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ABSTRACTS

Florin ANGHEL, *Everyday life in South Dobruja. What Jordan Iovkov (1880-1937) saw at the border with Romania?*

Jordan Iovkov was born in 1880, in Jevarna, a mountain village in central Bulgaria, but in 1897 his parents moved to Dobruja, living in Ciufut Cuius, a Tatar village a few kilometres away from the current Romanian frontier (today the village is called Iovkovo, near Kardam; between 1918-1940 it was part of Casim region, in Caliacra county). He taught Bulgarian to a nearby school, in Ciflik (Dolen Izvor), also a village situated on the Romanian border, that was merged with Musubei (Izvorovo); in Carali (today named Krasen), a nearby village, was located Filip's Inn, which inspired him to write *The Inn at Antimovo and Legends of Stara Pianina* (1927), his famous stories about the peasants and soldiers on the frontier.

The geographic triangle formed by the frontier villages Carali (in Bulgarian Krasen), Ciufut Cuius (Iovkovo) and Ciflik (Dolen Izvor), together with Bazargic town (in Bulgarian Dobrici) constituted the real background for some of the most important Bulgarian literary creations of Jordan Iovkov, which are a part of Dobruja's most representative cultural features.

However, Jordan Iovkov's villages have nothing to do with the romantic stories, novels, poetry, articles or holiday diaries written by the Romanian high class, and published over the years during the Interwar decades. The Myth of Balchik and of some other exotic spaces perceived as such by Romanians, did not exist in Jordan Iovkov's writings; he wrote about ancient communities, with institutional and every day life patterns that have changed very little over the centuries. As Romanian literature focused on turks in turbans and traditional shalwars, on the Imperial Ottoman customs and on the white sun of Southern Dobruja, Iovkov's stories depicted the ordinary life, those tireless working days in the field, the dirty public markets that had nothing to do with the attractions of larger cities, such as Balchik and the little incidents caused by insignificant border officials. A completely different world, another story, a necessary addenda to the Romanian perception of Southern Dobruja.

Radu TUDORANCEA *Romanian Intellectuals in Times of War: the case of those who remained on the occupied territory during the Great War*

Apart from the existing scientific interest surrounding the research area related to the topic of First World War and Romania's participation in the war, which, for decades mainly tackled the political disputes within Romanian society related to War and the military confrontations *per se*, some other topics, such as those referring to cultural and social

implications of the war, the relation between war, territory and collective memory and, last but not least, the issue of social and intellectual behaviour under the occupation regime have been either entirely neglected or given short shrift. Among these, various topics concerning the behaviour of Romanian intellectuals which have remained on the occupied territory during the First World War have often been omitted. This paper focuses on such a topic, referring to some of the most influential Romanian intellectuals who remained on the occupied territory between 1916-1918. The research tackles the controversy surrounding many of them, especially when it comes to the way they were related to the occupation administration during World War I.

Octavian DASCĂL, *Christian Rakovsky and the Romanian Treasure in Moscow in 1918*

Our perspective of Christian Rakovsky as a Bulgarian and Russian revolutionary, a Romanian socialist militant and also a Soviet diplomat is enriched by this study which emphasizes some unpublished documents from the Romanian and Russian Archives, as well as some recent Russian publications on the subject. This paper highlights the role played by Rakovsky as president of the Supreme Russian-Romanian Autonomous College for Romanian and Bessarabian Affairs and as an adviser of the actions accomplished during 1917-1918 by the Russian military-revolutionary organizations in order to establish the Soviet power in Bessarabia and Romania.

The documents which are analyzed in this article enlighten Racovsky's significant contribution in shaping the intransigent diplomacy of the Soviets regarding Romania, in the context of reopening the Bessarabian Question as a consequence of the union of Bessarabia with Romania. The Soviet constant refusal to reopen the negotiations on the Treasure retrocession was an important part of the Moscow policy towards Romania.

The information displayed in the letters sent by Rakovsky to M.M. Litvinov in 1923-1924, held in the Russian Archives and, moreover, submitted to a critical analysis by some Russian historians, allow us, in the current state of research, to draw the conclusion that the Romanian Treasure was no longer intact at the beginning of the '20s.

Camelia ZAVARACHE, *„For them to enjoy all the rights that derive from parent-child relationship”. The legitimation of children born out-of-wedlock during Interwar Romania*

The family based on legitimate marriage has been the norm in all European societies, under the Old Regime. Legitimate marriage ensured the intergenerational transfer of name and property, while cohabitation was seen as posing a serious threat to the social order derived from the law. However, what was really at stake was the status of the children resulted from illegitimate or transient relationships; perceived as bastards by society, they were excluded from their father's family line, and consequently did not inherit any of his possessions. For people living in Romania, during the first half of the XXth century, the problem that they were facing was of a different nature; the restrictions instilled by the Civil Law were turning the entire process of legitimation into a family drama. As parents that had children without being married were about to discover, marriage was the only way to legitimate them, provided that the father had previously recognized them as his own. If the marriage was celebrated without the couple being aware of this mandatory step, their children would keep on being illegitimate. The strict regulations regarding the numerous procedures that needed to be followed were in fact part of a larger strategy that authorities used to discourage cohabitation and out-of-wedlock births. Thus, it becomes obvious that the intention of the government was to punish deviation from social norms, as a measure to moralize the population and better control its behavior.

Viorel ACHIM, *The Communist Authorities' Refusal to Recognize the Roma as a National Minority. A Moment in the History of the Roma in Romania, 1948-1949*

This paper deals with the moment in 1948-1949, when the General Union of the Roma in Romania (*Uniunea Generală a Romilor din România*), which was the representative organization of the Roma, unsuccessfully tried to obtain for them from the communist authorities the status of a national minority. For the Romanian Communist Party, the Roma represented a population that had to be brought into its sphere of influence. Discussions on the establishment of the People's Union of the Roma in Romania (*Uniunea Populară a Romilor din România*) lasted for several months but eventually led to the rejection of the request of the Roma leaders. The institutions involved in these discussions created documents, some of which are kept in the archives and allow us to study this moment in time. An archival document of particular importance for understanding what happened in those years and for understanding the motivations behind the communist authorities' decision not to grant the status of a national minority to the Roma is the study titled *The Gypsy Problem in the Romanian People's Republic*, which was drawn up by the Department for the Issues of Coinhabiting Nationalities in the context of the negotiations in the first months of 1949 between the ministry's leadership and the Roma leaders in connection with the recognition of the Roma as a national minority.

Lucian VASILE *The invisible line. Gheorghe Saramet Spy's biography*

The article focuses on the biography of Gheorghe Saramet, one of the spies that had been working for the Communist Intelligence Agencies of Romania, during its early years, and also for the foreign ones, in a double game that has provided him with social status, wealth and a sense of adventure. In doing so, he played a vital part in the Communist authorities' effort of dismantling an entire spy network run by Mihail Opran, the de facto leader of SIMRE (The Intelligence Service of the Romanian Military Exile), which was supported by the French Intelligence Agency. However, his years of service have not spared him of being arrested for trying to leave Romania, spending time in prison, only to be released again and reactivated as an intelligence agent. Still, his entire activity, especially towards the '60, cannot be known with certainty, as the documents available in the archives regarding his work have been selected and removed from the files. Consequently, one can assume that Saramet was released from prison and allowed to leave the country with the promise of collaborating with the Romanian Intelligence Service, as he could have easily been blackmailed with his past.

Cristian VASILE, *Some Reflections regarding the History of the Institute for Legal Research of the Academy of the People's Republic of Romania in its First Decade of Existence, 1954-1965*

The Institute for Legal Research (ICJ) of the Romanian Academy was run in its first years of existence (between 1954 and 1956) by a communist dignitary such as Ion Gheorghe Maurer. The Institute was an example of a strange coexistence between jurists-political activists on the ideological front and eminent scholars academically validated abroad during the pre-communist period. Around the recent history of the ICJ there have been heated debates, especially after some anniversary moments that led to the praising without critical sense of the former director I.Gh. Maurer who after 1961 became prime minister of communist Romania.

Raluca-Nicoleta SPIRIDON, *Arresting the Recollections regarding Bessarabia. Virginia Munteanu, Dumitru Iov and Virgil Carianopol - condemned for public agitation in 1957*

The article's aim is to present the political trial involving an intellectual group gathered around Virginia Munteanu - the sister of anticommunist writer and journalist Pamfil Seicaru - and to outline the political and literary biographies of those writers who were condemned to many years of imprisonment for the crime of public agitation by the Sentence no. 474 from 8 April 1957 of the Bucharest Military Tribunal. It was an almost singular case of political punishment for literary work *per se* the first communist decade (1948-1958). The article focuses on poets Dumitru Iov and Virgil Carianopol who were sentenced in this aforementioned political trial.

Bogdan C. IACOB, *From Africa to the World: Romania's Global Turn in the 1970s*

The first postwar Romanian trans-African expedition (1970-1971) and Nicolae Ceausescu's first tour of African countries (1972) were symbolic moments for the local communist regime's global turn that began at the end of the 1960s. At the same time, these momentous events underlined Romania's ambivalent and limited global presence in post-colonial world before 1970. The acceleration and expansion of Romania's relations with developing countries in Africa, Latin America, or Asia was inextricably connected with the country's new identity as proclaimed by the 1969 Party Congress (in the aftermath of the previous year's Soviet-led military intervention in Czechoslovakia), that is the status of European, socialist, developing country. The article analyzes, starting from Bucharest's bilateralism engagement with Sub-Saharan Africa states, how solidarity with the 'Third World' became a central element of the Romanian state socialism's ideological and economic emancipation within the Soviet Union-led camp and in the world. The anti-imperialist and developmental commitment of the government in Bucharest in Africa, and more generally in the Global South, was a cardinal reference for the regime's self-representations at home and abroad during the Cold War.

Cosmin POPA, *The beginnings of the Romanian bicephal dictatorship: Preparing the ground (1971-1974)*

The rising of his wife, Elena, as a leader, as most of Ceaușescu's long term stakes, was carefully and systematically prepared from his early years. This was not a means to combat the economic crisis or a consequence of the couple's seizure of the competences of the party apparatus, although both were obvious in Ceaușescu's Romania. Elena became the second leader of the country and the party in order to preserve and consolidate Ceaușescu's dictatorship, and this was a singular phenomenon among the European Communist countries through its structure and manifestation. The vast process of clearing and preparing the political and institutional ground for the transition from the culture of party elites to clan culture did not take place during the tense moments of Ceaușescu's dictatorship, but when he was at the height of his popularity. Lacking any ideological constraints or cultural inhibitions, the two members of the Ceaușescu family made the most of the experience of the other Communist countries where family ties played a major role in politics. However, while trying to build a hermetic and impregnable system, the members of the Ceaușescu family did not mimic the experience of the Kim dynasty,

while they amended that of Mao and his wife, Jiang Qing, and completely ignored the curious case of Ludmila Jivkova.

The Elena Ceaușescu phenomenon was not a symptom of a Romanian patriarchal culture transformed by Communism, nor the by-product of the regime's gender policy. Elena Ceaușescu respected the first in her public acts and presented herself as the symbol of the second but did not truly claim authority from neither. Elena Ceaușescu was the clearest expression of Ceaușescu's untamed lust for power. Power-mad, Ceaușescu delegated some of it to an extension of himself, but even then, he always had the last word. All of Elena Ceaușescu's autonomous actions during her political career had no personal agenda and were only means to follow that of her husband. Her few public speeches were those of her husband and her actions had no other goal but to consolidate his own.

Mioara ANTON, *The education of the good taste in Socialist Romania: ideological norms and social practices*

Two decades from the establishment of communist regime, the economic condition of Romanian society was radically changed. The industrialization and urbanization led to the improvement of living conditions, diversifications of consumer goods and rising of living standards. The development of home-grown industry represented an essential component of the national strategy of Ceaușescu's regime. The long-term effects were the growth of the economic potential of the country, the improvement of living conditions and implicitly the winning of the population's trust.

The campaigns for the education of the good taste had an explicit ideological aim, educating the population to accustom the socialist values as well as a practical one resulted from the modernization of Romanian economy. In the first case, we refer to the massive ideologisation through spreading the culture for the masses, the anti-religious campaigns and removing from society the negative phenomena such as alcoholism, social parasitism, black market economy and corruption. In the second case, the main objective of the communist regime was to cultivate the image of a country found in full economic development. The officials saw in the mass production of consumer goods a means for educating the taste and needs of the population. Behind the demands for a rational and balanced consumption were hidden the problems of planned economy which could not respond to the consumer demand and never provided the quantities that people wanted.

Flori BĂLĂNESCU, *Goma Movement in the Securitate archives and in the American Intelligence Documents. (Prospects for a comparative study)*

The evolution of the Human Rights Movement in the first months of the year 1977, amid the preparation of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Belgrade and the effects of the March 4, 1977 Vrancea earthquake, did not go unnoticed by the western intelligence services and media. Similar to the Czechoslovakia's Charter 77, the purpose of the Goma Movement was to draw attention to the Conference members on the non-observance of the human rights by the Ceaușescu regime. The formal Romanian discourse, the Romanian classified documents on the repression of the Movement and the external perceptions, as shown in the recent declassified CIA documents, are contributory to an in-depth review. The different perspectives allow the historian to formulate his own conclusions augmented by the primary and secondary bibliography on the subject.

Simion GHEORGHIU, *The 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe reflected in the Romanian Communist Party documents*

In this article, based mostly on documents deposited in the National Archives of Romania (mainly the CC of PCR fund – Foreign Relations Section and the Chancellery Section), it is presented the attitude of the Romanian communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu when facing the Chernobyl disaster from the night of 25-26 April 1986 and also the actions taken in the immediately following period.

Even though in the Romanian communist press there was very little information about the accident (the emphasis was strictly on limited data, without giving too many details, “in order not to create panic”), the documents of the Romanian Communist Party show that the leader from Bucharest was informed about the explosion and was regularly updated about the trajectory of the radioactive cloud, consisting of large quantities of Cesium 137 and Iod 131 isotopes. With the change of wind direction, the cloud that crossed the south of Ukraine and headed for Turkey, made the radiation level to grow in various areas of Romania. Within the CC of PCR meeting on the morning of May 1, 1986, Ceausescu formed an environment surveillance and control committee, led by his wife Elena. The purpose of the committee was not only to manage the situation but also to keep the contact with the Soviet comrades, from whom it was expected collaboration, “to provide more details”. In this respect the Soviet Union ambassador to Bucharest, N. Tiajelnikov, was repeatedly convoked.

A face to face discussion between N. Ceausescu and M.S. Gorbachev took place on May 16, 1986. Although not on the agenda of the meeting, the Chernobyl catastrophe topic was addressed. As the transcript shows, the discussion was a “dialogue of the deaf”. An immediate effect of this meeting was that the Chernobyl subject ceased to appear in the Romanian press of the time. However, the issue continued to be addressed from time to time “behind the closed doors”, based on communications coming from the Soviet Union.