

## THE “ALEXANDRU BORZA” ARCHIVE COLLECTION

Meda Diana BÂRCĂ  
Special Collections  
“Lucian Blaga” Central University Library

The manuscript collection of the Special Collections Department has been enriched through a donation by Mrs Viorica Lascu<sup>1</sup>, the valuable personal archive of Professor Alexandru Borza, her father. The act of donation dated 20 April 1999 says:

“I am most delighted to fulfill the wish of my father, Professor Alexandru Borza to donate his archive to the University Library, as he was one of its founders; this important archive contains several unique works in various fields of cultural and national activity. I am sure that they will be catalogued and made an integral unit for scientific research.”<sup>2</sup>

In this traditional spirit of donating<sup>3</sup> the library becomes a memory-library which preserves and inscribes extremely valuable documents in the long history of cultural life and dedicates them to future scientific research.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Viorica Lascu had also donated the “Professor Theodor Naum” archive collection to our library.

<sup>2</sup> “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, *The Library History Collections. Viorica Lascu Donation*, Cluj, 1999, f.1.

<sup>3</sup> We would like to mention some of the important collections donated by such generous people as Gh. Sion, Iulian Marțian, I.I. Rusu, Coriolan Suciu, Adrian Marino, Mircea Carp, famous personalities of the Romanian culture.

<sup>4</sup> Pieces from the Borza archive were starting points Viorica Lascu’s work, *Participarea românilor din Transilvania la Războiul pentru Independență. Pagini memoriale inedite (Transylvanian Romanians in the War of Independence. Unpublished Memorials)*, in: *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie*, Cluj, 1979, XX, pp.33-49; Idem, *Protocolul Agendelor Consiliului Național Român din Blaj. 1918-1919 (The Protocol of the Agendas of the Romanian National Council in Blaj. 1918-1919)*, in: *Apulum*, 1977, XV, pp. 541-549; Idem (in collaboration with M. Știrban), *Consiliul Național Român din Blaj. 1918-1919 (The Romanian National Council in Blaj. 1918-1919)*, vol.I-II, Cluj, 1980; Idem, *Relațiile dintre Gavril Todica și Al. Borza (The Relationship between Gavril Todica and Al.*

The “Alexandru Borza” archive collection has 120 volumes that show the activity of Professor Al. Borza in the 1900-1971 period, his complex personality and his participation in various fields of Romanian cultural and political life in the period mentioned above.

The first volumes of the collection summarise the career of Professor Al. Borza (21 May 1885- 3 September 1971): there are school registers from the Roman-Catholic High School in Alba Iulia and the University of Budapest where he studied Theology (1908)<sup>1</sup>. He then took his licence exam in Natural Sciences and Geography<sup>2</sup> in 1911. In the period between 1913-1914 he studied Botany at the University of Breslau and Berlin under the scholarship of the “Transylvania” Society in Bucharest.<sup>3</sup> He was Professor at the Blaj High School (1911-1914) then at the reorganisation of the Cluj University he became Assistant Professor and Director of the Institute of Systematic Botany, the Museum and Botanical Garden. Between 1922 and 1948 he was Full Professor of the same University, then Deputy Dean of the Science Faculty (1919-1921), Dean of the same Faculty in 1935-

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*Borza*), in: *Sargetia*, 1982/1983, XVI-XVII, pp.625-642; Idem, *Tinerimea studioasă din Blaj în toamna anului 1918 (Students in Blaj in the Fall of 1918)*, Anuarul institutului de istorie Cluj, 1987-1988, XXVIII, pp. 583-591; Idem, *Tineretul în întâmpinarea Unirii. Din legăturile tinerilor severineni și transilvăneni (The Youth and the Union. On the Relationship between Transylvanian and Turnu Severin... Students)*, in: *Apulum*, 1989, XXVI, pp. 561-570; Idem, *Alexandru Borza – l'Uomo*, in: *Contribuții botanice*, 1997-1998, 1, pp.21-23; Dumitru Pop, *Interesul profesorului Al. Borza pentru cultura populară (The Interest of Professor Al. Borza in Popular Culture)*, in: *Anuarul Arhivei de folclor*, 1991-1993, XII-XIV, pp.369-378.

<sup>1</sup> “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, “Al. Borza” Collections, Ms. 6273, *Facultatea de Teologie. Notițe și index (The Faculty of Theology. Notes and Index)*, 28 ff.

<sup>2</sup> “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, “Al. Borza” Collections, Ms. 6245, *Facultatea de Biologie. Notițe și index (The Faculty of Biology. Notes and Index)*, 101 ff.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, Ms. 6329, *Diplome, certificate, atestate (Diplomas, certificates)*, 39 ff.; Ms. 6302, *Acte personale (Personal Data)*, 64 ff.; Ms. 6241, *Date biografice, bibliografice și autobiografice (Biographical, bibliographical and autobiographical data)*, Cluj, 83 ff.

1938 and Rector of the Cluj University which moved in refuge to Sibiu (23 August 1944-1945).<sup>1</sup>

Valuable documents about the organisation of the Botanical Garden in Blaj and his direct participation in the organisation of the Legion of Scouts in Blaj and the “Casina”<sup>2</sup> bear witness to the period of his life spent in Blaj.

The process of reorganising institutions after 1 December 1918 is also shown by the “Al. Borza” Collections as the Professor was directly involved in the reorganisation of university education in Cluj<sup>3</sup>, especially the organisation of the Botanical Garden<sup>4</sup> and the Botanic Institute<sup>5</sup>.

Although he studied Theology he did not become a priest. However, he was always in contact with activities within the United Romanian Church. We have the text of the conferences held by Professor Borza as a guest of the “St Mary Reunion” of Greek-Catholic women in Cluj, his correspondance as Secretary General of the National Association of the United Romanian Students referring to the foundation of the General Association of United Romanians, as he was one of the founding members.<sup>6</sup> As Secretary General of the Ministry of Public Affairs<sup>7</sup> Borza was

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<sup>1</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6241, op. cit., f.1; Ms. 6265, *Al. Borza rector. 1944-1945*, f.1.

After the Dictate of Vienna (1940) when the North-West of Transylvania became part of Hungary, the Libray took refuge in Sibiu.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6297, *Grădina botanică din Blaj (The Botanical Garden in Blaj)*, Blaj, 1911-1913, 65 ff.; Ms. 6285, *Societatea cercetaşilor (The Scout Society)*, Blaj, 1915-1931, 152 ff.; Ms. 6258, *Activitatea în cadrul Casinei din Blaj (The activity of the “Casina” in Blaj)*, Blaj, 1917-1919, 18 ff.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6246, *Organizarea învăţămîntului universitar din Cluj (The organisation of higher education in Cluj)*, 1919-1920, 61 ff.

<sup>4</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6274, *Grădina botanică (Botanical Garden)*, Cluj, 1922-1935, 50 ff.

<sup>5</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6290, *Institutul botanic: probleme interne (The Botanic Institute: internal problems)*, Cluj, 1906-1922, 128 ff.

<sup>6</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6301, *Biserica română unită (The United Romanian Church)*, Cluj, 1919-1938, 220 ff.

<sup>7</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6282, *Al. Borza, Secretar general al Ministerului Instrucţiunii Publice (Al. Borza, Secretary General of the Ministry of Public Affairs)*, Bucureşti, Cluj, 1929-1934, 121 ff.

delegated in the commission which had to put in force some stipulations of the Concordate.<sup>1</sup>

As a botanist of high reputation he was invited abroad several times to hold conferences about the flora, vegetation, protection of nature and the progress of Botany in Romania. Our library has the manuscripts of the conferences held in the USA<sup>2</sup>, Germany, Italy, Croatia and Switzerland<sup>3</sup> by Professor Borza whose professional merits were appreciated worldwide. We must mention the documents regarding his visit to China at the invitation of the Sinic Academy in Beijing and the correspondance with Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej who arranged the visit; the phytosociological notes made by him during the visit and the manuscript of his work, *A Botanical Study Tour in China*, a copy censored by Raluca Ripan, President of the Cluj branch of the Romanian Academy. Unfortunately, a great part of the material is in Chinese and therefore more difficult to read<sup>4</sup>.

The recognition of Professor Borza in his native country is shown by the various distinctions conferred on him: member of the "Crown of Romania" order, "Pius IX" order, "Reward for Work for the Church" medal, member of the "Steaua României" order and "Cultural merit" order<sup>5</sup>.

The 23 volumes of correspondance with family members<sup>6</sup>, famous personalities of the political life (The Royal Family)<sup>7</sup> and scientists (Ion Pop-Câmpianu<sup>8</sup>) have a special place in this archive.

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<sup>1</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6286, *Tratative diplomatice. Concordatul cu Vaticanul (Diplomatic treaties. The Concordate with the Vatican)*, București, 1929-1931, 172 ff.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6323, *Congres SUA (US Congress)*, 1926, 109 ff.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6263, *Conferințe în Germania, Italia, Croația, Elveția (Conferences in Germany, Italy, Croatia, Switzerland)*, 1940-1943, 365 ff.

<sup>4</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6300, *Călătoria în China (The Journey to China)*, Cluj, București, Pekin, 1955-1963, 197 ff.

<sup>5</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6278, *Distincții (Distinctions)*, București, 1922-1945, 30 ff.

<sup>6</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6336, *Correspondența cu familia (Correspondance with the family)*, 1902-1963, 207 ff.

<sup>7</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6324, *Correspondență (Correspondance)*, Blaj, Cluj, 1929-1955, 230 ff.

<sup>8</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6324, *Correspondență (Correspondance)*, Blaj, Cluj, 1929-1955, 230 ff.

The postcard collection from the beginning of the century featuring great Central and South-East European cities (Budapest, Prague, Vienna, Breslau, Cluj) is invaluable: its content comprises true historical documents.<sup>1</sup>

The historical and cultural value of the “Al. Borza” archivist collection which is now at the researchers’ disposal is obvious.

## **PHILOSOPHICAL MANUSCRIPTS IN THE “LUCIAN BLAGA” CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY (17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century)**

*Mariana SOPORAN  
Special Collections  
“Lucian Blaga” Central University Library*

The Special Collections Department of the “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library holds a valuable collection of manuscripts the items of which reflect the multicultural and multireligious nature of Transylvania.

This rich collection has 144 philosophical manuscripts addressing issues in the history of philosophy, logic, metaphysics, ethics, the psychology of rhetorics, anthropology, aesthetics, showing the interest of Transylvanian intellectuals in these fields.

Renaissance thought which created humanist culture in Transylvania led to the extension of the education system and the introduction of new subjects, philosophical too. Most of the philosophical manuscripts are lecture notes taken by students studying at Central European Universities or at schools in the most important cultural centres in Transylvania: Cluj, Târgu Mureș, Sibiu, Aiud, Oradea, Odorheiu Secuiesc.

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<sup>1</sup> *Idem*, Ms. 6231, *Album ilustrate (Postcard album)*, 1900-1902, 276 pieces.