

Dragomirescu, Dumitru (1910–1981)

GHEORGHE MODORAN

Gheorghe Modoran, Ph.D., is a retired university lecturer of church history. Modoran lives in Romania.

Dumitru Dragomirescu was a renowned Adventist educator and scientist from Romania.

Early Life

Dumitru Dragomirescu was born on July 2, 1910, in Techirghiol, Constanța, in present-day Romania.¹ Following the example of his widowed mother, he became a Seventh-day Adventist. After he finished high school in 1926 in the city of Râmnicu Vâlcea, Petre P. Paulini, a Romanian Adventist, noticed him as a smart and promising young man. Paulini prompted Dragomirescu to study at the denomination's Biblical Institute, located at that time in Diciosânmartin. In 1930 Dragomirescu graduated alongside Gheorghe Gherase, Luca Constantinescu, and Nicolae Gheorghîță as the first-generation students of the four-year Institute in Diciosânmartin.

Further Education and Church Work Experience

After completing his compulsory military service, Dragomirescu was appointed instructor at the Biblical Institute in Brașov. However, he first was sent to study for two more years at Collonges Adventist Seminary in France. Once he returned to Romania, he resumed his position as a teacher at Stupini, teaching Physics, Chemistry, Physiology, and Music.

In 1940 Dumitru Florea, the union president, asked Dragomirescu to come to Bucharest to teach courses at the Industrial Secondary School, then operating in one of the buildings of Labirint church. Dumitru taught in the Faculty of Science, Physics, and Chemistry.

Work Experience Outside the Church

With the onset of World War II, the union had to dismiss several employees, including Dragomirescu. Once he was left without a job, his family went through great difficulties. Then University of Bucharest Professor Dr. Horia Hulubei asked Dragomirescu to be his assistant, although, at that time, he was still a student and, as an Adventist, did not work on Sabbath. Dragomirescu began employment at the university.

While still an adjunct lecturer, Dragomirescu presented practical seminars yearly, and lectured students in physics, chemistry, and nuclear physics. When Dragomirescu became a regular lecturer in 1955, he specialized

in presenting practical seminars and lectures about the use of isotopes to final-year students. Moreover, he taught classes about radioisotopes and their application within the framework of postgraduate courses for engineers, chemists, biologists, and doctors working in this field.

Beginning in 1949, Dragomirescu also worked at the Institute of Atomic Physics as head of the laboratory, where he did research. His superior was the same professor, Horia Hulubei². Subsequently, Dragomirescu occupied all the ranks within the Faculty of Physics and Chemistry until he was appointed University professor in 1961.

Later Years

Because he worked in a radioactive environment, he paid the price of being irradiated year after year, damaging his health. He died in 1981 at age 71. He remained a faithful member of the Adventist Church until his death.

A man of both science and faith, Dragomirescu's legacy stands out in a world where many see science and faith as incompatible.

NOTES

1. Much of the information in this article was gleaned from the book *Adu-?i aminte* (Remember), by Mircea Dragomir, and supplemented by a hand-written biography by Estera Dragomirescu.
2. Horai Hulubei was a renowned scientist of his day and the pioneering director of the Institute of Atomic Physics (1956-1968). For details on the institute, see https://www.ifa-mg.ro/about_en.php; https://www.ifa-mg.ro/curier_fiz_66_en.php.

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