

**Ion H. CIUBOTARU, Ouăle de Paști la români – Vechime, semnificații, implicații ritual-ceremoniale** [‘Easter Egg Traditions with the Romanians – Age, Meanings, Ritual-Ceremonial Implications’], Iași, Editura Presa Bună, 2012, 338 p.

An amazing and overwhelming work, this album of art is the accomplishment of years of research and endeavour. It is a masterpiece both as a documentation achievement as well as a graphic success. As it is stated in the English abstract (translated by Tamara Lăcătușu) of this example of minute scholarly research, “This book presents the results of thorough investigations that we have carried out throughout almost all the regions of our country, giving a general outline of the Romanian customs and traditions focused on the dyeing and hand-painting or pen-ornamentation of white eggs. The customs, beliefs, ceremonial-ritual practices as well as the folk literature, specific to the Easter Holidays, carry special semantic and emotional significances. Marking the onset of the ritual Christian year, the Easter Holidays blend harmoniously with those of the winter cycle, which, in former times, were celebrated within the same context at the beginning of the agricultural year, a season of revival and hope. Consequently, we cannot understand the winter as well as the spring holidays in all their complexity unless we examine them together” (p. 225). This astonishing work has a Bibliography of 12 pages (p. 265–276), an Index of Motives (a list of the motives painted on the eggs and the localities where they are used) of 16 pages (p. 277–292), abstracts in English, French, Russian, German of about 10 pages each and a very rich list of illustrations of 42 pages (p. 295–336). This work is a masterpiece and it will remain as a reference book and a landmark for the Romanian culture. Professor Ion H. Ciubotaru is a senior researcher at “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology – the Iasi Branch of the Romanian Academy.

**Elena DĂNILĂ, Andrei DĂNILĂ, Dicționar ilustrat de cuvinte și sensuri recente în limba română** [‘An Illustrated Dictionary of Recent Words and Meanings in the Romanian Language’], București, Litera internațional, 2011, 320 p.

In the general context of globalization, the penetration of neologisms into a language is unavoidable. This dictionary is a successful attempt at recording a list with the new words that can be encountered in our daily life and seem to become very usual. Elena Tamba Dănilă is a researcher at the “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology – the Iasi Branch of the Romanian Academy while Andrei Dănilă is a high-school English teacher. Their dictionary is a very necessary academic work that reveals many situations in which the Romanian language has been invaded by strange and incorrectly used foreign words, especially from the English vocabulary (via internet, television, IT). But the authors refer not only to very recent “word loans” – they also use examples of such words identified about 50 years ago. As Dr. Carmen-Gabriela Pamfil points out in her Foreword, the inventory of the dictionary has about 5.450 neological and lexical constructions, meaning 5.450 entries. An annex refers to alphanumeric abbreviations (like 4x4, 3D), while another one envisages important data (inventions, discoveries, historical moments starting with 1960). The illustrations have a legend in Romanian, English and French. The dictionary is a very useful linguistic instrument explaining the right use (and pronunciation) of certain new words.

**Exilul literar românesc – înainte și după 1989** [‘The Romanian Literary Exile – Before and After 1989’], editors Jana Páleniková and Daniela Sitar-Tăut, Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, 2011, 196 p.

This book gathers together the papers delivered at the homonymous international symposium organized by the Romance Languages Department, the Faculty of Letters of Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia, on 12 October 2010. The themes connected with this important subject were debated by several scholars from Romania and from abroad: Marcel Corniș-Pope (Virginia Commonwealth University, USA), Doina Jela (“Curtea Veche” Publishing House, Bucharest, Romania), Cornel Ungureanu (The West University of Timișoara, Romania), Olivia Bălănescu (Charles University in Prague, the Czech Republic), Alexandru Istrate (The Institute of History, Iași, Romania), Daniela Sitar-Tăut (Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia), Jana Páleniková (Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia), Libuša Vajdová (The Slovak Academy of Sciences, The Institute of World Literature, Bratislava, Slovakia), Libuše Valentová (Charles University in Prague, the Czech Republic), Tomáš Vašut (Szegedi Egyetem, Szeged, Hungary), Tamara Mikulová (Charles University in Prague, the Czech Republic), Lorena Stuparu (The Romanian Academy, The Institute for Political Science and International Relations, Bucharest, Romania), Claudiu Turcuș (The “Babeș-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania). The articles invite to a dialogue among specialists in Romanian language and culture interested in the literary activity of well-known exiled Romanian writers and suggest theories and analyses of different aspects of the Romanian exile mirrored in literature. The articles are in Romanian and they have substantial abstracts in English.

**Migrating Memories: Central Europe in Canada**, volume 1 – **Literary Anthology**, edited by Vesna Lopičić, Brno/Niš, 2010, 462 p.; **Migrating Memories: Central Europe in Canada**, volume 2 – **Oral Histories**, edited by Rodica Albu, Brno/Niš, 2010, 424 p.

Elaborated by members of the Central European Association for Canadian Studies and with the financial support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, these two volumes are the result of the researches carried on by a whole team of specialists from several countries.

The first volume includes representative writers of different nationalities who live and create in Canada and consists of selections of Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Romanian, Serbian, Slovakian and Slovenian literature written by authors belonging to the respective diasporic communities established in Canada. The Romanian specialists who gathered material for the Romanian diaspora are Crina Bud (as main contributor), Ana Olos, Monica Bottez and Dana Puiu. The chapter dedicated to the Romanian writers who live in Canada mentions important bio-bibliographic information besides the excerpts from the literary works of the following: Constantin Stoiciu, Flavia Cosma, Diana Manole, Felicia Mihali, Kenneth Radu, Eugen Giurgiu, Florin Oncescu, Irina Egli and Călin-Andrei Mihăilescu.

The second volume, edited by Rodica Albu, who is a professor at the English Department of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Romania, deals with oral interviews with people belonging to the national communities mentioned above who live in Canada. Each chapter dedicated to a certain community opens with an ample study referring to the history of that community and to different socio-cultural aspects of integration into the target society. As the editor explains in her foreword to the second volume, “The Oral History Research Project is a long-term project aiming to: (1) create a database of recorded

interviews with immigrants originating in the countries of the ex-Communist Central-European geopolitical space; (2) use this database as a source of empirical data for further studies of an interdisciplinary and comparative nature or for studies tackling the issues from different perspectives (e.g., demographic dynamics, literacy, adult education, integration, socio-ethnic networks in Canada; immigrants as mediators of Europe-Canada contacts); and (3) (tentatively) in the long run, to detect a well-documented typology of immigration, specific to the analysed geopolitical space” (p. VII). The two volumes offer the reader a complex perspective on the contribution of the eight communities originating in former Communist countries from Central Europe to the majority Canadian society.

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