
American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7:1, June 1996

THE AMERICAN ROMANIAN ACADEMY CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The 20th Congress of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences was held at the **University of Nevada at Reno** during August 22-27, 1995. It brought together participants from the USA, other western countries and for the first time a large number came from Romania. The Romanian delegation included sixty-five scholars and artists.

While attending the presentations of papers, cultural events and exhibits during the Conference, the participants had many opportunities to enjoy the exceptional beauty of the surroundings and the numerous attractions of Reno.

The University of Nevada in Reno, which hosted the 20th ARA Congress was founded in 1874 as a land-grant university. It has 10 academic schools and colleges, it offers 68 major degrees for undergraduates, 64 master's degree programs, and 31 doctoral programs, as well as a four-year medical school. The university's 12,000 students come from 50 States and more than 60 foreign countries.

Thanks to the University of Nevada and Dr. Monica M. GRECU, the organizer and chair of this gala event, the conference and exhibit rooms were located in the **modern Ansari Business Building**. Here, over one hundred conference papers were read. In the evening, the modern setting and excellent acoustics of the Nightingale Concert Hall enhanced the quality of a special musical evening. Other organizers and sponsors of the Congress included Dr. John ILIESCU, Dr. Rolland MELTON, and several distinguished members of the community. Their presence and participation contributed to make this event a very special one.

The Plenary Session was opened by Dr. Monica M. GRECU, the General Chair of this scientific and cultural event. Professor Maria Manoliu Manea, the President of ARA, read the special greetings from the President of the United States, the President of Romania, and the Governor of Nevada. This was followed by a welcoming address by the Mayor of the city of Reno. He also issued a Proclamation, declaring August 22-27 as the ARA Week in Reno. Greetings followed from the President of the University of Nevada at Reno, from the President of the University of Bucharest, and salutations from former American Ambassadors to Romania, David FUNDERBURK and John DAVIS. The opening session continued with two keynote speakers: Prof. George E. Palade and Prof. Toma Pavel.

Dr. George E. PALADE [Univ. of California at San Diego], the first Romanian Nobel Prize winner, suggested in his address that ARA is now in a position to surpass its initial purpose. Created in 1975 in Los Angeles through the initiative and care of Monsignor Octavian BARLEA and a group of Romanian academicians, ARA embodied the protest of distinguished Romanian intellectuals against the chaining of Romanian spirituality by the communist regime. In the years that followed, ARA played an important part in promoting world-wide recognition of Romanian intellectual and spiritual values, of the creativity of Romanian artists, educators and scientists and of their contribution to the international heritage, especially all those who were considered persona non-grata in their own country. After citing a series of major Romanian contributors abroad, including Mircea Eliade, Ionesco and E. M. Cioran, Dr. George E. PALADE stated that after twenty years of activity, and considering the changes that occurred in the world and in Romania, the time has come for ARA to change its position and become a bridge between the Diaspora and modern Romania. He suggested that many of the obstacles preventing a true democracy in Romania can be eliminated through solidarity among Romanians all over the world. Today, Romania lacks properly trained personnel in many areas because the totalitarian regime has hampered the formation of capable people who could transform the existing structures. Instead it produced submissive people who wait for "orders from above." According to Dr. PALADE, Romania is suffering from a "decompression syndrome," which in lieu of

progress creates disorientation and confusion. As a consequence, the visible progress which was made so far is much slower than what could have been expected, and the Diaspora needs to show patience and understanding. By means of an honest reintegration of European values into their lives, by controlling their radical nationalism, Romanians can turn around this situation. Both ARA and the Diaspora should find and propose new directions to be pursued.

As the next speaker, Prof. Toma PAVEL [Princeton University] brought smiles to the faces of his listeners by recalling with humor his own saga as a student in linguistics in a society which was spiritually and intellectually chained; he warmly reminisced about his professors who helped him survive through the most difficult times in the life of a student in Romania.

Mr. Liviu FLODA stirred great interest among participants and local journalists with a special presentation of unique documents in which he recalled the making of historical events during the end of World War II. He had recorded these unique personal interviews as a young war correspondent and is now donating them to the School of Journalism at Stanford University in California.

The parallel sections featured excellent papers during the four days of the congress. In the session on Economics, the majority of papers came from Romania. It is regrettable that many American-Romanian economists were not able to attend. Dr. Dan GRINDEA from New York was an exception. He not only was there, but he organized as well a Round Table on Economics.

One of the highlights of the 20th Congress was the Symposium AVRAM IANCU, under the aegis of the History Section. It was opened by Dr. Monica M. GRECU, at whose initiative the Symposium took place. It was presided by Dr. Jerome EDWARDS who is the Chair of the History department at UNR. It featured excellent presentations on the activity and role of Iancu in the history of the Romanians in Transylvania. The Symposium was greatly enriched by the gift of a bronze bust of AVRAM IANCU (sculpted by Horea FLAMAND). This gift to the Getchell Library of the UNR was made possible by the Romanian Government. Artist Olga PORUMBARU unveiled a beautiful oil portrait of Iancu which crowned the art exhibit. Three priests from Romania, participating for the first time ever in such a congress, performed a special religious service during which they blessed the gifts and the participants, creating the most emotionally charged moment at the Symposium.

The participants had the opportunity to frequently mingle and interact during coffee breaks provided in the lounge, during art exhibits or around book exhibit tables. A concert of classical Romanian music brought together participants and community members of the UNR. Prof. Emerita Lorry WALLFISCH and Dr. Monica M. GRECU collaborated in creating an unforgettable musical evening. The participating artists, Mihai CRAIOVEANU, Eleonora TOPAN, Prof. Jullien MUSAFIA, Georgeta PSAROS and George DANKE, lead by Prof. Lorry WALLFISCH interpreted works by Romanian composers for an appreciative and enthusiastic international audience.

On the last day of the Congress the election of a new ARA leadership took place. Elected President was Prof. Constantin CORDUNEANU from the University of Texas at Arlington; Dr. Maria Manoliu MANEA, was proclaimed honorary president; Dr. Ladis KRISTOF and Dr. Basarab NICOLESCU became vice-presidents for the USA and Europe respectively; Dr. Peter GROSS remains secretary general, and E. LATHAM, Jr. is secretary; D. GIURASCU from the Romanian Academy, Dr. Monica GRECU, Olga PORUMBARU, Dr. Ion MANEA, and Prof. A. BEJAN have been elected counselors; Dr. George E. PALADE, Prof. Alphonse JUILLAND, Dr. N. TIMIRAS, Monsignor Octavian BARLEA, Dr. Maria Manoliu MANEA, Prof. Ion PARASCHIVOIU, Dr. Toma PAVEL, Prof. E. TURDEANU, are the new governors. The election resulted in many debates, as it does in any democratic process. Some participants expressed their dissension with the previous leadership, but the majority of the participants felt that the previous leadership had made significant achievements.

Organized by Dr. Monica M. GRECU, the Award Banquet crowned the activities of the congress. It took place in the newly built **Byron Hall**. Honored were those who contributed academically, intellectually and culturally to the prestige of the Academy and its achievements during the last twenty years. The local organizing committee and the local institution and sponsors received high recognition. The recipients of the

awards were Dr. C. CORDUNEANU, Dr. Monica GRECU, Prof. Lorry WALLFISCH, Dr. Adrian OCNEANU, Dr. Maria Manoliu MANEA, Dr. E. FRANCIS, Dr. J. EDWARDS, Dr. R. MELTON, and Dr. J. ILIESCU.

The festivities of the Congress concluded on August 27, 1995 with a memorable trip to **Lake Tahoe**, **Carson City**, and a western charmer named **Virginia City**. The beauty of the sights was enriched by the geographical and historical information provided by Dr. Monica GRECU who proved to be a competent guide for Nevada.

The new President and new members of the Executive Committee, its couns elors and governors face many challenges. We wish them well.

[Information: Claudiu Matasa; translation: M. Grecu; editing: A. Gruzinska]

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our institution is now in the 21st year of its existence. With your help and the effort of many ARA members and associates, we have succeeded in putting on library shelves about fifty volumes of books and journals dedicated to Romanian Studies, including the ARA Journal and Libertas Mathematica. These volumes may be consulted now in the Library of Congress, the Harvard University Library, libraries of national interest in the United Kingdom, such as The British Library, and in Germany the Technischesinformationbibliothek in Hannover, as well as in other libraries in Europe, Japan and Israel.

One of the main tasks of ARA is to continue and intensify the publications of books and journals in various fields of knowledge and artistic creation. The following volumes are now in an advanced state of preparation: 1) The Encyclopedia, Români în Stiinta si Cultura Occidentala, Dr. Dan GRINDEA, editor; 2) ARA Journal. We have enough material for volume XXI and are forming now a new team of editors; 3) Libertas Mathematica Vol. XVI [a self-supporting publication], Dr. C. CORDUNEANU, editor; 4) ARA Newsletter 7:1, Dr. A. GRUZINSKA, editor. These projects require some expenses and we kindly urge our members to renew their membership for 1996. We welcome suggestions and comments and look forward to a fruitful cooperation.

Constantin Corduneanu, President
American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences

A REMINDER FROM ARA TREASURER, MIRON BONCA

1996 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$50. Payment should be in U.S. dollars. Make checks, international money orders, or international postal money orders payable to the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences and mail to: **Mr. Miron BONCA, A.R.A. Treasurer, 3153 Country Club Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.**

THE 21ST ARA CONGRESS

The Congress will take place in one of the most beautiful southwestern regions of Canada, at the **University of Victoria**, in Victoria, British Columbia, V8W 3P4. The local organizer and contact person is Prof. **Florin DIACU** from the Department of Mathematics. The dates have been set for September 26-29, 1996. Those interested in attending the Congress must send a **title** and **abstract** of their presentation to **Dr. Florin DIACU** no later than **August 1, 1996.**

NEW BOOKS

Bock, Joanne. Ethnic Vision: A Romanian American Inheritance. University of Colorado Press, 1995.
 Cioran, E. M. Anthologie du portrait de Saint-Simon à Tocqueville. Paris: Gallimard/Arcades, 1996.
 Dvoichenko-Markov, Demetrius. "The Impact of Russia in the Danubian Principalities." South East European Monitor 1: 3-4 (1994): 24-50.
 Kellogg, Frederick. The Road to Romanian Independence. Purdue University, 1995. ISBN 1-55753-065-3
 Quinlan, Paul. D. The Playboy King Carol II of Romania. Greenwood Press, 1995. ISBN 0-313-29519-0

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Nicholas TIMIRAS died in Kensington (Berkeley, California) on January 29, 1996. He was born in Bucharest, Romania on July 31, 1912. During eleven years (1936-1947) of service in the Romanian Department of Foreign Affairs he was charged with several important missions. In 1947, he and his wife, Paola S. Timiras, now Professor Emerita of the University of California at Berkeley "chose freedom" and came to the United States. He earned his Ph.D. degree in 1978. Three years earlier, in 1975, he founded with other friends of Romanian origin the **American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences**, and served as its president until 1982. All who knew him appreciated the honesty and firmness of his conduct. We regret his gentle and generous nature, his willingness to help his fellow men, the elegance and simplicity of his writings, the accuracy of his scholarly research. We express our deepest sympathy to Prof. Emerita, PAOLA S. TIMIRAS and share her loss.

It is with great sadness that we also bid good-bye in the pages of this newsletter to one of ARA's most ardent, energetic and devoted advocates. **Dr. Ion MANEA** died in New York on October 11, 1995. After leaving his native Romania he came to the United States where he actively promoted Romanian cultural interests. His sudden death leaves a deep void in the active organization of ARA. He participated in the deliberations of the Executive Committee, encouraged and supported ARA's publications of the Diaspora, was a visible presence at ARA Congresses. His fellow country-men and professional colleagues will remember him for the legacy he leaves behind. As editor of ARA Journal, now in its 21st year, Dr. Ion MANEA transformed a flagellating modest publication into a respected American-Romanian journal. It promotes Romanian contributions to politics, science and the arts and provides a voice for Romanians everywhere. Its articles are repertoried in international bibliographies, including the MLA International Bibliography. The greatest tribute to the memory of Dr. Ion MANEA is to ensure that the ARA Journal continues to thrive and grow in scholarly integrity and excellence. The members of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences regret the loss of a valued colleague and extend their deepest sympathy to Prof. Maria MANOLIU MANEA.

THE MIRCEA ELIADE ROMANIAN LIBRARY

On Monday April 22nd 1996 the Romanian Community of Chicago celebrated the inauguration of the "Mircea Eliade" Romanian Library. Mircea Eliade was the great thinker, philosopher, writer and historian of religions, who taught at the University of Chicago Divinity School for 27 years between 1957 and 1984. He died on April 22, 1986. The History of Religions Chair of the Divinity School bears his name. The Library is located at 5153 North Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60640. Tel.: (312) 334-1550. Fax: (312) 334-1275. Tel./Fax: (312) 275-3547.

THE ROMANIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA [RSAA].

Three sessions are planned at the December 1996 Convention of the Modern Languages Association of America, in Washington, D.C.: 1) "E. M. Cioran (1911-1995) and his Works," Aleksandra GRUZINSKA, chair; 2) "Comparative Approches to Romanian Literature," Peter CHRISTENSEN, chair; 3) "Literary and Cultural Constructions of (Post)modern Europe," Ileana ORLICH, chair. The latter is a Romanian Studies Discussion Group.

ION RATIU CHAIR OF ROMANIAN STUDIES AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

The Georgetown University is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Charles **KING** to the **Ion Ratiu Chair of Romanian Studies**. Presently a Research Fellow at Oxford and a Research Associate at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, he will join the Georgetown faculty in August 1996 as Ion Ratiu Chair of Romanian Studies and as Assistant Professor in the School of Foreign Service and the Government Department.

The **Ion Ratiu Chair of Romanian Studies** [School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, DC 20057-1031, tel.: (202) 687-2301; fax (202) 687-5829] was established at Georgetown University through a generous gift from the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation of London. Named to honor the distinguished Romanian diplomat, entrepreneur and statesman Ion Ratiu, it is the first privately endowed chair devoted to Romanian studies in the world.

CORRIGENDUM:

We wish to rectify and clarify an item of information that was ambiguous and potentially misleading in the **ARA Newsletter** 6:1 (June 1995), included under "Awards and Recognitions."

Professor **Dr. Dr. h. c. Dan G.[abriel] Cacuci**, Director of the Institut für Reaktorsicherheit at the Research Center Karlsruhe, Ordinarius Chair Professor at the Universität Karlsruhe in Germany, and Distinguished Professor of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Virginia is the person who has received the **Romanian Cultural Foundation Prize** for "**Excellence in Science**." The Prize consisted of a statuette and an envelope containing a sum of money. Dr. D.G. Cacuci returned the envelope on the spot, unopened, to the organizers. They appreciated the gesture.

A.R.A. PUBLICATIONS:

Bârlea, Octavian. **Romania and the Romanians**. Los Angeles, 1977. \$6.00

Quinlan, Paul D. **Clash Over Romania**. Los Angeles, 1977. \$7.00

Manoliu-Manea, Maria. Editor. **The Tragic Plight of a Border Area: Bessarabia and Bucovina**. Humboldt, 1984. [Out-of-print.]

Georgescu, Vlad. **Istoria Românilor de la origini pâna în zilele noastre**. Davis, 1984 [1st ed. out-of-print]. 1990 [2nd ed.]. \$25.00.

Arcade, L.M., Ion Manea, Elena Stamatescu, editors. **Homo Religiosus: To Honor Mircea Eliade**. Hommage à Mircea Eliade. 1990. \$20.00

Jianu, Ionel, Gabriela Carp, Ana Maria Covrig, and Lionel Scantéyé, Editors. **Romanian Artists in the West**. Paris, 1987. With 480 illustrations of which 320 are in color, of painters and sculptors living in the Free World. English edition also available. \$35.00

Quinlan, Paul D. **The United States and Romania. American-Romanian Relations during the Twentieth Century**. Woodland Hills, 1988. \$17.00

Timiras, Nicolae. **Anii tinereții**. Berkeley: 1991. \$12.00

Butariu, Miron. **O viața de om**: Note autobiografice. Los Angeles, 1991. \$16.00

Turdeanu, Emil. **Modern Romania: The Achievement of National Unity 1914-1920**. by Emil Turdeanu. 1988. \$17.00.

Manea, Ion. Editor. **Români în Știința și Cultura occidentală. Enciclopedie**. Davis, 1992. \$35.00. [2nd Ed.: in print.]

Manea, Ion. Editor. **A.R.A. Journal** 12 (1989); 13-14 (1990); 15 (1991); 16-17 (1992); 18 (1993); 19 (1994); 20 (1995). \$20 each volume.

Corduneanu, Constantin, Editor. **Libertas Mathematica (periodical)**. Vols. I-XV. \$30.00 per issue.

For orders outside the USA, send international money order (or postal order) or write to Mr. Miron Bonca, A.R.A. Treasurer, 3153 Country Club Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. U.S.A.

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