

## FOREWORD

### LITUA – 130 YEARS OF INTELLECTUAL DIALOGUE, SCIENTIFIC RIGOR, AND INTERDISCIPLINARY OPENNESS

The celebration of 130 years since the publication of the first issue of *Litua* represents not only a jubilee of profound significance but also an act of deep reverence for an exceptional cultural legacy. From its debut in April 1896 to the present day, the trajectory of this journal reflects the very evolution of the critical spirit and research methodologies within the Romanian academic sphere, establishing itself as a landmark of stability and prestige in the national scholarly landscape. This festive volume, therefore, celebrates more than just an impressive milestone; it honors an intellectual ethos: the curiosity that transforms fragments of the past into a living resource for understanding the present and, as far as possible, anticipating the future. Founded under the aegis of Gorj County's cultural pioneers, such as Alexandru Ștefulescu and Iuliu Moșil, under the original title *Publicațiunile Muzeului Județean al Gorjului – Litua* (The Publications of the Gorj County Museum – Litua), the journal was conceived from an acute need to assert local identity and patrimonial values. The path from that inaugural volume to the current series, *Litua. Studii și cercetări* (Litua. Studies and Research), has been marked by resilience. Following periods of forced silence imposed by the vicissitudes of history, the resumption of its publication in 1978 marked a spiritual rebirth, demonstrating a remarkable capacity to adapt to the rigors of the modern era without compromising scientific quality.

While the early editions were anchored in the rigor of classical historiography and the inventorying of local heritage, today, at this 130-year milestone, the journal's mission is the promotion of interdisciplinary research. In an era of increasingly fragmented knowledge, *Litua. Studii și cercetări* has assumed the role of a mediator between disciplines, understanding that the complex phenomena of the past cannot be deciphered through a single methodological lens. Within its pages, we witness an organic convergence of history, archaeology, ethnography, geology, cultural history, political science, and beyond.

This openness to interdisciplinarity is not merely a current editorial trend, but a necessary maturation of the academic vision. By encouraging dialogue among specialists from related fields, the journal has succeeded in bringing to light novel interpretations and redefining standards of excellence. The publication's current dynamics, as well as its scientific consistency - bolstered by its inclusion in international databases - demonstrate that fidelity to tradition can coexist harmoniously with methodological innovation.

On this anniversary, we express our gratitude to all the contributors who have entrusted this journal with the fruits of their research. *Litua. Studii și cercetări* remains a living organism, a witness to continuity, and a tireless promoter of academic integrity. We look toward the future with confidence that the journal will continue to be a catalyst for excellence, remaining faithful to its mission of exploring, with meticulousness and passion, the depths of human.

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**Director,**  
*Senior Researcher I Profesor PhD. Constantin-Livian Rădoescu*

**Editor-in-Chief,**  
*Expert Archaeologist PhD. Dumitru Hortopan*