

Prof. Florescu Radu

Romanian Historian who debunked Dracula Myth, dies at 88.



Preview by Yahoo

Short biography:

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — **Born in Bucharest on 23-X-1925**, to an aristocratic family, the oldest of the extant **Romanian** boyar families.

He left Romania on the Orient Express when he was 13, just as World War II broke out and traveled to Britain, where his father was acting ambassador. His father, also named Radu Florescu, resigned the post when pro-Hitler leader Marshal Ion Antonescu rose to power in Romania.

The younger Florescu won a scholarship to study at Oxford University, where he was taught by Sir William Deakin, Winston Churchill's biographer. Florescu, Romanian Academic, later moved to America, settling in Boston, as Emeritus Professor of History.

He was a **Romanian-born historian, professor and philanthropist** who intrigued American popular culture by writing a book linking the fictional Count Dracula to the 15th-century Romanian prince Vlad the Impaler.

Radu Florescu **died Sunday, 18-V-2014, at age 88 in Mougins, France**, from complications connected to pneumonia, his son John Florescu told The Associated Press on Monday. He is survived by his French wife, Nicole, and their four children. He was buried in southern France.

Florescu **wrote a dozen books** but was most famous for "**In Search of Dracula**," which he co-authored with Raymond T. McNally in 1972. In it, he asserted that Irish author Bram Stoker based the Dracula character in his 1897 novel on Vlad the Impaler. Florescu's work was translated into 15 languages and the pair went on to write five more books on Dracula.

When former President Richard Nixon visited Romania in 1969, Florescu directed the U.S. Embassy media liaison, providing information for the White House press corps.

"No American has educated more Americans about Romania — and Dracula — than Professor Florescu. I was lucky to be one of his grateful students," said Jim Rosapepe, a former U.S. ambassador to Romania.

His son said, **Florescu was the director of the East European Research Center at Boston College, which he founded, from 1986 to 2008.** In recent years, he provided scholarships for gifted Romanian students to study in the Boston area.

Romania's Royal House sent condolences on behalf of former Romanian King Michael, who was forced to abdicate in 1947 by the Communist-led government.

"Through his work, Professor Florescu built a bridge between Romania and the United States, giving Romanian history a drop of universality," the Royal House said in a statement, praising Florescu for dedicating himself to his students.

Former U.S. congressman Patrick Kennedy called him "a needed bridge between the United States and Romania and a wise counsel" to his father, the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, on Balkan affairs.

Florescu urged Romanians to embrace their new-found freedoms after communism ended in 1989. He received honors from former Romanian Presidents Ion Iliescu and Emil Constantinescu for his contributions to Romanian society.

Bibliography:

1 - View on <http://www.huffingtonpost...>

2 - [Radu Florescu - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radu_Florescu)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radu_Florescu

Radu Florescu (23 October 1925 – 18 May 2014) was a **Romanian** academic who held the position of Emeritus **Professor of History** at ... **Florescu** was **born** in Bucharest to an aristocratic family, the oldest of the extant **Romanian** boyar families.

3 - [Radu Florescu dead: Legacy of the Romanian 'Dracula professor ...](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/radu-florescu-dead-legacy-of-the-romanian-dracula-professor-remembered-9401744.html/)
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/radu-florescu-dead-legacy-of-the-romanian-dracula-professor-remembered-9401744.html/> May 20, 2014 ... **Radu Florescu** was a **Romanian-born professor** and philanthropist who ... **Prof Florescu's** work spanned Eastern European **history**, leading him ...

4 - [Radu Florescu, Scholar Who Linked Dracula and Vlad the Impaler ...](http://article.wn.com/view/2014/05/27/Radu_Florescu_Scholar_Who_Linked_Dracula_and_Vlad_the_Impaler/)
http://article.wn.com/view/2014/05/27/Radu_Florescu_Scholar_Who_Linked_Dracula_and_Vlad_the_Impaler/ May 27, 2014 ... **Professor Florescu** wrote books that sought to identify Vlad, the 15th-century ... **Radu Florescu** was a **Romanian-born historian, professor** and ...

5 - [Pneumonia fells scholarly expert on Dracula lore - WorldNews](http://article.wn.com/view/2014/05/28/Pneumonia_fells_scholarly_expert_on_Dracula_lore/)
http://article.wn.com/view/2014/05/28/Pneumonia_fells_scholarly_expert_on_Dracula_lore/ May 28, 2014 ... Of course not, and that, said **Radu Florescu**, is. ... He was a **Romanian-born historian, professor** and philanthropist who intrigued American ...

6 - [The Life and Deeds of Prince Vlad the Impaler - Dracula \(1431-1476\)](http://www.mysterious-journeys.com/dracula_tours/the_life_and_deeds/)
http://www.mysterious-journeys.com/dracula_tours/the_life_and_deeds/ "I used Count Dracula to promote the prince Vlad the Impaler-Dracula", said **Prof. Radu Florescu**, co-author of "In Search of Dracula", at the first World Dracula Congress in May 1995.

Materials sent by Prof. Dr. Ruxandra Vidu r_vidu@yahoo.com :

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