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ABSTRACTS

Viviana IACOB, *Theatricality and Socialist Realism in Romanian Theatre 1946- 1963*

The article aims to show that when theatricality resurfaced in Romanian theatre debates after 1956, it did not replace the tenets of socialist realism altogether. It was rather a catalyst for the later to evolve into a more sustainable ideological construct in the context of de-Stalinization. The years after Stalin's death produce in Eastern Europe tremendous changes culminating with the explosive ideological situation of 1956. At a cultural level, these changes unleashed important transformations without displacing however the socialist bedrock. The interwar debates dedicated to the burgeoning issue of theatricality and the western theatre tradition were still filtered through aesthetic coordinates that were put in place during the Stalinist period. The article focuses on debates generated around specific performances which premiered between 1946 and 1963. These events reshaped the socialist realist aesthetic by way of theatricality resulting in a reciprocally corrosive relationship in the following years. The article concludes that the recalibration of the socialist realist formula amounted to a selective process of appropriation that was done both laterally and diachronically. This approach engendered a new form of theatricality. Not a replacement of old socialist realist theatre aesthetic but its refashioning

Raul DENIZE, *From East to West: political and economic relations between Communist Romania and the Federal Republic of Germany, 1949-1967*

The reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Romania and the Federal Republic of Germany which took place in January 1967 was preceeded by complex cultural, humanitarian and economic exchanges. Both countries were somehow trying to overcome the bipolar system which dominated the world in order to reach their goals. Romania was on the path of an independent foreign policy with regard to the Soviet Union, while the west german learders in Bonn were doing everything in their power to help their fellow germans living in Romania, Eastern Europe and East Germany. Both countries needed to pay special attention in order not to cross the line in their relationship with Moscow. While Romania was still a member of the Warsaw Pact, West Germany needed Soviet support in order to achieve its supreme goal: reunification.

Radu TUDORANCEA, *Circles of power of the Romanian Communist elite at the beginnings of the 60s. Reflections on the assessments of the US State Department*

The present paper is focusing on the specific features and evolutions of the Romanian Communist elite, as seen by foreign observers at the beginning of the 1960's. The endeavour is based particularly on the new archival documents concerning the above mentioned decade, especially on the evaluations and prospects issued by American diplomats and experts during the early 1960's. The mentioned documents and analyses conducted by Western (American) experts and observers shed new light on the controversies surrounding the evolutions of the Romanian Communist Elite during the 1960's, particularly on the transfer of power following Gheorghiu-Dej's death.

Cristian VASILE, *Ceauseşcu as political poet: The Case of the 1977 Romanian National Anthem*

Although April 1964 Declaration was a political document epitomizing Romanian communist leadership's policy of „independence“ from Moscow, Nicolae Ceausescu's Socialist Romania maintained formally as its National Anthem, without abolishing it, the Stalin-era political song entitled “We Praise you, Romania!” (Te Slăvim, Românie!). This Anthem was adopted in 1953 under the Soviet occupation and one of its main verses sounded like that: “Our People will be for ever in a fraternal relationship with Soviet People who Liberated Romania!”. After 1965 the new Secretary General, N. Ceausescu, pleaded for more autonomy from Kremlin in comparison with its predecessor, Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej, but for more than twelve years he and his Politburo colleagues were incapable of formally establishing a new State Anthem. Finally, in October–November 1977 this sort of political abnormality ended when Ceausescu proposed an adapted variant of the greatest Romanian composer (Ciprian Porumbescu) song's (Three Colours) as the new Anthem.

The aim of this article is to investigate one of N. Ceausescu's hobbies, political poetry, focusing on the context in which the text of the 1977 Anthem was drafted. One of the hypotheses of this article is that probably Ceausescu himself (or with the aid of his closest collaborators, and apparatchiks) created the adapted version of the Anthem's text. One indication is the dilettante way of drafting and editing which forced Ceausescu to hastily modify the Anthem's text – by adding a new stanza – after only three weeks of the initial adoption.

Mioara ANTON, *Voluntary confessions. Anonymous letters and denunciations during Ceauşescu's regime*

The anonymous letters and denunciations were written not only from a sense of duty, but also because of personal reasons. The ideological pressure, the proliferation of corruption, worsening living conditions, the failure of the planned economy made people speak out and denounce both negative phenomena in the socialist society and the ones responsible. Public campaigns aimed at accepting open criticism. Actually those who wrote denunciations preferred to remain anonymous in order to avoid investigations that could bring them to the opposite sides of the barricade.

Nicoleta ȘERBAN, *The Romanians from American Exile and their attitude towards the Project of Rural Systematization, 1988-89*

Starting with 1988, Nicolae Ceausescu insisted on finishing his old project of rural systematization. The communist regime intended by systematizing villages to build new homes for peasants and to restrict the constructed perimeter in order to gain agricultural land. It was about 7-8000 villages that would have been destroyed and their population was to be moved into new-built towns. The Romanians from the exile considered a tragedy the Ceausescu's project. They started a large action of protests : there are individual protests, but also actions organized by some associations from the exile. Most of the Romanians participated to the street manifestation in front of the Romanian Embassy in USA. The Romanians from the American exile also tried to seek support from the US administration. In December 1989 the street protests in USA against the regime from Bucharest are escalating. Meanwhile, protests started in Timisoara. That means there is a spiritual connection between the Romanians from the Exile and those living in Romania.

Dorin STĂNESCU, *The untold stories of the Romanian front (1916-1918)*

The purpose of our study is to create, based on a rich memoirist literature dedicated to the First World War, a presentation of the 1916 Romanian military campaign, in a different manner than that of the official historiography. The memoirist literature is the subject of a double analysis – one with the taxonomy of the Romanians describing their experiences, the other, an inventory of the main themes appearing in journals and war memoirs – aside from the omnipresent façade of heroism, patriotism, and positive self portraits. The events of 1916 are being analyzed, they way in which batters are constructed, the defeat of the Romanian army and its main causes, the reports of the Romanian soldiers and officers on the Romanian battlefield.

Camelia ZAVARACHE, *Between the Stipulations of School Regulation and the will to emancipate: Students' conduct in interwar Romania*

During Interwar Romania, young generations and, amongst these, highschool students have come under the intense scrutiny of the state authorities. Their behavior, their language, their clothes and their conduct in public spaces have become the focus point of the school regulations. This type of normative adult speech created an ideal moral profile of the students, in an attempt to discipline and control the youth. In doing so, school authorities had two important partners, members of the society and police forces.

Despite the effort to ensure a strict monitoring and control of the students, archive documents prove that the authorities could not prevent all unwanted behaviour; different forms of indiscipline were in fact part of the school's activity, as well as the act of severely punishing them. Romantic relationships and sexual offences were strictly repressed by the school representatives, as the students were not aloud to engage în such activities during their teen years. However, despite the restrictive terms of the school regulations, statistic data has shown that the first sexual contact for an important part of the students at that time happened during highschool years.

Simion GHEORGHIU, *The territorial policy of the Soviet Union between 1939-1941: security through territorial expansion and the evolution of the western borders*

The evolution of the USSR western border between 1939-1941 shows the territorial perception of the security concept of the soviet leaders' especially Stalin's. The creation of a "protection zone" at the frontiers of the Soviet State was one of the fundamental objectives of the USSR politics. This objective was possible thanks to the understandings with the 3rd Reich, the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, the agreements from September 28, 1939 and the political and military pressure exercised by the Soviet Union against the Baltic States, Finland and Romania. In about one year, USSR has created a protection area that was supposed to play the role of an outpost outside the former Imperial frontier.

Viorel ACHIM, *Romanian projects concerning the Romanian minority in Yugoslavia, 1940-1942*

This article analyzes the studies and projects of population policy elaborated in Romania in the years 1940-1942 concerning the Romanians of Yugoslavia and the territories they inhabited. Yugoslavia (after April 1941, Serbia) was the country with the largest Romanian minority in Southeast Europe and the Romanian government lead by General (later on Marshall) Ion Antonescu paid attention to this population. The projects from the years 1940-1942 proposed various scenarios for the two Romanian groups in the neighboring country (the Romanians from the Serbian Banat and the Romanians in the Timok region), most often being evoked the population exchange formula. Some projects also proposed the modification of the border between the two countries.

The population policy projects are discussed in relation with the Romanian government's policy towards Yugoslavia (from April 1941, towards Serbia). It is mentioned here the Romanian government's memorandum sent to Berlin and Rome on 23 April 1941, after the German invasion in Yugoslavia on 6 April 1941 and the dismemberment of this country. The memorandum demanded border changes in Southeast Europe, given that events in the Balkans and Yugoslavia had led to radical changes in the political balance of the region; likewise, Romania claimed its "rights" in the Serbian Banat. The article shows that the claims advanced in the memorandum had nothing to do with population policy as it had so far been considered in the Bucharest laboratories.

Sabin DRĂGULIN, *Philosophy, history and politics in Benedetto Croce*

This essay reconstructs the thought of Benedetto Croce from the last decade of the nineteenth century to 1932. In this period the philosopher lays the foundation of his philosophy of Spirit. Retracing chronologically the author's thought it's possible to highlight the continuities and ruptures that were produced as a result of the great historical, cultural and political transformations that characterize the first three decades of the twentieth century.

Mihaela DENIZE, *Between opportunism and defection: Gheorghe Haupt, Alexandru Vianu and Victor Chereșteșiu*

The „historiographical front” was perhaps the most invoked formula in the documents of this period, but its veracity remains questionable. In fact, over the years, it proved to be a creation of the regime that had nothing to do with reality. The monolithic image that the political factors were struggling to maintain was in fact false and this became increasingly obvious since the mid-50s, amid de-Stalinization and Mihail Roller’s decline. The case studies illustrate both opportunism and defection within Roller’s team. Consequently, Alexandru Vianu and Victor Chereșteșiu’s opportunism and Gheorghe Haupt’s defection became two facets of the intellectuals’ effort to adapt to a new situation.

Cosmin POPA, *Romania’s historiographical polemic with the socialist countries in the stage of „developed socialism” (1970s-1980s)*

Interpretative confrontations between historians from the “Socialist bloc”, during the so-called stage of “developed Socialism”, were one of the numerous symptoms of the Communism’s ideological crisis during the 1980’s. Facing an accelerated decrease of internal trust capital and perceived as repressive by outsiders, Communist regimes resorted to Nationalism as the final option in an attempt to achieve a new type of national consensus. In this regard, Ceaușescu’s regime was not different from those of Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland or the USSR. It was his sometimes absurd policy of separation from Moscow which triggered the joint reaction of the other Communist countries against him. Romania and its history became an easy target, free of any political risks, for historians within the Socialist bloc, converted to the new forms of Communist Nationalism.