

AN ADVENTURE IN THE WORLD OF THE LIBRARY

(A review of *Contribuții bibliologice și cercetări de arhivă* by Cornelia Gălătescu, Editura Philobiblon a BCU Cluj-Napoca, 1995)

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The generally accepted image of librarians oscillates between two equally inadequate models. On the one hand the librarian is considered to be a shop assistant who offers his special services. He is not treated with any more respect than a narrow-minded office worker whom you have to cheat in order to get what you want. Sometimes you have to win his friendship in order to get a rare or a popular book. On the other hand the librarian is seen as a wise and initiated person.

All these images are far from the truth: working with books, librarians try to be efficient managers of information. At the same time they attempt to obtain interdisciplinary information that researchers often miss. Therefore, the initiative of the "Lucian Blaga" CUL continuing, on a higher level, the *Bibliotheca Bibliologica* series founded by Ioachim Crăciun in the interwar period must be considered laudable.

The third volume of the new series is edited by Mrs Cornelia Gălătescu and is entitled *Contributions to Bibliology and Archival Research (Contribuții bibliologice și cercetări de arhivă)*. The author is very much involved in the bibliological school in Cluj which represented a basic tendency in librarianship in Romanian culture in the interwar period. The author tries to prove that the influence of this school was due to the fact that the most prominent personalities of interwar science and culture dealt with the problems of the librarians in Cluj and, therefore, the organisation of the CUL, namely: Ioan Mușlea, Emil Racoviță, Sextil Pușcariu, Lucian Blaga, Gh. Bogdan-Duică, Ioan Breazu. Mrs. Cornelia Gălătescu states that the bibliographical school in Cluj is in fact the result of an attempt to systematise scientific research. The library was conceived as a basic instrument of scientific information.

Another group of studies is dedicated to the history of literature and to bibliographical preoccupations. They would have been better grouped in thematic sections. *Bibliographical Aspects of Eminescu's Journalism (Aspecte bibliografice în publicistica lui Eminescu)* and *Bibliography and the Sources of Information in "The History of Romanian Literature from its Origins to the Present"* by George Călinescu (*Bibliografie și surse de informare în "Istoria literaturii Române de la origini până la prezent"* a lui George Călinescu) show the important value of our writers.

Finally, there is a group of studies that presents the results of the author's archival research. It is dedicated almost exclusively to unpublished material found in archives and libraries in Cluj, mainly in the collections of the "Lucian Blaga" CUL. The unpublished manuscripts of D. Zamfirescu, L. Blaga, I. Bianu and G. B. Duică are carefully recorded. Thorough studies have been recounted regarding the responses to the events on 1 December 1916, held in various archives in Cluj.

An index of names would have complete the significant research of the author and the extended interest that this volume will arouse.

In conclusion, this title provides us with a new image of the librarian: that of a manager of book collections and also an investigator of information.