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Poet, prose writer, playwright, journalist, people's writer of the Republic of Moldova, academician, laureate of the State Prize of the Republic of Moldova, laureate of the Grand Prix for poetry "Nichita Stănescu", holder of the Order of the Republic, holder of the Order "Star of Romania" in the title of Commander, honorary citizen of Chisinau, laureate of the Gold Medal of the World Intellectual Property Organization "For Creativity", **Dumitru MATCOVSCHI** takes with him a whole universe...

He left us his Work, that in which he expressed his thoughts, feelings, attitudes. Dumitru Matcovschi creation is and will be to us a lesson of verticality, unconditional love for country, language, and people.

The eighties of national liberation movement impetus were for Dumitru Matcovski years of ordeals, but also fruitful literary activity. In 1986 he writes the poem *Bessarabia* (with the famous final *Passed through fire and sword, / stolen, always betrayed, / you are the homesickness flower Bessarabia, / you are the tear of my nation*), which put to music by composer Mihai Dolgan, soon becomes one of the most uplifting and more sung unofficial anthems, despite the ban imposed by the Soviet regime.

In 1987, being elected editor-in-chief of the magazine "Nistru" (later "Bessarabia"), he carries a lively activity on restructuring the mindset of people in the spirit of national awakening and integration of literature from Bessarabia into the general Romanian context. He has the courage to sign for publication in the April 1988 issue of the magazine the essay *The Garment of Our Being* by Valentin Mandăcanu, epochal essay that ignited the flame of national consciousness in the struggle for Latin alphabet and Romanian language. Also, in the magazine led by Dumitru Matcovski, for the first time in the Bessarabian space, was published the *Doina of Eminescu*, Constantin Stere's prose, and also works of the brotherhood colleagues previously censored or banned by the Soviet regime. Simultaneously, he practices a belligerent, brave, deeply civic political journalism. Signs, in time press, numerous articles with incendiary message, which are true milestones in the political journalism of the eighties.

On May 17, 1989, **Dumitru Matcovschi** becomes the victim of a terrible accident, being hit by a bus just around the block where he lived. There follows a long period of physical and moral recovery, the poet reviving like Phoenix.

Dumitru Matcovschi's work is translated into several languages: Russian, French, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Polish, Bulgarian, Kirghiz, etc. Over the years, numerous studies, essays, articles under the signature of some sounding names in contemporary literature are dedicated to him, as well as books "Dumitru Matcovschi. Poet and Man of the Fortress" and "Academician Dumitru Matcovschi" (bibliographical volume), both published under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, in 2009, with the Publishing House "Science". The acclaimed critic Constantin Ciopraga said that "Matcovschi is a vertical presence, a tree whose leaves never turn yellow. He is both inflexible and reflexible - his sensitivity is potentiated by reason. To talk about him means to talk about an important stage of Romanian poetry in Bessarabia".

In this moments of deep sorrow, AGEPI staff brings its entire tribute to the one who will always remain in our hearts and expresses sincere condolences to the grieving family of the Poet and all those who loved him and cherished him.

God rest his soul to the righteous

