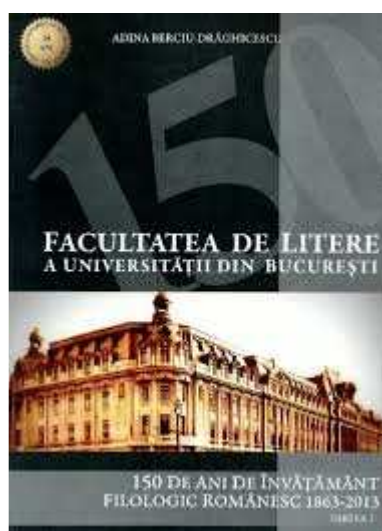


## REVIEWS

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Berciu-Drăghicescu, Adina. *Faculty of Languages, University of Bucharest – 150 years of Romanian Philology education, from 1863 to 2013: Tradition and prestige*. Chief contributor: Ovidiu Bozgan, PhD, University Professor. Collaborators: University Lecturer: Cristina Gudin, PhD and Silviu Nedelcu. Bucharest: Bucharest University Press, 2013, 2 vol., 1106 p. ISBN 978-606-16-0301-5



Today we are privileged to signal the appearance of an extensive work published in two parts, totaling 1106 pages which constitutes a homage paid to the 150 years of existence of a prestigious Romanian institution of Romanian learning – the Faculty of Languages, University of Bucharest. The author, Adina Berciu-Drăghicescu, PhD is a historian, a university professor at the Department of Communication Sciences and Information Sciences Laboratory from the Faculty of Languages, University of Bucharest, holder of courses of archival and museum sciences of cultural institutions.

An extremely meticulous author, she has in recent years shown a constant interest in the subject, proving herself to be the best in dealing with the preparation of these two volumes. Working on the basis of fragments and articles published previously, which are listed at the bottom of the page and in the bibliography and of the thorough research of the archive sources belonging to the rector's office of the University in Bucharest, to the NCSSA Archive and the Service Central Historical National Archives, the author considers this work as a starting point for a future exhaustive monograph.

The book displays a remarkable scientific attitude: it manages to facilitate seemingly complicated paths of destinies, facts and attitudes and at the same time to depict the 150 years of Romanian tradition of philology education by using a multitude of information, most of which is mentioned for the first time.

The work is organized on the basis of the chronological order of the major events in the history of Romania that also left their trace on the existence of the Faculty of Philosophy and Languages in Bucharest. It is an objective presentation, based on the study, interpretation and citation of documents that place the institution within the socio-cultural framework of the last century and a half.

The first chapter, *The Beginnings of Higher Education in Philosophy in Bucharest – 1863-1918* presents the founding of the Faculty of Languages and Philosophy, the legislation and the regulations in the starting years, the organization of study curricula, the professors and the structure of departments, the former students and the place they did their learning, the various events of the time.

*The Higher School of Languages* opened its doors on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> of December in 1863 to a number of 9 students. Courses were scheduled to take place in the morning only. August Treboniu Laurian, who taught the history of classical literature, was appointed as director. Next to him were Aaron Florian, who taught universal ancient literature, and also Ioan Maiorescu for the history of Romania and Ioan Zalomit for the history of philosophy. *The Higher School of Languages*, as well as the higher school of sciences and the school of law did not function too long as independent institutions, because the Royal Decree no. 765 of 4<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> of July 1864 stipulated that they be united, thus constituting the University of Bucharest.

The second chapter, titled *The Presence of the Faculty of Philosophy and Languages in Romania's cultural and scientific landscape. The Pinnacle of the Faculty of Philosophy and Languages during the Interwar Period* describes the high European level reached by the institution between the two world wars. As regards the number of professors who taught at the University of Bucharest the author notes a considerable increase, namely from 166 in 1918-1919 to 1,036 in the 1937-1938 university years.

April 1933 saw the founding of the Royal Cultural Foundations in Romania, which comprised the 'Carol I' University Foundation (in 1891), created in Iași in February 1926 with the aim of encouraging research in the fields of

physics and natural sciences, and the 'Carol II' Institute of Scientific Research, established in Cluj on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 1931.

The Faculty of Philosophy and Languages in Bucharest continued to play the role of the most important center of scientific research in physics and of shaping the future careers of university professors in Romania and it contributed to increasing the prestige of our country in the context of world cultural and scientific life. This reality is borne out by the impressive number of the periodical publications in Romanian and in widely spoken foreign languages, to which the professors of this university brought a decisive contribution. The people who worked here in the interwar period until 1945 included: Dimitrie Onciul, Ioan Ursu, Vasile Pârvan, Ioan Bianu, Dimitrie Gusti, Tudor Vianu, Traian Herseni, Gheorghe Vlădescu-Răcoasa, Mircea Vulcănescu, Henri H. Stahl, Mircea Florian, Anton Dimitriu, Ion Petrovici, Gheorghe Vâlsan, Gheorghe Gh. Antonescu, Iosif, I. Gabrea, Constantin Narly, Traian Brăileanu, Constantin Rădulescu-Motru, P. P. Negulescu, Dimitrie Marmeliuc, Nicolae I. Herescu, Dionisie Pippidi, Alexandru Rosetti, Ovid Densusianu, Ioan A. Candra, Dimitrie Caracostea, Alexandru Leca Morariu, Barbu Theodorescu, Nicolae Cartojan, Ștefan Ciobanu, Nicolae Georgescu-Tistu, Mihail Ralea, Basil Munteanu, Victor Morariu, Iuliu Valaori, Dimitrie Evolveanu, Ramiro Ortiz, Alexandru Marcu, Ioan Andrieșescu, Scarlat Lambrino, Teofil Sauciuc-Săveanu, George Oprescu, Nicolae Iorga, Gheorghe I. Brătianu, Constantin G. Giurescu, Ion I. Nistor, Nicolae Bănescu, Vasile Grecu, Petre P. Panaitescu, Ion Hudiță, Victor Papacostea, Dragoș Protopopescu, Nicolae Petrescu, Anton Golopenția, Gheorghe Zapan, Ioan C. Petrescu, Theodor Capidan, Tache Papahagi, Ioan Andrieșescu, I. D. Ștefănescu, Petru Cancel, Grigore Nandriș, Simion Mândrescu, George Murnu, Ion Rădulescu-Pogoneanu, Simion Mehedinți, Demostene Russo, Charles Drouhet, Vintilă Mihăilescu, Radu Vulpe, Dan Simonescu.

The third chapter, entitled *The Avatars of the Faculty of Philosophy and Languages from the Moment of the So-called 'Liberation until the Setting Up of the Communist Regime and Period Immediately Following it*, describes the stages and the events of the setting up of communism within the Faculty of Philosophy and Languages in the 1944-1948 interval, together with instances of purging of university professors and the consequences thereafter, the situation the students were in during this period. The readers benefit from true leaves of history which would not have been available to us but for the work of a whole team of specialists.

The fourth chapter, *The Faculty of Philology in the period 1948-1963*, introduces us to aspects in the life of professor and students who were arrested, subjected to inquiries and sent to the Danube-Black Sea canal. *The Institute of Russian Language and History of Soviet Russia* was constituted in 1945 and Russian was introduced as a language of education (and eliminated in 1963-1964). Following the 1948 reform, new faculties were restructured and re-established within the University of Bucharest. The Faculty of Languages and Philosophy was

transformed into other four faculties: Philosophy, History, Philology, and Psychology-Pedagogy. In 1950 Higher Evening Education and Low Attendance Learning was also organized, aimed at training new specialists from among workers.

The fifth chapter, entitled *The Faculty of Romanian Language and Literature in the 1963-1989 Period* depicts the evolution of the institution in the 6<sup>th</sup> decade and the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> decade, which was dominated by the control of the unique ideology of the time, followed by a state of relative normality until the closing of the 8<sup>th</sup> decade and by the decline of the communist regime which also left its print on the activity of the Faculty of Languages in Bucharest. In the field of philology education, the outstanding figures of this period were Iorgu Iordan, Boris Cazacu, Alexandru Rosetti, Alexandru Graur, Ion Coteanu, George Călinescu, Șerban Cioculescu, Tudor Vianu, George Ivașcu, Alexandru Balaci, George C. Nicolescu, Alexandru Piru, Zoe Dumitrescu-Bușulenga, Nicolae Manolescu, Dimitrie Macrea, Alexandru Dima, I. C. Chițimia, Gheorghe Mihăilă, Nicolae N. Condeescu, Leon Levițki, Nina Façon, Tatiana Nicolescu, George Macovescu and several other remarkable figures.

In 1961-1962 the Faculty of Philology comprised not only the department of Romanian Language and Literature, but also departments of foreign languages and literatures, namely the Department of theory of Romanian literature, the Department of Romanian language, the Department of history of Romanian literature, the Department of classical philology and general linguistics, the Department of Romance linguistics and Spanish language, the Department of French language and literature, the Department of Italian language and literature, the Department of German language and literature, the Department of English language and literature, the Department of Russian philology, the 1<sup>st</sup> Department of Slavic languages, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Department of Slavic languages, the Department of Chinese language and literature, the Department of Turkish languages and literatures, the Department of Arabic language and literature, the Department of universal literature.

The curriculum also included the course of library management and the theory and practice of press management, supplemented by practical activity in institutions that were appropriate for this profession and also a modern language that the students opted for.

In 1963-1964, the Faculty enrolled a number of 2,307 students and had 92 teachers. Among them there were members of the Romanian Academy, formerly called the R.P.R. Academy: Iorgu Iordan (Romance linguistics, contemporary Romanian, toponymy), Al. Rosetti (theory of Romanian, phonetics, dialectology) and Al. Graur (general linguistics, Latin).

The seventh saw the writing of such books as: *The Treaty of History of Romanian* (vol. I), *The Treaty of History of Romanian Literature*, *The Romance Chrestomathy*, *the Encyclopedia Dictionary*, and so on.

The faculty had two types of education: day attendance and low attendance education. The former's duration was 4 years and the latter's was 5 years, while the two types had the same curriculum. It also integrated the institute of linguistics, alongside the institute of literary history and theory.

The last chapter of the first part, entitled *The Faculty of Languages in the 1990 to 2013 Period* analyzes the evolution of the Faculty of Languages in Bucharest after the 1989 events. The structure and organization of the Faculty (departments, centers of research, laboratories, etc.) are presented, together with the new directions that the Romanian school of philology is heading for. The number of professors was increased by re-integrating professors who had a vast professional experience and a widely acknowledged scientific works, the very same persons who had previously been purged from political reasons or through retirement. Many Romanian professors who had previously immigrated to Western European countries and to America started to collaborate with the University in Bucharest again. At the same time, a generation of young and outstanding professors started working here, after they had benefited from study scholarships abroad (France, U.S.A., Germany, Great Britain and Italy).

Immediately after 1990 new specializations were established on the one hand, some of which were already in use in many European and American faculties and on the other, some specializations that had been eliminated a few decades earlier were re-constituted.

The curricula were restructured, while certain disciplines such as scientific socialism and fundamental problems of the motherland's history were eliminated. The first courses of computer science were started in the Department of library management and the Department Informatics. The courses and the tutorials were directed towards the implementation of computer equipment in the libraries and of computer and documentation systems. Relationships were established with institutions of higher learning from abroad, which were translated into contracts of collaboration. The University in Bucharest became a member of specific international organizations such as the European Association of Universities, the Association of Francophone Universities and the Association of Universities from the European Capitals. The awarding of the title of Doctor Honoris Causa was reinstated by the University in Bucharest in 1991.

In 1993 the Bucharest University inaugurated its own publishing house, which was founded following an agreement with France, who facilitated the modernization of equipment and the implementation of a computer system. Besides the Publishing House of the University of Bucharest, the Ars Docendi Publishing House that belongs to the Center of Informatics Technology of the Bucharest University was founded as a result of the co-operation with European institutions.

The second part is dedicated to paying homage to the professors who had linked their destiny to the destiny of the Faculty of Languages for a century and a half. Memories of the professors and students who crossed the threshold of the

institution all this while, such as Ioan C. Bianu, Gheorghe Bulgăr, Ion Aurel Candrea, Theodor Capidan, Matilda Caragiu-Marioțeanu, Nicolae Cartoian, Boris Cazacu, George Călinescu, Șerban Cioculescu, Ion Coteanu, Ovid Densusian, Thodor Hristea, Iorgu Iordan, Nicolae Iorga, Ioan Maiorescu, Titu Maiorescu, Alexandru Rosetti and the list continues and includes almost one hundred notable figures. The readers are introduced to the professors' biographies, professional activity, a list of works as well as the corresponding biographies.

The third part comprises a *Corpus of Documents* that are representative for the history of the Faculty of Languages and Philosophy (1863-2013), names of people who constitute a part of the book's documentation source.

The last part is entitled *The Deans of the Faculty from its Founding until the Present Day, Bibliography, an Onomastic Index and Illustrations* and this constitutes the book's ending part.

By referring directly to the sources which the author researches thoroughly, she managed to choose from among the thousands of pages that have been written about the prestigious institution along its 150 years of existence and selected the facts that illustrate the undeniable importance of this institution.

The presentation the author presents to the readers is objective and is supported by carefully analyzed documents and this monograph's essential merit is the special contribution the book brings to a better knowledge of the history of one of the most important institutions within the Romanian cultural space.

The author distinctly states that she hopes this work is a fulcrum for the appearance of a new study on the existence of the Faculty of Languages in Bucharest, one that will be based on even ampler research.

The book illustrates an exceptionally rich source of documents and photographs and is based on detailed research.

The readers will derive great benefit from this synthesis, which marks a moment of celebration of the prestigious institution due to the efforts of the author and her collaborators.

*Laura-Rodica Hîmpă*

*Macedo-Romanians, Megleno-Romanians, Istro-Romanians. Aspects of Identity and Culture.* Coordinator: Adina Berciu Drăghicescu. Bucharest: Publishing House of the University of Bucharest, 2012, 790 p. ISBN 978-606-16-0148-6

The initiative of this work belongs to the 'Eudoxiu Hurmuzaki' Institute for Romanians living worldwide and was written as a result of a partnership with the Faculty of Languages from the University in Bucharest.