

As regards globalization, this is accepted. The cultural borders may disappear, and universality does not seem to channel towards evil. However, the author implemented the concept of globalization, after the concept of “universal literature” had been accepted. Similarly as in arts, where a common language exists, and a work can transmit its meaning to the viewer regardless of language, in this way can culture and books be also understood.

In conclusion *Books: On the one hand, and on the other hand* is a work that fascinates those attracted to the world of books, starting from its title and throughout the entire lecture, presupposing numerous qualitative and quantitative analyses. The interpretations that can be extracted from the lines of the 286 pages are multiple and many-sided, the present review limiting itself to only a few aspects.

German Children’s Literature in Romania between 1944-1989:

A bibliography.¹

Boglárka DARÓCZI

“Lucian Blaga” Central University Library

The bibliography of German children’s literature in Romania, published under the auspices of three German professors from the University of Bielefeld, is the first synthetic work after the breakdown of communism on the literature of the German minority in Romania. Concomitantly it deals with a far less appreciated segment of literature: the one addressed to young readers.

The bibliography includes 1290 titles with ample bibliographical information, to which references are added leading to the reviews that appeared in the period’s German press. The CD annexed to the volume contains the bibliography reproduced *in extenso*, from which ensues the fact that the references to the literary critic are completed with extensive quotes from the reviews of the books, of the interviews realized with the

¹ Rumäniendeutsche Kinder- und Jugendliteratur 1944 - 1989. *Eine Bibliographie*. [Publishers:] Annemarie Weber, Petra Josting und Norbert Hopster. Köln, Weimar, Wien: Böhlau publishing house 2004 (=Schriften zur Lnadeskunde Siebenbürgens, vol. 29). XIV, pag.415., € 34,90. ISBN 3-412-19003-9 [including a CD-ROM with over 500 pages and several reproductions]

authors etc. The color reproductions of over 200 covers are also to be found on the same CD.

The work is the result of a two-year study in several libraries in Germany and Romania (the ASTRA county library in Sibiu, the Library of the Academy and the Bucharest National Library as well as the Central University Library in Cluj Napoca, libraries that had legal rights of deposit at the time the references were dated in the bibliography)

The introduction written by the principal author of the book, Annemarie Weber, who graduated from Babeş-Bolyai University in 1976, exhaustively studies three problems of German children's literature.

The author analyses in the first place, the concept of the "German literature in Romania" (*rumäniendeutsche Literatur*). This concept is hard to define and not at all unanimously interpreted in the theory of German literature on Romanian territory, because to some people's concern it deals only with the literature of Germans having the same history, but as others say, it deals with the literature and history of each German-speaking and writing nationality within the Romanian territory.

The second problem however, is concerned with the concept of the "children and youth literature". I would remark that the author makes a comparative analysis of the different terms used for the description of the phenomenon in the literature of West Germany and in the literature of East Germany, in the Anglo-American field, in the Romanian and of course in the German literature in Romania. Unfortunately, the analysis doesn't keep in sight the analogies with the closely related problematic of the Hungarian literature from Romania, which however, takes the second place concerning its dimension, as well as its significance after the Romanian literature.

But, until several theories developed in the German literature about the literature dedicated to young readers, in Romania this had not been a widely discussed and analyzed topic. It seems that here they had easily skipped from the "children's literature" to the "children and youth literature", and vice versa. Some authors consider persons under 14 children, and who consequently would be the "consumers" of children's literature, and the youngsters over 14 years old, are considered readers of youth literature.

The third problem signaled and analyzed in the introduction is the compilation of the bibliography. The authors restrict their bibliography in the extra-curriculum books, so they do not include

manuals. Instead the translations from German and other languages are included, as well as works that initially are addressed to the adult public, in the case that these are published in editions dedicated to young people (e.g. the editions of the classic masterworks addressed to school-children). Therefore, the reader of the bibliography discovers or rediscovers illustrated storybooks after the works of great writers such as Hans Christian Andersen, Tudor Arghezi, Benedek Elek, Mihail Sadoveanu, Josef Haltrich, Lotte Berg, Ion Creangă, Majtényi Erik, The Grimm Brothers and others; Turkish, English, Norwegian, Romanian folktales; poetry (by Lucian Blaga, Bertolt Brecht, Goethe, Schiller, Lenau, etc.). We also find play books and books on embroidery.

Following the clearance after the Second World War, the Romanian bookshops and libraries had sustained an enormous shortage of German literature in general, and particularly children's literature. Later on (after 1989) the situation improved by launching the Tineretului (Youth) Publishing House. Even so, the centralized system of book distribution to libraries hindered, in nearly all counties with German speaking localities, the adequate fulfillment of the demand for German publications. However in 1970 the freshly commissioned director of the "Center for Libraries – Sibiu" initiated a method to counter attack the German book-penury (including children's books) by establishing a system of book delivery by mail even to the minor localities. The numerous publishing houses that were founded in 1970 also contributed at the improvement of this situation: Ion Creangă, Kriterion, Albatros, Facla, etc. These publishing houses contributed indirectly as well, namely by activating the organization of literature competitions with prizes, motivating the authors in this way too to the continuation of their literary work.

The German newspapers and magazines had an important role in the promotion of the children's literature: *Neue Literatur*, *Folk und Kultur*, *Neuer Weg*, *Volkszeitung*, *Hermannstädter Zeitung* (later *Die Woche*, today again *Hermannstädter Zeitung*), *KarpatenRundschau*, *Die Wahrheit* (later *Neue Banater Zeitung*). The introductory study of the bibliography presents succinctly and evidently each publication as well as the main publishing houses that had published books for children in German.

By studying this bibliography and through its approach, the period that it reflects, we can observe the richness and variety of the German literature during communism. Most definitely not each mentioned work would resist in time.

That is why I find the insistence of realizing this bibliography interesting, which of course, covers the most beautiful German writings of children's literature in Romania from the communist era.

At first sight a bibliography is nothing but a heap of dates that is interesting only for a very few people. However, intrinsically – this is the case also with the bibliography that we are reviewing now – bibliographies can illustrate and evidenciate entire periods of cultural and social histories. Beyond the “data” and information offered by this bibliography too, this places the values respectively in order to employ them today in the services of democratic freedom.

Váczy Leona (1913-1995)
The Library, the Intellectual Space of Man
Or,
“ The Past as the Future”

“I love this work, and if I had to start life again, I would still be a librarian, that is as a bibliographer at the Cluj University Library.”

(Váczy Leona)

Kinga TAMÁS,
“Lucian Blaga” Central University Library

In the twentieth century the library actually represented the main place of study, of research for all who were thirsty for science and knowledge. Today, in the twenty-first century, the library is not necessarily the main place of study, as we can find the required information at home as well as in the office – due to the modern electronic techniques (internet, electronic books, on-line databases, etc). However, I disagree with the point of view that the modern library, where the accent is placed on the modern technique instead of books, might totally overcome the traditional library. Maybe there still are some of us, “nostalgics”, so to say, who enjoy holding a book, turning over the pages of a magazine. We, the ones who continuously, utterly “feel” the librarian profession, we come daily into this astonishing intellectual place, to the “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library in Cluj-Napoca...

And by remembering – for the history of our institution – the former colleagues (i.e. from the past), their skilled librarian contributions, we must recognize the importance and responsibility that we have