

**NICOLAE EDROIU: INTRODUCTION TO THE
AUXILIARY SCIENCES OF HISTORY
University Press, Cluj. 1999, 274 pp.**

The present work is the improved course of *Introduction to the auxiliary sciences of history* taught by Professor Edroiu at the Cluj University for more than twenty years now (the previous variants were published in 1977 and 1992). It is a synthesis of the author's experiences in teaching some of the auxiliary sciences presented and in guiding students in conducting research.

The author gives a general presentation of the essential problems of the formation of auxiliary sciences, their field of activity and their contribution to the outlining of history as a science.

The *Introduction* deals with the main concepts used by the "science of the past": history, historiography, historic fact, historic phenomenon, historic process, and the main stages in teaching the auxiliary sciences in Romanian higher education system up to date. The author lucidly states that in Romania there is still no coherent system of training specialists in these special fields on which the whole progress of historical science relies and this is a drawback for national historiography. Historical sources in relation with the auxiliary sciences and the special place of archeology in the historical sciences are also dealt with in this chapter.

The most important part of the work is dedicated to the main auxiliary sciences of history. They are presented in separate chapters: Bibliology, Epigraphy, Paleography, Codicology, The Art of Miniatures, Diplomatics, Sigillography, Heraldry, Vexillology, Genealogy, Onomatology, Numismatics, Emblematology, Metrology, Chronology, Museology, Archival Science.

The last part deals with border sciences such as Historical Geography, Historical Demography, Historical Statistics and analyses the relation between historical sciences, the humanities and the exact sciences. The appendix points out the stages of a scientific research and those of writing of a scientific work in the field of history. All chapters are followed by a basic bibliography,

mainly publications within reach of Romanian students and researchers. The text is completed by 41 black-and-white illustrations.

The present work is not only a useful introductory manual written for specialists, researchers and history students, but also an implicit assertion of the important role of auxiliary sciences in supporting any substantial historiographic construction.

Ioan Drăgan

EMINESCU IN TRANSYLVANIA: 1866-1918. AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY¹

Viorica SÂNCRĂIAN
“Lucian Blaga” Central University Library

Mihail Eminescu is undoubtedly one of the greatest Romanian poets, his fame going far beyond the borders of this country. We can find concise and significant notes on his life and work in the great universal encyclopedias and dictionaries; his works are considered world literature classics: “M. Eminescu published his first poems, some of them of a melancholic, others of a pessimistic romanticism when Western romanticism approached its end.”² However, Eminescu is not a late romantic because a great poet is never “late”. Great poetry is never out of date; it is read and understood in a different way depending on the aesthetic sensibility of a generation. “Eminescu is not an epigone of European romanticism. He is a great existential and metaphysical poet writing about *being* and love and meditating on death and the frailness of man in the universe. He is a poet displaying an

¹ Mircea Popa, Viorica Sâncraian, *Eminescu în Transilvania. 1866-1918* (Bibliografie adnotată), Cluj, Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2000 (Colecția ‘Philobiblon’ a Bibliotecii Centrale Universitare ‘Lucian Blaga’, Cluj)

² *Encyclopedia Universalis*, Corpus 8., Paris, 1990, p.220.