

Alin CIUPALĂ, **Bătălia lor. Femeile din România în primul război mondial** [‘Their Battle. Women in Romania during WWI’], Iași, Polirom, 2017, 368 p.

Professor hab. Alin Ciupală, PhD, is a senior researcher at “G. Oprescu” Institute of Art History, Bucharest, Romania. In his book he gathers documents and tries to reveal a topic seldom addressed in the Romanian literature: the role played by Romanian women during the WWI. As the author points out: “Do we feel today the need to analyze the Great War from a feminine perspective – namely to introduce a new element that should bring forth a contribution almost forgotten? We think we do because, as the war was not fought only by men, the writings about this phenomenon ought to take into account women’s role in the societies engaged in this ideological, political, cultural, economic, social, propagandistic and military battle. Finally, women in war offer a possible perspective – neglected for the moment – for a better understanding of a past continually reevaluated up to the present. The war was one phenomenon, but the perspectives upon it are or ought to be manifold” (p. 23). The book is divided into several chapters according to the role played by women in the war: I. *The Great War seen by women*; II. *Love, sexuality, eroticism*; III. *The fighters*; IV. *The Queen*; V. *The heroine. By way of conclusions. A topic still open*.

“Self-sacrifice for the benefit of the country seems to be the watchword, and war was the occasion where the feminine attributes were highlighted. Moreover, arguments belonging to the male nature according to the collective imaginary were used: energy, courage, a talent for management based on reason, the ability to control emotions, to take responsibilities, all these were assimilated by women authors and integrated into the female discourse on war. The supreme energy that supported this transformation was love of the country. [...] Individuality, one’s own identity, family were below country and nation” (p. 46).

A special attention is paid to the activity of Queen Mary of Romania: “The activity and life of Queen Mary of Romania during the First World War developed on two important levels, namely the public and private life. The two sections intertwined and coincided sometimes” (p. 199). A conclusion of the book is that “women in Romania took part to the war effort, which was understood as a means of achieving the Romanian national project in its supreme form of Great Romania. The catalyst role played by the feminine elite through the ladies from aristocracy or the upper middle class was completed by ordinary women belonging to lower and middle class or from among the peasants [...]. The First World War did not belong only to men, that is why its history must make room to women, too” (p. 339, 340).

Bogdan CREȚU, **Iluziile literaturii și deziluziile criticii** [‘The Illusions of Literature and the Delusions of Literary Criticism’], București, Editura Contemporanul, 2015, 424 p.

Associate Professor Bogdan Crețu, PhD, is the director of “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology – the Iasi Branch of the Romanian Academy; he is also a member of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Letters, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Romania.

The articles collected in this volume were published in journals like *Contemporanul*, *Ideea Europeană*, *Contrafort*, *Convorbiri literare*, *Cultura*, *Cuvântul*, *Însemnări ieșene*, *Luceafărul*, *Observator cultural*, *Viața românească*.

As the author himself asserts, “For more than ten years a certain phenomenon has been at work and we cannot ignore it: literary criticism and literary history are in expansion, new names emerge, many good books are printed that become instantly classicized, as they belong not only to seniors but especially to young authors; a new criticism is already in view. The criteria and the reading codes have been changed” (p. 6).

In one of his articles, Bogdan Crețu writes a real creed in what concerns literary criticism: “if you assume it in honesty, literary criticism keeps you close to morality or helps you keep a certain balance – «a calmness based on values». As each time it forces you to keep a balance between the affective implication and the surgical precision of the critical spirit. Literary criticism teaches you that there is an order of the world which denies mystification. It offers a balanced perspective upon the literary works and upon life because it is a field which is not easily quantifiable and you do not have precise units of measurement. Literary criticism is not a laboratory experiment with fixed results” (p. 394). The book is divided into several chapters: I. *Syntheses. Studies. Monographs*; II. *Profiles. Essays. Journalistic activity*; III. *Critics' Confessions*.

Here are some titles of the articles in the book: *The official canon of the Romanian literature*; *The illusions of Romanian literature and the critic's delusions*; *Nicolae Manolescu's failure*; *The didactic history of old literature*; *Cantemir's family saga*; *Dimitrie Cantemir and Nicolae Mavrocordat*; *Eminescu's "detractors"*; *The negotiation of Eminescu's image*; *The Ibrăileanu pattern*; *Ilarie Voronca: the moral and religion of the poem*; *The first years of communism and literature*; *G. Călinescu watched by Securitate (Security)*; *A.E. Baconsky: a twisted destiny, reflected in his own literary work*; *Paul Goma: a destiny retrieved from the files of Securitate (Security)*; *Alexandru Paleologu's lives and faces*; *Young Ion Negoițescu: how he became a great critic*; *Nicolae Balotă: the pedagogy of reading*; *Eugen Simion and the utopia of literature*; *Looking back in anger: Adrian Marino's case*; *Valeriu Cristea: the exigency of memory*; *A dramatic case: Petru Dumitriu*; *The teachings of Eugen Simion*; *The '50s as seen from the box seat*.

In 2015, Bogdan Crețu was awarded the “Titu Maiorescu” Prize of the Romanian Academy for his book *Inorogul la Porțile Orientului. Bestiarul lui Dimitrie Cantemir – studiu comparativ* [‘The Unicorn at the Gates of the Orient. Dimitrie Cantemir’s Bestiary – a Comparative Study’], vol. I–II, Iași, Institutul European, 2013.

Ioan MUȘLEA, Schimburi epistolare cu respondenții la chestionarele Arhivei de Folclor a Academiei Române [‘Epistolary Exchanges with the Respondents to the Questionnaires of the Folklore Archives of the Romanian Academy’], ediție critică, note și studiu introductiv de Cosmina Timocea-Mocanu, prefață de Ion Cuceu, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Mega, 2014, vol. I: A–L, 716 p.; vol. II: M–Z, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Mega, 2015, 694 p.

Cosmina Timocea-Mocanu, PhD, is a junior Researcher (3rd grade) at “Arhiva de Folclor a Academiei Române” Institute – Cluj-Napoca Branch of the Romanian Academy.

These two volumes reveal the importance of the richest documentary fund from the Folklore Archives of the Romanian Academy founded by Ion Mușlea at Cluj between 1930–1948. As Ion Cuceu emphasizes in his foreword to the book, “the two volumes gather pages of genuine handbook to the methodology, techniques and investigation in ethnologic

strategies deriving, with an unusual acumen, from the correspondence between Ion Muşlea and school teachers interested in folklore, whom Muşlea guided devotedly and patiently” (p. 8). The first volume includes 967 documents in alphabetic order of the names of Ion Muşlea’s partners of epistolary dialogue from *A (I. Abramiuc)* to *L (Vasile Luţcanu)* and in chronological order. The second volume includes 1062 documents from the letter *M (Gheorghe Macovei)* to *Z (Ionel V. Zghibarţă)*.

The introductory study written by Cosmina Timoce-Mocanu is a book in itself as it has more than 70 pages. The two volumes benefit from an extended critical apparatus: 215 footnotes in vol. I and 165 footnotes in vol. II; in the footnotes Cosmina Timoce-Mocanu introduces extensive information from the “Romanian and foreign sociology, ethnology and folklore” (p.9).

Cosmina Timoce-Mocanu is working on the third volume of correspondence, that between Ion Muşlea and the scholars he had met; the documents were offered to the “Arhiva de Folclor a Academiei Romane” Institute of Cluj by Ion Muşlea’s son, Ioan I. Muşlea.

Florin-Teodor OLARIU, Variație și varietăți în limba română. Studii de dialectologie și sociolingvistică [‘Variation and Varieties in Romanian Language. Studies in Dialectology and Sociolinguistics’], Iași, Institutul European, 2017, 260 p.

Florin-Teodor Olariu, PhD, is a senior researcher at “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology; he is the Head of the Department of Dialectology and Sociolinguistics.

The book *Variation and Varieties in Romanian* is organized into two chapters: I. *Dialectology* and II. *Sociolinguistics*. Subchapters of *Dialectology* are: *The issue of territorial distribution of Dacoromanian*; *The cartography of dialectal variations: the Romanian linguistic atlases*; *The computer perspective in Romanian geolinguistics*. The subchapters of *Sociolinguistics* are: *Highlights in the development of Romanian sociolinguistics*; *The sociolinguistics of migration – a Romanian perspective* (with a case study: *Attitudes, representations and (socio) linguistic behavior in a minority context – the Romanians of Italy (Turin)*). Annex: *Corpus of Romanian language spoken in migratory context (Romanian “migraphs”)*.

Some of the articles published in the book have already been printed in academic journals but have been updated; other texts were not published previously.

In the explanations provided, the author states that: “This book contains several studies grouped into two main chapters: *Dialectology* and *Sociolinguistics*, aiming to highlight the close relationship between the two major areas of research in the field of variationist linguistics. The *Annex* of the book is itself subordinated to this goal in that it emphasizes the accretion of variations (especially diatopic, diastratic and diaphasic) that can be identified in texts belonging to the Romanian language spoken at non-dialectal level – a peremptory proof of the necessity of a multidimensional approach to Romanian language dynamics, to combining theoretical tools of dialectal research, developed in the Romanian linguistics over a period of more than a century of remarkable achievements in the field, with the recent conceptual acquisitions in sociolinguistics” (p. 253).

Florin-Teodor Olariu benefitted from two grants and spent several weeks in Turin (Italy) in order to record tens of interviews with Romanian people who migrated to Turin after 1990. The first opportunity was the project *Romanian Immigrants to Turin (1989–2006). A Cultural-Anthropological Approach*, a project funded by the Romanian Foreign Ministry (through the Department for Romanians Everywhere) where he collaborated with

his colleague Ofelia Ichim, PhD, senior researcher at “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology. The second opportunity was a POSDRU grant (ID 56815, 2010–2013) from the Romanian Academy – the Iasi Branch.

The author is the director of the *Audiovisual Linguistic Atlas of Bukovina* project (ALAB) that brings together a team of dialectologists and IT experts working at the Iasi Branch of the Romanian Academy.

Florin-Teodor Olariu and his colleagues from the Department of Dialectology and Sociolinguistics were awarded the “Octav Mayer” Prize of the Iasi Branch of the Romanian Academy (2006) and the “Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu” Prize of the Romanian Academy (2014).

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