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**VECESLAV HARNAJ
1917-2017**



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Introduction

A year ago, I was at a fair of beekeeping products in Cluj-Napoca. I asked many of those present, sellers, producers or buyers, if they knew who Veceslav Harnaj was since that name was written on the labels of many of their apiculture products. My sadness was great when I realized that almost no one knew who he was and I decided that it was my duty, as a niece of Veceslav Harnaj, professor and engineer, a genius of this country, to write for those who did not know him. Suddenly I realized that was a special moment: 100 years since he had been born in a world-forgotten village in Bessarabia, in a family of priests and intellectuals, people with many qualities. Reading this book, you will discover a very special man: highly intelligent, gentle, good, a man who loved people and bees!

Ileana Popovici

VECESLAV HARNAJ - LIFE AND ACTIVITY

Childhood in Baimaclia

In Bessarabia, the beginning of the 20th century was marked by the consolidation of the collective mentality in the sense of national development; following the example of other nationalities in the Russian Empire, Moldavians campaigned for political, national, cultural, social, economic and administrative changes.¹ The Orthodox Church also played an important role in the creation and development of the Romanian culture and national awareness in Bessarabia, not only by militating for the introduction of the local language in education and church service, but also by providing a favourable background for the development and spreading of national ideas; many of those who constituted the new political movement graduated from the Chisinau Theological Seminary (Halippa, Ciugureanu, Pelivan, Inculeț, Constantin Popovici, etc.); Bishop Jacob Piatnitsky (1898-1904) obtained from the Holy Synod the approval (in 1900) to print books, pamphlets and papers with religious and moral content "in Moldavian, with Cyrillic letters, with or without a Russian parallel text"²; in the 1905 strike, the Chisinau seminarians demanded the introduction of Romanian language in

¹ However, there were opponents even among the Moldavians - Lucia Sava, "În căutarea identității: Chișinăul în perioada țaristă (1812-1918)", in Sergiu Mustață, Alexandru Corduneanu (co-ord.), "Identitățile Chișinăului", Pontos, Chișinău, 2012, p.77.

² P. Cazacu, "Moldova dintre Prut și Nistru. 1812-1918", Viața Românească, Iași, etc., p.135.

schools; ‘‘Luminătorul’’ (1908-1944), the official magazine of the Diocese of Chisinau and one of the most lasting Romanian magazines, is considered an important landmark in setting up the national press.

If, in the first decade after its annexation in 1812, Bessarabia had a special status of administrative autonomy (the High Council consisted of 11 members, 5 of which were appointed by the Tsar and 6 were elected from among the local boyars for a period of 3 years; the working languages of the administration were Russian and Romanian³). The next years a process of harmonization with the other provinces followed (in 1828, the High Council was replaced with the Province Council, with less responsibilities; the Russian language became the official language of the Province Chancellery), and from the late 1860s to early 1870s, the Orthodox Church and Bessarabian education system underwent an aggressive Russification process and became tools of promoting this new policy. The Diocese of Chisinau and Hotin was transformed into a metropolitan seat and subordinated to the Russian Patriarchate; in 1871 a decree of the Tsar (an ukase) was issued that stipulated the cessation of using the Romanian language as a subject of study in schools; the religious printing house in Chisinau was closed by order of the Holy Synod (1882⁴); measures were taken to replace the Romanian language with the Russian language among the clergy (especially under Archbishop Pavel Lebedev, 1871-1882); the colonization policy led to a change in the national structure: at the 1897 census, of about 1.8 million inhabitants, 47.6% were Romanians (Moldavians)), less than in

³ Ștefan Ciobanu, *Cultura românească în Basarabia sub stăpânirea rusă*, Editura Asociației Uniunea Culturală Bisericească din Chișinău., 1923, p.17-20.

⁴ According to other sources, in 1883; also Katja Lasch, " *Basarabia în secolul al XIX-lea – un bilanț al evoluțiilor administrative, demografice, economice și culturale*", în *Societatea de Științe Istorice din România, Studii și articole de istorie*, vol. LXXIX, 2012, p. 23.

1817⁵, since now, it seems," all those who knew the language of the authorities were registered as Russians"⁶. Although the Russification process was aggressive, there is evidence that Romanian was still used in administration, especially by the village civil servants.⁷

Although as a result of this policy the great majority of the clergy held religious services under the old Slavonic Order and carried out their missionary activities in Russian, the appropriation of Russian language and culture through the Church did not have the expected outcome. Peasants, for whom the practice of religious rituals in their mother tongue was important, had a rather formal attitude, "often indifferent ... to the official Church and the liturgy, its meaning becoming less accessible to most parishioners".⁸

Priest Dimitrie Harnagea and the National Celebration in 1906

The 1939 Encyclopedia of Contemporary Figures of Bessarabia (*Figuri contemporane din Basarabia*), an initiative of the ARPID

⁵ The 1817 official record shows that 76% of the approximately 490 000 inhabitants of Bessarabia declared themselves Moldavians/Romanians. However, several sources consider that these figures may not be correct: very many people refused to take part in the "registration", and, in 1814, the ethnic Germans had already been displaced - Dinu Poștarencu, '*Populația Basarabiei în perioada țaristă*', *Historia*, magazine, available at <https://www.historia.ro/section/general/articol/populatia-basarabiei-in-perioada-tarista>.

⁶ Mircea Rusnac, *Recensăminte și mărturii în Basarabia Țaristă (1812-1918)*", in History.MD, available at http://www.istoria.md/articol/446/Recens%C4%83minte_%C5%9Fi_m%C4%83rturii_%C3%AEn_Basarabia_%C5%A2arist%C4%83.

⁷ A "book of payment", 1863-1878, in which the peasants' imposts were recorded, was written both in Russian and Romanian. Ștefan Ciobanu, '*Cultura românească în Basarabia sub stăpanirea rusă*', Publishing House of the Association "Church Cultural Union in Chișinău", 1923, 155.

⁸ Oleg Grom, "*Confesiune și etnicitate în Basarabia la începutul secolului al XX-lea*", în *Archiva Moldaviae*, vol. V, Iași, 2013, p.184.

publishing house in Chisinau, offers a very interesting portrait of priest Harnagea, the father of Veceslav Harnaj. The work was intended to recreate "a sober biographical fresco of the representative elements that marked the cultural, secular, school, religious, economic, professional and national action that took place in our country".⁹ About Dimitrie Harnagea, a priest in the village of Baimaclia, Causeni district, Bender County (Tighina), we read that...

...'' in the years of rejuvenation of the Bessarabians, he took part, with Mateevici, Madan and Gheorghian, in the choir organized by Bessarabia Gazette. He is also a passionate beekeeper. He has a model bee garden of about 100 systematic beehives. He took part in many apiculture exhibitions.

He popularized beekeeping among the people, publishing various articles in specialized papers such as: *Romania apicola*, *Buletinul apicultorilor* and *Cuvant Moldovenesc*. He printed the brochure *Ocupati-va cu albinaritul*.¹⁰

Dimitrie Harnagea (11.1.1886-4.1.1944), iconom archpriest, is known to have been the first teacher in the village of Baimaclia. He is also the founder of "St. Dumitru" church, at whose construction he worked, in shirt and homespun peasant trousers, side by side with the peasants. Since 1994, this church has been among the state-protected monuments in the Republic of Moldova.¹¹ He married Julia Dolgaia (Alexei Dolghii's daughter¹²), from Oxentea, Dubasari, on July 29, 1911, and they had five children: Agnesa (1911-1992), Claudia (died

⁹ '' *Figuri contemporane din Basarabia*'', ARPID Publishing House, Chisinau, 1939, p.XX.

¹⁰ Ib. p.70.

¹¹ Decision no. 1531-XII of Hotărârea nr. 1531-XII din 22.06.1993, in *Monitorul Parlamentului Republicii Moldova*, 1994, no. 1, art. 4.

¹² The oral tradition supports the idea that Julia (or Iuliana) came from an old noble Russian family- Dolgorukii.

of peritonitis at the age of 15), Spiridon (died in an accident at the age of 6), Veceslav (1917-1987) and Nina Neonila (1920-1997).

Priest Dimitrie brought the first beehives to the village, and in his garden he built several church-shaped beehives, telling children that the village was like a hive, and people must gather around the church as the bees gathered around a hive. On the cover of *Romania apicola*, issue no. 7, 1934, there was a photo of the priest Harnagea and his family in the Baimaclia apiary.¹³ As a matter of fact, apiculture was becoming an increasingly popular activity: it seems that around 1900, a beekeeping association was already operating in Chisinau.¹⁴

In 1913 there were 43 000 hives in Bessarabia, in 1920 the number increased to 75 507¹⁵; Conferences and bee keeping courses were organized by the zemstva, and, in 1921, in Tighina County there were beekeeping instructors "from both the Zemstava and the State, as well as demonstrative apiaries belonging to the State and the Zemstva".¹⁶

Vasile Harnagea, Dumitru's father, was born in Leca, Ismail County; He studied at the Ismail Theological Seminary (there is no information about this period) and married Sultana, Teodor's daughter. He was a priest in Ceaga (Petrivka), Tarutino district,

¹³ Traian Volcinschi, "Aspecte mai puțin cunoscute din activitatea profesorului doctor inginer Veceslav D. Harnaj", în *România apicolă*, Year LXXV, no.3, March 1991, p.20.

¹⁴ Eugen Mârza, "120 years of apiculture activity in Romania, desfasurata intr-un cadru organizat", in *Romania, apicola*, year LXXVIII, no. 1, January 1994.

¹⁵ S. Stodulshi, "Apicultura din Basarabia", in *Prietenul Apicultorului* ((Monthly magazine of the Beekeepers Society "Apicultorul"), year 1, no. 1, Eparchial Printing House, Chisinau, May 1921, p.3-4.

¹⁶ *Idem*, "Albinăritul în Basarabia centrală", in *Prietenul apicultorului*, year 1, no. 2, Eparchial Printing House Chisinau, 1921, p.4.

Odessa region, Ukraine,¹⁷ where he met Ion and Anastasia Țepordei, the parents of Vasile Țepordei (priest, journalist, political prisoner). Later, Dimitrie Harnagea and his wife settled in Baimaclia, Causeni district, a small locality documented in 1770, whose name keeps track of the presence of Nogai Tatars in Bugeac.¹⁸

Affirmation of the Moldavian Cultural Society

There is no information about how steady Dimitrie Harnagea's journalistic activity was, except for that given by the ARPID publishers concerning the magazines in which he published – *Romania apicola*¹⁹ (Apiculture in Romania), *Buletinul apicultorilor*²⁰ (The Bulletin of the Beekeepers) and *Cuvantul moldovenesc*²¹ (Moldavian word), the last one played an important role in the Bessarabian irredentism, at the beginning of the century. Certainly Harnagea had contacts with the initiators and collaborators at *Cuvantul moldovenesc*, even before the newspaper appeared, especially since most of them had been students at the Theological Seminary in Chisinau at about the same time as Dimitrie Harnagea

¹⁷ The exact time is unknown, but the departure to Ceaga occurred after 1886, the year of his son's birth, Dimitrie.

¹⁸ The toponym is a derivative of the word Baimakly - Anatol Eremia, "*Toponimia Bugeacului: aspecte și conexiuni interdisciplinare*", Part III, in *Limba Română*, no. 2, year XXVII, 2017.

¹⁹ Originally called "*Revista Nationala de Apicultura din Romania*", it was the journal of the National Beekeeping Society, founded in 1915, in Iasi, by D.M. Popovici - v. ACA history, <http://www.aca.org.ro/despre-noi/scurt-istoric-al-asociatiei.html>.

²⁰ The magazine of the Central Beekeeping Society, founded in 1922, in Târgu Frumos, by D. Stamatelache - editorial text in the "*Carti si Reviste*" section, in *Cultura Poporului*, VII, no. 212, December 1927, Bucharest, p.3.

²¹ Weekly Political Gazette "for the Moldavians in Bessarabia and across the Nistru" (1914-1919) and its supplement, a "lucrative literature and practical science" magazine (1913-1917); both were printed in Cyrillic characters. It appeared again in 1943 at the initiative of Leon T. Boga and Iorgu Tudor.

or were among the organizers of the 1906 national celebration, an event attended by the Choir of the Chisinau Theological Seminary organized by the paper *Basarabia*.²² This event, which had strong impact on the society of that time, is one of the first massive manifestations of the Moldavians, after almost a hundred years of tsarist rule, and is considered a demonstration of national consciousness.

Even though the 1905 Revolution in the Russian Empire did not bring about the expected political and economic changes, the relative relaxation that followed (the Duma was a law-making body, citizens were granted some rights, the right to vote was extended) favoured the appearance of important newspapers in the Romanian language²³, *Basarabia* (Bessarabia) (1906-1907), *Moldovanul* (the Moldavian) (1907-1908) and the church-supported magazine *Luminatorul* (The Enlightener) (1908-1944). The zemstvos had again raised the issue of mother tongues in school and, as a result, a Seminar Regulation (1906) provided for the introduction of Moldavian language and Moldavian church music as optional subjects for grades V and VI at the Chisinau Seminar.²⁴ The diocesan printing house in Chisinau reopened after twenty-five years, and the editorial office of the *Basarabia* newspaper was also invited at the inauguration.²⁵

²² “*Figuri contemporane din Basarabia*”, p.70; Ion Negrei, "Affirmation of the Moldavian Cultural Society. National Holiday in Chisinau on December 3, 1906 ", in the Review of History of Moldova, no. 2 (102), 2015, p.83.

²³ Set up at the initiative of Constantin Stere; it was suspended in March 1907 following the publication of Andrei Mureșanu's anthem, *Desteapta-te, Romane!* It reappeared in 1930, under the same name. Among the collaborators are Ion Pelivan, Pantelimon Halippa (under the pen name Pintilie Cubolteanu), Alexei Mateevici, Alexis Nour and others. - Ion Varta, "*Miscarea nationala a romanilor basarabeni in perioada 1905-1914*", *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie al Academiei de Stiinte a Moldovei*, no. 1, 2011, p.183.

²⁴ Mircea Păcurariu, “*Basarabia. Aspecte din istoria Bisericii si a neamului romanesc*”, Publishing House of Moldavia and Bucovina, Iași, 1993, p.97.

²⁵ Ion Negrei, art. cit., p.79.

Not having enough forces to form a political party, some of the intellectuals and boyars set up a cultural society - the Moldavian Cultural Society.²⁶ Its stated purpose was to "contribute by all means to improve the education level of the Moldavians in Bessarabia and to teach them, as much as possible, about their native land."²⁷

Following the model of the inauguration of the diocesan printing house, the Society proposed a Moldavian literary-artistic feast, and those responsible for organizing it were the *Basarabia* contributors: I. Pelivan, P. Halippa, Gh. Stârcea, Inculet, Gheorghe Madan (actor) and his brother, Vladimir Madan (priest), etc. After some delays in obtaining the authorization, the feast took place on December 3, 1906, at the headquarters of the Private Music School, "whose director, Vasili Gutor, of Russian origin, turned out to be a kind person."²⁸ There was a public conference, piano pieces were played, Romanian poets were read, a one-act play was staged and Romanian sentimental songs were sung. An important moment was marked by the Choir of the Theological Seminary in Chisinau that interpreted, among other songs, *Desteapta-te, romane!*

Although the reactions were positive, another similar event was not approved. The intense Russification policy pursued over the previous decades had prevented the development of national consciousness; to this added the slower economic progress compared to the rest of the

²⁶ According to other sources, the Society for National Culture, the leader was Pavel V. Dicescu. By the end of the year, the number of the members had reached about 400 - Ion Negrei, art. cit., p.81; P. Cazacu, op. cit., p.163-166.

²⁷ Gheorghe Negru, ‘‘*Tarismul si miscarea nationala a romanilor din Basarabia*’’, Prut International Publishing House, Chisinau, 2000, p.150-152, apud Ion Negrei, art., p. 80; P. Cazacu, op cit.

²⁸ Ibid. Ion Negrei, op. cit.

Empire or Romania, and a high illiteracy rate.²⁹ Thus, the significance of this event was even greater as it led to a strengthening and expanding of an ideological reflex. In the next decade, national manifestation became stronger, due to the contributions of both the intelligentsia and the clergy.

From the Handwritten Magazine to the Military School

Veceslav Harnaj (born November 7, 1917, Baimaclia, Causeni district, Tighina County, was a child in a Bessarabia which still lived its 1918 unification victories and was now in full swing. There was an intensive process of cultural integration of Bessarabia with the Romanian Kingdom and, in this respect, actions organized systematically took place - at the People's University, founded in 1919, where daily courses and Sunday conferences were organized; cultural centers, libraries, festivals, school sessions were set up in all cities to diversify the means of national education (Bessarabia's literacy rate was very low in 1918). In Baimaclia, his small native town, Veceslav had been familiar with the magazines his father, Dimitrie, was a contributor to, and impressed he had decided to set up a printing house and to write books. Nina Neonila Harnaj, his younger sister, used to tell how, in his childhood, Veceslav managed to "edit" a hand-written magazine (the first one in his life) of his village.

The information was, of course, inspired by everyday realities and needs, and Nina's job was to sell the publication. From the money

²⁹ Bogdan Murgescu, "*Romania si Europa. Acumularea decalajelor economice (1500-2010)*", Polirom Publishing House, Iasi, 2010, p.150-151. However, the agricultural and wine production had increased considerably - Nicolae Ciachir, "*Basarabia sub stapanire tarista (1812-1918)*", Didactic and Pedagogical Publishing House, Bucharest, 1992, p.13, Sorin Bocancea, Radu Carp (co-ord) "*Calea Europeana a Republicii Moldova*", Adenium, Iasi, 2016, p.39.

thus gathered, Veceslav dreamed of buying a printing press. It is not known how regularly this "magazine" appeared, but it seems to have had a 2-3 year existence.

Veceslav Harnaj fulfilled his dream some decades later, in 1966, with the Apimondia Publishing House - a small printing house in which a printing press was reassembled from parts found in a scrap deposit in Germany - and *Apiacta*, a magazine. He had already become the president of Apimondia - the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (since 1965), which was, in fact, an umbrella for his printing business. This accomplishment was really impressive since private printing houses in the Socialist Republic were illegal, but probably due to the fact that its printed materials were in foreign languages and distributed abroad the authorities turned a blind eye.

In 1934, he enrolled at the Military High School "Ferdinand I" in Chisinau, where he was registered under the name Harnaj instead of Harnagea.³⁰ This is probably the moment when, unintentionally, his identity was changed and not the refuge in June 1939, to Romania. The Military High School in Chisinau, the only education institution of this kind in Bessarabia, was established, together with two other Romanian high schools, by the High Decree no. 3613 issued August 21, 1919, and was considered an elite school³¹; the chances of success were 1 in 10³², and the number of students who did not pass

³⁰ Anatolie Lescu, "Invatamintul militar din Basarabia in perioada interbelica. Liceul Militar "Regele Ferdinand I" din Chisinau ", in *theRevista Militara. Studii de Securitate si aparare*, no. 1 (15), 2016, p.105.

³¹ Iurie Colesnic, *Chisinau. Encyclopedie*, Museum Publishing House, Chisinau, 1997, p.23.

³² Id. "Liceul Militar" Regele Ferdinand I "in Chisinau", in *Revista Militara. Studii de Securitate si aparare*, no. 2 (14), 2015, p.129.

their exams was high enough.³³ All the teachers there were higher education graduates, some even having the scientific title of doctor, and during the eight school years, different subjects were studied (religion, Romanian, French, German, Greek, Latin, natural sciences, history, geography, mathematics, hygiene, moral education, philosophy, chemistry, economy, law, military training, etc.). In 1940, the high school was evacuated from Chisinau to Craiova, where it would function until 1942, when it returned to Bessarabia; but the original building had been destroyed by bombs, so the high school was moved to the building of the former Faculty of Theology, until the new exile in Craiova in 1944, and was definitively dissolved in 1945.

At one of the shows organized by the Diocesan High School for Girls, where his sisters Nina Neonila and Agnesa learned, he met Marcela Mărgărit, the daughter of a colonel in Bucharest, who he would marry in 1939. In Bessarabia, during the interwar period there was a common practice: the high schools for girls used to organize dancing parties, celebrations, shows in order to invite the high schools for boys. Even the old confessional school for girls (set up in 1864) followed suit. Veceslav and Marcela would have three children: Albinel-Constantin, Doina and Luminița-Nicoleta.

The refuge in June 1939 also meant the separation from his parents. Together with his sisters, Nina Neonila and Agnesa, and his wife, Marcela, they crossed the Prut to Romania, but Dimitrie and Iulia

³³ . In 1932, the percentage of those who did not graduate was 40%. Many of the students, enrolled here in the first years after this high school was set up, had been brought from other military high schools in the country to be obtained the necessary number of students. Moreover, the education system in Bessarabia was still at a low level compared to the one in the Kingdom of Romania. The situation improved and this high school became one of the most prestigious specialized high schools in Bessarabia - Anatolie Lescu, art. cit., p.92.

Harnagea remained in Baimaclia. We do not know details about the reasons, but we know their reasons were strong enough, given the Bessarabian religious repression of the years 1940-1941: during the first days of occupation, several chapels, churches, asylums, schools (The Diocesan High School for girls, The Theological Seminary, "Ferdinand I" Military High School, "B.P. Hasdeu" High School, etc.)³⁴ had their assets confiscated; all the real estate became state property; taxation was exaggerated, etc. A year later, Nina Neonila (in the meantime married to priest Valentin Popovici, from Floritoaia Veche village, Ungheni district) and Agnesa returned to Bessarabia and would stay there until 1944, when, again, they take refuge to Romania and this time forever. Dimitrie Harnagea died in 1944, and Julia is known to have lived until 1970.

The Dynamics of Polyphaser Fluids and Honey

In 1940, Veceslav Harnaj, second lieutenant of the Engineer Corps, was given the approval to study at the State Under-Secretary of Army Endowment and Administration - General Technical Inspectorate of the Army, "for 4 years and 6 months, starting with November 1, 1940".³⁵ He chose to attend the courses of the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the newly established State Sub-Secretariat.³⁶

³⁴ Mariana S. Țăranu, "Degradaarea sistemului de învățământ, mass-media și persecuțiile religioase din Moldova de la est de Prut în timpul primei ocupații sovietice (1940-1941)", in the series of conferences at the Astra Library, Sibiu, publication no. 118, 2010, p.50.

³⁵ Decision of the Ministry of National Defense, no. 2710 / January 13, 1941, published in *Monitorul Oficial* (Part I), no. 12, January 15, 1941, p.184.

³⁶ Decree-Law no. 3488 regarding the establishment of the State Sub-Secretariats of the Army, Air, Navy and Army Endowment and Administration; published in *the Monitorul Oficial* (Part I), no. 243, 17 October 1940.

In 1949, when the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Fortifications of the Military Technical Academy (Academy, which initially had five faculties, the number of which increased to eight a year later) was set up, he was invited to deliver specialized courses, being considered at that time one of the most competent professors in the national technical higher education system.³⁷

In 1945, he graduated "magna cum laude"³⁸ from the Polytechnic Institute in Bucharest, and became a hydro-engineer. From 1946 to 1974 he had a rich academic teaching career: he was a professor at the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest, the Institute of Constructions, the Institute of Mines, a visiting professor at higher education institutions in Rome, Colorado, Berlin, Paris, etc. In 1971 and 1973, he was senior professor and then vice-rector at the General and Underground Hydraulics Department of the Institute of Oil, Gas and Geology in Bucharest.

Veceslav Harnaj distinguished himself as a specialist in Fluids Mechanics, especially in the science of polyphaser fluids dynamics, and had significant contributions to the development of engineering, geology³⁹ and hydrogeology⁴⁰. He was an honorary member of the

³⁷ Gheorghe Olaru, Nicolae Constantinescu, "The necessity of training in an organized framework of the military engineers for the engineer corps ", in *Revista Armei Geniu*, no. 1, 2014, p.80.

³⁸ Eugen Mârza, speech given at the National Congress of the Association of Beekeepers in Romania, Bucharest, February 28, 1991, and published in *Romania apicola*, no. 2, February 1991, p.6.

³⁹ Giorgio Lollino, Massimo Arattano, Marco Giardino, Ricardo Oliveira, Silvia Peppoloni (co-ord.), *Engineering Geology for Society and Territory*, vol. 7: *Education, Professional Ethics and Public Recognition of Engineering Geology*, Springer, 2014, p.267.

Pontzen Academy, Napoli (1975), chairman of the International Fluids Association (1966) and of the Polyphaser Fluids Technical Committee of the International Hydraulics Research Association (1967), an active member of the Academy of Sciences of New York (1964).

In 1968, he was invited to open the works of the first Symposium on the Hydro transportation of Polyphaser Fluids (Moscow) and in 1969 he obtained the gold medal at the International Invention Fair in Oberhausen (Germany) for the "Directed Hydro mechanical Rumppling", invention patented in Germany, France, Japan and Algeria.

He had important contributions to hydraulic constructions in the country: the foundation on friable soil of some of the hotels in the Mamaia resort, he designed the hydraulic shields used for some segments of the Bucharest subway and some of his technical solutions for the lock system were used at the building of the Danube-Black Sea canal.⁴¹ He was also author of several engineering treatises - *Weirs and Dams*, *Desilting by Hydro-Mechanization*, *Technical Procedures for Sands Drainage*, *Hydro mechanization of Military Works* - and obtained several patents and certificates: "Process for the evacuation of alluvial deposits from accumulation lakes" "Process for the guided hydro mechanical backfill", "Installation for the displacement and the hydraulic

⁴⁰ P. Enciu, A. Feru, H. Mitrofan, I. Oraseanu, M. Palcu, A. Tenu, "A brief history of Romanian hydrogeology", in Nicholas Howde, John Mather (ed.), *History of Hydrogeology*, Taylor & Francis Group, New York, 2013, p.240.

⁴¹ Veceslav Harnaj's obituary, in *Romania apicola*, no. 10, 1988, p.15 See also *Dictionar Enciclopedic*, Marcel D. Popa, Volume III, H-K, Encyclopaedic Publishing House, Bucharest, 1999.

transport of some granular masses", "Hydro mechanization in the excavation works".⁴² He was awarded several orders and medals by several states (Knight of the Order of the French Agricultural Merit in 1976, High Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic in 1978, etc.).

All these activities were carried out in parallel with his great passion, beekeeping. Asked at one point about the link between the mechanics of polyphaser fluids and beekeeping, he said:

*... if we take into account that honey is a polyphaser fluid containing liquid, solid (pollen grains) and gaseous aggregation phases, and if we take into account the concept of the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus - Panta rhei - "All flows" - this is the true link.*⁴³

Traian Volcinski, one of the founders of the Bee Keepers Association (1957) and a close friend to Veceslav Harnaj, said that in 1943-1944, visiting the hospitals where soldiers wounded during the Second World War were lying, he offered to help those who wanted a new professional orientation. A minutes of the Committee of the Central Beekeeping Society stipulated that "lt. V. Harnaj has 300 hives for the disabled in Străulești, and in the spring, the Invalids' Palace is to distribute 250 hives to those who want to take up beekeeping". In one of the articles published in 1943 in *Romania apicola*, entitled "the Beekeeping Initiative in Hospitals", Veceslav Harnaj, who had just made his debut as a journalist the same year,

⁴² Ib.

⁴³ Aurel Malaiu, Eugen Marza, Elisha Tarta, "Prof. Dr. Ing. Veceslav Harnaj. O viață închinată apiculturii naționale și internaționale", *Romania apicola*, no. 8, 1997, p.9.

detailed the methodology of creating this system for helping the disabled.⁴⁴

Setting up ACA-Romania (The Association of Romanian Beekeepers) and the First Steps towards the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

According to the existing sources, 1943 was the year when Veceslav Harnaj made his debut as a journalist in *Romania apicola*, issue 2/1943, the mouthpiece of the (still active then) Central Beekeeping Society, with the article "Stimulating Nutrition". Soon other four titles ("Changing the Old Queens in Spring", "The Beekeeping Initiation Center", "Nomadic Apiculture" and "Initiation Courses in Hospitals")⁴⁵ followed. He got involved in the magazine's work, became its librarian in 1944, then editor, and in just over a year director. By 1948, he had already created a new model of hive, RA 1001, a simple, compact form, easy to pack and transport, with enough volume for the development of the bee family. In 1949, he was elected chairman of the Central Beekeeping Society, but held this position for only two months (September-October). The new political regime dissolved the Society for "unsatisfactory results" and its assets were taken over by the beekeeping department of the National Institute of Zoo technical Research. The Minister of Justice, A. Bunaciu, and the Minister of Agriculture, V. Vaida, appointed an Interim Commission consisting of Nicolae Foti (Agr. Engineer, Ministry of Agriculture), Mihai Buleu (Ministry of Agriculture),

⁴⁴ Traian Volcinschi, "*Aspecte mai puțin cunoscute din activitatea profesorului doctor inginer Veceslav D. Harnaj*", *Romania apicola*, Year LXXV, no. 3, March 1991, p.20.

⁴⁵ . Ibid.

Zaharia Voiculescu (General Confederation of Labour) Valeriu Petruș (Agr. Engineer, Ministry of Agriculture) and Constantin Antonescu (SART).⁴⁶

However, the work of the Interim Committee did not have the expected results, and a reunification of the country's organizations failed. Moreover...

... at the Ministry of Agriculture, the Soviet adviser Grigore D. Bilaș, was asked by Nicolae Ceausescu, then secretary general in the ministry, if in the USSR there was a beekeeping association, the reply was no, which made the attempt to reorganize the association fall into disarray.⁴⁷

Initially called the National Beekeeping Society (1915), this first form of organization at national level had taken ten years to bring together the majority of the existing associations in one organization (in 1925 it was assimilated by the Central Beekeeping Society led by D. Stamatelache, the editor of *Buletinul apicultorului* (the Bulletin of the Beekeeper), the magazine in which Veceslav's father, Dimitrie Harnagea, also published).

Over the next decade, all the attempts to reunify some passionate beekeepers had no success. The permission to set up the Association of Bee Keepers in Romania was to come in 1957, the official recognition in 1958, but only after 1960 the legislative framework became friendlier to the Romanian beekeepers. Their situation was

⁴⁶ Decision of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Agriculture, no. 1350/23 October 1948, published in the *Monitorul Oficial*, no. 250, October 27, 1948.

⁴⁷ Eugen Mârza, "120 years of apiculture in Romania, carried out in an organized setting", in *Romania apicola*, year LXXVIII, no. 1, January 1994, p.6.

far from good: World War II had destroyed most of the bee families in Romania⁴⁸, and the working techniques were precarious (the bee families were kept in primitive hives, which made productivity low, 3-5 kilos of honey/hive; honey was harvested by pressing and not with extractors so honey was of poor quality)⁴⁹. The setting up ACA meant the transition from traditional beekeeping to scientific and industrial apiculture.

The Largest Professional, Apolitical and Nonprofit Association in the Country

Until 1957, Gheorghe Pușcașu (Tulcea), Veceslav Harnaj, Traian Volcinschi, Eugen Marza, Nicolae Ilieșu, Nicolae Fotii, Ionel Barac, Marcela Harnaj, Constantin Hristea, Constantin Antonescu, Valeriu Petruș and Teodor Bogdan Davidescu (Ploiești), Francisc Szoverdi (Cluj-Napoca), Nicolae Chiru (Galați), Vladimir Cudeică (Bacău), Carmen-Lia Spătaru and Victor Veina (Timișoara) took steady organizational steps towards a professional association.

In 1957, the Scientific Association of Engineers and Technicians organized a series of apiculture consultations which led to the setting up of the Association of Romanian Beekeepers - ACA. The president was Veceslav Harnaj, and Secretary General Nicolae Ilieșu. Established in December, it was officially registered and recognized only in June 1958 by the Tribunal of Tudor Vladimirescu district of Bucharest. Veceslav Harnaj was ACA president from 1957 to 1982.

⁴⁸ Estimates show that in 1945 there were approximately 280,000 bee families in Romania (the Institute for Research and Development for Beekeeping).

⁴⁹ Ibid.

Under his leadership, ACA became a complex organization with its own assets, with material and human resources. The systematic, organized development of beekeeping at national level was being pursued. For the best information of beekeepers, there were organized courses for beginners and advanced students, refreshing courses, postgraduate courses, experience exchanges, practical demonstrations, documentary visits, as well as the printing of a significant number of brochures, textbooks, books and a monthly magazine. The magazine *Apicultura*, supported by private contributions too, reached a circulation of 25-30,000 copies. In 1964, the number of apiculture circles was 2,700.

Beekeepers were protected by advantageous prices for bio stimulators, the takeover and selling of apiculture production, the diversification of production and the superior processing of bee products, the supply of necessary machinery and materials. In 1960, 12,000 members were registered at ACA, consequently branches were organized all over the country.

Equipment was also improved (honey collecting tanks were distributed to improve extraction methods, etc.), the production of low-priced drugs and nutritional supplements developed, pastoral apiculture was developed by reducing transport costs, etc.

With the establishment of ACA- Romania, the necessary technical and logistic support was provided for the beekeepers. The success was great, in just three years after its founding, the association had joined an international organization (Apimondia) and numbered 12,000 members, with branches all over the country, and in 1961 an economic enterprise of the association was established - the future Apiculture Group of Enterprises - to produce the equipment and

tools needed for beekeepers. ACA was already a well-developed organization at the time when the Decision no. 769, in September 28 1963, which provided for the adoption of measures for the development of beekeeping, was issued. It was to grant the legislative framework that would offer the basis for the setting up of the other future ACA institutions.

Among other things, the Decision stipulated that the number of the bee families was to be increased, up to at least 1 100 000, in order to be obtained at least 14000 tons of honey and increased amounts of wax⁵⁰, and the Association of Beekeepers ... under the guidance of the Superior Council of Agriculture, to provide, through its subsidiaries, *without the establishment of stores* (the author's emphasize), the supply of the socialist organizations and beekeepers with materials:

- swarms, selected swabs, bee families, artificial combs and bio stimulators;
- equipment for hives, non-standard hives, specialized tools and materials, produced in their own workshops, after meeting the requirements of the Ministry of Interior.

It was also recommended to the association to make purchase contracts for selected bee families, bee swarms and swabs and to organize the exchange of artificial honey combs with bee garden wax and reformed honey combs.⁵¹

⁵⁰ Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 769/1963 regarding some measures for the development of beekeeping, art. 1, published in C.H.D. no. 31 of October 6, 1963; repealed by Decision no. 474/14 June 1999, published in *the Monitorul oficial* no. 338/July 15, 1999.

⁵¹ . Ib. art. 3.

Furthermore, it was envisaged that beekeepers would be exempted from the fees for pasture-setting apiaries, beekeeping would be intensified (books, brochures, magazines, documentary and artistic films, radio and television programs).⁵² Later funds were allocated to set up beehive research stations to monitor the five eco-types of the Carpathian bee, which was already recognized as an indigenous breed.

The First International Congress and the Apimondia Era

The International Federation of Apiculture Associations - Apimondia, created in 1893, facilitated the development of better links among the bee breeders and beekeepers, machinery manufacturers and other related industries. In 1965, FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, granted it a special advisory status as a result of good collaboration (Apimondia joined FAO in 1956).

Apimondia's XXth Congress was held in Bucharest, August 26-31, 1965, with 1,569 participants from 41 countries. Veceslav Harnaj was elected President of the Federation and Paul Horguelin (Engineer-France) and Jaroslav Svoboda (Professor-Czechoslovakia) were appointed Vice-Presidents.⁵³ The congress was, by all standards, a success: 130 researchers from 25 countries held conferences on genetics, pathology and melliferous flora; the number of the member countries increased to 45; more than 180

⁵² Ib. art. 10.

⁵³ L'Union des Associations internationales (UAI), *Associations internationales*, no. 12, Brussels, December 1965, p.727.

scientific reports were presented, divided into five categories (economy, biology, pathology, melliferous flora and pollination) It was inaugurated the first international trade exhibition with 72 Romanian exhibitors, presenting the latest trends in apiculture technology.⁵⁴ Romania won several first prizes and gold medals for the quality of honey and honeycombs.

In the first half of the last century, Apimondia's activities were relatively modest, but under the leadership of Veceslav Harnaj the federation gained an excellent public image.⁵⁵ This focused on development by attracting new members, both national associations and private beekeepers. Ten international congresses were held, some held for the first time in cities such as Buenos Aires, Argentina, Adelaide, Australia, Acapulco, Mexico, etc. The links with ECOSOC (UN Economic and Social Council) and UNCTAD (United Nations Trade and Development Conference) were strengthened. He also reorganized the internal structure and the way the federation worked: the Executive Committee gained more power, a Permanent Commission and national delegations were set up. Until then, the president elected by the congress held this office until the next congress. Veceslav Harnaj decided to change this system and established a 4-year term of office and the president to be elected by the Executive Committee.⁵⁶ His first mandate would have ended in 1969, but he continued to be re-elected until 1985, when he resigned

⁵⁴ The History of Apimondia Congresses, available at <https://www.apimondia.com/fr/bases-donnees/compte-rendus-symposia/45-mission-and-mandate>.

⁵⁵ Eva Crane, "*The World History of Beekeeping and Honey Hunting*", Routledge, New York, 1999, p.456.

⁵⁶ Eva Crane, "*XX International Beekeeping Congress*," in *Bee World*, vol. 47, no. 1, pp. 26-36, 1966.

because of precarious health but he was elected president of honour for life.

In a report of the XXIXth Congress of Apimondia in Budapest in 1983, it was emphasized that "Harnaj, Ph.D., was weakened because of a stroke, but his resistance to the stress of the congress was an inspiration to everyone".⁵⁷ Also now, L.R.J. Ridder van Rappard, the Dean of honorary members of Apimondia, analyzed the evolution of this organization under the leadership of Veceslav Harnaj, pointing out that the number of affiliated associations had increased considerably from 49 associations from 41 countries (in 1965) to 81 associations from 69 countries (in 1981). Apimondia's activity under the leadership of Veceslav Harnaj meant a clever and necessary interaction of apiculture activities with scientific research in the field.

The Apiculture Complex – A Private System in a Communist Country

From 1957 to 1982 the number of bee families in Romania increased from 571,000 to 1,149,000. The importance of ACA had been recognized by assigning it the task to organize the Apimondia's Jubilee Congress in Bucharest in 1965 and the first International Apiculture Fair (APIEXPO). Beekeepers' equipment was greatly improved and honey extraction at national level was already done separately, on flower types, and with the help of special containers distributed by the association and agricultural cooperatives.

⁵⁷ . *Apimondia: Hungary 1983*, available at <https://beekeep.info/apimondia-hungary-1983/>.

However, this rapid development also required to be found solutions to several pressing issues. From 1964 to 1974, Veceslav Harnaj, as president of ACA, developed a unique apiculture complex in the world: an Apiculture Production Enterprise, an Institute for Beekeeping Research and Production, an International Institute for Apiculture Technology and Economy, a private printing house, an Apiculture High Boarding School. A novelty in Europe, the high school - which today bears the name of its founder - was established in 1971 by the Decree of the State Council no. 749/1971, and the first generation of graduates had 33 students. The development of this education body was constant until the first half of the decade after the Revolution of 1989. Students were taught fundamental, specialized and production-related subjects, both theoretically and practically in the high school workshops, as well as in the labs of the Apiculture Research and Production Institute or in the Apiculture Production Enterprise.

The Association of Beekeepers Romania was, at the time, the first professional private law association in the world that had a research institute and a production unit.

The Apiculture Production Enterprise

Established in 1965, this was the only specialized company in the country to produce and supply beekeepers with a full range of beekeeping equipment and installations, artificial combs, bio stimulators, in one word, providing everything necessary for the good functioning of beekeeping. In addition, there was a sector

targeting the production of cosmetic products based on apiculture ingredients - royal jelly, wax, honey, pollen. There were more than 1,000 people working in the 10 production departments.

At the time, this was a global premiere. Designed as a production unit, it had the role of collecting, processing and exporting honey and other apiculture products. Many products, equipment and installations were produced here - three years after the inauguration, the number reached 180 - a large number of them being exported (in 20 countries, the main importer being Germany).

Through the centers in the country, the Apiculture Production Enterprise managed to satisfy the technical and information needs of the beekeepers. The legislation provided for the granting of favorable loans to beekeepers, the income was not taxable, and the sanitary-veterinary assistance was granted free of charge.

Many of the products made at this production enterprise were awarded: in 1969, the Agfa Gevaert Company awarded the gold medal to the documentary film "*Apis mellifica carpatica*" (made in 1967, directed by Joseph Sas at the "Alexandru Sahia" film studios); In 1971, at the XXIIIth Congress of Apimondia, held in Moscow, the USSR, other gold medals were obtained for the 32-axis hydraulic transmission frame, the automated control panel of the honey homogenization line etc.. In 1977, the Băneasa Apiculture Production Enterprise was awarded 16 gold medals for its constructive and technological conception. At the XXIVth Apimondia Congress (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1973), acacia honey was

awarded gold, "the only distinction of this kind ever granted to an assortment of mono flower honey".⁵⁸

The Apiculture Research and Production Institute and the First Apitherapy Center in the World

The first attempts to institutionalize the beekeeping research took place in 1930, an apiculture department was set up within the National Zoo technical Institute of Romania, which became the Zoo technical Research Institute in 1947. Then, from 1957 to 1974 there was a Central Research Center for Beekeeping and Sericulture - SCAS, transformed into the Center for Studies, Design and Education under the aegis of ACA. In 1974, the Institute for Research and Production for Beekeeping was established.

Meanwhile this became ICDA, the Apiculture Research and Development Institute, which was meant to tackle the fields of pathology, genetics and amelioration, melliferous basis, apiculture technology, beekeeping drug production sector, and so on. Here was the first apitherapy center in the world and propolis was turned to good account. In time, biochemists, physicians and pharmacists at the Institute's medical center studied the physic-chemical properties of propolis and developed a series of formulas that even today are still used in the production of certain drugs. With the new legislation since 1990, they have become food supplements. The only private institute in Europe, the ICDA is self-financing.

⁵⁸ The data belong to the "Veceslav Harnaj" Beekeeping Complex, available at <http://www.complex-apicol.ro/povestea-noastra.html>.

The research was aimed at the conservation and continuous improvement of the native bee gene pool, the development of the necessary nutritional supplements for the bee feeding, the improvement of the physic-chemical methods of analyzing apiculture products, the development of new drugs and methods for preventing bee diseases and pests, the deepening veterinary apitherapy research.

Today, it is generally accepted that apitherapy has positive effects in treating over 500 diseases. Propolis has been approved as a drug basis by the National Medicine Agency, and ICDA is licensed to market two propolis-based medicines.

The International Institute for Apiculture Technology and Economy – IITEA⁵⁹

Veceslav Harnaj entered a variety of commercial transit activities from Russia (purchasing from the USSR and Hungary and selling to Italy and France), import and export with apiculture products, especially wax and beekeeping equipment, with exemption from fees in accordance with art. 1 of Decree 370/1970. At that time, in Romania, only state import / export enterprises were authorized to carry out such activities.

Encouraged by his first business success, he transformed the Publishing House into the International Institute of Beekeeping Technology and Economics (IITEA) in 1970. To answer this

⁵⁹ Article published by courtesy of Cristian Constantinescu, IITEA General Manager (since 1985).

purpose, he introduced the term "economic annex" (Decree 370/1970), which even at that time (in a state-owned economy without private property) did not have a legal basis. Maybe he just wanted to say that the enterprise was a branch/representative of a foreign organization to avoid a conflict with the Romanian authorities for its operations. Despite the difficult economic environment, and taking advantage of the weaknesses of a rigid economy, he managed to make money, which he invested in buildings and printing equipment.

On behalf of IITEA, Harnaj also purchased a villa in Castel Porziano (1979) near Rome, Italy, at the price of 90 million Italian pounds, from his own money.

In 1983, without being paid for it, the property was taken over from IITEA by Apimondia.

At that time, for a Romanian citizen it was illegal to own foreign currency and/or buy property outside Romania. Veceslav Harnaj also intended to purchase a building in the heart of Rome, Corso Vittorio Emanuele, not far from Confagricoltura offices and Apimondia. The Secretary General Silvestro Cannamela realized the risks that Professor Harnaj assumed and attempted to temper his activities, otherwise quite normal in a capitalist free market society, but banned in a totalitarian regime. L.R.J. van Rappard (former Mayor of Amsterdam), a distinguished member of the Apimondia Executive Council, used to say that Professor Harnaj had an exceptional feeling for business and would have been a very rich, respected and honoured person in his country.

[illegible]

The Legal Framework

This is why Apimondia's Executive Board took only note of the establishment of the Apimondia Publishing House and its later transformation into IITEA. In order to achieve his business purposes, Veceslav Harnaj always presented his activities in Romania as decided by Apimondia. In its preamble to Decree 370/1970 or the IITEA regulations, he named Apimondia as initiator but, in fact, the Apimondia bodies never stipulated such a statute in its resolutions. The only mention was in 1978 in the "Regulation on the Organization and Functioning of the Apimondia Federation" attached to the status of Apimondia. There is no clue to what happened to this "Regulation" later. Article 2/4 of the "Regulation" provides: Apimondia has the following specialized organizations: a) IITEA with headquarters in Bucharest, Romania; b) APIMONDIA Publishing House of Bucharest, Romania; c) APIMONDIA Documentation Center in Dol, Czechoslovakia. The Association of the Czech Beekeepers (then Czechoslovakia) did not take into account the "specification" of Apimondia and this Center - the richest documentary centre in apiculture information in the world - was and still is in the ownership of the Czech Association.

IITEA – The Decline

Some internal disputes in the Bee Keepers Association, a conflict of personalities, helped in time by anonymous letters addressed to the Romanian authorities, triggered a government financial control at IITEA in the late 1970s. The control was amazed to discover a flourishing capitalist enterprise among the state-owned enterprises

and decided to put an end to such activities. These controls continued in the 1980s and in 1984 Decree 54, which drastically limited IITEA activity, was issued. In addition, IITEA was fined 28 million lei (an astronomical figure at that time), equivalent to several million dollars, because it did not "comply with the law." In fact, Raymond Borneck, vice president, and Silvestro Cannamela, general secretary of Apimondia, took over Harnaj's purchases abroad as well as his bank deposits in foreign currency to save his life. It was well known the fact that Romanian citizens with assets abroad and foreign currency in banks received capital punishment.

Prof. Harnaj fell severely ill and bedridden. IITEA was almost bankrupt. Of more than 300 employees, IITEA, which included the Apimondia Publishing House, numbered only 17 employees in 1984. The printing house was almost out of work and no other economic activity was allowed or was possible. Exports and any other deliveries were banned, and for three years, IITEA could not even send *Apiacta* to its subscribers. When activity was resumed, most customers dropped their subscriptions. Professor Harnaj's illness prevented him from continuing to be the IITEA manager and, in December 1984, named Nicolae Giurcăneanu, who, also scared by the controls, six months later immigrated with his family to Canada. Harnaj then appointed Cristian Constantinescu, editor-in-chief of the Apimondia Publishing House. He spent the last years of his life at the "Ana Aslan" Sanatorium in Otopeni and for short periods at home, together with his wife, Marcela, and on the Black Sea coast. Every day, Cristian Constantinescu visited him at the sanitarium or at home and kept V. Harnaj informed on what was going on at IITEA headquarters. Good or less good news fed his desire to live and to see that what he had created would not disappear. Speaking

with difficulty because of repeated strokes, he went into deep depression, wept almost all the time and asked Constantinescu to take care of his family, especially of the youngest of the family, Luminița. Cristian Constantinescu honoured his promise and helped all the family members until the end of their lives.

Unfortunately, except for Ileana Popovici, neither Apimondia nor the Association of Beekeepers helped them or cared about them.

IITEA – A Difficult Moment

The times were very difficult for the remaining employees. Their dedication, competence and perseverance contributed to gradually resume the activities and reorganize IITEA. IITEA was under the "magnifying glass" of the authorities that kept sending financial control teams annually to verify "the compliance with the law of IITEA activities". Even more, Ceausescu almost ordered the demolition of IITEA buildings since a new boulevard (Aerogarii Boulevard) was to be built in the area. However, IITEA managed to survive, renovating the facades of all its buildings; even a new building was built. The newly improved look of the buildings made the authorities abandon the idea of demolition.

The other problem was the dissatisfaction of the leaders of the Association of Romanian Beekeepers (ACA), who wanted to have a share of the IITEA assets, believing they had the right to take over the "goods" left by their former president. At the end of the 1980s and even during the 1990s, a lot of diplomacy and a wise approach of IITEA leadership prevented this. Former President Borneck and

Secretary-General Cannamela helped the IITEA manager to keep ACA away.

Cheletophyes Harnaji

An accurate record of the national or international awards and distinctions awarded to Veceslav Harnaj - as president of ACA, Apimondia and scientist is not known. Research on the royal jelly resulted in the creation of Apidermin cream, one of the first in the world to use this ingredient, which received the gold medal of the XXIVth Congress of Apimondia (Buenos Aires, 1973); Apidermin has become a benchmark of the Apiculture Baneasa Production Enterprise (in 1991 renamed the Apiculture "Veceslav Harnaj" Complex). Apidermin line includes a wide range of cosmetic products (emulsion, tonic lotion, body milk, hair care products).

During Veceslav Harnaj's presidency apitherapy strengthened its position in Apimondia. Previously, there had been several studies that analyzed the benefits of treating various human diseases with apiculture products, but only in the 1970s, Romania laid the foundation of a sustained scientific research and its results were recognized by the world scientific and medical community. In 1977, Apimondia was already organizing a Permanent Apitherapy Commission in view of "increasing its international importance"⁶⁰, and in 1977, two gold medals (ACA and IITEA) were awarded for the organization of the 1976 Apitherapy International Symposium.

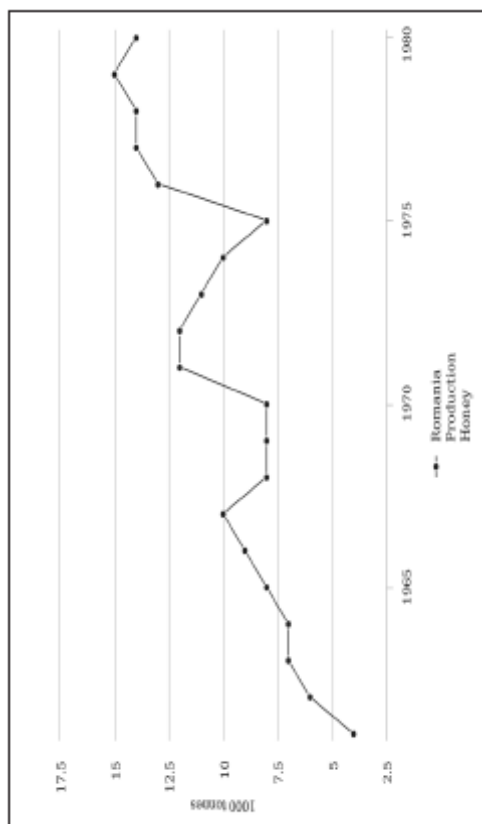
The Romanian acacia honey was awarded gold (the XXIVth Congress of Apimondia, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1973) in a country that at

⁶⁰ Apimondia History, available at <http://apimondia.com/en/the-federation/history>.

that time was one of the most important honey exporters in the world. It was the only distinction of this kind granted to an assortment of mono flower honey. As a matter of fact, this assortment continued to receive gold medals: at the XXVth Congress of Apimondia (Grenoble, 1975, where the sunflower honey was also awarded a prize), at the XXth Congress (Adelaide, Australia, 1977) and others. The technical installations designed by the production enterprise were also awarded prizes: the technological line for honey processing and conditioning in continuous flow, the 32 hydraulic transmission frame, the automated control panel for the honey homogenization line (at the XXIIIth Congress of Apimondia , Moscow, 1971); 16 gold medals for the construction and technological conception of the Baneasa Apiculture Production Enterprise, the breeding stations of the queens (at the XXVth Congress, Adelaide, Australia, 1977). As a proof of the appreciation his work enjoyed in Apimondia is that this institution changed its rules and a person cannot hold the office of president for more than two mandates. However, Veceslav Harnaj, with the approval of the Apimondia Executive Council, ran this organization for 20 years. He resigned in 1985, but was elected honorary president for life.

With the presidency of Veceslav Harnaj, the Romanian apiculture school came out of anonymity. At the time ACA was set up, more than three-quarters of hives in the country were owned by amateur beekeepers. ACA organized and guided the activity of the beekeepers throughout the country, through county branches, town, communal, school beekeeping circles. It had in view the improvement of the native bee by organizing regional selection and breeding centers. It also provided free technical and legal assistance to beekeepers. The state and private apiaries were supplied with

hives and accessories, biological material, machines, bio stimulators, beekeepers, honey conditioners and extraction and conditioning of wax, specialized literature, and so on. The Association of Romanian Beekeepers consisted of about 60,000 members. The number of beekeepers and the number of bee families increased gradually and steadily: in 1989, there were 1 418 000 bee families, all belonging to the ACA, but in 10 years the number of bee families fell to nearly 600 000.



*Evolution of honey production
between 1960-1980. Source: FAOSTAT*

A beekeeper was considered to be a professional if he worked in state apiaries or in agricultural production cooperatives or in forestry. In order to obtain this qualification, a person had to graduate from the apiculture high school or other vocational training (agro industrial high schools) or to be examined by a specialized commission at the workplace. With the graduation certificate received, a person could be employed in a state or cooperative sector.

However, Decree no. 54/1984⁶¹ drastically limited the activity of the Institute of Beekeeping Technology and Economics. The import of raw materials, machinery and equipment was possible only through foreign trade enterprises and the list with these products had to be approved annually by the Ministry of Technical Supply and Control of Fixed Funds Management⁶²; any printed material had to be approved by the Council of Culture and Socialist Education⁶³; the annual tax was set at 30%⁶⁴; the expenses of the Institute included the share of APIMONDIA's expenses too, which could not exceed 10% of the net profit of the previous year, remaining after the payment of the tax⁶⁵

Thus, the political system that aimed at a total control of the whole society by using a large repressive system made no exception for the apiculture or the organization created by Veceslav Harnaj. Some anonymous letters also helped the control team of the 1980s that had

⁶¹ Issued by the Grand National Assembly and published in the Official Bulletin, no. 54/2 July 1984.

⁶² Decree no. 54/1984, art. 2.

⁶³ *Ib.* art. 6.

⁶⁴ *Ib.* art. 11.

⁶⁵ *Ib.* art. 12.

the surprise to find an independent system. The Superior Court of Financial Control⁶⁶ had a special regime of operation, as it also had preventive financial control duties, which made it unique among the other financial control institutions of the time:

Here should be remembered the case of the academician dr. Ana Aslan, director of the Institute of Geriatrics and Gerontology, whom the Ministry of Health obliged to return the money she had allotted for some salary rights for the staff of the institute. Prof. Dr. Veceslav Harnaj, president of Apimondia (the International Federation of Beekeepers) from 1965 to 1985, was also obliged to return his management allowance.⁶⁷

Veceslav Harnaj's contributions to the research and making of remedies in beekeeping pathology, both through his own work and the establishment of a research center (ICDA), are well known. Many of his solutions and remedies created at the Institute are used even today. At the VIIth International Congress of Acarology (August 3-9, 1986, Bangalore, India), B.N. Putatunda and R.P. Kapil presented the conclusions of a research on some species of the genus *Cheletophyes*, the *Cheyletidae* family, the order *Trombidiformes* from *Acari*. Chelatoophyes, associated pests of *Xylocopa* (Carpenter bee or Wild bees), still represent a branch of poorly known bee pathology, as *Xylocopa* includes over 500 species in 31 subgenera. Following research in the Haryana region of India, B.N. Putatunda and R.P. Kapil named one of the seven new species identified

⁶⁶ Established by Law no. 2 of 28 March 1973, published in the Official Bulletin, no. 44 of 30 March 1973. He had a 17-year existence.

⁶⁷ Nicolae Văcăroiu, Verginia Vedinaș, Corina-Mihaela Bălătescu (coord.), History of the Court of Accounts of Romania (1864-2014), Bucharest, 2014, p.176-177.

Cheletophyes Harnaji , in honour of Veceslav Harnaj and his contributions to scientific apiculture⁶⁸ (other species are: *Cheletophyes deodikars*, *C. newtons*, *C. orientalis*, *C. ruttners*, *C. shendes*).

In 2001, a study of the challenges of the beekeeping industry resumed the classification by Putatunda and Kapil, emphasizing the need for an in-depth research into the effects of these mites.⁶⁹ Although there was some controversy - in a 2001 study the collected data were considered as not relevant, the result of Putatunda and Kapil's research as *species inquirenda* (whose identity can be questioned), since all species had been collected from the same region and from only two host species, *Xylocopa fenestrata* and *X. pubescens*⁷⁰ -, now, more and more studies quote Putatunda and Kapil's work on the classification of *Cheletophyes*.

Today, "Veceslav Harnaj" Apiculture Complex is the largest honey exporter of Romania, one of the most important producers in the cosmetic industry in the country and one of the most important players on the market of apiculture implements. The ICDA research has in view not only human products - honey wine, Apireven (a bee venom cream), but also veterinary products – such as those for dogs and cats. Propolis is approved as a basis for drugs in Romania and its

⁶⁸ B.N. Putatunda, R.P. Capel, Seven new species of *Cheletophyes* (Acari: Prostigmata: Cheyletidae) associated with carpenter bees in India, in G.P. Channabasavanna, C.A. Viraktamath (coord.), *Progress in Acarology*, Vol. I, E.J. Brill, Leiden, 1989, p. 321.

⁶⁹ B.N. Putatunda, K. Aggarwal, R.B. Mathur, "Honey bee mites (Acarina), and the challenge to beekeeping industry. A review" in *Agricultural reviews*, no. 22, 2001, p. 210.

⁷⁰ A. Fain, A.V. Bochkov, "A Review of Some Genera of Cheyletid Mites (Acari: Prostigmata) with Descriptions of New Species," in *Acarina*, no. 9, 2001, p.61.

honey continues to be awarded medals (five medals at the International Congress of Apiculture at Montpellier, France, in 2009, gold at the XLII Congress Apimondia, Buenos Aires, Argentina). "Veceslav Harnaj" Beekeeping High School started with a single class of beekeeping, then a boom followed, till the late 90s, and now it is adjusting to the new realities and IITEA (it has become FIITEA) carries on its tradition and organizes conferences and seminars to inform on the benefits of practicing beekeeping and the use of the products developed in over 50 years of modern beekeeping in Romania.

THEY KNEW HIM

Veceslav Harnaj - a Promoter of the Romanian Spirit⁷¹

Aureliu Benu, Baimaclia Scool Graduate.

I had the happy opportunity to personally meet V. Harnaj in special circumstances. I spent my childhood in Father Dumitru's house - the father of the distinguished scholar and professor. He learned at the school that nowadays bears his name, at least I hope so. At that time, until the Second World War, it was the most beautiful school in the village, with a lot of annexes and a cattle yard. Some of the annexes were fitted out so that a room had become the teachers' room and another a library - Harnaj's managerial spirit was evident and had a great impact on the other household implements too. A spacious vaulted Zaim-stone cellar, so large that you could accommodate a cart there. Something special - a wide yard with poplars and limes, each of different species. A massive lilac thicket, and when it blossomed its fragrance filled the air of the whole place. A long and wide alley with decorative shrubs on both sides, paved with massive inlaid stone tiles, which it was a pleasure to keep walking on; when the shrubs bloomed, their dark green, delicate leaves seemed to be floating in the mid-spring. Behind the house there was a garden with walnut trees with huge crowns ... I have not seen such trees since then, their kernels were white and sweet like honey. Fruit trees that

⁷¹ Article published in Literature and Art, weekly of the Writers' Union of Moldova, available at http://www.literatura_siarta.md/pressview.php?l=en&idc=297&id=4159&zidc=1.

resisted for decades - something magical did not allow them to die away. And finally, a line of tall "noble" acacia trees with impressive trunks, which, with their long, thick and sharp thorns like the Roman spears, seemed to guard the whole garden. Not long ago, the "house of the church", the house where V. Harnaj was born, was still there. It hosted a school and now it is to be restored in order to become a museum. Next to it, there is the church built by his father in 1910. Father Ioan Turcinschi, a dignified successor of his predecessor, with solid theological studies in Bucharest, who suffered the consequences of defending his faith during the period of militant atheism, was a priest there for a long period of time. He officiated in Taraclia parish too. In the church courtyard, in a tomb with a modest but at the same time solemn monument, Priest Dumitru, who was also the first teacher in that village, rests for eternity.

V. Harnaj visited his native village and house. He came almost incognito - remember what times those were. He took advantage of his business trips to Moscow and he returned to Moldavia. He was usually accompanied by his whole family. My late mother used to offer them compote made from the fruit picked in the nearby orchard. Many people gathered to welcome the guests, almost the whole village. Each received a gift – a nice badge with a bee on Terra, encircled by the inscription "Apimondia". Those who did not wear it were asked: "Where's your bee?"

In 1992, when it was celebrated 75 years since V. Harnaj was born and when the Baimaclia School was given his name, a delegation from Romania was present as well. The then President of the Association of Beekeepers in Romania, Eugen Marza, mentioned: "V. Harnaj, the son of this land, in this very school, got accustomed

to the meaning of written words and got the elementary knowledge necessary to every person. Later, these teachings were to prove their invaluable value. V. Harnaj was undoubtedly a winner. His work stands proof in this respect. The review of the important events, in the country or abroad, dedicated to the achievements of this prominent personality requires a long list. His best characterization can be read on the marble plate at the Apiculture Institute in Bucharest: "Not positions or titles gave him authority, but it was he that gave them the prestige of his life work and existence that acquired perennial value ". On the meaning of V. Harnaj's life and existence, we must ceaselessly meditate, share the results of his work and his extraordinary existence. Let us not forget that V. Harnaj was always a great Bessarabian who never forgot his birthplace, but he was also a great Romanian who never forgot that Bessarabia also meant Romania.

The message he sends us through time is that we all belong to the same people. His exemplary tenacity and spiritual dedication prove to the utmost that there are no barriers in promoting an ideal, namely that of good, beauty and truth. For all of this V. Harnaj has definitively entered the golden gallery of the forefathers ".

Grigore Lupu, a former class and desk mate of Veceslav Harnaj, said that "Slavcic" was a capable student, a good boy, a good playmate, ready to help his friends in need.

On the same occasion, V. Harnaj's son, Albinel (he bee), said: "From early childhood, on Easter or Christmas or family holidays, I only heard stories about Baimaclia. I was mostly impressed by my father's love for his parents and children. In 1968, when we all came

to Baimaclia, we were particularly impressed by the love showed to us by the villagers. "

On the marble plate, brought then from Bucharest to the school of Baimaclia, it is written: "He stuck to his beliefs and persevered in his actions and he was always aware of realizing an ideal related to the existence, faith, culture and continuity of the Romanian people." Next to it, images from the Apimondia Congresses in Moscow, Greece, USA, Argentina etc. There is also the decision of the Executive Committee of the District Council of Cainari of October 22, 1992, on conferring the school the name "V. Harnaj "and with it a suggestion:" The increasing consumption of chemical drugs urges us to take into account the means of traditional medicine and, to this end, to broaden the research framework, on scientific bases, in this direction. The focus on hive products and medicinal plants occupies a special place. So far, the tests have confirmed the beneficial action of apitherapeutic drugs, which firmly supports the original concept of treating certain diseases, bringing together "the methods of apitherapy and phytotherapy in a whole".

As a historian I have the right to an opinion, even if it is a subjective one. So I consider that the Romanians had two world-class personalities in the interwar period - Nicolae Iorga and Constantin Brâncuși. So far, only V. Harnaj has been their match.

I believe that it is necessary to be in the school textbooks under the heading "Famous People of the Nation" - the students would learn that we are a people of great merit in the context of universal values.

As a child, "uncle Slavcic" (as his family and the Bessarabian villagers used to call him) took me in his arms, asked me if I liked

bees, told me not to be afraid of them as they were good to the good ones ... Harnaj's native village was visited by his successors, Dr. Jurgenson (Denmark) and Gilles Ratia (France). They were very impressed. Now we are having guests again. We are waiting for the.

**Veceslav Harnaj in Baimaclia,
the Village of His Childhood**

*Ecaterina Gutu,
Principal of "V.Harnaj" Gymnasium,
Baimaclia, Causeni District Republic of Moldavia*

Veceslav Harnaj – a world-renowned personality, an exceptional person who came into the world in Baimaclia, Causeni, The Republic of Moldavia. He was known to the whole world as a scientist, professor, great beekeeper, president of Apimondia, author of books, founder of the Beekeeping Complex in Bucharest, founder of the Apiculture High School in the same city, etc.

The first time I heard of Veceslav Harnaj in Baimaclia, in 1983, from my husband Gutu Timofei. The children of the '70s and '80s still remember Uncle Slavcic, as the villagers used to call him, who used to come to his native village, together with his family, on their way to or from Moscow. He used to visit his neighbours and other village people. He often visited Gavril and Iuliana Guțu (my parents-in-law), the Benu family, the Doibanis, the Popovicis, the Cojocarus and others. He was always welcomed with love. My husband remembers how uncle Slavcic took the children in his arms, talked to each of them, asked them if they loved the bees, if they were afraid

of them, and used to tell them not to be afraid as the bees were good to good people. He used to give the children sweets and badges with a bee on Terra, encircled by the Apimondia inscription, and the children pinned them on their chest and wore them proudly. And if one of them did not wear the badge, he was immediately interrogated by the others: "Where's your bee?"

In 1992, as Deputy Director of the Secondary School, I had the honour to meet Albinel-Constantin Harnaj, the son of Professor Harnaj, who had come to Baimaclia to make his father's memory last forever by setting up a museum for which he left a commemorative plaque. At the event, he said that "from early childhood, on Easter and Christmas, I only heard stories about Baimaclia. I was mostly impressed by my father's love for his parents and children. In 1968, when we all came to Baimaclia, we were particularly impressed by the love the villagers showed to us. "

The then students remember that the professor's son gave them fruit, sweets, and the school library received its first books on apiculture. The founder of the museum was the then director, Mr. Mihai Benu. At the same time, at his proposal addressed to the Cainari District Council, by the decision of the Executive Committee of the Cainari District Council of 22 October 1992, the Baimaclia Secondary School was named "V. Harnaj ".

Later, when I was the school principal, I made the official change of the name of the school, "V. Harnaj ", and in 2008, the Secondary School was reorganized as a gymnasium and registered as "V. Harnaj Gymnasium" in Baimaclia.

In 2002, I participated in the International Beekeeping Symposium in Chisinau with exhibits from the school's museum that included information about the life and work of Professor Veceslav Harnaj and the participants in the symposium showed great interest.

In the summer of 2004, we had a project financed by the Soros Foundation in Moldavia. Due to it the Young Beekeepers Circle is currently operating in the school, where the students study beekeeping. Some of them have already become beekeepers with their own apiary.

In 2004, following a 10-day training session in Bușteni, Romania, I visited the Institute for Research and Development for Beekeeping in Bucharest, on the invitation of Mr. Adrian Siceanu (the scientific director of this institute and the disciple of Prof. Harnaj), then the editorial office of *Romania Apicola* and the Apiculture High School, named after Professor Harnaj. Mr. Siceanu donated specialized books from the Institute's library to our beekeeping circle; moreover, since 2004, our students have received regularly *Romania Apicola*, which is an important teaching support in the process of training young beekeepers.

Later, providence brought us a descendant of the Harnaj family, the professor's niece, Ileana Popovici, a wonderful, big-hearted woman to whom the students and the teaching and non-teaching staff took an instant liking. She is a welcomed guest to our school and visits us whenever she has the opportunity and never comes with empty hands. Thanks to her contribution, students have received sets of textbooks, specialized books, several Internet-connected computers, a printer, a fax and other gifts for the students.

In 2014, in the summer, two pupils, members of the beekeeping circle, participated in the International Young Beekeepers Contest in Poland. Here they showed solid knowledge in the field, proudly doing credit to the name of Professor Harnaj.

Today, the gymnasium visiting card is the museum dedicated to Professor Veceslav Harnaj where guests can find out details about his life and activity.

**The Anthem of the Gymnasium "V. Harnaj ",
Baimaclia, Causeni District, Republic of Moldavia**

(Lyrics and music: Burlacu Gheorghe)

A beautiful village with hills and plains,
A school full of loud children,
Oh, how beautiful our forefathers' land is,
This is the village of Baimaclia!

My school, my school,
I'll sing, sing you,
Glorify you, glorify you,
As long as I live!
My school, my school,
A lot of courage, a lot of courage!
We're just
The sons of Harnaj!

The sun rises in the blue sky,
It lights the fire in our hearts.
Make it burn forever, as today
It still burns in the candle for Harnaj

Our Spiritual Father, Veceslav Harnaj

*Emanoil Borzin, Pupil, VIII form,
"V.Harnaj" Gymnasium, Baimaclia,
Causeni District, Republic of Moldavia.*

November 7, 1992 - an important day for our school. Our gymnasium celebrated Veceslav Harnaj, our villager, great scientist, professor, beekeeper known all over the world.

November 7, 2015- big bustle and agitation in our gymnasium. I was standing in front of Professor Harnaj's portrait; we were rehearsing before the conference where the representatives of the Beekeepers Associations of Romania were to participate. I was honoured to play the part of the Professor and President Apimondia. So I was very proud and important. I thought that in order to get into the role to seek some advice from the great Man. As I was to play that part, I had to understand the professor's character. In front of his portrait, I was looking at his face trying to look as serious and good-hearted as he was; I was watching how he was dressed, his shoulders and his upright posture. The emotions I had were enormous since I was wearing his famous tie with bees (which, in fact, is kept as an exhibit in the museum of our gymnasium). He look so imposing and nice and I was having a great responsibility as I was the one to have put on pieces of clothes that had belonged to the great man years before!

Overwhelmed by emotion, I forgot all the words I had to say, I was speechless ... As I had a team that supported me, I calmed down soon and I managed, in time, to resume my playing.

It was extraordinary to be in the position of that smart man, who showed the whole world the great importance of bees; they do not just give us honey, they do not just pollinate the flowers, they are a model of so.



Students of Gymnasium "Veceslav Harnaj", Baimaclia

About Harnaj Veceslav, Captain and Engineer

*Mihail Balanescu, Academician,
Member of the Romanian Academy and the
American Academy of Sciences, former Governor and Deputy
Chairman of ALEA Board of Governors in Vienna,
Deputy Director of IFA-Magurele,
alongside Horia Hulubei*

I, Mihail Bălănescu, PhD., Eng., resident in Bucharest, was a colleague of Harnaj Veceslav at the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Polytechnic School of Bucharest from 1940 to 1945. At the entrance examination, there were 350 high school graduates for 100 seats. At the end of the exam we both were among the top ten with the best results. Harnaj Veceslav was a major lieutenant, he had graduated from a military high school in Chisinau and graduated "cum laude". At the end of the courses of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, he was advanced to the rank of captain in reserve. We were good friends when we were students.

In his career as a construction engineer he was noted as a good designer of strength structures.

I know the family dealt with beekeeping, a job he also mastered. He was involved in the organization of beekeeping in Romania, set up an Apimondia branch here and was president of Apimondia - Romania.

Unfortunately, his life was short and he didn't have time to put to good account all his intellectual qualities.

Mr. Professor

Nellie Pheipher, beautician.

After the earthquake of March 1977, I was working at "Igena" and I was a fresh cosmetician eager to work my way up. Ever since school, I had realized how profound, noble and beautiful this profession was. But I was dissatisfied because, besides money, I had no other satisfaction. It is said that God is working through people.

I received a phone call from a friend who told me that Apimondia had opened an apitherapy clinic where apiculture products were to be used and that they wanted to set up a cosmetics cabinet. Here, the face skin was to be treated only with all the products of the hive: honey, pollen, royal jelly, propolis, beeswax, etc. I remember that at the interview, I felt like I was in a movie. I was accepted! I walked into an immense building with medical offices: internal medicine, ophthalmology, ear and throat, rheumatology, endocrinology, urology, dentistry, a laboratory for tests, a mini research laboratory and a pharmaceutical point. Besides all this, there was a cosmetics office that I arranged with my colleague, Mariana. Nothing looked like the reality outside where we all lived.

I installed myself there, enchanted by the many possibilities, but at the same time insecure. In my agitation as a young, enthusiastic cosmetician, I learned about *Mr. Professor*, who had done and thought everything up to the slightest detail.

Not long after that, our activity started to go like clockwork. The results had started to appear: our clients were young people with acne, women and men with wrinkles, scared of old age. The powerful anti-aging effect of our treatment soon became obvious.

Who was *Mr. Professor*? I had just learned that we would all be gathered because *Mr. Professor* was to come. The hall on ground floor, large and imposing, with stucco on the ceiling, with a superb stove, was filled up. When he appeared, it seemed we all stopped breathing. I saw him for the first time as a sort of film star: tall, thin but looking well, with a jocular, loving smile, eyes of uncertain colour but sparkling. There was warmth, love, and faith in everything he said. I felt this man made me take my flight. So I started up in the desired profession.

Mr. Professor managed to make valuable people join him: doctors such as Paloş Elen, Popoescu Mircea, Popescu, pharmacists, engineers and technicians: Mărza, Mălăiu, competent people able to put into practice his ideas. He set up the apiculture centre in Baneasa, the apiculture products beauty salon, the Apiculture Research Institute, the printing house, all of them at western standards. Also, under his leadership, the Association of Beekeepers of Romania joined the Apimondia International Society. It is rumored that he would have managed to convince Ceausescu that he would increase honey export (without being part of the communist system) astronomically. His grace and his skill proved to bear fruit, the production was going on well, the export was growing, and Apitherapy was in full development and many foreigners, who paid visits to us, kept congratulating us.

The apicosmetics salon yielded results, clients from the country, diplomats and foreigners visited us regularly and were pleased. I remember that foreign delegations of apitherapy specialists came and were impressed by the complexity of *Mr. Professor's* creation and they used to emphasize that such a clinic was unique in Europe.

Although *Mr.* Professor rarely visited us, I constantly felt his warm presence. Thanks to him I was professionally pleased, I had progressed. From him I first heard that if the bees disappeared, life on Earth would come to an end. He was right, wasn't he? I met him a few times, but the smile and the sparkles in his eyes never disappeared, either when he won people's affection or their hatred. I loved him, respected him, and now I thank him for everything that we have become, a bee-cosmetics brand. After his death, his grace remained with us for a while. Lately, unfortunately, the greatness he created has gradually diminished. As for me, I will always be grateful to him. Thank you, *Mr.* Professor!

Harnaj the Professor

Emanuel Tanjala, Photographer.

By 1973, when I was working at the Satul socialist newspaper, I had to illustrate an article about the world of bees, along with Elisha Tarta, a reporter and friend of this newspaper. At that time, in Romania, Professor Harnaj was the best person to open the secret path to those living creatures that offer us one of God's most precious natural medicines. It was in the communist era, when all the leaders, the directors of associations, companies or factories seemed to have been Xerox copies. Disgusting, arrogant and uneducated. When we were invited to the Apimondia director's office, behind Patria cinema, I felt as if we were in a cinema hall where an American or Italian movie had just been released! A distinguished, gray-haired gentleman received us with a smile we were not accustomed to. We had in front of us a welcoming and open gentleman, a presence reminding us of those Romanians we had seen only in the photos from the interwar period. A Romanian lost in a nightmarish world. A nightmarish world we are glad to have escaped from.

He invited us to sit down and asked the secretary to bring us a saucer with some honeycomb. I started photographing him as a precious piece. I was somehow embarrassed to bother that distinguished gentleman and, above all, my colleague who had already begun the interview. Mr. Harnaj already had a breathtaking history in Romania. Elected by the Western world as the head of the International Beekeepers Association, namely the director of Apimondia for the whole world. A professor recognized and appreciated by the world specialists. It was fascinating for us, the journalists of a newspaper

oppressed by the permanent censorship of the regime, to have the honour of being close to this highly gifted professor. In his presence, I felt I was free, no longer under the watchful control of the security officer on duty. At that time, we consider him a national star, a pride of Romania beyond the boundaries, boundaries closed for us, the common mortals. He was ready to give us explanations and patient with the two young people who were also interested in bee-life and not only in the life of the CAP villagers in Romania.

I had no reluctance to take more pictures than I was allowed to do. I was in another world; I had been dreaming of it, but I did not have the chance to see it. I had the impression that we were on a trip abroad, as if we were in the office of a professor in a capitalist country. Only the telephones on Mr. Harnaj's desk brought us to the ground with a bump.

For me, it was one of those trips whose memory remained locked in of my mind. I met then a personality that drove Ceaușescu's system to the bend and stuck a bone in the throat of the Securitate that kept an eye on Mr. Harnaj from morning till evening. I was overwhelmed by the presence of this distinguished Romanian who was so devoted to the bees that he had baptized his son Albinel (little he-bee). I do not know if there was a more knowledgeable person of the rich life of the bees, a mentor of those who wanted to know the miracle of these insects that God blessed with such a divine gift. The bees were part of Mr. Harnaj's life and he had adopted them as a father, as if he had come from heaven here on the earth, where the bees live with us as a family.

Veceslav Harnaj - A Distinguished Personality that Organized and Developed the Romanian Beekeeping

Ion Popescu, Engineer, PhD.

Voicing my admiration for those who, in spite of our extraordinarily agitated everyday life, had the idea of commemorating in a volume of memories the prominent personality of Professor Veceslav Harnaj. Full of emotion, I joined them, bringing him to life in a few lines, trying in this way to make him come back among those who met and admired him.

I met the late professor Veceslav Harnaj in 1974, when I left the Research Institute for Plants Protection and joined the Apiculture Research Institute, which belonged to the Association of the Romanian Beekeepers. He, an internationally recognized personality, was 57 years old. He was Professor, Vice-Rector of the Oil and Gas Faculty of Polytechnic University, specialized in Fluids Mechanics, with numerous internationally recognized patents, President-elect of ACA-Romania since 1958 and President of the International Federation of the Beekeeping Associations - APIMONDIA since 1965.

The professor was a man, a rare thing at that time, that could be approached easily, the door of his office being always open. The human, social and scientific relationships with all those belonging to his field, his subordinates, his generation colleagues, either young or old, were the best. Having a cult for genuine, established and recognized values in the field, but repudiated in those times, he tried to bring them closer, establishing more complex human relationships

than strictly professional ones. He was really filled with joy when he managed to make gestures of collegiality, field solidarity, being a perfect beekeeper, loving and growing bees. Born and bred in Bessarabia, Baimaclia village, his father was an Orthodox priest Dumitru Harnagea, a well-known beekeeper, who published specialized articles on beekeeping. He had the cleverness to adopt such a tone and vocabulary that he was not only heard, but also listened. I would also point out that in close circles, when analyzing and enjoying the expected achievements, the professor abandoned the official, but never aggressive, style, becoming a warm, agreeable, refreshing presence. Sociable, pleasant, always smiling, endowed with a sense of naturalness but also of humor, he had the skill to carry on warm dialogues, ask questions and give temperate answers. As a leader of ACA- Romania, his penetrating spirit was preoccupied to solve the fundamental problems of beekeeping - research, production, education, which he initiated, organized and integrated in an exemplary manner on the Bucharest-Baneasa apiculture center, which, in his honour bears his name. Besides the succinct presentation of his qualities, the professor was, above all, a MAN, being everything what this word stands for: good and generous, aware of the problems our beekeeping and especially our beekeepers were faced with. Full of charisma, endowed with much common sense, he triggered maximum sympathy, being a true representative of the field. Professor V. Harnaj was a good connoisseur of people, he knew how to choose his disciples and how to create a team spirit in order to get support for solving the problems beekeeping was faced with. At work, his speech was firm, confident and wise, every word weighed hard, with its place well-chosen in developing the ideas and the sentences. His directives were

methodical, proving experience and the gift of clearly presenting what was to be transmitted, proving a distinct organizational and intellectual discipline. All this made him, in contact with people - dialogue partners - enjoy respect, trust and goodwill. Personally, I am happy I had the opportunity to meet and be introduced to such an extraordinary man like Professor Veceslav Harnaj and become one of his close collaborators. My varied activities, under the professor's co-ordination, were based on mutual respect and affection, and I always managed to achieve the proposed objectives. I would like to emphasize only one of the great actions, implying uncommon responsibility, I was involved in, on the request of the professor as president of Apimondia, in 1980. It is about arranging, furnishing and equipping a building in Rome, Italy, which was to become the permanent headquarters of Apimondia, which until that date was operating in a rented space. I stayed there for 3 months (May 15 - August 15 1980). During my stay there, the professor visited me three times in order to check my work. On each occasion, it was appreciated. The hours and days spent in the company of the great supporter of Romanian and world beekeeping meant for me a new type of education that proved to be useful throughout my life. It is also important to mention Prof. V. Harnaj's continuing concern regarding the training and education of many generations of young beekeepers who graduated from the Beekeeping High School and attended refreshing courses at ACA's Beekeeping Research and Production Institute. At the end of these lines I would like to recall once again the serene look of the charismatic scholar, Professor, Engineer, Veceslav Harnaj, a luminous face full of intelligence, wisdom and noble feelings brought to the service of apiculture and

its supporters, who have the duty to carry on his work and in this way to show their respect and gratitude for him.

My First Meeting with Prof. Veceslav Harnaj

*Valentin Tepordei, Engineer, FIAP Artist,
Arlington VA, USA, February 2016.*

I met Professor Veceslav Harnaj in one of the most difficult moments in my life. It was in 1955, I was 20 years old and I was at a crossroads. I was studying to take the entrance examination at the faculty, but I did not know what to choose. In October 1962, three months after I reached the age of 17, I was expelled from "I. L. Caragiale" High School in Bucharest, together with other two colleagues, Dimmi Lecca and Lutzi Capra. The principal had invited us to his office and told us that we could not continue to be students there because of our "social origin"! Dimmi's father had worked in diplomacy, he had been our ambassador in Portugal from 1940 to 1942, Lutzi's father had been a rich land owner with hundreds of hectares of land in Oltenia, and I was the son of a priest, Vasile Tepordei, a Bessarabian journalist and a fierce fighter against communism, who had been arrested in 1948 by the Securitate and reported ... missing.

The principal advised us, as he pretended to help us, to write a formal request in which to show that "we could no longer attend high school courses because of lack of material means." In this way, it would have been easier for us to find work. What he did not tell us was the fact that, by doing so, we would not have been registered as

expelled from high school, but that we would have been registered as leaving it on "our own initiative." With the help of a friend's family, I was able to quickly find a job as a laboratory assistant at ICECHIM, the Chemistry Research Institute in Bucharest. Overnight, I became the family breadwinner. My mother had been fired from the Ministry of Finance after my father's arrest and was then working as a nanny for some families with young children. At ICECHIM, I was assigned to work in the laboratory whose head was engineer Ovidiu Creanga. I worked with him for three years as a laboratory technician. Later I learned that he was also Bessarabian. Only a few days after I started working at ICECHIM, I was summoned to the Institute's Personnel Department by the great boss. The boss approached me in a tough way and accused me of "lying" in my job application saying that "I had left high school for lack of material means." So the principal of the "I.L. Caragiale" High School had made a mockery of us and made us "liars", although the suggestion to write that formal requests had come from him! This first meeting with the head of the Personnel Department was followed by other similar meetings for a few weeks, two or three times a week. By about 3 o'clock, I used to get a call from the head of the Personnel Department asking me to come to his office after I did my duties and wait for him. He went home, ate and returned at 5-6 p.m., and I stood still and terrified for two or three hours to wait for him at his office door. Every time I thought he was going to fire me. Mental torture!

In the three years spent at ICECHIM, every two or three months I sent letters to the Secretary General of the RCP asking permission to finish my high school courses. Finally, in the spring of 1955, I received the approval to finish high school attending extra-mural

courses and take my baccalaureate exam. Thus, in 1955, in summer, I received the baccalaureate diploma. Victory! From now on, the big problem was to decide on my career. From the age of fourteen-fifteen, I was keen on photography, due to the fact that I had found a Kodak camera thrown by someone. I repaired it and started taking pictures. I was passionately fond of taking pictures from the beginning. I have remained faithful to this passion up to this day. So, slowly, I began to think about cinematography. My mother realized that in the communist system this career was not for me, but she needed an important but neutral person to tell me this, hoping I would be willing to listen. He remembered that in Ceaga, her native village in Bessarabia, the village priest, Harnagea, had a son who had been an army officer, and now he was a professor at the university in Bucharest. Although she had not spoken to him since childhood, she plucked up her courage to contact him and ask for his help in such a difficult situation. To our surprise, Professor Harnaj answered positively to my mother's request and invited us to his home. That's how I met Professor Harnaj. After letting me introduce my point of view and telling how I saw my future and what I wanted to do in my life, Prof. Harnaj clearly explained to me that, as my mother had said, such a career meant propaganda, so it was not for me, a young man with such bad social origin. My father was a political detainee in the Soviet Gulag (meanwhile, we had learned he was working in a coal mine in Vorkuta, north of the Polar Circle), I had been kicked out of high school because of this, and I had no chance of being admitted to such a faculty like that. Professor Harnaj offered me an alternative, recommending me to attend a technical faculty, Engineering in Geology. This would have provided me a future career and, at the same time, would have given me the

opportunity to take photos, only for pleasure not as a profession, while those who would have paid me, they would have always asked me what and how to film. Harnaj offered to help me to take the entrance exam and suggested declaring at the faculty that my father was dead to avoid the verification process. He promised me that he would help me in the faculty, like my guardian angel. My only obligation was to learn and prove I was a good student. I was particularly impressed with this visit. Until then, no one had provided me such help, I felt paternally protected with this man, who later repeatedly proved to me his special qualities. I followed the advice of Professor Harnaj, I enrolled at the Faculty of Geology Engineering at the Oil, Gas and Geology Institute in Bucharest. I graduated in 1964, but only after I had been expelled from the last academic year, as the Personnel Department had discovered that my father had not died, but was politically detained in the USSR, in the Gulag. He returned to the country in 1956. After four years, I could graduate and Professor Harnaj guided my work on the graduation thesis and was one of the members of the examination committee. For my graduation paper I got 10.

The King of the Bees

Magda Popovici, Niece, Actress.

I want to add to this homage to my uncle Professor, engineer, Veceslav Harnaj, a "story" called The King of Bees. Once upon a time, 100 years ago, in a fairy realm... In a world-forgotten village, but not a God-forgotten one, in the sweet and wonderful Bessarabia, the third child of the Harnaj family (priest Dumitru and his wife Iulia) came into this world, on November 7. After him, baptized with the name of a voivode, Veceslav, but also of a saint, Haralambie, two more sisters were born: Claudia (Clara) and Nina Neonila, my beloved mother. At birth and when he was baptized, Our Holy Lord sent to the child Veceslav the good fairies, Hope, Faith, and Love, to proclaim his purpose and grace on this earth. And so, in Father Dumitru's apiary, guarded and watched by the hive like church, in the garden smelling of flowers and with buzzing bees, the little boy received not only his names, but also all the fairies' gifts: physical and spiritual beauty, special intelligence, charm, sensitivity, innovative and competitive spirit, faith in God, confidence in people and beauty and great love for his country and its people. His charisma as a leader was obvious since he was very young and stayed with him all his life. In his childhood he was "the boss", the leader of the village children who loved him, obeyed him, and followed him blindly in all the games; He liked to invent games. He worked hard to achieve his dream: a printing house. He succeeded and so the first "gazette" with the village news: events, advertisements appeared. This dream was to follow him all his life, until the present printing house of the Apiculture Production Enterprise, a memorable achievement that is still working, was set

up, which gives the Romanian beekeeping credit for its fame and glory. Priest Dumitru, Papa, as the children of the family used to call him, was keen on working in his apiary. Along with him, the boy learned, from an early age, the art of working with bees, looking after the hive, harvesting honey, getting to know the wonderful life of the hive and its bees. He was inspired and guided with love by his wonderful father, our grandfather: the priest Dumitru Harnagea, a man of rare modesty, knowing the secrets of the bee hive inside out, a learned man with vast general knowledge, the one who first edited at the time, a bee magazine: *Albina Romaneasca*. With love and abnegation, he gave special attention to his son's education. Raised and loved by both his father and his beloved mother, Iulia, Slavchic, as his mother affectionately used to call him, grew up amidst nature's heaven, surrounded by beauty, good feelings and understanding. Yulia, his mother, is said to have been the descendent of some great Russian princes – Dolgaia was her maiden name; Dolgorukii – an exiled prince to Bessarabia by Peter the Great- seems to have left some offsprings in that place ... But grandmother Yulia was nothing else but a beautiful girl from a family with many daughters who was educated in Chisinau and who married priest Dumitru Harnaj in order to have her own family and care for it, in the village of Baimaclia. She remained eternally in love with the Russian classical literature: Pushkin, Lermontov, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. And so, from the dust-covered village, the little house and the garden with church-shaped beehives, "the mother and father's darling son" went to school in the city. One of the high schools in Chisinau was the Diocesan High School, where my own mother, Nina Neonila, and my aunt Agnesa learned. My mother's desk mate was Magda Isanos; later, when I was born, Magda Isanos was very famous and loved, so

my mother named me after her, Magda. Another colleague of my mother was Marcela Mărgărit, daughter of a colonel in the Romanian army, temporarily assigned to Chisinau. Veceslav, who was attending the Military High School, used to come to the Diocesan High School to visit his sisters and so he met the charming and ... "playful Marcella". Meanwhile, Uncle Savel, the best student of the high school, was chosen to represent Bessarabia and to be part of the class consisting of the most deserving Romanians, students of the military high schools from all regions of Great Romania. The 1940 refugee brought the Harnaj family to Bucharest, which became their second home. My uncle's marriage to Marcela also provided temporary housing for my mother and her sister, Agnesa. The Faculty of Civil Engineering (Hydraulics being the branch that impressed him) gave him the chance to work on major national projects such as the dam and reservoir near the Bicaz hydroelectric power plant, then the construction of buildings on a friable land (Mamaia). Later, he became a professor at the same faculty. He patented his inventions related to the rehabilitation of storage lakes for the purpose of cleaning the storage basins. The Academy of Sciences and Inventions in New York made him a honorary member. However, fame and the most outstanding achievements were brought by his great passion, apiculture. He loved bees so much and the miraculous life of the hive, that he named his first child Albinel (he-bee)-Constantin. Everybody called my cousin Albinel or used the diminutive Albinuca. I have no words, there are not enough pages for so many memories I have... I remember the Christmas celebrations, those of Easter when, wherever we were, we would all gather to celebrate and sing carols, songs with Bessarabia's perfume ... Uncle Săvel fulfilled his childhood dream when, as president of

the world's largest representative beekeepers' forum, Apimondia, he founded the Beekeepers' Association and the printing house on Romanian soil. He set up the Beekeeping Technical High School, and the apitherapy departments are still successful in alleviating suffering. "Through him, the Romanians' ancient occupation of beekeeping has gained prestige, scientific basis for apitherapy and then for pharmacology. How much poetry and closeness to God in this stunning and unique form of the hive, nowhere else in the world met! This beehive, in which the bees enter as a place of God... They, the little bees are those who through their work of pollination make our life on Earth possible "- said Mrs. Manuela Cernat. I called him the King of Bees, as I'm sure, the bees themselves chose him as their spiritual patron.

PS: Whenever I take a flower, light candles and burn incense at the tomb where he sleeps his eternity sleep along with all his beloved family, there are always some bees coming from heaven. I'm sure they always come to honour and pay respect to their King.

The Bee Kingdom

Manuela Cernat, Historian, Film Critic.

I first saw him among the hives. He was working without a mask or gloves. Bent over the rams, he seemed very short. When he turned and came to meet us, I understood that he descended from the family of Giants. In his eyes he had the serenity of the sky and in his soul a gentleness and kindness coming from another world. Never did I have the chance to meet a more affable and more generous man. Perhaps because, as a young man he had grown up in a place of love for God, Greater Romania, made whole with the land beyond the Prut, where he was to be driven away from it by the scourge of history. I found out he was a priest's son just a few years ago, when his destiny led me, along with the TV reporter Radu Gaina, to village, Baimaclia. In the past, located in the very heart of Bessarabia, Baimaclia is today at a stone's throw of the new border between the Republic of Moldavia and Ukraine ... There, in the courtyard of the church where Professor Veceslav Harnaj's father was a priest and was buried, we discovered the wonder of the cross-shaped hives and it was clear to me that the kindness of the scientist came from its humility to God, from the love for His gift made to us, people, - the winged, hardworking bees you can approach only gently, calmly tenderly and grateful for the many riches born out of their flight and toil. His passion for beekeeping, discovered in his childhood in his father's bee garden with hives built like so many small wooden churches and having the hive entrance guarded by a holy cross, did not leave him even after he got his diploma in engineering in Bucharest. The drama of the family, the refuge period, the years of war, the climbing of the ladder of success in the

field of the exact sciences couldn't wipe out his nostalgia for the hives of his native Baimaclia. Beekeeping was actually his real calling. His mission was to build a world bee empire. And, incredibly, he succeeded. Despite the Iron Curtain and all kinds of restrictions, he created: Apimondia. He was elected and reelected to lead the beekeepers on five continents. Eventually he was elected President for life. In a complicated and restrictive political climate, he managed to bring Romania high international honours. He certainly enjoyed a privileged status. And yet he remained a man of rare modesty. Without political ambitions or that arrogance typical of the heads of the communist institutions, he was gentle and warm to everyone, equally polite to porters or dignitaries. Protected by an invisible shield, he lived only for his profession, the bees and his family. He loved his three children and was very proud of his two nieces who were actresses, Magda and Ileana Popovici. I had the honour to accompany him to Rome as a translator at a F.A.O. Congress (F.A.O.-Food and Agriculture Organization), the economic body created by the United Nations. From the first day, I found out that Professor Harnaj was respected and appreciated as a personality of planetary importance. I was clearly impressed, but also worried knowing that at home, someone wanted to be Romania's only voice beyond the borders. Fortunately, the President of Apimondia was intangible. He defended the international beekeeping community that he had built with extraordinary organizational skill and for whom his decisions were the gospel. In Rome I shared the tiny hotel room, near the Largo Argentina, with Mihaela Serban, a distinguished biologist and researcher at the Institute of Beekeeping in Bucharest. I had met her years before in my good friend's house, Ilinca Juvara, the daughter of the eminent surgeon Cuti Juvara. In the breaks of the

congress, Marcela, Professor Harnaj's wife, took us all to an ice cream, on the Corso. At dinner, she used to complain that she did not like Italian food and she invariably ordered schnitzel. The professor sighed and asked for *spaghetti bolognese* or *ravioli* for him. I also shared a hotel room with Mihaela Serban in 1991, in Lausanne, at a World Beekeeping Congress that hired us for simultaneous translation: I for French and Italian, she for English and Romanian. Initially, we from the East, getting half the pay of our Western counterparts, had been put up in a sinister underground anti atomic bunker. Claustrophobic, I said I'd prefer to sleep under the open sky on a bench. Mihaela, who now held a leading position at the Beekeeping Institute in Bucharest, was a VIP and had been put up in a hotel room. She understood me and, mercifully, hosted me. There, in Lausanne, most of the speeches deplored the premature disappearance of the Father of Apimondia and honoured him posthumously. I am deeply grateful to Professor Harnaj who initiated me in the secrets of apiculture. I had told him I was preparing a PhD thesis about the war movie. The chapter on the instinct of violence included the description of the fighting ants and the ants wrestling in the ant hills. He also recommended me to investigate the peaceful organization of the bee community: "Delicate and fragile as they seem, they keep between their wings the fate of the human species. If a cataclysm or some people's reckless behaviour made bees disappear, the whole life on earth would also disappear. Without the bee pollination, everything dies. "With parental patience, the Professor led me to a fascinating microcosm, governed by total devotion to his Queen- the Bee. He urged me to buy four hives and found a host for them in Vlădiceasca, near Snagov. I loved the bees, I happily breathed the delicate fragrance of the frames, and I was not

afraid to caress my new friends. To get closer, I moved the beehive to Bucharest, in the Eminescu By-Street. Professor Harnaj hugged me: "Who has heard of asphalt honey?'''. And again I moved my hives to Gruiu, where my grandmother had bought a farmhouse with an orchard and many flowers. I suspected that they did not like there because one day they deserted their hives, abandoning the combs filled with honey and leaving me with my mentor's clear memory. Professor Harnaj ascended to heaven exactly on the day when my loved bees left me. A chapter of my life had ended.

How I met Professor Veceslav Harnaj

Cristian Constantinescu, IITEA General Manager.

It happened at the beginning of 1983. Both I and Professor Veceslav Harnaj were in a critical situation ... Of course, different reasons. I had been made jobless, and "uncle Savel" (as he was called by his family) had suffered several strokes that had severely affected his ability to move and speak. At that time, at the Romanian Television, where I had been working until I was fired, Ileana Popovici, Professor Harnaj's niece, gave me a helping hand. She introduced me to her uncle, and since then I remained close to Harnaj until the very end of his life in 1988, and then to all his family members, to his wife Marcela, to his children: Luminița, Doina and Albinel, until they prematurely passed away, after long suffering. Professor Harnaj managed to employ me after almost six months. At that time, many kinds of approvals were required to be hired in a firm considered to have the status of a "foreign" representation. Hiring a person was done through the Chamber of Commerce. Although seriously ill, uncle Savel continued to work either from home or from the sanatorium in Otopeni, where I went every day and discussed in detail what we were going to do. I learned from him perseverance, the implacable desire to carry through my work and, in particular, to build everything thoroughly despite the adversity of a society that didn't encourage private property. The typographical activity was flourishing. We received orders from various countries and printed volumes in English, Russian, German, French, Spanish and Romanian. We had a simultaneous translation team in five languages for the Apimondia Congresses. Prof Harnaj had many friends outside the country, and wherever he went, he was received with much

honour and consideration. He loved life and wanted very much to live but day after day his illness worsened. He had become completely dependent on the help of a medical attendant. Family members visited him less and less or less often than uncle Savel wanted. He often became deeply depressed and could hardly recover. An extremely capable, inventive man of brilliant intelligence, he left behind remarkable accomplishments, both for Romania and the whole world, and his memory will stay forever in the hearts of those who knew him and worked with him.

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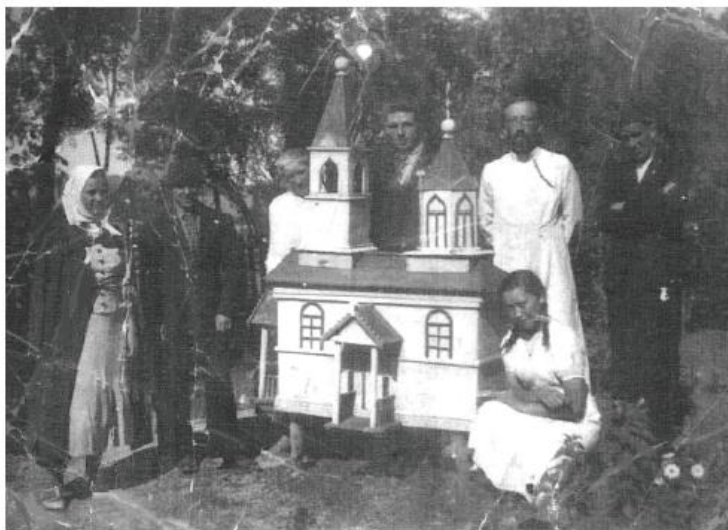
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In Baimaclia (Veceslav down right)



Baimaclia (Veceslav is keeping the reins; to his right Nina Neonila)



Priest Harnagea's apiary



Baimaclia. Priest Harnagea's apiary (Veceslav on the right)



Church- like hive in Priest Harnagea's garden



Baimaclia. Agnesa Harnaj, Priest Harnagea and his grandson, Albinel, Iulia, Harnagea's wife, with her grand-daughter Lia, Priest Valentin Popovici; Marcela Margarit's mother, Marcela Margarit and Veceslav Harnaj.



Baimaclia. Priest Harnagea, Agnesa, Valentin Popovici, Marcela and Veceslav Harnaj, Nina Neonila



Priest Harnagea's family in Baimaclia



*The gym of the Diocesan High School for girls where
Marcela Margarit was a student*



July 1939



May 10, 1938, Chisinau



Marcela Margarit and her parents, July 15 1939



Marcela and Veceslav Harnaj (1939)



*Veceslav, Marcela, Albinel-Constantin,
Luminita-Nicoleta and Doina Harnaj*



*Veceslav, Doina, Luminita-Nicoleta, Albinel-Constantin
and Marcela Harnaj*



*Albinel-Constantin
Harnaj*



Doina Harnaj



Luminita-Nicoleta Harnaj



*Ion Andronache, Ileana Popovici (keeping Veceslav Harnaj's hand),
Nina Neonila (on Vecesla's right)*



Veceslav Harnaj with his sisters, Agnesa and Nina Neonila











*The Conference of the Beekeepers-the branch in Roman
(September 27, 1959)*



*Veceslav Harnaj – Speech before the graduates from an Apiculture
Course (1958-1960), organized by ACA – Turnu Severin branch, October 8*



*The inauguration of the Cosmetics Department at the
Apiculture Production Enterprise*



*Prof. Harnaj and Prof. Gordon F. Townsend at
the XXIth Congress of Apimondia,
College Park, Maryland, August, 1967
(photo taken by Julia S. Merrill)*



Veceslav Harnaj and ACA management



Veceslav Harnaj at the Apiculture High School in Bucharest



Together with the children of Baimaclia, Causeni District



Veceslav and Marcela Harnaj, on a visit to an apiary



Veceslav Harnaj with a group of beekeepers- Baneasa Apiculture Centre





The XXIVth Congress of Apimondia, Buenos Aires, 1973



Congress of Apimondia, Argentina, 1973



Iasi, January 18, 1974



ACA meeting, Suceava, 1976



*Nelu Ionescu (car driver), Prof. Veceslav Harnaj,
Prof. Constantin Tomescu*



Ion Boboc, Cristian Constantinescu, Veceslav Harnaj



*Together with some of Apimondia's Staff
(after the setting up of the typography)*



Together with Silvestro Cannamela



*Printing press assembled from the pieces found in
a scrap deposit in Germany*



With the filming team in Mr. Popescu's garden



Ecaterina Gutu, Ileana Popovici and Timofei Gutu in Baimaclia



Baimaclia Gymnasium. The room dedicated to V. Harnaj's memory with his bust and portrait made by the student Ion Golubei



*‘Veceslav Harnaj’ Gymnasium in Baimaclia
(photo taken by Aurel Obreja)*



Space dedicated to Prof. Harnaj's memory at FIITEA





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