

Nicolae BABUTS, **Memory, Metaphors and Meaning**. Reading Literary Texts, New Jersey, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick (U.S.A) and London (U.K.), 2009, 220 p., ISBN 978-1-4128-1022-7.

Professor Nicolae Babuts explains his intention in writing this book: “This study challenges not only the idea that the critical activity should aim for power and not for evidence but also the assumptions about the form that meaning takes, and the idea that abstract reasoning alone leads us to it. It proposes that meaning takes the form of metaphors and narrative and that metaphors and narrative are both the visionary way to reach it” (p. XXV). As we read on the book cover, “In sum, Babuts proposes that meaning is achieved through metaphors and narrative, and that both are ways to reach cognitive goals. This original study offers perspectives that will interest cognitive psychologists, as well as those simply interested in the process through which literature stirs the human imagination”. The chapters of the book are: 1. *Literary Dynamic Pattern*; 2. *The Beginning of Interpretation*; 3. *Reading Poetry*; 4. *The Allure of Myth*; 5. *Beginnings and Endings*; 6. *Metaphoric Fields: Blaga, Melville, and Leopardi*; 7. *The Tonality of Metaphoric Fields*. There are also *Concluding Remarks, Notes, References, Index*.

We are glad that professor Babuts includes the Romanian poet Lucian Blaga among those whose writings are referred to. We agree with his remark: “Lucian Blaga (1895–1961) is held in high esteem in his own country and deserves to be better known abroad” (p. 134).

As a conclusion of this book we quote again the author’s remarks as he is the most entitled to take the floor: “We have seen that poems, novels and plays, in exploring human passions and dreams and the signs of the visible universe, increase its mystery and the mystery of human existence. Similarly, scientific inquiries into the structure of the universe come up short at the zero of time at the moment of or before the big bang and in doing so deepen the mystery. [...] What it does suggest is that as a consequence of this state of affairs, we do not need to see science in opposition to literature, nor should we construe literature as inimical to science” (p. 181).

Mihai CIMPOI, **O istorie deschisă a literaturii române din Basarabia** [‘An Open History of the Romanian Literature in Bessarabia’], the 4-th updated edition, București, Fundația Națională pentru Știință și Artă, 2009, 352 p., ISBN 978-973-1744-84-1.

The author offers an important work of literary history as he discovers or re-discovers writers who were more or less neglected for politic reasons; he restores their rank in the history of the Romanian literature in Bessarabia providing an objective and necessary analysis of their works. The book is structured into the following chapters: *Literatura basarabeană: caractere esențiale* [The Bessarabian Literature: Essential Characters]; *Pionieri și clasici* [Pioneers and Classics]; *Mesianicii începutului secolului al XX-lea* [The Messianics at the Beginning of the 20-th Century]; *Ora stelară* (Anii treizeci: românism și culoare locală) [The Stellar Hour (The ‘30s: the Romanian Spirit and the Local Colour)]; *Perioada postbelică: rătăcirii dogmatice și întoarceri la Ithaka* [The Post War Period: Dogmatic Wanderings and Returns to Ithaka]; *Viața literară* [The Literary Life]; *Postargument* (Fenomenul basarabean sub semnul Păsării Phoenix) [Postargument (The Bessarabian Phenomenon under the Sign of the Phoenix Bird)]; *Addenda* [Addenda]; *Bibliografie* [Bibliography]; *Indice de nume* [Index of Names]. As acad. Eugen Simion

emphasizes, this book is a “landmark” in literary history. Mihai Cimpoi is a well-known literary critic and researcher, a member of honor of the Romanian Academy and a full member of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova.

Carmen DĂRĂBUȘ, Virginia POPOVIĆ, **Literatura de limba română din Serbia și antropologia culturală** [‘The Romanian Literature of Serbia and the Cultural Anthropology’], Cluj-Napoca, Editura Risoprint, Novi Sad, Editura Fondul Europa, 2012, 242 p., ISBN 978-973-53-0723-3, ISBN 978-86-87879-11-9.

The two authors offer the readers a very useful survey into the Romanian literature written in Voivodina, bringing into evidence the most important writers and their contributions to preserving the Romanian roots. Here are some writers whose literary contributions are analyzed in this book: Radu Flora, Florin Ursulescu, Ana Niculina Ursulescu, Olimpiu Baloș, Petru Cârdu, Mărioara Baba, Slavco Almăjan, Pavel Gătăianțu, Ioan Baba, Nicu Ciobanu, Valentin Mic, Ion Bălan. The book is divided into three chapters: *Reprezentări sociale în proza de limba română din Serbia* [Social Representations in the Romanian Prose of Serbia]; *Valori poetice matriceale. Poezia de limba română din Serbia* [Matrix Poetic Values. The Romanian Poetry of Serbia]; *Forme ale culturii tradiționale* [Forms of the Traditional Culture] (referring to the popular Aromanian literature, too). Carmen Dărăbuș and Virginia Popović are experienced researchers in this field, both of them working at the University of Novi Sad (Carmen Dărăbuș being an invited professor).

Cornel MUNTEANU, **Literatura românilor din Ungaria (1950–2008)** [‘The Literature of the Romanians from Hungary (1950–2008)’], Cluj-Napoca, Casa Cărții de Știință, 2009, 256 p., ISBN 978-973-133-617-6.

This is the second volume of a book which professor Cornel Munteanu intended to offer an image of the Romanian literature written by Romanian authors who live in Hungary. The first volume referred to the Romanian papers and journals from Hungary and was published in 2006, at Jula, in Hungary. In the second volume the author refers to writers like Mihai Purdi, Vasile Gurzău, Teodor Șimonca, Petru Anton, Maria Berényi, Lucia Borza, Ana Crișan, Ilie Ivănuș, Alexandru Hoțopan, Lucian Magdu, Gh. Petrușan, Ioan Popon, Petru Popuța, Ana Radici, Vasile Roxin, Gh. Santău, Ana Varga. The book is a very useful guide to the Romanian literature written in Hungary. Cornel Munteanu worked for several years as an invited professor at ELTE University of Budapest, Hungary.

Mariana PASINCOVSCHI, **Paul Goma. Biografie și literatură** [Paul Goma. Biography and Literature], Florești – Cluj, Editura Limes, 308 p., ISBN 978-973-726-694-1.

The book is the result of the latest research in Paul Goma’s literary work. It is structured in six chapters: I. *Receptarea prozei lui Paul Goma. Ideologie și literatură* [The Reception of Paul Goma’s Prose. Ideology and Literature]; II. *Voletul autobiografic. Din Calidor – o copilărie basarabeană. Opera între semnificație și structură* [The

Autobiographic Volet. From Calidor – A Bessarabian Childhood. The Work between Significance and Structure ]; III. *Formele contrapunctice ale re-fugii în opera lui Paul Goma* [The Counterpointed Forms of re-Fugue in Paul Goma's Work]; IV. *Romanul Astra: lizibilitate literară și semnificație estetică* [The Novel *Astra*: Literary Legibility and Aesthetic Significance]; V. *Sabina: componentă olfactivă a artelor sinestezice. Dragoste și metatext* [*Sabina*: an Olfactory Component of Synaesthetic Arts. Love and Metatext]; VI. *Complexitatea retorico-poetică a romanului-intim* [The Rhetoric and Poetic Complexity of the Intimate Novel]. The author displays an impressive bibliography on 18 pages, which is a proof of her minute research. Mariana Pasincovschi is a teacher at “Ștefan cel Mare” University of Suceava, Romania.

Alexandru PHILIPPIDE, **Istoria limbii române** [‘The History of the Romanian Language’], Critical edition by G. Ivănescu, Carmen-Gabriela Pamfil and Luminița Botoșineanu, Iași, Polirom, 2011, 662 p., ISBN 978-973-46-1892-7.

The concept of this edition is based on the model of editing *Cours de linguistique générale*, initiated in 1916 by two former students of Ferdinand de Saussure, relying on the lecture notes. *The History of the Romanian Language* includes the lectures delivered by Alexandru Philippide at the University of Iași between 1893 and 1933. In order to restore the text, the editors used the autograph manuscript of the last two parts of the lecture (*The History of Sounds* and *The History of Forms*) as well as the copy-books belonging to some of Philippide's former students (Mihai Costăchescu, Iorgu Iordan, Ion Lăzărescu, Elvira Irimia, Virginia Ghibu, Lucia Pop, Haralambie Mihăescu, Diomid Strungaru). The main parts of this impressive volume are: [Partea I] *Originea poporului român și a limbii române* [Part I The Origin of the Romanian People and of the Romanian Language]; [Partea a II-a] *Latina populară* [Part II The Popular Latin]; Partea a III-a *Istoria sunetelor* [Part III The History of Sounds]; Partea a IV-a *Istoria formelor* [Part IV The History of Forms]. There are also *Annexes* including Alexandru Philippide's works (a bibliographic repertory), Maps and Manuscripts. The volume includes also an Index of names and an Index of words, grammar forms, phonetic variants and derivative elements. We are thankful to Carmen-Gabriela Pamfil and Luminița Botoșineanu, researchers at “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology – the Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy for their professionalism and devotion to accomplish the difficult editorial task required by Alexandru Philippide's *The History of the Romanian Language*.

\* \* **Scriitori români și/în literaturile străine** [‘Romanian Writers and/in the Foreign Literatures’], coordonator: prof. univ. dr. Alexandru Ruja; eds. Irina Dincă, Andreia Koller, Sorina Nevodenszki, Diana Ioana Ureche, Timișoara, Editura Universității de Vest, 2010, 228 p., ISBN 978-973-125-314-5.

Professor Alexandru Ruja explains in his “Welcome Word” that this book gathers the result of the research carried out by his students at his master's lecture “The Romanian Literature in the European Context. Identity. Alterity. Connexions” at Universitatea de Vest, Timișoara, Romania. He points out that all these young scholars prove “to be well documented”, to display “a professional level of the literary exegesis”, “the capacity of

establishing links between the Romanian literature and the European literature". The Contents of this book written in Romanian include: Irina Dincă – *The Transdisciplinarity Project of Basarab Nicolescu*; Andreia Emilia Koller – *Sorin Titel and the European Prose*; Oana Alina Iordache – *Ion Sân-Georgiu and the German Literature*; Sorina Nevodenszki – *Victor Iancu and the German Culture*; Cristina Petruț – *The Micro-Harmonic and the Subversion of the Secondary*; Diana Ioana Ureche – *The Ballads of Ștefan Augustin Doinaș and the Goethean Ballad*; Silvia Barath – *Apunake and Other Phenomena: Avant-Garde Aspects* (Grigore Cugler); Alecsandra Maria Balint Colar – *Matei Vișniec: Poetical Hypostases*; Ramona Victoria Balan – *Nicolae Balotă – Memorialist*; Adriana Ileana Bârsan – *Dumitru Țepeneag and the French Literature*; Ana Maria Cotoșpan – *The Poetry of Gherasim Luca – Hypostases of Surrealism*; Haritina-Cristina Gaiță – *Ștefan Baciu – Planetary Poet*; Nicoleta Onica Garaș – *Nicolae Novac – Poet and Prose Writer*; Ionuța Natalia Iorga – *Virgil Nemoianu – Literary Theorist*; Delia-Lucia Ivan – *The Urban Prose and the American Cultural Experience* (Petru Popescu); Otilia Drăghina Jura – *Eugen Ionescu and the French Literature*; Florentina Olariu – *Tristan Tzara and the Dada Experience*; Alina Otiman – *Nicolae Balotă and the European Literature*; Georgiana Ancuța Tocol – *Petru Dumitriu between Proletkult and Modernism*.

This volume is a valuable initiative and a means of stimulating young students to enhance and to publish their research.

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