

IN MEMORIAM

SILVIA VIORICA CONSTANTINESCU

by Octavian Ciupitu.
(English version.)

On December 27, 2022, the one who was Silvia Viorica Constantinescu passed away, among others responsible editor of the publication CURIERUL ROMÂNESC (THE ROMANIAN COURIER) in Sweden from its establishment in May 1980 until the end of her life. She signed numerous articles and books published under the name Silvia Constantinescu. She worked as a librarian, journalist, editor, school and Romanian mother tongue teacher both in Romania and in Sweden, she was co-founder of the publication CURIERUL ROMÂNESC (THE ROMANIAN COURIER) which appears in Romanian in Sweden since 1980, and published, collected in book form, her interviews and articles in ten titles in Romanian, two titles in English, and one title in Swedish.

She was born on October 3, 1940 in the village of Dărăbani in Negru Vodă district, in Dobrogea. The parents' family were Romanians in refuge, on the way from Quadrilater to Constanța.

Only six years after that, however, her parents divorced, the father, the lawyer Ion Constantinescu, settling in Urziceni with her older sister, Iosefina, and the mother Lucia, who stayed with her in Constanța, worked for the western allied troops from World War II located on the Romanian shore of the Black Sea. But, upon the withdrawal of these troops from Romania, their former local collaborators were subjected to persecution and many of them had to flee the country, which also happened to Silvia's mother. She left Romania clandestinely on a US-issued passport with the surname Murphy on a ship to Stockholm in the company of Swedish naval officer Gustav Lindström, whom she later married. She claimed Silvia, who remained in Constanța, as soon as circumstances allowed.

But all the mother's attempts to reunite them were in vain, the Romanian communist state rejecting all attempts made through Swedish state channels, or through the Red Cross, to bring the daughter to her mother. After a certain period of tragic events, Silvia was enrolled in an orphanage in Constanța. She wanted to study law, but she was not allowed, having her "unhealthy social origin": her father is a lawyer and her mother defected to the "capitalist country"

Sweden. But she was allowed access to a post-high school educational institution where "the children of the former" also had access: Institute of Cultural Activists, library section, with studies completed in 1961. She then graduated from the Pedagogical Institute, library sciences, in 1966.



Silvia Viorica Constantinescu.

Photo: © Curierul Românesc.

I was blessed by fate to meet her on the evening of August 22, 1965 in the circle of some of my colleagues from the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning in Bucharest, and we stayed together uninterruptedly from then until the end of her life. Our marriage took place on June 16, 1968. She gave me four children whom we loved and who love and respect their parents: Mariejeanne in 1967, Anne-Marie in 1969, Marc in 1971 and Theo in 1975. She also attended courses at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Romanian Language and Literature, and took her diploma exam in 1974. On November 24, 1977, we left Romania with our whole family for Sweden, where we brought the high spirituality cultivated in the Romanian language. Here we launched together in May 1980 the publication CURIERUL ROMÂNESC (THE ROMANIAN COURIER), which is addressed in this sense to Romanian speakers everywhere.

Full of life, exuberant, always with a new

initiative, always at the center of actions, always in defense of the truth, she chose the words "VERITAS SEMPER VERITAS" as her motto on her civic coat of arms registered in the Swedish Register of Coats of Arms. We traveled the world together, from Texas to China, from Sweden to Egypt, from Norway to Japan, from Germany to Tunisia, from France to India, from Spain to Belgium, from Italy to Hungary. We traveled together by plane, train, automobile, ship, and even elephant. We lived in Romania, in Sweden, in Texas, and in France. Although having different professional trainings, we have constantly collaborated together in activities, actions, projects, or enterprises mainly initiated by the two of us outside of our main places of work throughout the almost 57 years we spent together. It was precisely this collaboration that was the driving force that led to such a long-lasting coexistence.

Now disappearing from us, Silvia Constantinescu has left a great void behind her.

She came to me like a meteorite and has now left like a new comet. The sky has a new meaning now. My dear, soon! ☐

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