

## **IOAN HENTEA**

### **A Life Dedicated to Books**

All of us have to pass through different stages of life. There are moments when time stops; its hourglass signalling that one of these stages has come to an end.

It is time to say goodbye to one of our colleagues who has devoted himself to this institution and the profession of librarianship for many years and served it passionately. He has been appreciated and held in respect by every colleague in the library.

Mr Ioan Hentea, the Assistant Director of the Library is retiring now after 47 years of activity in the field of culture and education.

He was born in Noslac village (Alba county) on 24 September 1931 as the fourth child of the Notary Nicolae Hentea and Cornelia Hentea, a family well-known in that region for their honesty and uprightness.

He received a good education and inherited his father's passion for books. His father was a bibliophile who had a private library of approximately 4000 volumes which was quite unusual at that time. Ioan Hentea was a sensitive child, attracted by books and nature. He also had an inclination towards the fine arts. He attended the primary school of his village; then war broke out and he served his secondary education in various high schools, famous at that time for their eminent teachers. An ominous period followed as his family was considered "petty bourgeois" by the new regime. For a few years it became problematical for him to enter university. Finally he registered at the Biology-Geography Faculty of the "Babeş-Bolyai" University in Cluj. He graduated in 1957 and took his licence exams the same year.

He was employed as a teacher even before graduating and held various positions though not all were quite suitable for his education. He was a book-keeper in Cluj, a teacher, a librarian, a supply teacher for the Engineering and Installation School,

documentalist and chief instructor at the House of Cluj County Teaching Staff. When this institutions was wound up in 1986 he came to the Central University Library, Cluj. He became Head of the Bibliographic-Documentary Service and then Assistant Director of the Library in 1990.

He acquired skills as a librarian parallel with his career as a teacher. He worked as a librarian for almost forty years. He proved himself to be a good professionist and a good teacher, therefore the Ministry of Education often entrusted him with organising training sessions for school librarians in Transylvania. He fulfilled his "mission" successfully, always displaying high professionalism. As a librarian, documentarist and instructor he achieved exceptional results in his work. He led the pedagogic circle of school librarians in Cluj county for two decades.

He had an inclination towards fine arts and graduated from the painting section of the Popular Art School in Professor Florian's class. He was able always to make use of his passion for the beautiful: he participated in 14 group exhibitions in various art galleries.

His passion for the beautiful manifested itself in the field of literature as well: Ioan Hentea was the founder and leader of the "Octavian Goga" literary-artistic circle of the teaching staff in Cluj county for 15 years. He published his writings in anthologies and specialist periodicals; he also wrote a book entitled *Metamorfozele sentimentelor* (*The Metamorphosis of Feelings*).

Becoming Assistant Director of the Central University Library in 1990 was a sign of recognition of his professional and organisational skills. His was a manifold activity as he was a librarian, a researcher, an editor and a journalist of various works in the field of librarianship. To sum his literary achievements, he published 24 works, more than 30 works as a book editor and wrote 10 papers presented at various conferences and symposiums.

Ioan Hentea played a big role in the foundation of the Association of Romanian Librarians in Education and became Vice-President of this professional organisation.

A man of intellectual spirit with a wide-ranging knowledge, a strong sense of justice and exigent with himself, he has always been a model in the truest professional sense of librarianship.

Silvia Dumitru