

A word from our Editor-in-Chief

PARALLEL DESTINES WITH ENGINEERING PASSIONS

From its early infancy, it can be noticed that the engineering vocation has been approached through a technical style, especially when done individually through an analytical perspective. 1921 is the birth year of 2 extraordinary Romanians who were to become extremely passionate about technical engineering. On the 23 of May, in Turda, in the house of the professor and priest, Aureliu Nanu, was born **Aurel Nanu**, who would one day be known as *the Pioneer of Nonconventional Technologies in Romania*; and being born on the King's birthday was also given the name of Carol. In the fall of the same year, on the 25th of October, Prince Mihai was born to the Romanian Royal House, who would one day become King Mihai the First of Romania. Even though their family circumstances precluded a different career choice for each man other than engineering, the passion for technology was a defining factor for both of them for their entire lives.

Mihai, the Great Leader of Alba-Iulia, had been enrolled in the „*Aeronautical Technical School*” from the time he was 10 years old (July 20, 1931).

During the years of his childhood and youth, many of the inhabitants in the area surrounding Sararsinului (in the county of Arad) and even in the entire kingdom, remembered a proud and ambitious prince, who was always at the wheel of some automobile or in the workshop, also being passionate about their maintenance. Even from his childhood, **Aurel Carol NANU** did not want to prepare for the life of a priest. Being much more drawn to technological engineering, upon finishing high school in 1939 in Sibiu, he began taking advanced classes at the Institute of Technology in Timisoara at the same time as he was taking classes at the Mathematics University, graduating with a degree in electromechanics in 1944.



For both of these figures, Timisoara was a special place that they shared in common, even if they had never met. On the 2nd of July, 1936, Mihai, still in his role of „*The Great Leader of Alba Iulia*”, took his first trip to Timisoara, accompanied by his father, King Carol II. Later, as the Crowned King, His Majesty came to Timisoara on the 16th of September in 1941, when, with the Queen Mother Elena, he visited state, military and Red Cross hospitals. Then on the 6th of September, 1941, King Mihai, accompanied by Aton Mocsony, visited the museum in Banat. Timisoara, a much



loved city by the King, is very thankful for the founding of some of the most fundamental institutions of church, learning and culture: The Metropolitan Orthodox Cathedral, the Romanian Opera House, the Medical and Pharmaceutical University, Central University Library, The Westside University of Timisoara, the State Philharmonia in Banat, and the Agricultural University (later to become known as the „King Mihai I of Romania” University of Agricultural Sciences in Banat). During the time that Aurel Carol Nanu began his career as a University Assistant in the Department for Basic Electrical Engineering at the University of Technology in Timisoara, King Mihai, after forced abdication, began a new life in exile, where his existence and that of many other family members, would have to rely on their own knowledge and understanding of technical engineering, working mostly in the aviation domain. The passion for King Mihai for technical engineering could be summarized numerically, as he has personally cared for 38 automobiles that have gone for a combined total of 2 million kilometers. Aurel Carol Nanu, became a professor at the university in 1966 and in 1972 also obtained his PhD in technical sciences, dedicating all of his activities to didactic and scientific activities, while also functioning in important administrative and managerial roles for the Institute of Technology in Timisoara. On the day of the 18th of December 1989, after the Communist Revolution had already exploded in Timisoara, on „The Romanian News” a station on Radio Free Europe, His Majesty King Mihai transmitted a special message for the residents of Timisoara, containing exactly 100 words of love, hope and faith: „*My soul and my thoughts are with you. I, like you, am worried when I hear about the cruelty with which those in power react when you simply ask for the most basic rights. But still I always have, and you have it as well, a strong hope*”

because you have made your voices heard. Therefore no longer be afraid. Because, through barbaric repression itself, you and I understand, along with everyone else, that those in power have become afraid of you. You are manifesting peace through slogans which state your hopes and desires for the future. Weapons can not crush the soul, and they can not destroy ideals. Do not insite them: be peaceful but firm! With Godwego on!"

Although they had both reached the age of 68, 1989, the year of the Communist Revolution held a special importance for these two victors, not only as a year of new beginning alongside the entire Romanian population, but also a new year for open reconsideration of values, becoming reacquainted with the value of their own contributions, and organizing special events dedicated to each of them by public Romanian institutions, from both the academic centers as well as the social and cultural administrations. Aurel Carol Nanu, Professor and Doctor of Engineering, and PhD in Technical Sciences, in light of his entire career, (in which he submitted as the author a patent for 8 inventions, 48 prototypes of manufactured cars, 65 new applied technologies, published both as the singular author, and in collaboration with another author over 200 scientific works and 16 specialty books, and on the PhD supervisor level, he directly managed 72 contemporary Doctorates of Engineering), was given the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by four great Universities of Romania: Lucian Blaga University in Sibiu (1995), The Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (1997), The University of Craiova (1998) The Technical University „Gherghe Asachi” in Iasi (2007) as well as on the part of „Tibiscus” University in Timisoara (2006) where, from its beginnings, he acted as the Rector from 1994-1999. Professor Aurel NANU also became "Emeritus Professor" of the Institute of Technology of Timișoara and "Honorary Member" of the Academy of Technical Sciences. For the contribution made to the development of the academic level in Timisoara, King Mihai was given the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the Medical and Pharmaceutical University (2006), the Western University (2009), the Institute of Technology (2010), and University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Banat added the title of „King Mihai I of Romania” (according to the law nr. 493/17.07.2013). With the same gesture of special appreciation, these two great Romanians have been given the title of „Honorary Citizens” by the Municipal Council of Timisoara: King Mihai on the 21 of May 2009, and Aurel Carol Nanu on 24 May 2015. 2017 brought with it a sad memory, because this is the year in which both men passed into eternity, in the order in which they were born; Professor Aurel Nanu on the 4th of October and King Mihai on the 5th of December.

May God rest their souls!

Because of the dignified image of King Mihai I of Romania, in the minds of Romanians who are celebrating the 100th anniversary of Romania this year, the value of the Kingdom is always fondly remembered, and the history of the nation is understood through a different light. Through the dignified image of Aurel Carol Nanu, Professor and Doctor of Engineering, and PhD in Technical Sciences, the value of Romanian engineering is crowned with a continuing openness to innovations, nonconventional technologies, and forward thinking. In 1974, he initiated and developed nonconventional technologies in Romania while leading the Center for Nonconventional Technologies Research branch in Timisoara under the name of the RSR Academy, and in 1993 as President of the “Romanian Association for Nonconventional Technologies. From this same perspective he also organized the writing of 13 volumes from “The treaty of nonconventional technologies”. As a gesture of this their appreciation, „The Association of Romanian Nonconventional Technologies,” under the name of the Academy for Technical Sciences, in partnership with the Technical University of Timisoara and „Lucian Blaga” University in Sibiu are organizing the XIX edition of the International Conferences of Nonconventional Technologies ICNcT 2018, in Timisoara on the 4-6 of October 2018: <http://www.artn.ro/conference2018/>.

This meeting is meant to be a time of displaying new perspectives and innovations in the fields of scientific research and nonconventional technologies, but it is also a moment to commemorate the people who have dedicated themselves in respect and fairness to science and technology.

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