

Henri Jacquier – A Bibliophile and Erudite*

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My presence at this centenary is owed to the fact that in the period between 1996-1998 I was a librarian at the Reference Room of the Faculty of Letters branch library of the “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library. Thus, I was able to have unconditioned access to the “treasures” kept in the private library of Prof. Henri Jacquier, known today as the “Jacquier stock”.

For an ordinary user, to request a book from this stock is nothing special; however, one who manages to enter the world of the professor, his “palace of books”, will undoubtedly be excited and impressed. Therefore, the present paper is conceived from the perspective of a librarian who wishes to acquaint today’s generations of students with this impressive collection, and the opportunities it offers.

Henri Jacquier, who was born in Grenoble (France), on September 25, 1900, and later settled down in Cluj, dedicated his entire life to the accumulation and propagation of culture. This fact can be noted not only from the testimonies of his former students, but also from his private library which spiritually enriches this institution.

Even in his lifetime, the professor’s wish was that his private library pertained exclusively to the institution that he so devotedly served, the Faculty of Letters. There is no testament containing this wish, there is however a deed of donation¹, written in the name of the professor by his younger brother Pierre Jacquier in 1980.

This deed seems to have had one single clause, that a lecture room in the Faculty of Letters should bear the professor’s name. The room named after him until some years ago is currently called “Lucian Blaga”; it should be imposed, therefore, as a duty of this Faculty, to respect the will of the professor, and appoint another room to bear his name.

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¹ I must specify that I have not yet managed to find this deed in the University Archives.

private library started to be registered. The number of registered books is 14,384, and the number of periodicals rises to 81 titles.

The approximately 14,000 volumes invite the reader to a voyage into the world of books, covering various fields: philosophy, religion, science (mathematics, physics, biology), Romanic, Germanic, Slavic, Oriental, and Classical languages and literatures, history, geography, and arts. The presence of certain works by Romanian and foreign (French, German, Italian, etc.) classical writers in their *editio princeps* is worth being underlined, as well as the presence of rare and valuable books, such as: J. W. Meiner, *Hebraische Sprache, Die wahren Eigenschaften der hebräischen Sprache aus, richtigen Gründen, mit gehoriger Schärfe untersucht und auf geklärt*, Leipzig: Verlag Bernhard Cristoph, Breitkopf, 1748, 430 p.; J. J. Rousseau, *Projet concernant de nouveaux signes pour la musique*, Aux Deux-Ponts, Chez Sanson et Compaigne, 1782, 308 p.; idem, *Dictionnaire de musique*, tome 1-2, Aux Deux-Ponts, Chez Sanson et Compaigne, 1782; *Recueil de pièces interessantes*, tome 1-3, *Concernant les Antiquités, les Beau-Arts, les Belles-lettres, et la Philosophie, Traduites de différentes langues*, 1787-1788; *Philologischer Clavis über das alte Testament*, Jena, 1796; L. da Vinci, *Prase*, 1796; Etienne Bonnot de Condillac, *Cours d'études pour l'instruction du Prince de Parme*, tom 5-7, Paris, 1798, etc.

The 81 periodical titles also emphasize the professor's fields of interest: *Revista cercului literar* (The review of the literary circle); *Revue de linguistique romane*, *Revista di sintesi letteraria*, *Lingua nostra*, *Bulletin de la Société Linguistique de Paris*, *Points et contrepoints*, *Larousse Mensuel Illustré*, *La Petite Illustration Théâtre*, *Revue de l'histoire des religions*, *Journal de Psychologie*, *Recherches de Science religieuse*, *La Pense*, *Europe*, *Confluences*, *L'Antropologie*, etc.

A first detail that strikes the reader of these books is the marginal notes and underlinings made by the professor himself on each book or periodical.

Access to the Jacquier stock is done by traditional information tools, the alphabetical and systematic catalogue, placed in the Reference Room, open so much to the faculty, as to the students. However, the collection can only be read in the lecture room.

Another witness for the professor's personality is his private archive, which requires to be inventoried and arranged according to the current methodological rules for special collection organization.

The analysis of the archive is an evidence for the professor's spirit eager for knowledge, his openness for diverse fields of information.

I list here, besides the obvious interest for languages and literature, the interest for philosophy, spirituality, mythology, the culture and civilization of the Antiquity, arts, theater, music, science, for daily cultural events of the time (Romanian and foreign), revealed by the numerous reading cards, or newspaper cutouts.

The professor's correspondence with personalities of the literary world is also impressive. The names of Ion Negoițescu and Adrian Marino can be mentioned, and also those of his former students, now members of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Letters.

Similarly, the manuscripts of the works published by Henri Jacquier also reconstruct the image of a literate, a linguist, and a professional in translations.

Consequently, we may state that the "inheritance" – meaning the stock of books and periodicals and the private archive – creates another type of source that bears witness to the encyclopedic profile of Prof. Henri Jacquier.

Henri Jacquier Biography Card¹

- Born in Grenoble, Isère, France, on September 25, 1900
- Religion: Roman Catholic
- Married Aurelia Cucu-Botoșani on November 17, 1926

Studies:

Primary:	Bachelor of Arts University of Lyon (June 1916) University of Grenoble (June 1917) Bachelor of Sciences, University of Grenoble (June 1917)
Academic:	University of Paris (1917-1920; 1921-1923) University of Lyon (1920-1921) Scholarship for Degree and Aggregation granted by the École Normale Supérieure (Paris, July 30, 1921) Degree in Literature and Philosophy (University of Lyon, November 8, 1921)

¹ The biographical data is completed with information found in the National Archive, Cluj County Branch.

- Specialization: École des Hautes-Études, Sorbonne, 1921-1923
School of Oriental Languages, Paris, 1921-1923
Collège de France, philology and philosophy, Paris, 1921-1923
- Jobs: Teacher's assistant in France, delegated to Romania
French teacher at the Eminescu Gymnasium, Satu-Mare (1 Sept. 1923-31 Aug. 1924)
French teacher at the Gh. Barițiu Gymnasium, Cluj (1 Sept. 1924-31 Aug. 1931)
Assistant lecturer (for Prof. Gheorghe Oprescu) at the Dept. of French Language and Literature, Faculty of Letters and Philosophy, University of Cluj (1 July 1925-30 Sept. 1931)
Senior lecturer for French language and literature at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy, University of Cluj, beginning with 1 Oct. 1931.
- Awards: The Award of Work for Education, 1st class, offered by the Ministry of Instruction (October 5, 1929)
The Star of Romania for Officer's Rank, offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (December 21, 1929)
- Cultural Associations Memberships:
Fustel de Conlanges Circle (for studies in pedagogy, Paris)
Ronsard French-Romanian Circle (Cluj)
Collaborator of the periodicals: *România literară*, *Les Amitiés Françaises*, *L'Action Française*, *Gând Românesc* (Cluj), etc.