

**THE “LUCIAN BLAGA” CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY
(Short History)**

Lidia GROSS

Researcher
Historical Institute of the Romanian Academy

The attempt to “span” more than a hundred years of history of a library in a few pages is undoubtedly a difficult task. There is a risk of missing essential aspects, gathering information that is not absolutely relevant and, finally, such a study is in danger of becoming a mass of facts which lack substance, embedded in a specific political and cultural reality.

Commencing from a rich bibliographic and documentary basis which is far from being completely exhausted yet and which contains more information about initial stages and the period between the wars, we aim to draw a portrait. The closer it is viewed, the more difficult it is to sketch it; such is a human portrait. This ultracontemporary history of a library keeps its secrets, until detachment in time allows a critical evaluation.

I

“The library is a great labyrinth,
sign of the labyrinth of the world.”
(Umberto Eco)

1. The whole history of the library is linked to the history of the University in Cluj which was founded by the imperial order of Francis Joseph on 12 October 1872. The foundation of the Hungarian university in Cluj was favoured by the new political situation of Transylvania (the dual monarchy was established in 1867, against Hungarian national and cultural aspirations.) The

university was organised in the same way as other European universities at that time. It had four "classical" faculties: 1.Law and Political Science, 2.Medicine, 3.Philosophy, Arts and History, 4.Mathematics and the Natural Sciences. Its library was set up by merging the library of the former Academy of Law in Cluj (1639 volumes) with the library of the former Institute of Medicine (9000 volumes); the József Benigni (Director and Censor of the Gubernation) donation of 6839 volumes added to this.¹

When the University Library was founded there was already a rich and well-organised public library in Cluj, the Library of the Transylvanian Museum Society² founded in 1859 from donations of Hungarian noble families (Kemény J, Mike S, Kemény S, Mikó S, Wesselényi and others), along with the Transylvanian Museum Society, a private scientific and cultural association. The Library of the Society which had 15.439 volumes and 1083 manuscripts was located in the house of Count Bethlen S.³ The Transylvanian Museum Society which had been supported by donations and membership fees, endured financial difficulties after almost a decade of functioning. They asked for financial support from the State in 1867 and obtained it in 1872, the year of the foundation of the University: the Hungarian state undertook a contract to remit a sum of 10.000 crowns a year to the Society, because University Professors were using both the library and the various scientific collections of the Society.⁴ Beginning with 1872, the University Library and the Library of the Society worked together even though their collections were registered separately and had their own

¹ Eugen Barbul, *Biblioteca Universităţii Regele Ferdinand I din Cluj*, "Cartea Românească", 1935, p.3. In 1890 the Academy of Law in Sibiu was disbanded; the 4514 volumes of its library entered the collections of the Central University Library, alongside 4593 volumes from the duplicate collection of the Central University Library, Budapest. *Ibidem*, p.4.

² Bohatta, J, Holzmann, M, *Adressbuch der Bibliotheken der Österreich-Ungarischen Monarchie*, Wien, Hof-Verlag-Buchhandlung Carol Fromme, 1900, p.457.

³ Eugen Barbul, *op. cit.* p.4.

⁴ *Ibidem*, p.4.

stamps and ex-libris for many decades.⁵ Szabó Károly, Director of the Museum Society, writer and bibliographer, was appointed Director of the University library which he modelled on the Library of the Society. The collections of these two libraries were continually developed by donations, acquisition and legal deposit copies. However, the Library of the Society was more favoured as it was supported by the Hungarian state which obliged printing houses to send legal deposit copies to it (not to the University Library).⁶

In 1895 necessary space was provided for both libraries: they were moved to the new building of the University which was named after Francis Joseph in 1897.

The richness of collections (more than 170.000 volumes), the growing number of readers, the necessary scientific organisation of librarianship activity required specially equipped space, adequate both for the Library of the Society which was a scientific library dealing with the research of Transylvanian traditions, Hungarian especially, and the University Library which was a library of general culture.

Erdélyi Pál, Director of the University Library from 1899, organised the new institution which became later on one of the most modern libraries in Hungary standing alongside the University Library in Budapest (1876) and the Technical School Library, Budapest (1909).⁷

The architects Florian Korb and Koloman Giergl modelled the building on the lines of the modern University Library of Basel (1896); they had gone on a library building tour throughout Europe, organised by Erdélyi Pál.⁸ The construction of the building was supported by the Hungarian government (it cost approximately 2 million crowns) and commenced in 1906. The inauguration took

⁵ Ioan Muşlea, *Biblioteca Universităţii din Cluj*, in: *Boabe de grâu*, 1930, vol.I, nr.5, p.11.

⁶ Eugen Barbul, *op. cit.*, p.119.

⁷ Csaba Csapodi, *Das ungarische Bibliothekswesen*, in: *"Biblos-Schriften"*, Wien, 1971, Band 63, p.25.

⁸ *Handbuch der Bibliothekswissenschaft*, begründet von Fritz Milkau, Wiesbaden, "Otto Harasowitz", 1957, III Band, p.859.

place in 1909, in the presence of Count Albert Apponyi, Minister of Public Instruction.⁹ The moving of the books from the old building of the University took six months; the grouping, inventory and cataloguing had still not been completed in 1914 when the outbreak of the war mobilised most of the staff and all work had to be suspended.

Modelling itself on German libraries which were considered, from the 19th century, as indispensable links in scientific activity and real instruments in scientific research, supported by professional librarians¹⁰, the University Library in Cluj (Magyar Királyi Ferencz József Tudomány Egyetem Könyvtár) kept pace with the current European development through its activity, modern techniques of function and organisation of the library, the system of loans and cataloguing (subject catalogue) and reader circulation. It was "one of the most complete library buildings of Europe before the war."¹¹

2. The union of Transylvania with Romania (1 December 1918, Trianon 1920) meant radical changes in the political situation of this part of the country, which had implications in all fields of human life. Political, cultural and public institutions were transferred under the authority of the Romanian state by the act of the Directing Council (a provisional organisation with executive and governmental powers). On 12 May 1919, the University Library, its branch institutions and its clinics were taken over in the space of a few hours by a commission led by Onisifor Ghibu. The opinion of the authorities and Romanian cultural personalities concerning the fate of the Hungarian University in Cluj differed¹². Finally, the solution proposed by Onisifor Ghibu was accepted. The university along with its branch institutions and its clinics were quickly and

⁹ Eugen Barbul, *op. cit.* p. 12.

¹⁰ *Handbuch...*, p.170.

¹¹ Ioan Muşlea, *op. cit.*, p.11.

¹² Details of this event can be found in Onisifor Ghibu's works, *La a douăzecea aniversare a Universităţii Daciei Superioare*, Cluj, Institutul de arte grafice "Ardealul", 1939 and *In jurul preluării Universităţii din Cluj*, in: *Revista generală a învăţământului*, Bucureşti, 1931, vol.4.

completely submitted to the Romanian State. Therefore, on 12 May 1919 the University library was given over to Vasile Bichigean, teacher at the Năsăud High School, member of the Controlling Commission; “he compelled the staff of the library to hand over the institution, on the basis of the order nr.4336-1919 of the Directing Council, signed by Valeriu Braniște and Onisifor Ghibu.”¹³ Erdélyi Pál, the Director left Cluj; Gyalui Farkas, the acting Director of the Library, and the whole staff, submitted to the “symbolic gesture of force”, took the oath of loyalty to the Romanian state.¹⁴ Gyalui Farkas, historian and bibliologist, held the position of Technical Director of the library, from 1919 to 1926;¹⁵ this provisional post was scrapped after his retirement.

The solemn inauguration of the Romanian University and library took place in 1920, in the presence of the Royal Family. From 1927 the University and its library bore the name of King Ferdinand I, who had accepted to be the patron of this cultural institution because of a goodwill gesture and bibliophile interests.

The Romanian University in Cluj now laid the foundations of a European-level organisation, profiting from its previous heritage and further enriching it. Important personalities of Romanian scientific and cultural life such as Victor Babeș, Emil Racoviță, Sextil Pușcariu (the first Rector of the University), Ioan Ursu, Vasile Pârvan, Nicolae Iorga, C. Levaditti and others were all Professors at the University. The Library also had an important role. It maintained its privileged position supporting the authentic intellectual life.

It must be emphasized that the University Library had had an exemplary organisation and method of functioning in the interwar period in spite of tight budgets which had made it necessary at some time to raise the entrance fee to 200 lei per month for all readers.

¹³ Eugen Barbul, *op. cit.*, p.13.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, p.13.

¹⁵ *A könyv és könyvtár a magyar társadalom életében 1849-1945*, edited by Kovács Máté, Budapest, Gondolat, 1970, p.281.

The whole activity and budget of the Library was controlled by the Commission of the University Library which had six members: the Rector (or the Pro-Rector) of the University, a representative of each department and the Director of the Library; its secretary was a librarian. The Director of the Library published annually a report in the *Year-Book of the University* about the composition of the Commission, about the Library staff and their scientific activity, the catalogue compilation, collection development and library readership. These are precious sources of information in the historical research of this institution.

Eugen Barbul (the first Romanian Director of the Library, appointed in 1920) published a work entitled *Biblioteca Universităţii Regele Ferdinand I (The Library of the Ferdinand I University)* in 1935. He had as his aim three reasons: "the wish to present the greatest and richest library in Romania to the Romanian public", the wish to maintain the library on the scientific level attained by it, in spite of the threat of being transformed into a mere administrative institution and to improve on the "lack of a bibliographical publication which showed the annual progress of the library", because the space offered by the *Year-Book of the University* was limited.¹⁶

Commencing with the principal issues raised by Eugen Barbul's monograph, let us look at what the interwar period meant in the Library's development. S. Charlethey, the Rector of the University in Paris considered (in 1934) that it was "organised and maintained in a better way than the Library at Sorbonne".¹⁷

When the Library was taken over by the Romanian authorities, there were already in place plans to build a second floor to the library building which would lead to an increase in the number of places for readers. In addition other projects consisted of employing Romanian staff (these actions were supported by the Averescu government), registering and cataloguing the material that had not been processed because of the five years' war (12.700

¹⁶ Eugen Barbu, *op. cit.*, p.1.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*, p.74.

volumes), and lastly, the completion of collections with Romanian publications and foreign ones as well. The latter project was assisted greatly by the following:

A. Supplying the Library with Romanian books

a.) Donations

The most important donation was that from the Moldavian scholar Gheorghe Sion, a passionate collector who presented his whole collection to the Library: books (4500 volumes, 205 old Romanian ones) periodicals, manuscripts, documents, engravings (2.600 old engravings, some of them unique copies), photos, paintings (two original Grigorescus). There were also the valuable donations from the lawyer Francisc Hossu-Longin (books, periodicals, documents and correspondance characteristic to the political life of Transylvania in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century), the donations of Major Iuliu Marțian (old Romanian books, medieval documents), those of the Romanian Academy (15.000 volumes), of the ASTRA society (200 volumes) and of the Library of the Romanian Parliament (approximately 2.000 volumes).

b.) Purchase of private libraries

The Romanian government placed at the library's disposal a considerable sum of money (between 700.000 lei to 1 million lei a year) for the acquisition of Romanian books. The University Library not only enriched its collection of Romanian books but also those of foreign books by buying particular libraries such as the library of Professor Grigore Crețu from București (3104 volumes), the library of the lawyer A.C. Krupensky from București (3217 volumes), the library of the physicist Crăiniceanu (4182 volumes) and the library of Professor Hildebrandt Frolo (3141 volumes).¹⁸

c.) The Legal Deposit Law (1940) which aimed at developing complete collections of Romanian publications was extended in 1923 (thanks to the efforts of Emil Racoviță, Senator of the Cluj University) to the territories which were united with

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, p.35.

Romania in 1918. The Library received two free copies of each book, brochure, periodical, newspaper, map, engraving and musical score from printing houses in the country (909 printing houses, out of which 261 were in București). The special bureau of "Legal Deposit publications" was founded in 1923.

B. International exchange

The International Exchange Bureau was also founded in 1923, with its headquarters at the Central Meteorological Institute in București. Soon after this a separate bureau was set up in the Library which established relations with 194 universities and scientific institutions from 37 countries.¹⁹

The preservation and organisation of the collections of books, periodicals and manuscripts were maintained on European libraries' standards: two complete alphabetic catalogues and a subject catalogue in work made information accessible. The Transylvanian Museum Society Archive (with 500.000 documents) which occupied three rooms on the second floor of the building had a very efficient catalogue of cross-reference typed cards which allowed the readers to find data concerning every document. The first printed publications appeared in those years: the *Catalogue of Scientific and Medical Periodicals in Cluj*, initiated by E. Racoviță and S. Pușcariu (Director of the Museum of Romanian Language and its publication, *Dacoromania*) and carried out by A. Valentiny²⁰; *Bibliographia botanica Romaniae*, edited by Alexandru Borza and E. Pop; the *Bibliography of Dissertations at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj, 1923-1936*; Valeriu Bologa, President of the Association of Librarians in Cluj, also contributed to it.²¹ These are only a few aspects which support our assertion, however, they refer to facts which are recognised and appreciated on a national and international level.

¹⁹ *Ibidem*, p.42.

²⁰ Cornelia Vaida, *Universitari Clujeni - prezențe și ipostaze bibliografice*, in: *Biblioteca și învățământul*, V, Cluj, 1981, p.124.

²¹ *Ibidem*, p.128.

The growing prestige of the University Library in Cluj was undoubtedly due to the scientific activity of Professors and researchers who served this institution at that time (E. Barbu, Ioan Muşlea, Editor of the Romanian part of the periodical *Volkskundliche Bibliographie* and also Director of the Library beginning with 1935, Anton Valentiny, Virgil Vătăşianu, Olimpiu Boiţuş, David Prodan, Jakó Zsigmond and others) but it was also due to the interest of Cluj University Professors in the organisation of the library. They were preoccupied by its specific working methods. Professor Ioachim Crăciun, the Romanian contributor to the International Historical Bibliography from 1926, made attempts to adopt uniform working methods in libraries all over Romania.

In 1932 Ioachim Crăciun initiated a General Bibliography Course entitled *A New Science: Bibliology in Romanian Higher Education*. He presented the basic principles of the new science and argued that a unified bibliographical methodology was required which would determine the introduction of certain unified bibliographical rules.²²

In the interwar period there was even a public library in the library building; its aim was the dissemination of culture among pupils, workers and handicraftsmen. It had approximately 10.000 volumes. During the war it ceased its activity.

3. After the Vienna Award (1940), when part of Transylvania was given over to Hungary, the Cluj University had to take refuge in territories that remained under Romanian authority. Therefore the Arts and Philosophy Department and the Law and Medical Department of the University moved to Sibiu, whereas the Science Department moved to Timișoara. Attempts were made to organise themselves as efficiently as they could in these circumstances. At the moment of evacuation the University Library

²² *Ibidem*, p.125. The *Bibliotheca Bibliologica* series appeared between 1933 and 1944; it was founded and edited by Ioachim Crăciun. It continued in 1994; the new series is edited by Nicolae Edroiu. The first number of the new series is dedicated to Ioachim Crăciun, with the title *Ioachim Crăciun and Romanian Bibliology*.

selected the publications which were most important for re-starting its activity i.e. publications which were acquired in the 1920-1940 period. The library building with the remaining collections were opened to the public the second day after the withdrawal of the Romanian troops. This fact is recorded by A. Valentinyi²³; in October 1940 he was appointed Director of the Hungarian University Library which took again the name of *Ferencz József Egyetemi Könyvtár*. During his two years as Director (he retired in 1942; Herepey Antal followed him) Valentiny tried, despite financial and other difficulties caused by the war, to maintain the library in such conditions that it could fulfil its "threefold mission: of scientific library for the five University departments and other Higher Education institutions in Cluj, National Library of Transylvania and, finally, the greatest public library in Transylvania."²⁴

The Library which had moved to Sibiu did not have adequate space; it was only in 1941 that it was moved to the University building. The services were reorganised, in spite of difficulties inherent to those times. The Library also had a section in Timișoara, near the Science Department.

The Library Commission, whose members were Iuliu Hațieganu, Valeriu Bologna, Eugen Speranția, Ioan Mușlea (Director of the Library) and Ioachim Crăciun, aimed at developing the collections. Acquisitions were supported by the Minister and the Rectorate of the University. In addition the following were acquired in this period: the library of Professor A. Vasulescu, from Craiova (14.000 volumes), publications from the duplicate collection of the Bruckenthal Library as well as the donations from private individuals (Al. Lapedatu, Catinca Bârseanu, Onisifor Ghibu) and institutions, the international exchange of publications which was restricted because of the war, and legal deposit copies. The

²³ Gheorghe Șerban, *Istoricul Bibliotecii Universitare din Cluj*, manuscript, p.49.

²⁴ Activity report for the 1941-1942 schoolyear, written by A. Valentinyi, in the Ghe. Șerban manuscript, p.50.

recording and cataloguing of materials continued, though the number of the staff was reduced (most men were recruited). Librarians' conferences treated problems concerning the reorganisation of services at Sibiu and general aspects of the appointment of scientific staff in central university libraries.²⁵

4. 1945. The end of the war. The Northern part of Transylvania was reattached to Romania; a new political orientation ensued which had as its aim the construction of a new economic, social and political reality: that of "communist freedom".

The Romanian University in Sibiu returned to Cluj, along with its Library; it was supported financially by the Petru Groza government. The Hungarian University was founded in the same year, by law 407/28 May 1945; it was named after the mathematician Bolyai János. The decision nr. 172.111 on 11 July 1945 of the National Ministry of Education stipulated that there should be only one university library for both universities in Cluj: Cluj University Library. After this reorganisation the library was in a strange situation as it had three Directors: Monoki István, Director of the Hungarian University Library, Ioan Muşlea, Director of the Romanian University Library and Victor Cheresteşiu, who was appointed in December 1945. In 1947 Ioan Muşlea asked for a transfer to the Museum of the Romanian Language in Cluj; it was approved by the Ministry of Education in the same year.²⁶ Victor Cheresteşiu took his place and beginning with 1946 he initiated enquiries about "books that should be read for assimilating the Marxist theory, the order in which librarians, readers, workers, pupils, peasants should read them and the organisation of a catalogue of these books for public libraries which is one of the vital problems of democracy."²⁷

²⁵ Ioan Muşlea, *Biblioteca Universitară Regele Ferdinand I Cluj-Sibiu*, Annual Report, 1941-1942, extract from the *Annuary of the University*, Sibiu, 1943, p.6.

²⁶ Gheorghe Şerban, *op. cit.*, p.59-60.

²⁷ The letter written by V. Cheresteşiu to a certain comrade Jóska (unidentified), in the Gh. Şerban manuscript, p.61.

This was the beginning of the period whose results can be felt even today in our everyday life. It was a period when a new reality emerged, a new, unique and omnipotent ideology which left culture only a slight chance of survival. It was the beginning of the isolation, the burning of bridges which linked us to European culture and civilisation. It initiated the withdrawal to a vain self-sufficiency, oriented mainly towards the East. This is perhaps the most difficult period to gain an insight into the library and its history which was yet so close to us and yet did not dare to reveal its darkness.

II

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confront

“Therefore the library could not be threatened by any earthly power, it was living... But, if it was living, why did it not open up to the danger of knowledge?”

(Umberto Eco)

1. 1947-1965

The library underwent radical changes: it adapted itself to certain university structures imposed by the 1948 Education Law. It was submitted wholly to the communist ideology, gradually losing its active scientific role which enabled its dialogue with Europe.

These ideals brought about a revised thought and reorganisation in the spirit of the purest Stalinist doctrine which created structures that are basically the same even today.

The unification of services began in 1947 and it was completed after 1955 when the “Victor Babeş” Romanian University and the “Bolyai János” Hungarian University were unified and named “Babeş-Bolyai” University. The collections of the two libraries were unified and centralised; collective catalogues were compiled. The staff was redistributed because new services and departments were created. The branch libraries were also organised in this period: the former seminary libraries, department libraries and libraries of institutions were amalgamated and named

“faculty libraries” which depended on the Central University Library from a technical, administrative and organisational point of view. (Note Appendix I.)

The “Marxist-Leninist Department” was founded in 1949. It aimed at disseminating Marxist-Leninist literature in an organised way. It had separate stacks and separate alphabetic and subject catalogues. The “Documentary and Bibliographic Service” which had to “stimulate the role of information and documentation which is characteristic to all libraries” reduced its activity to information and documentation restricted by ideological barriers.

The Special Collections Department was founded in 1955; it bore the name of Ghe. Sion who had made important donations. Its structure is the same today: old Romanian books, old Hungarian books, incunabula, manuscripts, maps, engravings, albums, picture postcards, musical notes; all items are valuable tokens of the history of human civilisation.

Traditional International Exchanges were halted (until 1956); they were resumed under strict supervision and direction. There was little Western contact; the foreign currency allowance allocated to these international agreements was substantially reduced; Eastern relations were favoured.

Library collections were rigorously controlled by means of their content, method of interpretation and their authors; there was a system of supervision and direction of reading. There was a “forbidden stock”, a “documentary stock” (the S stock, that is, the special stock was formed in 1968) and the “free stock”. In the 50s this stock could not hold the works of A. Maurois, A. Gide, R. Kipling, J. P. Sartre, G. Papinni, Panait Istrati, Lucian Blaga, Ion Agărbiceanu, Ioan Lupaș, Silviu Dragomir and others. “Chauvinist anti-communist books, detective novels, translations from Anglo-American literature in the 1920-1945 period, classical philosophy, purely scientific works written by war criminals or persons who

had fled from the country were all books that could not be placed at the disposal of the general public".²⁸

A series of commissions were formed in these years in order to ensure the "successful completion of tasks": the Commission for Cataloguing and Coordinating Work, the Discipline Commission, the Commission for Developing and Organising Collections, the Commission for Supervising Reading Rooms. The development of collections meant the acquisition of didactic material and works of an ideological content prescribed by students' bibliographies, works of general culture and literature. The "works of classical Marxist-Leninist authors, social-political and scientific literature written from the point of view of the working class" were placed on the top.²⁹

Nevertheless, these years are marked by the presence of Lucian Blaga at the Library; after he was dismissed from the University, he became chief librarian at the Academy Library, Cluj branch, then researcher at the Literary History and Anthropology Department in 1953. He worked and lived in the University Library.

2. 1965-1989

This period is marked by détente and attempts of cultural opening stopped by "Socialist pretensions" which had lasting effects on mentality, spirit and attitudes.

The Library had a stock of 2.236.000 volumes (1.814.000 books, 319.000 periodicals, 103.000 engravings, picture postcards, maps, musical notes) in 1964. In 1985 the number of its volumes reached 3.490.000 (460.574 periodicals) which was due to the Legal Deposit Law, acquisitions in the country and abroad (the latter had been reduced because of the lack of foreign currency; in 1973, for example, 1814 volumes were bought from socialist countries and 262 volumes from capitalist countries. The International Exchange

²⁸ Ionuț Costea, István Király, Doru Radosav, *Fond secret-Fond "S" Special. Contribuții la istoria fondurilor secrete de bibliotecă din România. Studiu de caz. BCU "Lucian Blaga" din Cluj-Napoca*, Cluj, Ed. Dacia, 1995, p. 260-262.

²⁹ Report on the meeting of the Scientific Council of the "V. Babeș" University, 30 November 1956, p.3.

Service was reorganised in 1958; it had its peak in 1972 when the Library had agreements with 1086 institutions from 79 countries and used the periodical edited by the university (*Studia Universitatis "Babeş-Bolyai"*) as a material for exchange. These agreements were reduced to 50 countries in 1988, because of the lack of foreign currency allowances.

The Documentary Service initiated a series of works, bibliographies, catalogues, indexes of periodicals for foreign books that entered the library and various periodical publications; all these were delayed because of the lack of multiplying machinery, paper and necessary materials. Therefore they could not fulfil their role of immediate dissemination of information.

The 1971 Law of Archives removed a large part of the documentary collection of the Library which belonged to the Transylvanian Museum Society (the *Gheorghe Pop de Băseşti*, the *Hossu-Longin* and the *Amos Frâncu* correspondence collections, etc.) The Ministry of the Interior which had a direct control of State Archives ensured in this way a more rigorous supervision of these collections.

The Library had to face many problems, such as the reduction of the staff (vacant posts were not filled and the Librarianship College disbanded as a consequence of the 1381/1971 Decision of the Council of Ministers) which led to the closing down of the book laboratory indispensable in a library with a large stock of books that are public property. The lack of material and financial means added to the reduction in services. The Library had been reduced to an administrative institution which kept publications and served the readers (the number of readers became a way of assessing how much a librarian could earn). Nevertheless the Library published the *Catalogue of Incunabula of the Central University Library*, edited its own periodical, *Biblioteca și învățământul* which had a few numbers containing articles, studies presented at librarianship conferences, reviews, etc., and contributed to the edition of national catalogues and repertories (*Bibliografia Națională Retrospectivă, Catalogul colectiv al cărților străine în bibliotecile din R.S.R.*).

Beginning with 1983, cataloguing and classification was centralised for the branch libraries too, according to international standards; books, periodicals and maps have been catalogued according to ISBD norms. The information therefore was in a format that could be computerised.

The Scientific Council of the library (which had wanted to be a replica of the Library Commission functioning in the interwar period) had a mere symbolic role as it was subordinated to the party organisation (the Bureau of Party Organisation) and the Council of workers consisting of the Party Secretary, the UTC (The Communist Youth Union) Secretary, the President of the Syndicate, the Director of the Library and the Heads of Services. These two organisations controlled library activities: they fixed the norms for each service and determined the number of hours designated for political-ideological training compulsory for all librarians. (They were trained in groups led by propagandists and members of the party.)

The S (Special) stock discreetly disappeared from library reports after 1980. It was deliberately avoided, like other problems such as staff and their appointment, the reduction of the library stock by the Law of Archives, the restructuring of services and sections, etc.

The development of the library stock, the number of readers, the number of books consulted daily and the number of books lent monthly were the basis of multiple, sometimes inaccurate statistics which were not so much sociological investigations of reading but whose role was to justify the presence of the librarian and his salary.

The latter decades had a negative effect on the ideals of librarianship and the concepts which govern such an institution. The Library was marginalised as everything else that signified culture; it had a low level role in scientific and other kinds of information; it lacked financial support and was submitted to ideological pressure. Therefore it gradually lost its European prestige.

A deeper investigation would probably present us with a nuanced and much more complex image of facts, reaching beyond general and neutral assertions. It could be said that "my

oversimplification of matters equals treason”, as P. Chaunu, the French historian says.

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Today the Library tries to return to its initial role, that of being a real “memory of culture”.

APPENDIX I

Branches of the Central University Library in the 1947-1965 Period

- 1.The Library of the Department of Philosophy Library
- 2.The Library of the Department of History
- 3.The Library of the Department of Ancient History and Archeology
- 4.The Library of the Department of Psychology and Education
- 5.The Library of the Arts Department
- 6.The Library of the Chemistry Department
- 7.The Library of the Mathematics Department
- 8.The Library of the Physics Department
- 9.The Library of the Biology Department
- 10.The Library of the Geography Department
- 11.The Library of the Geology Department
- 12.The Library of the Law Department
- 13.The Library of the Economy Department
- 14.The Documentary Library in Aiud

APPENDIX II

Directors of the Central University Library, Cluj

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| 1.Szabó Károly | 1872-1890 |
| 2.Ferenczi Zoltán | 1891-1899 |
| 3.Erdélyi Pál | 1900-1914 |
| 4.Interim period until 1920, Gyalui Farkas | |
| 5.Eugen Barbul | 1920-1935 |

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| 6.Ioan Muşlea | 1935-1947, in the 1940- |
| 1944 | period he was in Sibiu |
| 7.Valentinyi Antal | 1940-1942 |
| 8.Herepey Árpád | 1942-1944 |
| 9.Monoki István | 1945-1947 |
| 10.Victor Chereşteşiu | 1945-1948 |
| 11.Traian Mitrofanovici | 1948-1949 |
| 12.Teodor Mihăilescu | 1949-1958 |
| 13.Interim period until 1960, Tóth Kálmán | |
| 14.Constantin Negulescu | 1960-1983 |
| 15.Mihail Triteanu | 1983-1988 |
| 16.Interim period until December 1989, Cruciţa Miclăuş | |