

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and South-East European cities (Budapest, Prague, Vienna, Breslau, Cluj) is invaluable: its content comprises true historical documents.¹

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 (17th-20th century)

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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.

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

These manuscripts deal with issues of 15th-19th century European philosophy.

The manuscript entitled *Cursus philosophiae Aristotelicae* proves the interest of Transylvanian intellectuals in the Renaissance renewal of ancient spiritual values. *Logica scotistica* demonstrates the preoccupation in the separation of faith and reason.

The presence of modern spirit is obvious in the preoccupation with Cartesian meditations about the certainty of man being a thinking creature.

The ideas of the Enlightenment were spread in 18th century Transylvania in their moderate, Wolffian version. Several schoolbooks of logic, metaphysics and natural philosophy prove this. The interest in the ideas of French materialism are shown by the translation of Helvétius' work, *The System of Nature*, and the existence of a manuscript of Diderot's *Pensées Philosophiques*.

In the second half of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century there was the philosophical and literary movement initiated by Kant, Herder, Lessing, Fichte and Schelling. The original works of German classical idealists and their translations can also be found in our collections. The writings of the Hungarian Enlightened thinker György Aranka holds a special place in the collection of philosophical manuscripts. He was an adept of Kantian ideas and organised public discussions in the Transylvanian Hungarian Society for the Cultivation of Language founded by him.

In Transylvania there was also a trend of Kantian criticism. Sámuel Köteles, Professor at the Reformed College in Târgu Mureş was one of the supporters of Kantian theories; he translated some of Kant's writings. There are two manuscripts of his writings in the Central University Library: his course in logic, written after the Kantian model and his course on moral philosophy which draws upon the ethics of the German philosopher.

Simion Bărnuțiu was also a follower of Kantian rationalism. Four manuscripts, notes taken down by his student Ales. Barbu Brandia are held in our collections. *Chestiuni de*

metafizică, estetică și etică (Issues of Metaphysics, Aesthetics and Ethics) systematises Bărnăuțiu's entire course of Ethics. It was used for the edition of Bărnăuțiu's *Aesthetics*.

The Catholic Church promoted the use of Latin language and this allowed for the spread of European Reforming ideas. Latin language was in circulation in Transylvania for a long time. There were Latin philosophical manuscripts until the 19th century, although the Reformation brought along the interest in national languages. The first Hungarian manuscripts in our collection date from the 18th century while the first Romanian manuscripts belong to the early 19th century.

The number of philosophical manuscripts increases with the development of philosophical education and decreases with the flourishing of printing. The didactic function of manuscripts is taken over by printed books at the end of the 19th century.

We have five philosophical manuscripts from the 17th century, 41 from the 18th and 93 from the 19th centuries. Only five manuscripts have remained from the 20th century.

The philosophical manuscripts held in the Central University Library show the development of Transylvanian philosophical education and provides the Romanian researcher interested in the history of philosophy with clues to the origins of Transylvanian philosophical thought.

THE SEASONS OF BOOKS – Exhibition

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The *Seasons of Books* is series of exhibitions organised by the Special Collections Department of the “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library. It is centered round the perception of time in written works.