

THE HISTORICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TRANSYLVANIA, 1936-1944¹

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Transylvanian historiography had one of its most successful epochs in the interwar period. It established the location and the role of Transylvania, a place of synthesis and originality with a distinct and complex individuality, within the history of Romania. These were the basic works of a generation of historians who had reached the maturity of their research (Nicolae Iorga, Ioan Lupaş, Alexandru Lapedatu, Silviu Dragomir, Ioan Moga, Constantin Daicoviciu) and the works of young researchers (David Prodan, Ştefan Pascu, Cornelia Bodea).

We must not omit those who dealt with local history or had important contributions to the adjoining fields and created works which are still in use as reference texts: Alexandru Filipescu, for his contributions to the history of the Maramureş region; Ştefan Manciualea, who wrote about the history of Blaj and its personalities; Virgil Şotropa, who dealt with the region of Năsăud; Roska Márton for his archeological research; Ştefan Meteş for his research into important archives; Victor Motogna, medievalist; Zenovie Păclişanu, historian of the Greek-Catholic Church; Victor Jinga, researcher in economic history as well as Vasile Netea, Iosif Naghiu, Ion B. Mureşianu (the history of culture).

Transylvanian historiography was institutionalised in the interwar period (the Institute of National History was founded within the Cluj University) and therefore basic research gained new dimensions; it diversified in the field of economic history, social history and the history of culture. Historical sources had been studied and published and research conducted into the auxiliary sciences of history such as numismatics, demography, toponymy, ethnography.

The vast historiographic production and the need for efficient tools in scientific research made the edition of bibliographies which would include previously published works on Transylvania, indispensable. Ioachim Crăciun, a Professor in Cluj assumed this responsibility; he introduced Bibliology as a subject in Romanian university education and initiated the movement of the research of Romanian culture by means of bibliographies. *The Historical Bibliography of Romanian Transylvania (Bibliografia istorică a Transilvaniei româneşti)* was

¹ Lucia Turc. *Bibliografia istorică a Transilvaniei (1936-1944)*. Bibliografie selectivă. Collaborators: Angela Costin, Stelian Măndruţ, Alina Teslaru. French translation: Viorica Sâncrăian. Cluj, Presa Universitară Clujeană (Colecţia Philobiblon a Bibliotecii Universitare "Lucian Blaga"), 1998.

published in 1937, in *Revue de Transylvanie* and then in an Extract and covers the period between 1916-1936.

The *Historical Bibliography of Transylvania 1936-1944* (*Bibliografia istorică a Transilvaniei 1936-1944*) was initiated to cover the historiographic production of eight years. We defined the chronological limits by establishing the fact that historical writings before 1936 were included in the *Bibliography* of Ioachim Crăciun, whereas those after 1944 can be found in the *Historical Bibliography of Romania* (*Bibliografia istorică a României*), volume I, 1944-1969, published in 1970. Therefore, Transylvanian historiography is covered by three works which cover almost a century (the *Historical Bibliography of Romania* appears regularly, one volume every five years.)

Unlike Ioachim Crăciun, who classified bibliographic units about Transylvania and the Banat region in separate chapters, we treated them together. The generic title "Transylvania" comprises all provinces separated from Hungary in 1918 and annexed to Romania: Transylvania proper, Banat, Crișana and Maramureș. The historical chronology used by us corresponds to the main epochs of Romanian history, but we have also taken into account the specificities of the region. We dedicated separate chapters to great historical moments: the peasant revolt of Horea (1784), the 1848 Revolution, the Memorandist Movement and the Union of Transylvania with Romania (1918). In contrast to the forementioned bibliographies which were nevertheless permanent points of reference in our work, we treated the 18th century as a special period in which the features of modernity became more and more clear; similarly, we devoted special attention to the two decades between 1849 and 1867, the neo-absolutist and liberal period in Transylvania, creations of the power of Vienna.

This way of structuring was also determined by the quantity of the material. The richness of certain segments forced us to group the documentary and narrative sources according to epochs, and the numerous biographical works according to fields of activity.

The selection and classification of the material was done according to the criterion of value: the novelty of information, the originality of interpretation and the preponderance of certain ideas in the content. This latter was also applied in the classification of the manifold political, cultural and scientific activity of certain personalities. We took into account the most important field of their activity or their reception by posterity.

The *Historical Bibliography of Transylvania 1936-1944* has six chapters, General Issues, The History of Transylvania, Local History, Transylvanians Abroad, The Minorities of Transylvania, The History of Culture and Civilisation, including 2987 titles, books and periodicals. Their identification was one of the most difficult stages in the complex process of editing. The lack of secondary tools which would contain the book and periodical production of the interwar period (as we have the *Modern Romanian Bibliography*, even if unfinished, and the

Romanian Periodicals for the modern period) and which would help us to have a general view of primary sources which must be included in a historical bibliography, made our work difficult and time-consuming.

Starting from the list of periodicals published by Ioachim Crăciun we have selected items published in Romania in the interwar period. To these were added new titles from different sources. The bibliographies published by the *Revista istorică română* (*Romanian Historical Review*) and the reviews in speciality periodicals were a great help in identifying periodicals and books. We used every note in the press which signalled a new publication and every book-list or bibliography attached to a paper as sources of information. We wanted to cover the historiographic production, to include studies written by great personalities but also less important publications; thus we included, in the list of periodicals, speciality and cultural periodicals as well as almanacs, calendars and daily papers which published articles in the field of history.

Besides books and articles there are valuable studies published in collective volumes, *La Transylvanie* (1938), *Siebenbürgen* (1943), *Omagiu lui Ioan Lupaș la împlinirea vârstei de 60 de ani* (*Homage to Ioan Lupaș at his 60th Birthday*)(1943), *Omagiu înalt Prea Sfinției sale dr. Nicolae Bălan* (*Homage to Nicolae Bălan*)(1940), etc.

We must stress that the bibliography is not exhaustive. Some contributions were eliminated, others identified only after finishing the work. We will compile a list of titles as an addendum.

Once the material was filed, selected and classified, the next stage, that of editing, raised some problems. We delimited studies on the history of Romania which also contain references to Transylvania from studies on the history of Transylvania.

To meet the requirement of presenting the material in a unified form, we adopted certain norms. Thus, items were arranged in alphabetical order, by authors; in case of several entries with the same author, titles were arranged in alphabetical order. In case of chapters such as Local History or chapters which include biographies of certain personalities, items were arranged in the alphabetical order of places (grouped by divisions such as Counties, Towns, Villages) or of personalities, in order to facilitate access to information. In case of lengthy studies published in periodicals and then in extracts, dates of publication were chronologically inverted: first the date of publication of the extract, then the abbreviation of the periodical and its date of publication.

Articles published in more periodicals led to the accumulation of files, and dates of publication were given in the alphabetical order of the periodicals in question. For works published in Romanian language, and then in two or more world languages we gave the dates of publication of the Romanian version first. Books which were not seen by us because of objective reasons, but were identified from various sources, were marked with an asterisk.

Our bibliography was conceived as an efficient and accessible tool. The necessity of a rapid orientation and the wish to facilitate the quick information of readers convinced us to edit an Index of authors and an Index of names. The latter contains the personal names, geographical names, names of institutions and publications appearing in the titles.

A presentation of a certain period of Transylvanian historiography must contain Hungarian and German historical publications and that of other minorities. Therefore we sought the help of collaborators who have a good knowledge of these languages. The task of identifying and carding publications (books and periodicals) was divided between Mr Stelian Mândruț (Hungarian language), Mrs Alina Teslaru and Mrs Angela Costin (German language.)

We believe that the interest for the history of Transylvania goes beyond the borders of Romania, therefore we considered that it is important to translate titles into French. This was done by Mrs Viorica Sâncrăian.

In addition the role of informing certain categories of library users (researchers, students, professors, pupils and those interested in the past), by bringing together information from a large number of publications, the *Historical Bibliography of Transylvania* offers a panoramic view of autochthonous historiographic production framed by a relatively narrow chronological register, which was nevertheless prolific and profound in the analysis of the historical phenomenon.