

**IOACHIM CRĂCIUN,
MENTOR OF THE ROMANIAN BIBLIOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN
CLUJ**

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Ioachim Crăciun, the well - known historian, a meticulous researcher of old Romanian printings and books and, above all, one of the pioneers of bibliology and of bibliological training in Romania, dedicated his whole life to these noble and fruitful works.

As a keen observer of his epoch and the initiator of Romanian bibliology he wrote in the fall of 1932: "the first rays of bibliology have appeared in Bucharest and I have brought them along to Cluj to initiate a new discipline at our university"¹.

In 1932 the Conference of General Bibliography was formed at Cluj alongside the University Faculty of Arts and Philosophy with the approval of the Minister of Instructions, Nicolae Iorga. This was an unprecedented initiative in our university education both in its content and proportions. The Conference was entrusted to Ioachim Crăciun.

On the 12th November 1932, an inaugural lecture with the title *Bibliology, a new science in Romanian universities* was delivered by Ioachim Crăciun who suggested rigorous scientific principles and techniques as well as a methodological basis for this new subject. Ioachim Crăciun, the young lecturer, and the Rector of Cluj University, the scientist Sextil Pușcariu was to give lectures on this difficult new subject. He belonged to the first generation after 1918, one of those Transylvanian students who studied at Bucharest and worked for a while at the Academy Library under the guidance of Ioan Bianu. He also studied Medieval

¹ Ioachim Crăciun, *Câteva amintiri și precizări despre începuturile Bibliologiei la Cluj*, in: *Studia Bibliologica. Anul universitar 1965 - 1966*, București, 2, 1967, p. 52.

History and Historiography as well as History and Bibliography in Paris. At the École de Chartes (1926 - 1927) he had the opportunity to familiarize himself with the bibliographical activity of the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation in Paris. He examined the specific methods of the International Bibliographical Institute, in Brussels and studied the organization and function of several famous European libraries (in Berlin, Leipzig, Berna, Zürich, Milan, Venice, Vienna, Prague and Budapest). He was Romania's representative at the publication of the work with the title *International Bibliography of Historical Sciences* (edited by a committee whose residence was in Washington and its secretary in Paris). Ioachim Crăciun had therefore been well - prepared for this course, which marked an outstanding event in the evolution of Romanian science and culture and above all in Romanian bibliography. He had been conscious of the fact that Bibliology had not existed before as a separate "scientific activity" in Romanian university education. There had been only individual attempts by some worthy predecessors, such as Al. Sadi - Ionescu and N. Georgescu - Tistu.

Ioachim Crăciun took on a double responsibility: firstly defining theoretically the framework of this new science, establishing its terminology, and structuring its discipline and its main components. Secondly, he initiated a school, a new generation of librarians - a didactic activity with far - reaching implications.

He created a decisive role in bibliography which is the main branch of bibliology. He proved to be a rigorous historian in his lectures on bibliography. His many catalogues, bibliographies and bio - bibliographies place him among the most prodigious bibliographers. His bio - bibliographies - *G. G. Mateescu, Gheorghe Bogdan - Duică, Alexandru Lapedatu, Ioan Bianu, Al. Sadi - Ionescu, Constantin Diculescu, Ioan Lupaș*, bibliographies - *The Scientific Activity of Cluj University from 1920 - 1930* (Activitatea Științifică la Universitatea din Cluj în primul deceniu 1920 - 1930), *The Bibliography of the Romanian Transylvania 1916 - 1936* (Bibliografia Transilvaniei românești, 1916 - 1936), *La contribution roumaine à l'historiographie générale (1927 - 1936)* as well as his contributions to the *World List of Historical Periodicals and Bibliographies from Oxford* (1939), to the *International Bibliography of*

Historical Sciences (Washington - Paris, 1926 - 1939 and 1947) and to the *Historical Bibliography of Romania, 1944 - 1969* (Bibliografia istorică a României pe anii 1944 - 1969) have proved that he is a genuine bibliographer who consistently applied scientific norms.

"As Romania's contributor to the International Historical Bibliography I have introduced - beginning with the 1926 historiographic production - the International Bibliographical Methodology of this publication which still exists. This methodology came into general use in between 40 years (1926 - 1966) on a European level and now is on an international level, under the auspices of UNESCO. This is a **unified bibliographical technique**. I introduced it during my first year of lectures on bibliography in Cluj (1932 - 1933). My bibliographical works after 1926 and that of my students after 1932 have all been drawn up according to these unified international principles"². Even in his inaugural lecture in 1932 he seemed to be aware that the work he had undertaken made him a pioneer in this field: "We do not intend to establish a bibliographical methodology specific to Romania, for this would create chaos. We will not imitate the uncertain methodology of a certain European or American country but we will try to establish a **unified bibliographical methodology** (my emphasis), that will perhaps lead to the introduction of **unified** bibliographical rules"³. Keeping abreast of the imperfect studies of G. Schneider, of the so - called rules of editing a library card, rules defined by the *Règles pour la confection de cartes* of the National Library in Paris as well as by the British Museum in London and the National Library, Berlin, Ioachim Crăciun realized that a **unified bibliographical method** was badly required. This was a recurring problem in his work. Naturally, his instructions thoroughly analysed the problem also touching on the library card of a book, of an article from a periodical or of an article from a poligraphic work. In a study written in 1936 he notes: "...it is high time for us to understand that a bibliography must not be edited in a sloppy way.

² *Ibidem*, p. 57.

³ Idem. *O știință nouă. Bibliologia în învățământul universitar din România*, Cluj, Cartea Românească, 1933, p. 17.

The four cardinal points of a bibliographical note - author, title, reference and bibliographical characteristics - have their precise meaning"⁴.

One of the most important paragraphs of his lecture in 1932 contains a proper question: "What do we need ?".

This was not only a figure of speech, but a rhetorical question. The answer is based on a profound scientific evaluation of the situation. It is pervaded by a honest patriotism: "... we need a current bibliography... complete retrospective bibliographies on subjects ... a bibliography of Romanian writers ... a bibliography of bibliographies that would contain the national bibliographies on all subjects and would therefore present the whole Romanian bibliographical output abroad"⁵. Ioachim Crăciun intended to propose that a Bibliographical Institute be set up which would "... concentrate on bibliographical activity in action"⁶.

We must not forget the Cluj university professors who devised the theoretical background and created the conditions necessary for the development of a bibliological school. Gradually, these premises led to tendencies and achievements in adapting to international standards.

Sextil Pușcariu, Romanian delegate in the *International Committee of Intellectual Cooperation* suggested some practical criteria of editing a library card according to unified standards so that a general index could be compiled. He put forward his suggestions under the title *Pour l'organisation du travail scientifique. La fiche internationale. L'index général* in *Dacoromania*, a publication which dealt with bibliographical issues. These suggestions as well as his *Mémoire sur les nécessités de l'enseignement en Roumanie* which dealt with issues of cultural (and therefore also bibliological) cooperation and the bibliographical columns of *Dacoromania* are the main methodologic and organisational guides to bibliographical activity in Cluj in the 'twenties.

It was also in 1920, when Sextil Pușcariu expounded the need for a bibliographical work of scientific foundations in Cluj, that Emil Racoviță,

⁴ Idem. *Bibliografii românești apărute între 1930 - 1935*. Note și recenzii. [Extras], Cluj, Tip. Cartea Românească, 1936, p. 19.

⁵ Idem. *O știință nouă. Bibliologia în învățământul universitar din România*, Cluj, Cartea Românească, 1933, p. 18.

⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 21.

the great scientist, founder of speology, presented to the University Senate on the 27th November the report with the title *The Problem of Bibliography in Cluj and Its Solution*. He states: "... how should we accomplish our mission as professors and scientific researchers without properly equipped libraries? We should therefore find a way out of this grave situation ... there is only one possibility: studying the problem, devising an overall project of organizing all the libraries and using wise tactics of completing our collections of periodicals. Faced with the difficulty of the situation we have to sacrifice the so - called absolute liberty of the heads of the institutions. Liberty in these circumstances would only mean the **impossibility of compiling bibliographies at Cluj** (my emphasis). Instead of this anarchical psychism ... let us adopt the spirit and the methods of cooperation which is the only solution to bring us positive results"⁷.

Moreover, Emil Racoviță suggested the presentation of some "... sample library cards for periodicals, for cataloguing has to be done in a unified way, using library cards with the same format"⁸.

It is remarkable that the founders of the Cluj University, men of unquestionable scientific prestige together with a wide intellectual horizon, were concerned about the library and the science of bibliography. They became aware that a basic change of attitude was required in this field: librarianship and the information of researchers had to change fundamentally. Order and clear systematization, characteristic to any kind of scientific activity must prevail. This was a decisive step towards methodological modernisation, an attempt to set down unified principles, the creation of the demand that Romanian researchers be at the same time bibliographers of their field.

Besides the remarkable results of *Dacoromania* there were also other achievements in the 1920s: *The Catalogue of the Scientific and Medical Periodicals of Cluj* (Catalogul revistelor Științifice și medicale din Cluj), compiled by A. Valentiny and edited by Emil Racoviță in 1926 and the *Bibliographia botanica Romaniae*, inserted in the *Bulletin of the*

⁷ A. Valentiny, *Catalogul revistelor științifice și medicale din Cluj*, Alcătuit sub direcția lui E. G. Racoviță de către A. Valentiny, Cluj, Tip. "Corvin", 1926, p. V - VI.

⁸ *Ibidem*, p. VIII.

Botanical Garden and of the Cluj University Botanical Museum (Buletinul Grădinii Botanice și al Muzeului Botanic de la Universitatea din Cluj) compiled by Professor Alexandru Borza and Emil Pop, beginning with the year 1921. Bibliographical information, reference to various sources, the cult of libraries and the organization of library activity according to scientific principles and unified norms had been the centre of interest of university professors in Cluj.

Emil Racoviță initiated the inventory of scientific periodicals in Cluj. This served as a basis for a very useful bibliography compiled by A. Valentiny from the University Library under the title *The Catalogue of Scientific and Medical Periodicals from Cluj* (Catalogul revistelor Științifice și medicale din Cluj). his bibliography was compiled under the guidance of the reknowned professor, Emil Racoviță. He signed the foreword as well as the methodological guide with the title *How to Use the Catalogue. Editorial Policy. Information You Can Find in This Catalogue*. He suggested even then the presentation of some "... sample library cards for periodicals, for cataloguing has to be done in a unified way, using library cards of the same format"⁹. His colleague, Sextil Pușcariu, was preoccupied with the destiny of books and of other sources of bibliographical information: "Libraries and scientific institutions face a crisis... Bibliographical documentation which is indispensable for researchers becomes more and more difficult..."¹⁰. Moreover, he tried to find solutions to some technical problems of the libraries. In 1930, he raised the issue of a *Photo - Library for Vertical Classification. An Attempt to Find a Rational and Practical Method of Preserving, Using and Classifying Photographical Clichés and Documents*.

Ioachim Crăciun, author of the *Bibliography in Romania. An Experimental Bibliography of Romanian Bibliographies* (Bibliografia la români. O încercare de bibliografie a bibliografiilor românești) was mainly concerned with the present and future of bibliography in Romania. In addition to his lectures, his work entitled *Romanian Libraries and Readers*

⁹ *Ibidem*, p. VIII.

¹⁰ Emil Racoviță, *Fototecă pentru clasarea verticală*, în: *Bulletin de la Société des sciences de Cluj*, T.V., partea a II - a, 7 oct. 1930, p. 73 - 114.

in the Past and Today (Biblioteci și cititori români în trecut și azi) which was also translated in French, proved his competence in the field of library activity which he considered to be inseparable from bibliography. It is worth noting that in 1932 he asked for a legal framework for recruiting librarians: he suggested that a diploma should be the criteria in recruitments. He considered the Conference of General Bibliography the first step in this respect because "most would - be employees of our University Library should be chosen from among those who had attended library courses"¹¹.

Aware of the fact that his work was indispensable, characterised by the increasing amount of information, he suggested that "We should try to gather statistics from our libraries..."¹².

Bibliology was taught by Ioachim Crăciun in a course over four years. Its aim was been "to guide students, to present them the life and structure of libraries, to serve as a guide to scientific methods in research"¹³. Ioachim Crăciun divided this four - year course as follows: "First year - Introduction to Bibliography (Its History and Methodology); Second year - Librarianship; Third year - Introduction to Bibliography (The History of Books); Fourth year - Romanian Bibliology (The History of Romanian Books)"¹⁴.

This course was outstanding not only because of its avantgarde nature and of its rigorous application of scientific methods and standards which helped to keep pace with the international bibliographical standards of that time. Its value lay mainly in the very precise, scientific structure of the disciplines which it was constructed from, the delineation of methodological and scientific framework and the application of this to library activities. All these helped the formation of future generations of librarians; there emerged a whole array of famous librarians, university professors and researchers who founded a school of bibliology in Cluj.

¹¹ Ioachim Crăciun, *O știință nouă. Bibliologia în învățământul universitar din România*, Cluj, Cartea Românească, 1933, p. 22.

¹² *Ibidem*, p. 23.

¹³ Idem. *Câteva amintiri și precizări despre începuturile Bibliologiei la Cluj*, în: *Studia Bibliologica*, Anul universitar 1965 - 1966, București, 2, 1967, p. 55.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*.

The quality of Ioachim Crăciun's didactic and scientific activity even during the refuge to Sibiu resulted in the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy of Cluj University creating a Department of Bibliology and appointing Ioachim Crăciun full professor of this department¹⁵.

He was asked after 42 years of professorship (1924 - 1966) at the University and the Institute of History of the Cluj Academy about the number of students who had attended Bibliology courses and their work. Ioachim Crăciun answered his Bucharest colleagues that it made no sense whatsoever to state the exact number of his students. Moved by the passion of duty he stated that "we think it more useful to bring together the wreath of harvest, the symbol of the whole field of wheat, with the name of the most distinguished disciples. Their work at seminars, their results at exams and their publications in the field of bibliology proved that all of them would be able to make the best use of their knowledge"¹⁶.

The existence of a bibliological school within the University (between the years 1932 - 1945) had long - lasting results in the subsequent years. First, the consistent use of bibliological standards in all library activities as well as adapting library activities to international standards led to the development of a school of bibliology. Secondly, bibliographical works and works of scientific information were written and famous bibliographers emerged simultaneously.

In forming the bibliological school at Cluj, we can be proud of such outstanding personalities as Sextil Pușcariu and Ioachim Crăciun in the field of bibliological methodology, Sextil Pușcariu, Ion Breazu, Ion Mușlea, Nicolae Lascu, Ion Gherghel, Theodor A. Naum and Iosif E. Naghiu in the field of philology, linguistics, literature and folklore, Ioachim Crăciun, Const. Daicoviciu, Mihai Macrea, C. Göllner, N. Comșa, Bujor Surdu and Mihail P. Dan in the field of history and historiography, Valeriu Șotropa in the field of law, Teodor Onișor and Tiberiu Morariu in the field of geography, Alexandru Borza and Emil Popa in the field of botany, Valeriu Bologna, Lia M. Dima, A. Valentiny and Emil Racoviță in

¹⁵ As a result of the Dictate from Vienna (1940 - 1944) the North Part of Transylvania was attached to Hungary; the Cluj University took refuge at Sibiu and continued its activity there between the years 1940 and 1944.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 93.

the field of medicine, Petre Sergescu and Victor Marian in the field of mathematics and technical studies.

A series of bibliographical works and bibliographical tools have been published under the auspices of the Cluj University Library. The most significant among these are: *Critical References* (Referințe critice) with its two series: *Literary History and Criticism* (Istorie și critică literară) and *Aesthetics and Literary Theory* (Istorie și teorie literară), published from 1966 up to the present; *The Academic Achievement of the Cluj University Professors* (Activitatea Științifică a cadrelor didactice ale Universității din Cluj - Napoca) published from 1919 to 1973 up to the present; it has had four editions; bibliographical guides of periodicals such as *Transylvania* (Brașov, Sibiu, Cluj), 1895 - 1946 (2 volumes), *Familia* (Budapest, Oradea) 1865 - 1906 (2 vol.), *România Literară* (Iași 1855), *Revista Științifică "V. Adamachi"* 1910 - 1947, *Studia Universitatis "Babeș - Bolyai"* 1956 - 1970; 1971 - 1978 aso., *The Catalogue of Incunabula Extant in the Central University Library* (Catalogul incunabulelor existente în colecțiile B.C.U. Cluj - Napoca) (1979), *The Catalogue of Romanian Old Books in the "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library* (Catalogul cărții vechi românești din B.C.U. "Lucian Blaga") (1991), publications dealing with librarianship and researchers, *Library and Education* (Biblioteca și învățământul) (1974 - 1984), the commemorative publication *Philobiblon* (1995), *Bibliotheca Bibliologica - New Series. Studies in Bibliology* (Bibliotheca Bibliologica, seria nouă. Studii bibliologice) (1994), *The Student's Guide to History* (Ghidul studentului în istorie). *A Practical Guide to Abstracts - Chemistry, Biology*, aso (îndrumător practic pentru folosirea revistelor de referate).

Finally, let us underline once again the role of Ioachim Crăciun in the foundation of the Romanian bibliological school. We must not forget the value of his university courses which created a tradition at Cluj. In the year 1995 a Librarianship College was founded reflecting the past historical traditional methods of bibliology and the modern methods of librarianship.