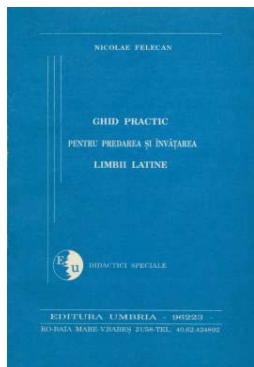


## NICOLAE FELECAN, A PRESTIGIOUS PHILOLOGIST

At the end of last year, Romanian linguistics lost one of its great master minds.

Outstanding personality of the academic life in Baia Mare, Nicolae Felecan – the Man, Professor and Philologist, the one who won easily, and for a long time from now on (thanks to the nobleness of his soul, doubled by the vocation of teacher and researcher), an important place in the hearts of those who knew him or whom he

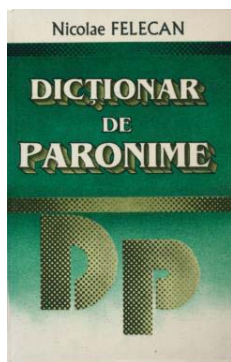


guided throughout his teaching career, the one who contributed

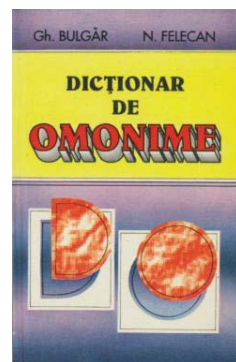
essentially, through valuable writings, to the development of lexicology, history of language, grammar, dialectology, toponymy, and anthroponymy - left us; but not before offering us, like the last swan song, another volume, *Lingvistică și filologie română/ Romanian linguistics and philology* (Cluj-Napoca, Mega Publishing House, 2020), which reveals, in addition to vast knowledge, the sensitivity of his soul:

we find it in the pages in which he tells us about the people who moulded him or whom he met, at various times, during his life or career.

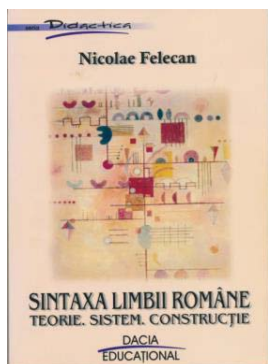
His journey began in 1941, in a Transylvanian village, Caila; his love for books later led him to Bistrița, where he attended the “Liviu Rebreanu” high school and, further, to the capital, as a student at the Faculty of Romance,



Classical and Oriental Languages, University of Bucharest. In 1976 he was awarded, at the Institute of Linguistics and Literary History of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca branch, the title of doctor, with a thesis on *Sistemul lexico-semantic al termenilor ce denumesc părțile corpului uman în limba română / the Lexical-semantic system of the terms that name the parts of the human body in Romanian*. These are stages of his becoming, which he remembers with nostalgia and enthusiasm: “The memories of the school years and the teachers I met during this journey... can only bring moments



of joy and, at the same time, a special youth of the soul. Remembering this period is gratifying and contemplative. Thinking about your own person, you can't help but see through the eyes of your own mind the effort of teachers to train you, to imprint principles and norms of life, to protect you from slips and compromises and to keep you, despite any uncomfortable situation, in a position of uprightness towards anyone and anything"<sup>1</sup>.



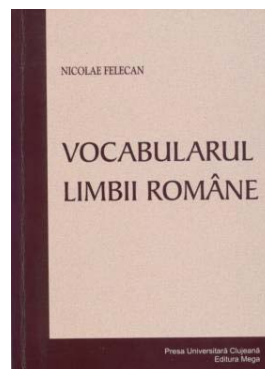
The same mission, "inherited" from his teachers, namely to plant in the minds and souls of students the passion for books and the ability to distinguish between good and evil, truth and lies, value and non-value, was assumed by Nicolae Felecan in the didactic activity he carried out both in the pre-university environment – from 1984 to 1993, as a teacher of Latin and principal of the "Mihai Eminescu" High School, the former Industrial High School

no. 9 in Baia Mare, a period in which he also initiated the organization of the National Latin Language Olympiad – and in the academic world – a space where he went through all the stages of personal specialization, from junior assistant to professor, at the North University of Baia Mare. The positions of dean and vice-rector, which



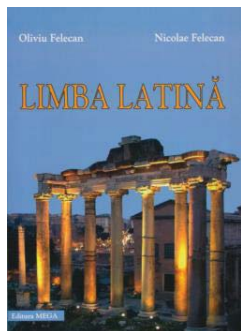
he later held, were for the benefit of this institution, as he

contributed in an essential manner to the establishment of the Faculty of Letters, and within it, to the emergence of new areas of study: applied modern languages, pastoral and didactic Orthodox theology, pastoral and didactic Greek-Catholic theology, social assistance, philosophy, journalism, and fine arts, all intended to meet the requirements of reality in this part of the country, whose fine connoisseur he proved to be.



<sup>1</sup> *Lingvistică și filologie română*, p. 267.

By the works published by Professor Nicolae Felecan, Romanian linguistics has been greatly enriched. Syntax, lexicology, dialectology, onomastics, folklore, Latin are just some of the areas he approached with great rigour and original scientific results. He authored or co-authored a series of books/ dictionaries/ reference volumes in the



above-mentioned sectors. These include: *Graiul, etnografia și folclorul zonei Chioar/The speech, ethnography and folklore of the Chioar area*<sup>2</sup>

(1983), *Paronimia în limba română /Paronymy in Romanian* (1993), *Ghid practic pentru predarea și învățarea limbii latine /A practical guide for teaching and learning Latin* (1994), *Dicționar de paronime /Dictionary of paronyms* (1995), *Dicționar de omonime*

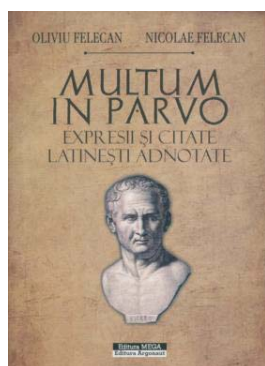
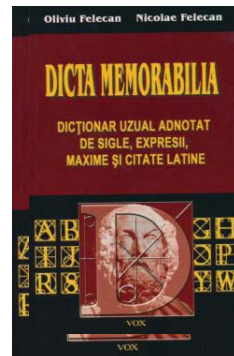
*/Dictionary of homonyms* (1996), *Probleme de vocabular și de exprimare corectă /Problems of vocabulary and correct expression* (1999), *Dicționar de omonime lexicale și gramaticale /Dictionary of lexical and grammatical homonyms* (2001), *Sintaxa limbii române. Teorie. Sistem. Construcție /Syntax of the Romanian language. Theory.*

*System. Construction* (2002), *Vocabularul limbii române*

*/Vocabulary of the Romanian language* (2004), *Terminologia corpului uman în limba română /Terminology of the human body in the Romanian language* (2005), *Dicta memorabilia. Dicționar uzual adnotat de sigle, expresii, maxime și citate latine /Dicta memorabilia. An annotated handbook of Latin abbreviations, expressions, maxims and quotes* (2007),

*Limba latină. Gramatică și texte /Latin. Grammar and texts* (first edition, 2007; second edition, 2008), *Între lingvistică și filologie/*

*Between linguistics and philology* (2011), *Multum in parvo. Expresii și citate latinești adnotate /Multum in parvo. Annotated Latin expressions and quotes*



<sup>2</sup> Volume awarded the “Timotei Cipariul” prize of the Romanian Academy.

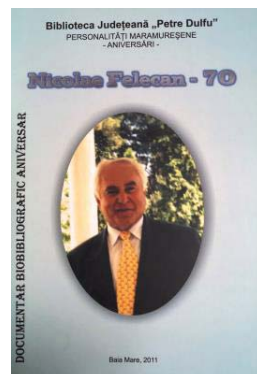
(2013), etc. We are convinced that at least some of the previously mentioned works are in the private libraries of book lovers, be they students, teachers, or researchers.

To these are added numerous studies and articles published in specialized journals in the country and abroad, as well as the participation in congresses, conferences, national and international scientific events (in Italy, Spain, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Belgium, etc.).

As regards onomastics, the articles he signed as author or in collaboration with Oliviu Felecan (the son in whom he instilled his passion for this “occupation”) – *Categoriile antroponimice: nume, supranume, poreclă /Anthroponymic categories: name, appellation, nickname, Denumiri ale lăcașurilor de cult din România/ Names of places of worship in Romania, Sacru și profan în oiconimie. Aspecte etimologice; Antroponimia, indice al multiculturalismului. Studiu de caz: Gimnaziul latino-catolic din Bistrița (1729-1779)/Sacred and profane in oikonymy. Etymological aspects, Anthroponymy, an index of multiculturalism. Case study: the Latin Catholic Gymnasium in Bistrița (1729-1779), Considerații asupra oiconimelor Caila și Purcăreț/ Considerations on the oikonyms Caila and Purcăreț, Denumiri ale băuturilor spirtoase tradiționale românești /Names of traditional Romanian spirits, Observații cu privire la oiconimele Let(c)a, Letea, Lita, Liteni /Observations on the oikonyms Let(c)a, Letea, Lita, Liteni, StratURI etimologice reflectate în hidronimia românească /Etymological layers reflected in Romanian hydronymy, etc., represent equally valuable scientific contributions in the field.*

Last but not least, we must note that in the last 10 years, Baia Mare has been a landmark on the map of Romanian and international onomastics thanks to the efforts of Oliviu Felecan, Nicolae Felecan, and Daiana Felecan, to organize periodically the series of “Name and Naming” (ICONN) conferences at the North University. These have enjoyed a wide participation from around Romania and other countries, and the resulting volumes have been appreciated with internationally recognized indexing.

A spirit of high human and professional class, Nicolae Felecan remains, over time, present in our memory: both of those he educated directly, as a teacher and parent, and of those who have read and will read his scientific contributions.



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