bestowing confidence and kindness on us, especially to those of us who have been his students and later on became his colleagues.

As head of the Wood Technology Department he always pointed us in the right direction, with exceptional good will, patience and courtesy. His capacity to dedicate his life with honesty, wisdom and competence, to exemplary teaching and pioneering research, was equaled only by his devotion to his colleagues and to the faculty.

"A superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions." Many of those who knew Professor Năstase were recipients of his quiet acts of mentoring, either as a PhD coordinator, or as a professional and moral model.

Together with the late professor architect Florin Ionescu, he is known as the founder of the Furniture Design course, in the sixties, and author of one of the first Furniture Design and Interior Architecture textbooks for students in Romania, published at the beginning of the seventies.

He taught Furniture Design and Furniture Technology, and among his many accomplishments the planning and overseeing of the building and equipping of several didactic and research laboratories of the Faculty of Wood Engineering should be mentioned.

He was also the driving force behind the founding of the study program Furniture Design, at the beginning of the eighties, hence showing a vision of the future development of Furniture History, Restoration, Design and Technology teaching and research development, a vision which responded to the needs of Romanian furniture manufacturers and traders.

Professor Năstase developed new paths in research regarding furniture. His PhD thesis was fundamental for the knowledge of modular furniture design theory and practice. Later on, his research helped establish critical links between fundamental research and innovative wood-based materials, like cellular and various composite panels for furniture. Together with Professor Ioan Curtu he investigated the structure, quality and behavior of chair joints.

His body of research and the various collaborations he established between the Department and the furniture manufacturers as well as with the National Wood Research Institute became models for the coordination of the relationship between education, research and industry. As a result, many national standards regarding furniture, wood-based materials and quality control in furniture manufacturing were drawn up and updated under his supervision.

He wrote over 15 books and 200 papers in the field of furniture, still highly appreciated.

With true artistic intuition and deep knowledge of arts, literature as well as Romanian traditional crafts, Professor Valentin Năstase touched the lives and inspired the careers of many student engineers who were fortunate to come under his wing, hence contributing decisively to their professional and moral education.

After his retirement he continued to be close to us, either to accomplish his mission as PhD coordinator or to actively participate at various events and festivities of the faculty and university, where he was always invited. His kind presence, always remarked, awarded prestige to any assembly.

May he rest in peace and give us the wisdom to honor him through our deeds.

IN MEMORIAM
Rudolf - Albin HERRMANN
1933 - 2014



„That is the way who lives to die, passing through life to immortality!”

When the pass through life means for some people just material benefits and personal interests, all life long meant for our late supporter and friend, Herr Albin HERRMANN, just altruism, dedication and devotion for a profession: joinery and respect for the Franciscan monk outfit (since 1974 up to the end).

Being born the 23rd of June 1933 in Beckum, Germany, he graduated a vocational school for joiners and in 1964 he became joiner-chef. Being passionate and always focused on new and knowledge, he graduated courses of architecture and interior design, areas where he also published referenced papers as basics for the training of younger generations of post-war Germany.

Thus, as first author he published the following papers (In German):

- Working with machine-tools I, Beuth-Verlag Berlin (ISBN 3-410-40003-6);
- Working with machine-tools II, Beuth-Verlag Berlin (ISBN 3-410-40004-4).

As co-author he contributed to other publications (in German), such as:

- Furniture manufacturing II, Beuth-Verlag Berlin (ISBN 3-410-70108);
- Handbook for joiner in wood and plastics;
- Specialist training manuals for joiners;
- Documentations for joiners, etc.

Performing his professional activity mainly as training instructor for joiners, being appreciated and recognized for both professional skills and great human qualities, he also was:

- “Honorary Lecturer” at the Centre for Professional Training, Munster, Germany;
- President and specialist advisor of Federal German authorities;
- Scientific expert at the Federal Institute for Professional Training;
- Instructor for work protection;
- Expert and private arbitrator.

After the first visit to our faculty in 2004, he returned every year at least once, convinced he had found the place and ways to be helpful to younger generations demonstrating passion and concern for woodworking.

Due to the respect and appreciation enjoyed among business community in Germany, he was able to facilitate agreements and partnerships between the Faculty of Wood Engineering and the PRO WOOD Foundation, sponsored by the Association of Woodworking Machinery Manufacturers in Germany.

Following his approaches, almost the entire faculty teaching staff had the opportunity to visit one of the editions of 2007, 2009, 2011 of the Hannover Fair, an event of the first magnitude in the European and global wood industry.

Thanks to good relations with Festo, Festool and Protool companies, together with the distinguished Prof. STURM Leonard, he has contributed to the laboratory for furniture restoration and for automation, as well as to the training of students and administrative staff regarding the construction and operation of portable machine-tools and devices that the German companies endowed us with.

All through his help, the faculty benefits from a CNC circular saw produced by Martin Company, EET in Romania. Also, following the recommendation offered by Mr Albin HERRMANN, the faculty workshop is the recipient of tools, devices for work protection, compressors, portable machines, etc., sponsored by companies in Germany.

We cannot forget the pleasure and joy that he came with every visit and the recommendations and offers for partnership with German companies, especially.

The 13th of February 2014, not only our faculty but many others have lost a sincere, true friend devoted to a great passion: WOODWORKING.

REST IN PEACE!