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GEORGE ANTONIU, OUTSTANDING PERSONALITY OF THE ROMANIAN CRIMINAL SCIENCES

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Abstract

First, the author reviews the main biographical milestones of his former professor, as well as his main works and scientific activities.

Then, the author analyzes in detail the main ideas of University Professor Ph.D. George Antoniu that contributed to the development of the science of criminal law in Romania, stressing the ones that turned into positive criminal law rules.

In this regard, the work of University Professor Ph.D. George Antoniu represented, in numerous cases, sources of inspiration for the Romanian criminal legislator, his thesis being largely recognized as such by the authors of criminal law from our country.

Key words: *penal reform, penal code, criminal norm, crime, punishment.*

INTRODUCTION

1. The idea of such a communication (the personality being chosen by ourselves) was suggested to us by the founding president of this Conference, which has already reached its fourth edition, university professor Elena-Ana Iancu, a close friend of our late magister, university professor doctor habilitate multi honoris causa GEORGE ANTONIU, honorary scientific director of the

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Legal Research Institute "Acad. Andrei Rădulescu" of the Romanian Academy, who passed away on August 10, 2014.

The present study thus represents a perpetuation of our desire to pay, in this way also, a tribute to the one who guided our scientific activity and the deepening of criminal sciences for over 15 years and as such our gratitude to the maestro is boundless, and the feelings we experience when writing these lines are very difficult to describe in words.

Also, another reason was that the work of the professor was as vast as it was dispersed in various legal publications, from the country and abroad, and in this way, until an eventual gathering of his studies in a single work, we want to put into circulation its main ideas, theses that have influenced both the scientific world here, but also our criminal legislator, so that they are known also by our younger criminalists, as otherwise by all those involved in the vast process of interpretation and application of the criminal law.

Last but not least, we took into account what the professor said, on the occasion of the launch of our criminal law treatise (the special part), in 2009, when the master welcomed the idea of a professor's disciples continuing and developing his work.

2. Born on March 30, 1929 in the town of Brăila, in the county of Brăila, where he attended primary school (1935-1939), the teacher graduated from high school in Bucharest (1939-1947), after which he enrolled and attended The Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest (1947-1951), which he graduated with an average of 10 (diploma no. 143045/1952), proving from that early age an obvious concern for study and improvement. Due to his training, from the third year he was co-opted as a trainer in the Department of Civil Law, where he worked until he graduated from the faculty.

After completing his military internship (1951-1952), Professor George Antoniu opted to join the active ranks of the army, becoming a major lieutenant and professor at the Bucharest Military Academy.

At his request, from 1954, he was transferred as a military judge, first to the Territorial Military Court in Bucharest, and later, due to his exceptional professional results, he was promoted to the Supreme Court (1962-1971), with the mention that in period 1961-1962 he was chief legal adviser at the Ministry of Justice.

3. Professor George Antoniu began his scientific activity in the 1950s, from an early age, by publishing very interesting articles, commentaries on judicial practice, but also genuine studies that already announced the beginnings of an exceptional scientific career (*for example, The new regulation of the appeal in the criminal legislation, Popular legality no. 1/1958, p. 13 et seq.; In relation to the unity and plurality of crimes, Romanian Law Journal no. 9/1967, p. 6 et*

seq.; The Code criminal and the improvement of legislation, in the compilation "State, democracy, legality", Political Ed., Bucharest, 1968, p. 36 et seq.; Regarding the regulation of the causes of aggravation and mitigation of punishments, Romanian Law Review No. 4/ 1970, p. 13 et seq.).

During this period, the work "The guidelines given by the Plenary of the Supreme Court and the new criminal legislation", produced together with his colleagues Vasile Papadopol, Mihai Popovici and Bogdan Ștefănescu and published by the Scientific Publishing House in Bucharest in 1971, stands out. In this work, the authors have selected and commented, under a high scientific attitude, those guiding decisions of the supreme court pronounced in the period 1952-1968 which maintained their validity also in relation to the provisions of the Criminal Code from 1968 and the Criminal Procedure Code from the same year. As such, the selected decisions are accompanied by extensive comments by the aforementioned authors, led by Professor George Antoniu.

4. In the meantime, under the guidance of university professor Dr. Grigore Rîpeanu, the judge at that time, George Antoniu, elaborates an exceptional doctoral thesis, entitled "Causality report in criminal law", work for which he is awarded the title of doctor of law (*diploma no. 1656 of November 8, 1967*) and which saw the light of day in 1968.

The doctorate thesis would also reveal the researcher vocation of the judge at that time, who later became, through the care of the university professor Vintilă Dongoroz, a researcher of the Institute of Legal Research of the Romanian Academy. After this moment, his work knows a true everescence in the 1970s when the idea of creating the annotated Penal Code was born, as a replica of several famous practitioners, in the work Theoretical Explanations of the Romanian Penal Code.

Therefore, after a prodigious career as a magistrate, for almost 20 years, Professor George Antoniu has in 1971, when he fills the position of principal scientific researcher gr. II at the Institute of Legal Research of the Romanian Academy, the chance to work directly with his master, the late Vintilă Dongoroz, at that time the head of the public law sector of the Institute and the one who would influence the work of our dear professor in a substantial and irreversible way.

Starting from this moment, Professor George Antoniu dedicated the rest of his life to the activity of a researcher, a quality he honored with a rare passion and competence for over 40 years (1971 - 2014). Due to the exceptional professional qualities he had, starting in 1975, George Antoniu was appointed head of sector, and in 1990 he became deputy scientific director and promoted to first degree principal scientific researcher, being retired in 2009.

From 1973, the researcher George Antoniu became the editor-in-chief of the Institute magazine (Studies of Romanian Law), a position he held until 2009.

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5. During the 70s, the professor made a significant contribution to the publication of the commented and annotated Penal Code (3 volumes), published at the Scientific Publishing House in Bucharest, commenting on no less than 79 articles of the Penal Code that entered into force on January 1 1969.

Thanks to these qualities, the master was co-opted by the late Vintilă Dongoroz to complete the work *Theoretical Explanations of the Romanian Code of Criminal Procedure* (2 volumes).

At the same time, he elaborates the monograph *Offenses provided for in special laws* (1976), a first in Romanian criminal law since that date, as well as the first edition of the *Criminal Law Dictionary* (1976) and the *Criminal Procedure Dictionary* (1988), the last two in collaboration.

6. But the indisputable value of the professor was to be revealed once more through the coordination and editing, together with the late Professor Costică Bulai, of the 5 volumes of the work *Criminal Judicial Practice* (1989-1998), as well as the monographs *Criminal Guilt* (1995) and *Attempt* (1996).

Analyzing the controversial solutions pronounced by the courts under the rule of the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure from 1968, Professor George Antoniu highlighted both the positive and constructive directions, but also the shortcomings of many of these solutions, which he commented on in a nuanced way, with notes approving or critical, as the case may be.

The results of these researches were to be used by Professor George Antoniu to substantiate his reforming ideas regarding criminal law, as well as on the occasion of the creation of the *Preliminary Draft Penal Code - the general part*, in 2002, a document to which we will return.

7. His most fruitful work can be found in the pages of the *Penal Law Review*, which, at the initiative of the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Police Academy specialists, he founded on January 22, 1994 together with other great criminal lawyers of the time, as a continuation of the similar publication published in the period 1922-1943 ("*Criminal Law and Penitentiary Science Magazine*").

As such, in the period 1994-2014, in the pages of the *Penal Law Review*, of which he was the editor-in-chief since its inception and until 2009, when he became its director and did us the honor, on the warm recommendation of the university professor doctor multi honoris causa Ovidiu Predescu, to appoint us first deputy editor-in-chief and then editor-in-chief of our prestigious magazine, after I had been an editor for six years, saw the light of day, from the 197 studies, articles, comments on some decisions of cases carried out by the professor in the period 1956-2014, no less than 86 studies dedicated to the criminal sciences, true landmarks in the matter and sources of inspiration for the post-December Romanian criminal legislator (we recall, for example, *Criminal Law Error, the*

System of Cases that removes the guilt, Mediated author or improper participation, Error of fact, Reflections on the future criminal reform, Criminal reform at the first step, Reflections on organized crime te, Typicality and anti-juridicality, Contributions to the study of the essence, purpose and functions of punishment, Reflections on the structure of the criminalization norm, New contributions to the research of criminal causation, Crime unit, Reflections on the plurality of crimes, Criminal participation. Comparative law study, Crime and punishment between appearance and reality, Criminal law and European integration, the New Criminal Code and the previous Criminal Code) totaling over 10,000 pages.

Of course, ***the 29 treatises, annotated codes, monographs, collections of judicial practice or studies*** redacted by Professor George Antoniu, during his more than 60 years of scientific activity, should not be omitted, among which we highlight the following works: *Criminal Code commented and annotated (three volumes)*, *The guidelines given by the Plenary of the Supreme Court and the new criminal legislation*, *Theoretical explanations of the Criminal Procedure Code (two volumes)*, *Offenses provided for in special laws*, *Criminal judicial practice (five volumes)*, *Attempt, Criminal guilt, Reform of the criminal legislation*, redacted as the author or in co-authorship, and in some also coordinator, together with the late Costică Bulai.

Full of ideas and arguments, the works of Professor George Antoniu are highlighted by the depth of the author's thinking, the exegetical but also critical study of positive criminal law norms, the style used and the rich references to criminal law systems, doctrine and jurisprudence from other countries, circumstances that led professor Costică Bulai to state, in connection with the monograph *Criminal guilt*, that it represents "*the first complete and high-level scientific research of the institution of guilt*" and that he is "*in front of one of the greatest achievements of legal science Romanian*".

Among his many works, the ones devoted to the commentary on the *crimes provided for in special laws*, a field that is quite slightly researched in our criminal science, draw attention in particular, due to the large number of incrimination norms provided in these normative acts and their very high mobility, such as and the five volumes dedicated to *the analysis of criminal and procedural criminal judicial practice*.

Analysing the controversial solutions pronounced by the courts under the empire of the previous Criminal Code, Professor George Antoniu revealed both the positive and constructive directions, but also the shortcomings of many of these solutions, which he commented on in a nuanced way, with approving or critical notes, as the case may be.

The reforming ideas of Professor George Antoniu began to appear, in a meaningful way, and to see the light of print immediately after 1990, when, against the background of the socio-political and economic changes in our

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country, he is aware, more than ever, that the system must also be reformed our criminal law, in accordance with the new realities and transformations that Romania was going through, so that the criminal legislation corresponds to the needs of social life.

7.1. In this context, the professor elaborates in the pages of the magazine several studies devoted to the reform of science and penal legislation alike (*Penal reform and the constitution*, RDP no. 1/1996, p. 17-24; *Penal reform and the protection of the fundamental values of society*, RDP no. 2/1996, p. 9-17; *Criminal reform and the fundamental principles of Romanian criminal law*, RDP no. 3/1996, p. 9-18; *Criminal reform at the first step (I)*, RDP no. 4/1996, p. 9-18; *Criminal reform at the first step (II)*, RDP no. 1/1997, p. 9-18; *Criminal reform at the first step (III)*, RDP no. 2/1997, p. 7-18; *Reform criminal law and systematization of criminal provisions (I)*, RDP No. 3/1997, pp. 9-17; *Criminal reform and systematization of criminal provisions (II)*, RDP No. 4/1997, pp. 9-14; *Systematization of criminal matters in courses university*, RDP no. 1/1998, p. 9-23), many of the ideas presented on these occasions were to influence both the later criminal legislator and the doctrinaires of the time in the drafting of university courses and not May.

7.2. These issues are taken up and developed in the work *Reform of penal legislation* (2003), published by the Romanian Academy Publishing House, coordinated and carried out to a large extent by the professor.

First, Professor George Antoniu identifies the difficulties of this long reform process that are less related to the *drafting technique* than to the configuration of regulatory solutions, the stabilization and clarification of the *substance*, of the social issue that must be regulated.

The obstacles to the faster development of the reform activity can be represented by: the conservative force of the legislation and jurisprudence (eg. art. 51 last paragraph of the previous C. pen., the existence of few critical observations in the doctrine regarding the criminal law in force); the excess of legal technicism (methodological inversion, breaking criminal law from the social realities from which it derives its essence), as well as the insufficient prior clarifications on the fundamental principles of the future criminal legislation (for example, who is given priority? the protection of individual interests or those of society).

In the work of penal reform, in the teacher's view, the legislator should take into account the following realities:

a) *internal processes*: those related to the evolution of legal thinking and judicial practice; those determined by the need to re-evaluate some of the current regulatory solutions.

b) *external processes*: those related to the transition to the market economy, to the organization of the entire society based on the principles of the

rule of law and the corresponding democratic institutions; realities arising from the provisions of the new Constitution; Romania's international commitments.

Suggestions for systematization and regulation formulated by the professor: renouncing the provision regarding the purpose of the criminal law; waiver of the provisions of the previous art. 181 C. pen.; the introduction of a distinct title regarding the offender; waiver of art. 14 and 15 C. pen. from 1968 because it violates the principle of separation of powers in the state; abandoning the idea of social danger as an essential feature of the crime and the institution of substitution of criminal liability; giving up the relatively inappropriate attempt; limiting the existence of improper participation only to the cases when it is not possible to operate with the legal figure of the mediated author (own crimes and in persona propria), redefining the notion of author, which also includes that of the mediated author; reformulation of the institution of instigation followed by execution (removal of participation documents from the content of art. 29 C. pen. previous); the introduction of a regulation on invincible legal error; redefining punishment by removing its character as a means of re-education; expanding the scope of criminal sanctions; the introduction, in the system of the main punishments of the Romanian criminal law, of work in the general interest (removing the execution of the punishment at the workplace, as a means of judicial individualization of the punishment); the transition to the system of fine days that allows a better individualization of the fine sanction, according to the general and special criteria for individualizing the sanction and the economic situation of the convicted.

Also, he considered, rightfully so, that the regulation of the application of the criminal law in time before that in space would be more appropriate because: these provisions are more closely related to the previous chapter and especially to the way of formulating the principle of legality; this is the traditional solution of our criminal legislation (*C. pen. from 1864 and from 1936*).

As it is easy to observe by comparing these suggestions to the regulation in force, the Romanian legislator from 2009 has largely appropriated them.

8. All the creative efforts of the professor were put to good use, firstly, on the occasion of his drafting of the Preliminary Draft Penal Code (General Part - our addition), published *Penal Law Review* no. 3/2002, p. 127-156, document accompanied by the professor's explanations materialized in the study *A new step on the path of penal reform*, published in the same issue of our magazine from p. 9 to 21.

Among the new elements introduced in the draft and taken over by the 2009 legislator in the new Penal Code¹, which entered into force on February 1, 2014, we reproduce by way of example those relating to:

¹ "Last but not least, a number of elements in accordance with the current trends of European criminal legislation (renunciation of the institution of social danger, consent of the victim, etc.) were taken from the preliminary project drawn up by the Legal Research Institute" - Explanation of the project of the new Criminal Code, p. 3, available at

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- abandoning the definition of the purpose of the criminal law;
- the first regulation of the application of the criminal law in time and then in space;
 - the extension of the more favourable criminal law also in the case of emergency ordinances not approved or approved with amendments and additions by the Parliament;
 - renouncing the optional application of the more favourable criminal law in the case of final punishments;
 - redefinition of the temporary criminal law;
 - the placement of provisions through the notion of territory and deed committed on the territory of the country, including the principle of ubiquity within the principle of territoriality;
 - the removal from the definition of the offense of the requirement that the act provided for by the criminal law presents a social danger (this being implied);
 - the introduction of the rule according to which the facts consisting of an action or inaction constitute a crime only when they are committed with intent. These acts constitute crimes when they are committed out of fault only if the law expressly provides for this;
 - praeterintention is defined for the first time;
 - the distinct regulation of justifying causes (along with self-defense and the state of necessity, the order of the law and the command of the legitimate authority and the victim's consent were added) from those that remove the criminal character (guilt) of the deed;
 - the discipline of invincible and vincible legal errors, as well as their effects;
 - redefining the attempt (by referring to the intention to commit the crime instead of the decision to commit the crime) and giving up the distinct regulation of the relatively inappropriate attempt;
 - removing the instigation not followed by execution;
 - the reconceptualization of punishment (by abandoning its "educational" component), the introduction of the system of fine days and work for the benefit of the community;
 - the introduction (for the first time) of the criminal liability of private legal entities (art. 48 of the draft); exemption from punishment (art. 91 of the preliminary draft) and postponement of the application of the penalty (art. 92 of the preliminary draft);
 - the removal of the institution of execution at the workplace and that of substitution of criminal liability.

- the introduction of an explanatory rule distinct from that of the civil servant relative to the person who performs a service of public necessity, in order to put an end to the controversy regarding the position of public notaries, lawyers, etc.

In this context, we must specify that, in relation to the object of the present study, we only took from the teacher's treasury of ideas those that, directly or indirectly, turned into positive law norms in the new criminal legislation.

9. As a recognition of his scientific value, in 2001, Professor George Antoniu was appointed president of the drafting committee of the first new Penal Code, adopted by Law no. 301/2004, activity for which he *was decorated by the President of Romania with the National Order of the Star of Romania in the rank of Knight (Decree no. 575/2004).*

On this occasion, many of the professor's innovative ideas take shape in the content of the first new Criminal Code.

Thus, under the aspect of systematizing the general part, the application of the criminal law in time is regulated before that in space; the causes that make the concrete act not constitute a crime are disciplined in two distinct chapters, in relation to the effects they produce, in justifying cases and cases that remove the criminal character of the act; a separate chapter is devoted to the criminal liability of the legal person; the regulation in a distinct division of work for the benefit of the community; the distinct regulation of the regime of execution of the penalties applied to the legal person; for the first time, the waiver of the penalty and the postponement of the application of the penalty are consecrated; the cases that remove the vocation to punishment or that remove its consequences are divided into three titles, one relative to the cases that remove the criminal liability, another regarding the cases that remove or modify the execution of the punishment and the last one related to the cases that remove the consequences of the conviction.

The special part bravely starts with the crimes against the person, followed by those against the patrimony and then those against the national security, the teacher understanding to give preeminence to the protection of the individual against the society. A distinct title is assigned to acts against the administration of justice, and many of the crimes in the special laws with criminal provisions are codified (trafficking in persons and minors, money laundering, acts of terrorism, acts against the exercise of political and civil rights, fraudulent border crossing of the state, migrant trafficking, organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, acts against: the environment, national cultural heritage, national archival heritage, intellectual property, data and IT systems, financial interests of the European Union, etc.).

In the content of the Code, for the first time, the order of the law and the command of the legitimate authority, as well as the consent of the victim, were disciplined as justifying causes. At the same time, the conditions of criminal liability of legal entities and the penalties applicable to them are provided.

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The categories of punishments are diversified, and with regard to the criminal sanction of the fine, according to the French model, the days-fine system is introduced.

The content of authentic contextual interpretive norms was supplemented with the definition of the person who performs a service of public interest and that of the family member.

Also, in addition to taking over criminalization rules from the special laws with criminal provisions, the special part of the Criminal Code has been enriched with new criminalizations such as: altering the genotype; the dangerous use of genetic engineering; illegal creation of human embryos and cloning; violation by any means of interception of the right to private life; making or using devices to intercept communications; the destruction and appropriation of material values of interest to humanity; the destruction and appropriation of cultural values of the peoples; unfair remuneration; profit by mistake; preventing competition in public tenders; obstructing the activity of justice; manifestations of racism or chauvinistic nationalism; speculate with products that cannot be the object of private trade and usury; facts against the fiscal regime, etc.

All these new elements compared to the regulation in force at that time, as well as some changes made to the previous criminal law, were excellently explained by Professor Antoniu, following the model established by Professor Vintilă Dongoroz in 1969, in the work *The New Penal Code*. The previous criminal code. Comparative study, published by All Beck Publishing House in 2004. The president of the codification commission of the new criminal legislation also noted the fact that the legislative solutions did not always coincide with those proposed by the preliminary draft, thus explaining the non-regulation of some of the professor's ideas previously presented, the force tradition being sometimes stronger than some of its innovative ideas (for example: maintaining the definition of the purpose of the criminal law; maintaining the more favourable application of the criminal law in the case of definitive punishments; maintaining the essential feature of social danger, etc.).

These explanations were repeated and developed by the master in his studies from the pages of our penal law review: *The New Criminal Code and the Previous Criminal Code, a comparative view*. The general part (*RDP no. 4/2004, p. 9-34*); *The new Criminal Code and the previous Criminal Code, a comparative view*. Special part (I) – *RDP no. 1/2005, p. 9-36*; *The new Criminal Code and the previous Criminal Code, a comparative view*. Special part (II) – *RDP no. 2/2005, p. 9-61*.

Although the first new Penal Code never entered into force, despite the criticism brought to this first new Penal Code by the preliminary theses of the second new Penal Code, adopted by HG no. 1183/2008, many of the teacher's ideas, transformed into criminal law norms by Law no. 301/2004, were appropriated by the drafting commission of the second new Criminal Code of

2009, adopted by Law no. 286/2009 regarding the Criminal Code and entered into force on February 1, 2014.

Thus, in the new criminal legislation, Law no. 301/2004, but especially from the preliminary draft drawn up by Professor George Antoniu which was the basis for the elaboration of the draft of the respective law, a series of elements in accordance with the current trends of European criminal legislation (completion of the principle of the legality of incrimination and of criminal law sanctions with the rule the precedence of the legal provision in relation to the concrete act and the punishment or the educational measure or the safety measure that would be applied for the commission of the concrete act, the abandonment of the institution of social danger, the distinct regulation of justifying causes from those that remove guilt, the introduction of new justifying reasons, the consent of the victim, etc.).

In relation to the new socio-political conditions established in Romania, after 1989, the works of Professor George Antoniu represented a firm and scientifically based answer for a profound reform of criminal legislation and criminal procedure, completed by the two new codes entered into force on 1 February 2014, in which many of the *ferenda* law suggestions formulated by the teacher can be found.

9. The publication of the *Preliminary Draft of the New Criminal Code* in the prestigious magazine *Penal Law Notebook* no. 2-3/2007, p. 175-366 allowed Professor George Antoniu as in the pages of the *Penal Law Review* (Observations regarding the draft of a second new Criminal Code (I) - RDP no. 4/2007, p. 9- 34; Observations regarding the preliminary draft of a second new Criminal Code (II) - RDP No. 1/2008, p. 9-34) to formulate several observations and suggestions for improving the texts formulated by the commission and later appropriated by the legislator from 2009 (without neglecting of course the merits of the code commission, with many of the commission's options the professor also expressing his agreement in the pages of the same magazine) from the desire to improve the new criminal legislation.

For example, relative to the general part of the preliminary draft of the new Criminal Code, the following proposals for improvement (other than those strictly terminological) of the texts formulated by the commission and which were later taken over by the legislator were formulated, in essence: the reformulation of art. 17 para. (1) regarding guilt; the reintroduction of the fortuitous case; sweetening the treatment applicable to the continued crime - art. 35; increasing the limit of criminal liability of minors, set by the commission at 13 years - art. 114 etc.

Next, the professor pointed out the shortcomings of some formulations in the special part of the preliminary draft of the new Criminal Code, but also those of the draft of the new Code of Criminal Procedure (*Observations on the draft of*

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the new Code of Criminal Procedure (I) - RDP no. 4/2008, p. 9-28; Observations on the draft of the new Criminal Procedure Code (II) - RDP No. 1/2009, p. 9-23).

10. Parallel to the research, didactic, practice or publishing activity, Professor George Antoniu, in his capacity as president of the Romanian Association of Penal Sciences and of the Romanian National Group affiliated to the International Penal Law Association, *maintained intense international relations* with doctrinaires or practitioners from other states, participating in almost all the events of the last 30 years of the International Association of Penal Law in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Hungary and others, as well as those of the International Society of Comparative Law.

He was a founding member (April 22, 1994) and president of the Romanian Association of Penal Sciences, founder and director of the Penal Law Review, reputed specialist in criminal law and criminal procedure, outstanding jurist who dominated the criminal sciences in our country for approx. 40 years in his capacity as a successor to the work of his late teacher Vintilă Dongoroz, a man of high professional standing, loved by all who knew him for his professional vigor and verticality and for his special spiritual qualities.

Since 1990, the first degree principal scientific researcher George Antoniu has been certified as scientific supervisor of a doctorate in the specialty of penal law and penal procedural law and re-certified by Order of the Ministry of Education no. 4794 of April 16, 1993, and since 1994 he is certified as a university professor in the disciplines of penal law and criminology, we ourselves benefiting from his teachings and vast knowledge in the beginning, as a student, even this year, in the discipline of criminal law - the general part.

In this capacity of doctoral supervisor, the professor instructed with the utmost rigor (the tests of his lordship reaching notoriety) no less than 38 doctoral theses forming around his lordship a real school of criminal law, in which we are also proud (after a 9-year doctoral internship), anchored to the post-December socio-economic-political realities here, but also with a great openness to other models of criminal law from countries with rich experience in the matter, such as Germany, Italy, France, Spain or the United States of America, which the master asked us to get to know out of the desire to offer us other solutions than those promoted by the Romanian penal law.

Also, *the late George Antoniu* contributed significantly to the professional training and not only of several young academics and tens of thousands of students or master's students of the Faculties of Law at the University of Bucharest, the Romanian-American University of Bucharest, the Police Academy "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" from Bucharest and from Spiru Haret University from Bucharest, during the 20 years of university activity.

11. On August 10, 2014, passed away university **professor doctor multi honoris causa GEORGE ANTONIU**, honorary scientific director of the Legal Research Institute "Acad. Andrei Rădulescu" of the Romanian Academy.

Unfortunately, death led the professor to leave two fundamental works unfinished: The preliminary explanations of the new Penal Code (a work awarded by the Romanian Jurists' Union, in 2010, with the Vintilă Dongoroz prize), of which three volumes had appeared and more were to appear two and a Criminal Law Treaty. The general part, which, at our suggestion, the professor has been working on for over 10 years based on the studies he published in the pages of the Penal Law Journal, works that would see the light of day in 2015-2016.

12. In the preceding, we have tried, on the one hand, to reveal the main biographical milestones and achievements of the professor, and on the other hand, to identify and highlight, from the treasury of thought of Professor George Antoniu, only the ideas that have an impact on the Romanian criminal legislator, because many of these, which did not find their place in the present pages (because they were not accepted as such by the legislator), we are convinced that they will continue to serve as a source of inspiration for those called to regulate in criminal matters, as well as for those who contribute to the uniform interpretation and application of the criminal law.

This is why, we affirmed since his death, in 2014, without fear of making a mistake, that through his work Professor George Antoniu rose to the height of his predecessors Ion Tanoviceanu and Vintilă Dongoroz (whose theses he largely shared, being some from which he distanced himself or with respect to which he expressed some reservations), which he sometimes surpassed by the value of the ideas presented and the argumentation used in support of the *ferenda* law solutions promoted, contributing decisively to the development of criminal sciences in Romania and to a better drafting of criminal law norms, so that they are correctly applied in practical activity.

As such, we continue to believe that for many years there will be talk of three major milestones in the science of domestic criminal law: Ion Tanoviceanu, Vintilă Dongoroz and George Antoniu, even if to the development of our penal sciences also contributed other prominent criminalists (*Traian Pop, Vespasian Pella, Nicolae Buzea et al.*).

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