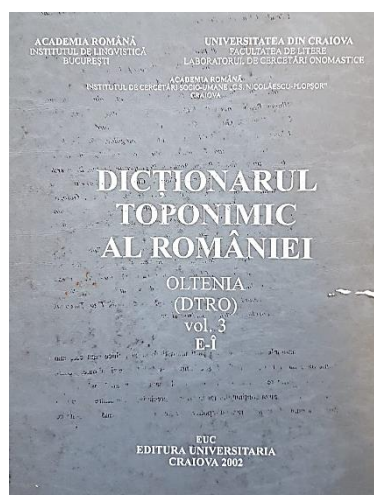
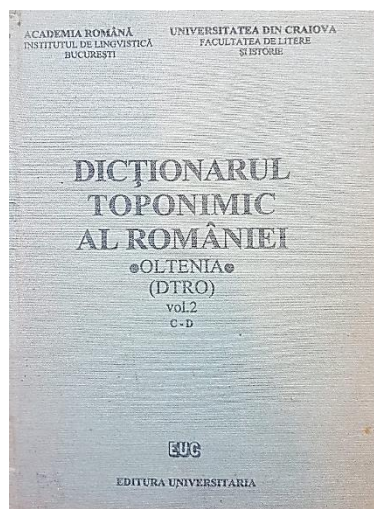
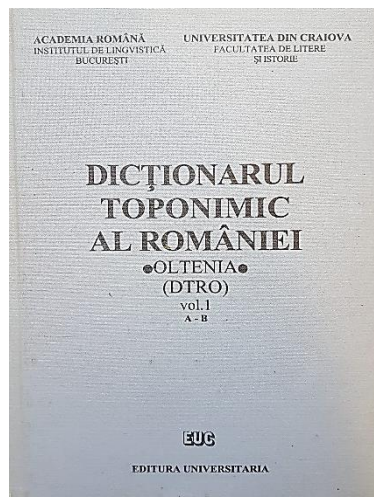


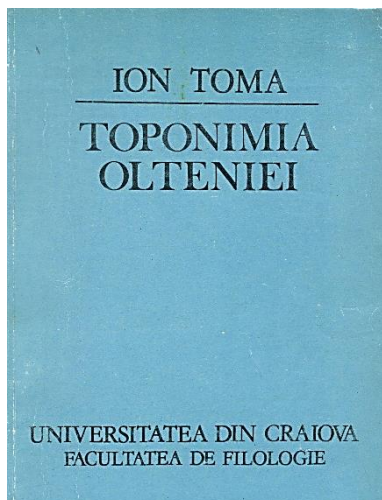
A COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND, ION TOMA

Evoking the personality of a former colleague and friend is possible, but painful. We were both PhD students of the same scientific coordinator, Teofil Teaha, head of the Dialectology Sector of the Institute of Phonetics and Dialectology of the Romanian Academy, we were members of the Romanian Language Department for foreign students within the Faculty of Letters of the University of Craiova, we were authors of the collective work of great scientific interest, *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Oltenia (DTRO)*, achieved under the editorship of professor Gh. Bolocan, PhD. I can also say that we were both trained as specialists in onomastics under the supervision and guidance of professor Gh. Bolocan.

In the book review of Ion Toma's *101 nume de locuri*, 2015, we mention: "I consider that the compendium *Despre numele de locuri*, which opens the book, with the Introduction to *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Oltenia (DTRO)*, vol. I, A-B, signed by professor Gh. Bolocan, is the basic bibliography that can be recommended to whoever wants to become familiar with the field of onomastics. If professor Gh. Bolocan focused on categories of toponyms, on the transfer of names in toponymy, on the morphological structure of place names, on the location of the named object, all contributing to the correct interpretation of the etymology of the place name in question, Ion Toma distinguishes between toponym and common name, considers the circumstances under which a toponym emerges, the transformations which it may undergo over time, the circumstances under which it ceases to exist".

A retrospective look at Ion Toma's activity highlights three important directions, which he honoured with dedication and competence: scientific research, didactic activity, administrative activity in management positions at the level of higher education.

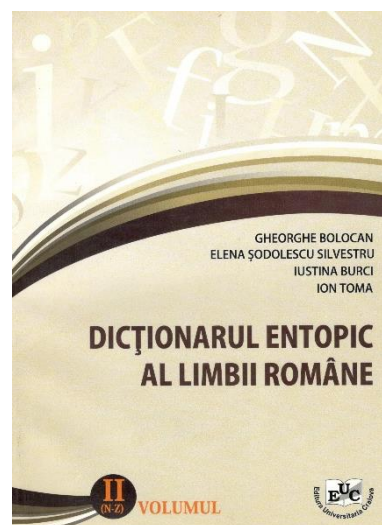
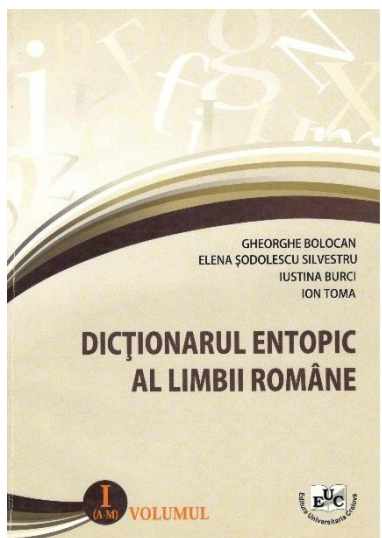




Since graduating from the Faculty of Philology, University of Craiova, specialization Romanian Language and Literature - Italian Language and Literature, 1971, Ion Toma worked as a scientific researcher at the Craiova Centre for Scientific Research of the Romanian Academy. Scientific research actually became a constant concern all his life, as evidenced by the notable achievements confirmed by the publication of books, studies, and articles covering 36 years of activity in research and higher education.

In the field of scientific research, Ion Toma authored and co-authored 15 books and 121 specialized studies and articles or focusing on general cultural information. The doctoral thesis *Arii și structuri în toponimia Olteniei*, defended in 1980, was published at the University of Craiova Printing House in 1988. The results of the field research of the place names in Oltenia were used for drafting *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Oltenia*. Ion Toma is part of the editors' team for the first three volumes of this dictionary.

In 1996, Ion Toma published the book *Limba română contemporană* at Niculescu Publishing House, and in 2000 *Lexicologia limbii române*, at the University of Bucharest Publishing House. It is also noteworthy to mention *Compendiu de limba română*, a work published by the Romania of Tomorrow Foundation Publishing House, Bucharest, 2005. We have mentioned above the book *101 nume de locuri*, Humanitas Publishing House, 2015. This book can be considered the climax of toponymic investigation as regards the multicritical analysis of the analyzed oikonyms, considering “the methods of historical grammar and toponymic etymology”. The names of places discussed as articles concern names of localities (Abrud, Bârlad, Brașov, București, Cluj, Craiova, etc.), geographical formations (Carpați), rivers (Bistrița, Buzău, Varaș, Cerna, Criș, Dâmbovița, Doftana, Ialomița, Lotru, Nistru, Prut, Someș, etc.), historical regions and names of counties



(Dobrogea, Maramureș, Mehedinți, Moldova).

It is also worth mentioning Ion Toma's collaboration in synthesis works, such as *Enciclopedia limbii române*, elaborated by the "Iorgu Iordan" Institute of Linguistics of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, 2001, or his presence, in recognition of his scientific contribution, in the work *Lingvistica românească*, developed by the "Iorgu Iordan - Alexandru Rosetti" Institute of Linguistics, Romanian Academy Publishing House, Bucharest, 2018.

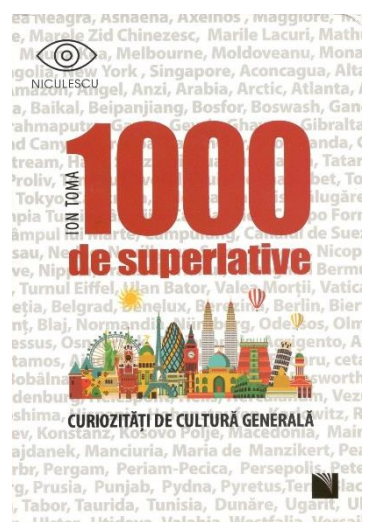
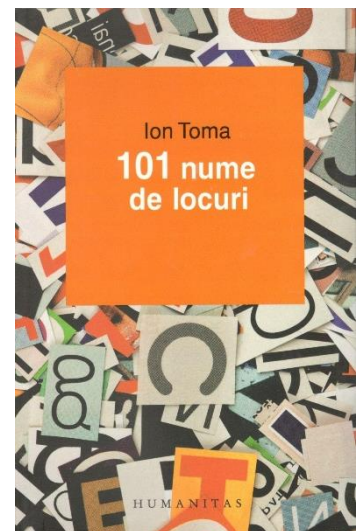
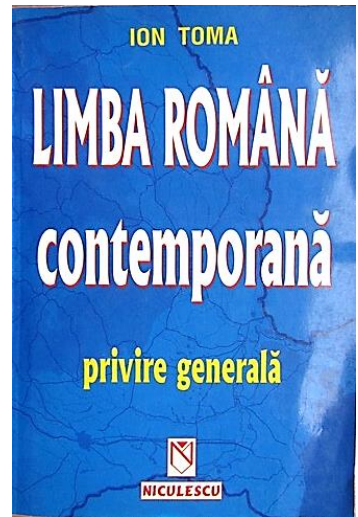
For the remarkable results obtained in scientific research, professor Ion Toma acquired the status of PhD supervisor at the University of Craiova. I had the opportunity to participate in several meetings where his PhD students defended some papers, an opportunity to note the requirement for ensuring a high standard of scientific research.

As for the teaching activity, Ion Toma went through all the positions in higher education: teaching assistant (1976), assistant professor (1990), associate professor (1991), professor (1994). We should also mention the quality of visiting professor at the University of Bucharest (1991-2000) and at the Police Academy (1997-2000).

In 1994-1995 he worked as a Romanian language lecturer at the University of Skopje. In 1997-1998 he worked as a professor at the Faculty of Archive Keeping of the Bucharest Police Academy.

In addition to the academic courses mentioned above, one should also remember, as far as his didactic activity is concerned, the volumes signed with Dumitru Ivănuș, which present the solutions to the Romanian language tests at all faculties in the country for a period of two years, where the Romanian language was a written exam.

Over the years, Ion Toma held various management positions in higher education: vice-dean of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures and dean of the Faculty of Romanian Language and Literature of the "Spiru Haret" University, rector of the Adventist Theological Institute in Cernica, Ilfov county. Ion Toma



was awarded by the Romanian Academy the Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu prizes for the collective work *Dicționarul toponimic al României. Oltenia*, and the Timotei Cipariu prize for the collective work *Enciclopedia limbilor romanice*.

To those who knew him and were close to him, Ion Toma was a great colleague and friend. With a solid specialized culture, Ion Toma distinguished himself as a modest man in his relations with family and friends, jovial, well-disposed, always helpful.

Professor Teodor Oancă, PhD,
University of Craiova