

THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY
THE YEARBOOK OF THE "„GHEORGHE ȘINCAI" INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL
SCIENCES AND THE HUMANITIES

XIII / 2010

.....

CONTENT

“Wailing Inertia is a National Wound”. Interview with prof. dr. acad. Eugen Simion.....5

Urban Space and Civilization: Between Reality and Imagination

Elena Butoescu, <i>British Travellers in Wallachia at the End of the Eighteenth-Century: Some Considerations Regarding the Negative Aspects</i>	11
Marius Crișan, <i>Ad Aquas Herculi Sacras: The Image of Băile Herculane in the 19th Century British Travel Literature</i>	22
Adriana Tămășan (Cupcea), <i>The Elite of Cluj and its Images in the Nineteenth Century British Travel Accounts</i>	38
Cornel Sigmirean, <i>University Cities in Europe and the Romanian Students (the End of the 19th Century – the Beginning of the 20th Century)</i>	47
Ramona Caramelea, <i>Body Hygiene and Educational Practices. The Bath in the Romanian Urban Schools in the Second Half of the 19th Century</i>	60
Carmen Andraș, <i>Travelling Between Metaphors: British Representations of Bucharest at the Crossing of the 19th and 20th Centuries</i>	77
Mariana Neț, <i>Outdoor Statues in New York City (1865-1914)</i>	89
Petruța Blaga, <i>Urban areas, towards a more balanced system. Urban planning system in EU member states</i>	102

History and Historiography

Alexandru Istrate, <i>Gheorghe Săulescu and Mihail Kogălniceanu. Two Landmarks, Two Ages in the Historiography of the Revolution of 1848</i>	110
Corina Teodor, <i>Petru Maior in the philologists' awareness. The history of a beginning</i>	135
Carmen Dorlan, <i>Living between “Papists” and “Pro-Russians”: Perspectives on the Image of the Romanian Ecclesiastical Élite Reflected in the Correspondence of George Barițiu</i>	150

Fănică Niță, Iacob Mârza, <i>The Beginnings of Augustin Bunea's Historiographical Activity: Biography of the Metropolitan Bishop Ioan Vancea</i>	165
Maria Costea, <i>Bulgarian-Romanian Diplomatic Relations Before the Political Agreement of Thessalonica</i>	176
Anca Șincan, <i>On the Relationship of Church and State in Communist Romania. Theoretical and Comparative Framework</i>	185

Identity and Alterity

Florina Codreanu, <i>Alterity and Blood within the Biblical Text</i>	200
Marian Zăloagă, <i>Deprecating Gypsy Work: Normative Discourses and Varieties of Mobility in 17th – 19th Centuries Transylvania</i>	208
Răzvan Pârâianu, <i>Patriotic Literature of Socialist Inspiration</i>	235

Literary Studies

Mircea A. Diaconu, <i>I.L. Caragiale – Between Hazard and Illusion</i>	261
Nicolae Balint, <i>Jean Bart in the Mureș County Archives</i>	273
Daniel Cristea-Enache, <i>The Great Solitary</i>	279
Ruxandra Cesereanu, <i>Uncertain Novel of Novels' Country</i>	286
Nicoleta Sălcudeanu, <i>Romanian Literary Exile in Communism</i>	292
Vlad Rădescu, <i>The Text and the Visual Symbolism of the Objects on the Theatre Stage</i>	295
Reviews and reading notes	301

Urban Space and Civilization: Between Reality and Imagination

BRITISH TRAVELLERS IN WALLACHIA AT THE END OF THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY: SOME CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS

Elena Butoescu,
Universitatea din Craiova

Abstract: *Few travel accounts written by British travellers who visited Wallachia at the end of the eighteenth-century focus on Wallachia only. Most of these British travellers headed toward Constantinople, and it was only on their way to this imperial capital that they described Wallachia 'en passant,' spending very little time in this area. At the end of the eighteenth-century numerous foreign travellers came to visit the Principalities. Ambassadors, leisure travellers, men of science, missionaries, and other types of travellers noted down in their diaries information regarding various aspects of the cities in the Principalities, but most of them focused on the negative aspects that they had experienced. It is tempting to believe that the British travellers enjoyed their stay in Wallachia and appreciated the natural landscape and the traditional customs, but the social and political context which characterised the Principalities at the end of the eighteenth-century projected a different, usually negative, image of Wallachia. This article aims to outline those negative aspects that are common to the travelogues of all the British visitors who came to Wallachia at the end of the eighteenth-century either as officials to the Ottoman Porte, or as leisure travellers. My project articulates how the foreign domination over the Principalities, the unceasing wars, and the biased nomination of princes delayed the process of urbanization, thus revealing the foreign visitors a less illuminated image of Wallachia at the end of the eighteenth-century.*

Keywords: *British travel writing on Wallachia; the 'discovery of the Balkans'; negative aspects; typology of travellers; improper territorial management; inappropriate roads; Oriental influence.*

AD AQUAS HERCULI SACRAS: THE IMAGE OF BĂILE HERCULANE IN THE 19TH CENTURY BRITISH TRAVEL LITERATURE

Marius Crișan,
Universitatea de Vest, Timișoara

Abstract: *Băile Herculane is a resort preferred by the British travellers who visited the Banat and Transylvania in the second part of the 19th century. The authors of several travelogues point out the historical, political and administrative context, the richness of the soil, the beauty of the landscapes and the good conditions for treatment and leisure. They are impressed by the contrast between the grandeur of nature, on the one hand, and the architecture of the modern buildings, on the other. The travellers also pay attention to social aspects concerning the categories of people who are benefiting from the treatment in Băile Herculane, patients or tourists, and to local people, the peasants especially. A special interest is paid to the peasants' traditional dress in the region and to the beauty of the peasant women. All of these elements represent sources of attraction for the British visitors.*

Keywords: *Transylvania; the Banat; Băile Herculane; imagology; landscape; British travel literature; the image of Romania.*

THE ELITE OF CLUJ AND ITS IMAGES IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

BRITISH TRAVEL ACCOUNTS

Adriana Tămășan (Cupcea),

Universitatea „Babeș-Bolyai”, Cluj-Napoca

***Abstract:** The study analyses the perceptions of the urban society in Cluj reflected in the 19th century British travel accounts. The research follows such coordinates as the relation between the social expectations and the encountered realities by the British travellers and between the proper or improper pre-built images. Other coordinates of this study are the ratio between the pre-existing mental structures and the discovered realities, the shaping of stereotypes and the ideological influences in this respect. The structure of this study is based on issues approached by the British accounts in the second half of the 19th century. The analysis includes topics like: the local elite, the status of women, education, local personalities and the role of the clergymen.*

***Keywords:** Cluj; Transylvania; the elite; perceptions; images; the British travel literature; the 19th century.*

UNIVERSITY CITIES IN EUROPE AND THE ROMANIAN STUDENTS (THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY – THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY)

Cornel Sigmirean,

Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane „Gheorghe Șincai”, Târgu-Mureș

***Abstract:** Between the years 1850-1918, about 7000 young Romanians followed their studies at universities from Central and Western Europe. With rural origins and coming from families of farmers, priests, schoolmasters, the Romanian young students lived unique experiences in the great university metropolises. Student life and the habitual fashionable life of the cafés, with balls and soirées, contributed to the moulding of new cultural patterns in the future intellectuals' consciousness. The city was a civilizing agent, a vector of modernity.*

***Keywords:** university city; Romanian students; assuming modernity.*

BODY HYGIENE AND EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES. THE BATH IN THE ROMANIAN URBAN SCHOOLS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY

Ramona Caramelea,

Universitatea din București

***Abstract:** The text presents the school's contribution to the dissemination and practice of hygienic rules. The study starts by analyzing the physicians' and educators' discourse regarding the social role of school hygiene, a discourse that foreruns the widespread use of baths in urban schools. The dissemination of the new hygienic rules was possible through a new subject: hygiene, school conferences and the popularization of knowledge. The second part of the article gives an overview on the practice of washing, in an attempt to outline a historical viewpoint on the subject. In the second half of the nineteenth century, the bath was more than a common act, as it is nowadays, and its generalization implied serious efforts from authorities, physicians and educators. The last part of the study demonstrates the transformation of the school space for the implementation of hygienic norms. The modern school building, with bathrooms or rooms for washing, allowed the applying of the new hygienic practice and contributed to a personal hygiene. At the same time, these modern school buildings were spacious, clean, light and airy unlike the old ones. The article claims no exhaustion of the subject, but merely a starting point for future discussions.*

Keywords: School hygiene; Health; Hygienic rules; Bath; School building.

TRAVELLING BETWEEN METAPHORS: BRITISH REPRESENTATIONS OF BUCHAREST AT THE CROSSING OF THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES

Carmen Andraș,

Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane „Gheorghe Șincai”, Târgu Mureș

Abstract: *The paper continues my previous research on Bucharest's life and civilization reflected in British travel literature. The intention of the present analysis is to demonstrate the inclusion of stereotypes in cultural metaphors and their evolution from one observer to another. In this case, the study focuses on the representations of Bucharest in British travel literature at the end of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century. For this purpose, I have chosen as reference Florence Berger's travel account A Winter in the City of Pleasure, or Life on the Lower Danube, published in 1877, continuing with James Samuelson's Roumania Past and Present, published in 1882, and then with British travellers who visited Bucharest during the first decades of the 20th century. The conclusion is that, contrary to Florence Berger's metaphorical labelling, the other travellers were stressing Bucharest's Oriental or, sometimes Byzantine, setting, in order to underline its inherited features and make the present comprehensible, not to emphasize its primitive character. This image occurred due to the past of the city, which is embedded in its psychology, mentalities and appearance, like any city in the world. In fact, these old characteristics are perceived as very picturesque and interesting.*

Keywords: Bucharest; British travel literature; Florence Berger; James Samuelson; metaphor; stereotype; Orientality; Europeanness; modernity; primitivism; progress.

OUTDOOR STATUES IN NEW YORK CITY (1865-1914)

Mariana Neț,

Institutul de Lingvistică „Iorgu Iordan-Al. Rosetti”, București

Abstract: *The paper examines the first 49 statues erected in New York City in the 1865-1914 span, as regards the topic embodied, the year in which they were unveiled, and the location in which they were installed. Several significant patterns and trends of thought can be discovered in this way concerning the Americans' attitude towards their own history, as well as world history.*

Keywords: statues; New York City; Revolutionary War; Civil War; Central Park; attitude towards history.

URBAN AREAS, TOWARDS A MORE BALANCED SYSTEM. URBAN PLANNING SYSTEM IN EU MEMBER STATES

Petruța Blaga,

Universitatea „Petru Maior”, Târgu-Mureș

Abstract: *European cities possess unique cultural and architectural qualities, strong exceptional opportunities for social inclusion and economic development. These cities are centers of knowledge and sources of development and innovation.*

In the mean time, cities suffer from the same demographic, social inequality, lack of housing and environmental problems. On long term, cities will not be able to perform as enablers of social progress and economic growth if they will not succeed in maintaining social stability within cities and between cities, ensuring cultural diversity and establishing quality standards in areas related to urban design, architecture and environment.

This is what is known as urban planning, representing a set of policies and strategies. Urban planning is not focused only on urban planning, but also on other social factors such as housing and jobs for inhabitants, to protect and to promote urban health policies, infrastructure, water conservation and water resource management etc.

Keywords: *urban area; urban planning; urban management; sustainable development.*

GHEORGHE SĂULESCU AND MIHAIL KOGĂLNICEANU. TWO LANDMARKS, TWO AGES IN THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE REVOLUTION OF 1848

Alexandru Istrate,
Institutul „A. D. Xenopol”, Iași

Abstract: *Within a short interval of about 15 years, between 1829 and 1845, there were only a few writings that proved some interest in the past. Over two generations of teachers, the concepts and methodology of historiographical writing had known a dynamic which would have been hard to foresee when the first public school system were established. Distancing itself from the mirage of mythology, from the nominalizations of chronology, the history of the Romanians gained an identity of its own. In their pleas in favour of this cause, Florian Aaron and Mihail Kogălniceanu supported authentic research of old documents, which led to a change in the configuration of the pretended scientific nature of this subject matter. Both contributions made the status of history credible in the Romanian culture and gave it the right to bring in the necessary arguments for the support of the national cause.*

Keywords: *past; school; teacher; textbook; heroes.*

PETRU MAIOR IN THE PHILOLOGISTS' AWARENESS. THE HISTORY OF A BEGINNING

Corina Teodor,
Universitatea „Petru Maior”, Târgu-Mureș

Abstract: *In these pages I want to recall how Petru Maior`s life and work came in the attention of Romanian philologists, which is not surprising if we consider that the Transylvanian enlightened intellectual himself was passionate, to obsession of both history and language topics. Our investigation focuses on five case studies, Timotei Cipariu, Alexandru Papiu Ilarian, Iustin Popfîu, Atanasie Marinescu and George Bogdan-Duică, which all share a common romantic essence. But each of them sketched Petru Maior`s figure differently, with their own instruments, however taking him as a model, in an era when the cultural values of the past were required to become pieces in a true national pedagogy.*

Keywords: historiography; Enlightenment; Romanticism; readings.

**LIVING BETWEEN “PAPISTS” AND “PRO-RUSSIANS”: PERSPECTIVES ON THE
IMAGE OF THE ROMANIAN ECCLESIASTICAL ÉLITE REFLECTED IN THE
CORRESPONDENCE OF GEORGE BARIȚIU**

Carmen Maria Dorlan,

Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane „Gheorghe Șincai”, Târgu-Mureș

Abstract: *The evolution of the Romanian journalism in Transylvania during the first period of its existence has been based, as far as the Romanian historical contributions are concerned, on a theoretical and methodological thinking subordinated to the multiple meanings and utilities of the interpretive categories identity and communication. As a result, their interest has been focused on the role of the multicultural context in order to favor, give significance and identify the press and its representatives, permanently corroborating the process to the politics promoted by the Habsburg monarchy regarding the national identity construction. Previous historical writing focused on the significance of the Romanian press as a result of its interests related to the élite contribution to this evolution. It also reflected the specific conditions in which the Romanian journalism developed at the middle of the 19th century and the multiple implications of a society mainly agrarian that offered few opportunities to favor capital or industrial development or even to spread the practice of reading. Instead this society offered the possibility of re-evaluating the career options in the intellectual media, in many cases preferring journalism, teaching or law to priesthood, as a reflection of a larger social background and different possibilities for employment. Rethinking about the content of the extended correspondence maintained by George Barițiu with the intellectual media of his time from the perspective of the recent methodological and interpretive contributions regarding the identity or the modern Romanian society’s social, cultural, and confessional representations proves to be a useful and necessary intent if we take into consideration the fact that many of the aspects referring to the distribution and the receptivity of the journalistic activity during the decades at the middle of the 19th century are still unknown. Included among autobiographical sources, the correspondence may be considered as well an instrument used in order to display discursive practices elaborated by social groups or representative individuals. It also reveals the authors’ effort of sustained performance through which they formulate and modify their own experience in order to build their identity and power. Likewise, it reflects the dimension of the Romanian clergy’s contribution to the impact of the journalism on the society in Transylvania, analyzed here for the period previous to the moment 1848, and on the social typologies operated within the Romanian intellectual media. This way the practice of correspondence improves our perception of the way the press inter-relates with the process of élite and nation formation and reflects also the interdependence existing between the movement for national liberation, the competition between various élite groups and their opportunities to use their own resources of power. Based on this type of historical source the article intends to reflect on the image of the Romanian clergy in Transylvania, specifically on the ecclesiastical élites to whom George Barițiu, as a journalist, political spokesman and historian came into contact, with more or less benefic effects on his activity and the principles he assumed, transmitted both from and to George Barițiu. As a result the reference to their own identity aims here to know not only a form of social typology but mostly to reflect on the relations established at this level and possibilities instrumented by the Romanian clergy in order to participate and sustain de community’s solidification promoted through their correspondence with George Barițiu related to the reception of his journalism.*

Keywords: *correspondence; George Barițiu; ecclesiastical élite; social representation; journalism.*

THE BEGINNINGS OF AUGUSTIN BUNEA'S HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ACTIVITY: BIOGRAPHY OF THE METROPOLITAN BISHOP IOAN VANCEA

Fănică Niță,

Universitatea „1 Decembrie 1918”, Alba-Iulia

Iacob Mârza,

Universitatea „1 Decembrie 1918”, Alba-Iulia

***Abstract:** The study begins by observing the way in which the researcher from Blaj drew up a biography of the Uniate Archbishop Ioan Vancea, an early career work of Augustin Bunea, the involuntary historian. The authors looked first into the existing rapports between the provincial political context and the similar attitudes of the biographer as seen in the text comments he made. The authors have tried to identify the personal and professional reasons that influenced this biographical work. Their hypothesis is that interests in drawing up this biography ran both way, the hierarch wanted a positive portrayal of his activity and the author wanted to go up the hierarchical ladder. The authors analyzed the text looking at its structure, content, Bunea's research and interpretation, the value criteria and the historical concepts he used. In Augustin Bunea's historical discourse, characteristic to the 1890 period, one can see a clear and balanced structure, a concentration on the exemplary deeds (be them ecclesiastical, didactic or charitable) of Archbishop Vancea, the diversity and abundance of new sources, the praises dedicated to the hierarch, both traditionalism and modernism in judgement criteria, the adherence of the biographer to some fundamental historiographical principles (romantic and positivist). The work was placed into the succinct biographic genre, genre well represented among the historian's work. The authors conclude that the biography presents the Archbishop as an active hierarch, supporter of the institutional modernization of the school and the Romanian Greek Catholic Church in Transylvania. They also agree that this work is a formative one for the future historiographic profile of Augustin Bunea*

***Keywords:** Augustin Bunea; biography; the Metropolitan Bishop Vancea; the Greek-Catholic Church; the Dualistic Transylvania.*

BULGARIAN-ROMANIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BEFORE THE POLITICAL AGREEMENT OF THESSALONICA

Maria Costea,

Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane „Gheorghe Șincai”, Târgu-Mureș

***Abstract:** The closure of the Bulgarian-Yugoslavian Treaty of friendship from 1937 and the Anschluss, have determined Romania to improve her relations with Bulgaria by negotiating some controversial problems. Romania has made great efforts to improve her relations with Bulgaria. For this matter, Romania has adopted the Status of minorities on the 4th of August 1938, after which the right of rearming of Bulgaria has been barely accepted, and was detailed in the Agreement of Thessalonica on the 31st of July, 1938. Despite all these concessions, Romania did not succeed reconciliation with Bulgaria, because Sofia persisted with her revisionist policy.*

***Keywords:** international relations; Romania; Bulgaria; revisionism; arming; Anschluss; Germany; Hungary; Yugoslavia.*

ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF CHURCH AND STATE IN COMMUNIST ROMANIA. THEORETICAL AND COMPARATIVE FRAMEWORK

Anca Şincan,

Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane „Gheorghe Şincai”, Târgu-Mureş

Abstract: *The present article presents a theoretical overview of the interpretation on church state relationship in communist Romania. It offers a possible solution to researching this topic by going comparative and using the case of Soviet Union as example. Several ways of interpreting this relationship are followed and some of the pitfalls of such research are discussed. The terms that were used to define the relationship between church and state during the communist regime: compromise, submission, co-option and association are discussed in an effort to deconstruct a narrative that tends to generalize and think in clusters this meet between orthodoxy and the state.*

Keywords: *Romanian Orthodox Church; communist regime; religion and communism; cooption; association.*

ALTERITY AND BLOOD WITHIN THE BIBLICAL TEXT

Florina Codreanu,

Universitatea “Babeş-Bolyai”, Cluj-Napoca

Abstract: *The present paper analyzes the categories of alterity within the biblical narratives in relation with the prevalence of a blood imaginary. Due to the differentiation between blood and flesh set up by Leviticus – For the life of the flesh is in the blood – there are many divine prescriptions, interdictions and taboos. By being acknowledged as a powerful substance, blood entails the potential of acceptance or exclusion of the human being in and from the community. The «Other» is altogether the one that shed blood or made use of its power against the divine order and legislation.*

Keywords: *blood; sacrifice; interdiction; Holy Scripture; the Other; violence.*

DEPRECATING GYPSY WORK: NORMATIVE DISCOURSES AND VARIETIES OF MOBILITY IN 17th – 19th CENTURIES TRANSYLVANIA

Marian Zăloagă,

Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane „Gheorghe Şincai”, Târgu Mureş

Abstract: *The present article approaches regressively the topic of the Gypsies’ work and its relations with the spatial mobility. I first take a look in the portraits of a generic Gypsy as imagined by the armchair and field anthropologists of the 18th and 19th centuries, later addressing the matter of inner and outer peripateticism, migration, vagabondage etc. by directly analyzing some 18th century archival sources. My intent is to unbiasedly reveal the varieties of mobility assumed as ethnic identity by the administrative authorities (be them guild, estates or Habsburg imperial representatives) even by the Gypsies. In the background, I point on the*

juridical status, ecological determinants, local traditions and needs that provided sufficient reasons for the outliving of this spatial and work management behavior.

Keywords: *Transylvanian Gypsies; work management; mobility varieties; the Saxon guild, reformist program; normativity.*

PATRIOTIC LITERATURE OF SOCIALIST INSPIRATION

Răzvan Pârâianu,

Universitatea „Petru Maior”, Târgu-Mureș

Abstract: *Initially written in 1881 by Nicolae Gane, Stejarul din Borzești was rewritten by Eusebiu Camilar in 1954 and became one of the most popular historical short stories in Romania. It was included in most literary textbooks or curriculum since its first publication. This short story is relevant for the cultural policy of the communist regime in 1954 and the present article analyses the reasons why today, after the 1989 Revolution, after the 1999 education reform, and after NATO and EU integration, a pupil in the third grade is compelled to read this story. In the followings, there will be analyzed the political context under which this short story was written, the cultural policy in which it was inscribed, the way in which children literature was integrated in the official culture of the regime, and the way in which a new historical identity was built for the young generation and why such texts survived the post-communist period until today. In conclusion, the Romanian communist regime, after a period of severe cultural purge, attempted to create of a “new culture” suited for the “new man,” the builder of socialism, a sense of identity which was equally based on national independence and class struggle, the former being preponderant. This ideological effort was performed through supporting a new literature whose directions and principal themes were inspired by the party policy, rewriting some of previous texts in the light of the new ideological imperatives, retrieving the classics of Romanian literature on the ideological criteria, retranslating the great works of universal literature and reinterpreting according to the same criteria. Camilar’s short story is a good example of this attempt of recasting and reinterpreting of Romanian culture and history as a struggle of the ordinary men for independence.*

Keywords: *socialist patriotism; nationalism; identity; textbooks; literary cannon.*

I.L. CARAGIALE – BETWEEN HAZARD AND ILLUSION

Mircea A. Diaconu,

Universitatea „Ștefan cel Mare”, Suceava

Abstract: *Part of a larger study, this article offers a different perspective on Caragiale’s writings. Staging a world built on hazard and illusion, where the spiritualized Demiurge is replaced by an author playing with collages, many of Caragiale’s texts, such as La Moși, Repaus duminical, Moșii (Tablă de materii) and others, assert his tendency towards a burlesque agglomeration of forms and matters. Sequences reminding of Rabelais, in which digestion is, basically, a sign of life under the sign of hazard, function as attempts to take possession of the materiality of the world and of the text. Refusing the transparency of linguistic signs, words get intoxicated with their own materiality, building up moments of greedy reveries and inebriation of the senses, of verbal delirium and disharmonic harmony. Because the spectacle of the matter conceals (or reveals) the world’s lack of transparency.*

Keywords: Caragiale; burlesque; materiality; gastronomy; transcendence.

JEAN BART IN THE MUREȘ COUNTY ARCHIVES

Nicolae Balint

Abstract: *Eugeniu Botez (Jean Bart) was born in Burdujeni (Suceava county of today), in 1874, as the son of general Panait Botez. Eugeniu Botez, who at one point had Ion Creangă as a teacher, attended two secondary grades in Iași (1887-1889), the School of Soldiers' Sons (1890-1894), the Officers' School in Bucharest (1894-1896) and the School of Tactical Application of the Marine in Galați, which he graduated in 1896. In 1910, he was a naval captain in Sulina, and a year later he was appointed as a naval commissary in Sulina. He was a founding member of the Naval Magazine (1900) and starting in 1922, he was a corresponding member of the Romanian Academy. He made his debut in journalism with the article „D. Vlahuță să ne dumerească” (“D. Vlahuță should enlighten us”) (1894), and as a writer with the short story „Iapa Căpitanului” („The Captain's Mare”) (1896). He was a contributor to Viața Românească, Adevărul literar, Pagini literare, Dimineața, Marea Neagră, Orizontul Maritim, and others. In 1907, he founded the Literary Salon in Galati. He received numerous literary awards. He wrote many novellas, sketches and short stories, with a predominant theme of the sea ports' world and its problems, all well received by the public and the literary critics of the time. The novel Europolis – the most appreciated of his works – has been republished several times and has been translated into several languages. In the Mures County Archives, we can find an unexpected document written by Jean Bart and which refers to the diplomatic conflict in 1905, between Romania and Greece, a conflict which had been caused by the situation of the Macedo-Romanians in Greece. The document is interesting both for its contents, and the conditions in which it ended up in the Mureș county archives.*

Keywords: Jean Bart; diplomatic conflict; minority issue.

THE GREAT SOLITARY

Daniel Cristea-Enache,

Facultatea de Litere, Universitatea București

Abstract: The way a novel like Morometii was read and interpreted during the epoch of socialist realism and the following one dominated by the canon of aesthetic criticism does not coincide with the way the same novel may be read by a literary critic of the last generation. This text tries to capture the mutations of reception that every great epical creation can engender, through the redefinition of the forms and structure of the novel.

Consequently, Ilie Moromete, the novel's well known hero, is not a philosophical spirit, an aesthete of the rural world, an eye imperturbably contemplating the surrounding world. This Ilie Moromete imposes himself as a realist character – in the true sense of the word – whose internal complexity can be measured by the very awareness of the problems, difficulties, family convulsions, which he is registering with acuity and which he is assuming dramatically.

Keywords: Marin Preda; Ilie Moromete; socialist realism; canon; realism; reception.

UNCERTAIN NOVEL OF NOVELS' COUNTRY

Ruxandra Cesereanu,
Universitatea „Babeş-Bolyai”, Cluj-Napoca

***Abstract:** Not only professional readers, but readers in general may be, sometimes or oftentimes, fascinated both by classical, respectable, famous books and by unusual, strange, atypical, exotic works (and the list of qualifiers could go on). I prefer to call these books simply outlandish. This essay analyses one such outlandish novel, as regards both its subject matter and its style.*

***Keywords:** Umberto Eco; outlandish novel; subject matter; style; narrative construction; The Land of Novels; Don Quijote; master-apprentice relation.*

ROMANIAN LITERARY EXILE IN COMMUNISM

Nicoleta Sălcudeanu,
Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane „Gheorghe Şincai”, Târgu-Mureş

***Abstract.** The problem of the wandering writer becomes more and more only one of the wandering writing. The writer finds his shelter in difference and double identity. Banishment may be a new birth, a founding energy. While misplacement is not anymore the reason of all the troubles of creature, its benefit is a more comfortable manner of living inside the ontological landscape.*

***Keywords:** exile; literature; communism.*

THE TEXT AND THE VISUAL SYMBOLISM OF THE OBJECTS ON THE THEATRE STAGE

Vlad Rădescu,
Universitatea de Artă Teatrală, Târgu-Mureş

***Abstract:** The art of theatre as fiction is not just a simple imaginary representation of the real world but a vehicle of extracting the vitality in the backstage of reality to make it visible. Theatre fiction does not remain only a simple invention but presupposes accepting the subject in Kantian meaning. The visual stage is not just an unrolling of images as a graphic perception, it is configured in three simultaneous coordinates: the actors play, the iconicity of the stage and the scenic image. The functions of the visual object can hint to the mimesis of the action, the abstract and nonfigurative, the coming into play, the mental landscape, or the state is a spirit. In this article I went through the visual signs in a series of important 20th century directors like Stanislavski, Brecht, Meyerhold, Grotowski. I conclude that reciting the text and its visual representation go through a sinuous path proving a continuous rebellion of the theatre creator towards the official aesthetic of the moment. Unfortunately the Romanian contemporary theatre shows a suspicion towards experiment and exploration.*

***Keywords:** Stanislavsk; Brecht; Meyerhold; Grotowsk; theatre art; theatre fiction; visual stage; experiment.*