

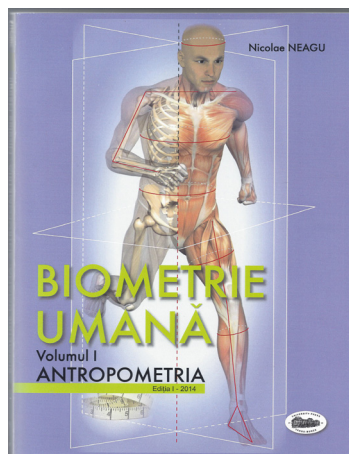
Human biometry, Vol. I - Anthropometry

(Biometrie umană, Vol. I – Antropometria)

Author: Nicolae Neagu

University Press Publishing House, Târgu-Mureș, Romania, 2014

Academic format (18/25 cm), 262 pp.

**A reference treatise on anthropology and biomedicine**

The book of our distinguished colleague is in fact a monumental treatise – designed to include 3 (three) volumes – with a multi- and interdisciplinary view, which integrates anthropology, biomedicine, functional and movement anatomy, kinesitherapy, sanogenesis, physical education and sport.

In volume I, *Human biometry* deals with *Anthropometry*, integrated and focused on physical (biological) anthropology. Volume I is already a scientific success in biomedicine, artistic anatomy and sports medicine. It comprises 262 pages; it is structured in a preface and 6 chapters with 30 subchapters, 7 tables and 270 figures, 1 addendum, exhaustive and up-to-date bibliography: 72 titles of treatises, encyclopedias, journal articles, web sites.

The first edition was published by the *University Press Publishing House, University of Medicine and Pharmacy Târgu Mureș*, © Copyright 2014.

In the *Preface*, the author shows that human biometry is a real developing field, with multiple interconnections in human corporeality, anthropomorphism, somatic variability and morphofunctionality of the human system.

Chapter I reveals *anthropology as a human study science*: concepts and paradigms; historical synthesis, theories and trends; Quaternary and Anthropocene humans; human phylogenesis - anthropogenesis; the place of humans in the animal kingdom; main research directions and branches of anthropology; bio-anthropological variability.

Chapter II presents the *evolution of anthropometry*: anthropometry as a sub-branch of biological anthropology; a short history and topological anthropometry (human constitutional homotype).

Chapter III synthesizes concepts of *posturology*: posturology – the concept and a short history; posture, balance and movement; postural control and the intrinsic oscillation cone; the standing position and human

bipedalism; body and segment positions; fundamental positions and their derivatives used in anthropometry.

Chapter IV characterizes *measurements in anthropometry*: landmarks (classification, designations, explanations); references and anthropometric measurements (planes, regions, dimensions).

Chapter V deals with *applied anthropometry*: functions and areas of applicability; categories of measurements; lengths, diameters, circumferences of the body and limbs; gamma-, flexo-, dynamo- and gravimetry; barometry and the center of gravity of the body; adipometry.

Chapter VI elaborates on *qualitative analytical anthropometry*: concepts (introspective, diagnostic and predictive functions); stages of analytical anthropometry; indicators and variables; deontology of anthropometric assessment; body-segment relations/proportions; human constitutional morphotypes; equipment used in anthropometry.

The addendum presents anthropometric measurement tools.

Bibliography is substantial, updated and highly diverse.

Human biometry is a theoretical treatise that is symbiotically linked to the practical-application field of static-dynamic, morphological-functional, posture-movement complementarity. Through normality, the norm in relation to sanogenesis, health and performance is set. Through deviation from normality, dysfunctional and pathological conditions occur.

It is absolutely obvious that the *fields of application of human biometry – anthropometry* overlap life sciences, many medical specialties and life itself: medical, sports, evolutionary, racial, sexual, artistic, social, occupational, industrial, military, aeronautical anthropometry.

Morphotypes (somatotypes, biomorphotypes) - Chapter 6.6. reveals the truth that human beings – in their individual variability – are the result of intrinsic-extrinsic interactions, which model in a factorial manner the shape and structure of the body and the functions of the body systems. Hereditary determinism (*constitutional genotype*) is “adapted” through environmental causality (*constitutional phenotype*). In terms of taxonomies of human constitutional morphotypes, the following *classifications* are presented comparatively: *Sigaud, Kretschmer, Pende, Sheldon, Martiny*. Essentially, a biometric - anthropometric approach to etiology @ pathogeny, in a cause @ effect relationship is established: each biomorphotype shows certain *particular pathological predispositions and vulnerabilities* (Millon, 2004). This approach outlines in its turn prevention-prophylaxis, therapeutic-curative, rehabilitation-recovery strategies.

This is why an exceptional merit of the book is that it defines a multifactorial normality system at biometric – anthropometric level, in terms of magnitudes, weights, proportions, ratios, typologies, such as mobility, motricity, movement, physical effort, as an anatomical ideal - motor, functional, artistic, esthetic.

The value of this book also appears in the context of the global population situation, in which over 1 billion people are malnourished, and more than 1.5 billion are overweight (obese). This means that the *human biometric standard, within the limits of normality and health*, is severely altered in more than 2.5 billion people, with detrimental consequences on human pathology and a reduction of the mean survival time and life expectancy.

This is why our review is necessary and its publication in the *Palestrica of the Third Millennium – Civilization and Sport* journal is mandatory.

The book *Human biometry*, vol. I *Anthropometry* by Prof. Dr. Nicolae Neagu – head of the Department of Motricity Sciences at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Târgu Mureș, is a national first. It has a particular scientific value and is extremely necessary in medicine, biology, anthropology, physical education and sport, in etiopathogenic and prophylactic intervention – therapy – rehabilitation.

Selective bibliography

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File din istoria poloului orădean.

Echipe în prima divizie a țării 1947-2014

(Pages of history of Oradea water polo.

Romanian first division teams 1947-2014)

Authors: Ștefan Maroti, Mihaela Goina

University of Oradea Publishing House, 2015

No. of pages: 251, No. of illustrations: 41



Not long ago, the publication of a new sports history book was brought to the attention of our editorial office: *File din istoria poloului orădean. Echipe în prima divizie a țării 1947-2014 (Pages of history of Oradea water polo. Romanian first division teams 1947-2014)*. We consider that this area of physical education and sport has become richer through the publication of this book, which adds to

our knowledge about the past of the water polo game in the city of Oradea. The authors of the book are Ștefan Maroti, who authored and co-authored several books and many articles on the sports history of Bihor area, and Mihaela Ana Goina, who is also known as the author of a number of articles on Bihor sports history.

It is known that Oradea can take pride in the evolution of sport in this region of the country, in the results of its athletes who, during the course of time, have achieved performance that has lived up to the reputation of the city and have made it visible at national and international level. Among sports in which special results have been achieved, water polo stands out. Of all team sports games, in more than one hundred years that it has been played in Oradea, water polo has obtained the best results in national and international competitions, many players being promoted to the Olympic and national senior and junior teams. Despite this glorious past, curiously but true, no book on the history of Oradea water polo has so far been published, and there are few studies addressing different aspects related to the history of this sport representative of Oradea.

Viewed from this perspective, as well as in terms of quality of their achievement, the authors' approach is a praiseworthy initiative, through which they have traced in the pages of this book the history of almost seven decades of participation of Oradea teams in the most prestigious domestic water polo competition, the National Championships.

Connoisseurs know that to write such a book is not easy at all and that such an approach requires extensive knowledge of the field, thorough documentation, a lot of experience, perseverance and creativity. Given the long time period that it spans, the richness of facts and events, the multitude of results and the great number of participants, this is a bold and at the same time difficult, but topical and useful approach.

A praiseworthy initiative, an approach to admire due to the special efforts made for laborious documentation from the most diverse sources (archive documents, articles on water polo from sports newspaper pages, sports columns of local daily papers, photographs kept in albums, documents of sports organizations, statistics, records of participants or supporters, etc.). As the authors state in the introduction, one of the motives that guided them was to uncover as much information as possible, so that it would not be lost in oblivion, which would be sad and undesirable.

The richness of data and the long time period to which they refer make impossible their condensation in the available space, which is why we propose to review the table of contents, whose chapters synthesize through their titles the content of the book: The first years of participation in the National Championships; Results leading to the visibility of Oradea water polo at national level; Crișul Oradea, continuing to be among the top teams of Division A Championships; Difficult years for Oradea water polo; Crișul Oradea in the second value group of Romanian water polo; Back to the first division; Oradea water polo in obvious progress; A dream coming true, Crișul Oradea, a national champion; Medal winning years in the domestic championships for Oradea water polo; A difficult transition period; Years of building a competitive team; The period