

Acribia, A New Beginning

Costel DUMITRAȘCU

Librarian

“Lucian Blaga” Central University Library

After almost two years, here we are again holding the new number of the *ACRIBIA*, the review of library science students in Cluj-Napoca! The familiar aspect of the review, reaching to the fifth year of its publication, hides a number of modifications compared with earlier numbers. The first change, from which all the others result, is the new editorial board of the *ACRIBIA*, formed by students of the Dept. of History-Library Science of the Faculty of History. The new editors are Aura Comănescu, Gina Macarie, and Daniel Taloș, previously collaborators of the review. They are coordinated, just like the preceding editorial board, by Anastasia Fodorean and Florina Iliș, librarians at the “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library.

The change in the editorial board resulted in certain modifications in the content of the review; easiest to notice is the absence of the heading *PROSE, POETRY*, and the introduction of a new heading, *INTERVIEW*. Otherwise, the articles were grouped under the same headings as before: *DE BIBLIOTHECA, ESSAY*, and *MISCELLANEUM*.

In the first article under the heading *DE BIBLIOTHECA*, Simona Mureșan, librarian at the “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, presents a series of *New tendencies in cataloguing*, in the context of “new challenges for libraries following the processes of automation and computerization”. Based on wide experience acquired within the Cataloguing and Classification Service, Simona Mureșan touches on the current problems of this field: shared cataloguing, retrospective cataloguing, retrospective conversion, etc.

The next article refers to copyright and related rights. In the first part the author, Aura Comănescu, outlines the history of Romanian legislation in the field, starting from the first law of the press, on April 13, 1862, until the current Law 8/1996, which regulates “the alignment of Romanian copyright laws with the law of European civilized countries, and the closing of the communist stage”. This law is presented in detail, along with the latest tendencies of the European Parliament regarding these rights, put down in the *Directive on the Harmonization of Aspects of Copyright and Related Rights* on May 22, 2001.

For the most part, the review is dedicated, as usual, to the presentation of Romanian and foreign libraries. Thus, the editors undertook a real voyage into time and space: the travel to the world of libraries began in the 17th century, with the library of Cardinal Mazarin as “the oldest public library in France”, and “the most important private library in Europe”, which comprised a stock of around 40,000 volumes in 1652. Closer in time and space are the public and private libraries of the *belle époque*; Gina Macarie puts forward some noteworthy ideas about their development at the beginning of the 20th century. Iulia Pop describes in detail a library of our times: the Central University Library Bucharest, or, to be more precise, the *Boema Corpus* of this library, which, at present, is certainly the standard for modern libraries in Romania.

An event as important as the international seminar *The Library – Present and Future*, organized by the “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library and the ETH Library Zurich in April 2002, must appear on the pages of the *ACRIBIA*. Besides the introduction into the program of the seminar, the editors interviewed Wolfram Neubauer, head of the ETH Library, who mainly focused on the comparison of Romanian and Swiss libraries.

The heading *ESSAY* reveals, once again, the diversified interests of library science students, in this case literature (Irina Pop on *Hermann Hesse: Steppenwolf*), and history (Dan Constanda: *Aspects from Incas culture*).

My favorite article from this volume of *ACRIBIA* is the *Curses on Books in the 17th Century* by Gabriela Comănescu, presenting an interesting aspect related to the 17th century mentality towards books. This is the curse, usually religious, inscribed on the books of the time, in order to protect them from theft and expropriation. If we consider that the curse “equaled a terrible punishment”, we may easily imagine the effect of such words as the ones inscribed on a *Molitvenic* (book of sermons and prayers) from 1689: “*And may the one who steals it or sells it, be damned and cursed by the 318 saints of Nicea, his guts be thrown out as those of Arian, and have no fortunes in the kingdom of heaven*”.

But let us return to the cultural interests of the students of library science, and mention hereby the article of Marius Pojar on Mircea Eliade, or more precisely on the interference of the political with Eliade’s literary and scientific work. The article concludes, obviously, that beyond the *excesses* of Eliade’s political thinking his significant and impressive work still remains.

Number 1/2001 of the *ACRIBIA* ends with another interview with Prof. Doru Radosav, head of the “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library. It is an interesting interview, beginning with cultural and political related questions, but which towards the end is addressed to Doru Radosav the man, whose motto is “Be authentic in every moment of your life!”

To conclude, the last number of the *ACRIBIA* is the most successful up to now, which is an even more worthy accomplishment, since it is the first one edited by the new editorial board. We are looking forward to seeing the next volume!