

An Active Friendship in the Realm of Multiculturalism Andrei Pippidi - Adrian Marino

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Abstract

The paper presents an elevated exchange of letters and ideas of two outstanding personalities: the historian Andrei Pippidi and the ideologue Adrian Marino. Their productive connection unfolds in the following letters. As it appears from the content of these epistles there is a long collaboration between them on cultural scale through the permanent exchange of ideas and information, of articles and books on the basis of "trust, appreciation, sympathy, cooperation and personal interest taken in each other".

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The correspondence of Romanian and foreign cultural personalities is also included amongst the documents of the Adrian Marino archival collection – collected and classified attentively and patiently by the great literary critic himself, and donated to the "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library in Cluj-Napoca. "The letters have the great advantage of allowing you at the same time to remain isolated and sociable, organized and adapted to various situations; polite and distant, expeditious and efficient with economy of time, gestures and means, in permanent contact and still intermittent, selective and widely available".¹

From his rich correspondence entrusted for lecturing, we bring to the attention of those interested, the letters addressed by the historian Andrei Pippidi, a remarkable personality of contemporary Romanian culture, to the literary critic Adrian Marino. As it appears from the content of these epistles there is a long cultural collaboration between them through the permanent exchange of ideas and information, of

¹ Adrian Marino, *Prezențe românești și realități europene. Jurnal intelectual*, (Romanian Presences and European Realities. Intellectual Diary) Iași, 2004, p. 81.

articles and books on the basis of "trust, appreciation, sympathy, cooperation and personal interest taken in each other".¹

Andrei Pippidi is a specialist in the history of the Middle Ages and of the Modern era. As a researcher of the Southeast European Study Institute he had the possibility of thorough documentation by analyzing the documents from the archives of other countries (England, Switzerland, France, etc.). Access to new information regarding foreign relations of Romanian countries have helped him to explain and to engage in European history some aspects of Romanian society from the Middle Ages and form the period of the Modern. Due to the elaborateness of his refined style and historical knowledge, Andrei Pippidi has become one of those "friends" whom Adrian Marino considers accomplices of his own success: "success is in great measure the result of some friendships and personal relations (...) without efficient, functional relations, good relationships with the press and publishing houses, active friends of our culture, hardly anything is possible".² This fact is confirmed by various historical and bibliographic information from the beginning of their correspondence. Hence the attention manifested by Mr. Marino when he thanked him by naming him in the preface of his last book *Libertate și cenzură în România*, (Liberty and Censorship in Romania) is also worthy of note.

In the transcription of his letters we kept the author's punctuation and orthography, as well as the lines under some parts of the texts that were considered necessary in order to highlight some particular significations. For the optimal understanding of his texts by the large public he appealed to supplementary explanations presented in the form of notes, obviously necessary for the two conversing persons. Additionally the telephone number of Mr. Pippidi has been censored. All the letters sent by Andrei Pippidi to Mr. Adrian Marino have been transcribed and preserved in the Adrian Marino archival collection of the "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library in Cluj-Napoca.

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 80.

² *Ibid.*, p. 79.

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Bucharest, 14th January 1977

Dear Mr. Marino,

I received your letter with immense pleasure and the delay of the answer is caused by nothing else but the time of reflection that it requested. I am equally joyful for the chance of wishing you at my turn many and productive years, as well for the honour that you are according me by appealing to my collaboration for one of the future numbers that you are publishing. This number could not be other than the 2/1979, and the subject that I am allowing myself to propose would be Morlaques et Valaques, contributions à l'étude d'un thème littéraire du XVIII^e siècle. It is about an interesting "ethnographic" description of Romanians, an exotic people, comparable to those savage populations on the American continent that were discovered in one of the editions of the biographies of a Herzegovinian heyduck, translated from Italian to French and then to English. At the origins of this curious text stands the notorious Viaggio in Dalmazia by Fortis.² I consider that the presentation of Romanians as "bons sauvages" is significant for highlighting the approach of European Enlightenment towards us (for not saying it the other way around!).

Therefore I would be grateful if you would let me know the time you allot me for writing this article, of course with the condition that you agree with the proposed subject.

I do not know if it is necessary to commit myself on the issue of the reviews as long as I do not possess any information regarding the fate of the one I sent you last year (Cantemir).

My cordial regards,

Andrei Pippidi,

¹ "Cahiers. Corespondență română, 1978", (Cahiers. Romanian Correspondence, 1978), "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Archive stock Adrian Marino, Marino Fd. 24, p. 41.

² Alberto Fortis, *Viaggio in Dalmazia*, 2nd vol., Venice, 1774.

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Dear Mr. Marino

Being asked by Mr. Professor Berza² to write a review for your journal, I allow myself to send the enclosed pages. Sorry for the delay. Is the intention of publishing an appreciation about "Daco-Romania" still actual? I also have the impression that the material turned out to be too long, but only in these circumstances does a discussion make sense.

Thanking you for your – I'm hoping – kind interest that you shall give evidence of when seeing these pages, please accept the assurance of my greatest respect,

Andrei Pippidi,

3³

Dear Mr. Marino,

I am in hurry to assure you that your preoccupation is needless. When I accepted to submit an article, I already knew that I was going to Paris (at the end of this month), a journey that I do not make often, but which this time shall probably last until June. The main part of the material is already assembled – only a few corrections remained to be done, among which the one that you had the kindness to suggest at B. N. – the article shall arrive on 1 May. Is it too late? In this case I could suggest sending it to you in the course of April. I am aware of the importance of the remarks that you are asking from me, and I hope the answer shall satisfy you. On my return I intend to come to Cluj for a few days: I very much hope to have the opportunity of meeting you then.

Thanking for your best wishes that you accompany me on the beginning of a road that I am looking forward to with great excitement. Please accept the assurances of my devoted feelings and my cordial greetings,

Andrei Pippidi

¹ "Cahiers. Corespondență română, 1977" (Cahiers. Romanian Correspondance, 1977), "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Archive stock Adrian Marino, Marino Fd. 19, p. 57.

² Mihai I. Berza, Romanian historian, specialist in the history of the Middle Ages (1907–1978).

³ "Cahiers. Corespondență română, 1978", "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Adrian Marino Archival stock, Marino Fd. 24, f. 42.

4¹

Bucharest, 18 September 1978

Dear Mr. Marino,

I do not know how to ask for your apologies for the nuisance that the delay of the article has caused you. The truth is that I should not have made any commitment before having the article written. On my departure I only knew approximately how and about what I was going to talk. I wrote it in Paris, but later than I expected, around April-May, it turned out long (26 pages!) and I awaited my return, tarried with two more months, thus until August, to give its final shape. The "child" is called Naissance, renaissances et mort du Bon Sauvage: à propos de Morlaques et de Valaques. It is more than I said it would be. The unknown text about Romanians from 1778, to which I attached an other one about the customs of the Dalmatian Morlachs after the memories of a Napoleonic officer. This text is nothing but an alleged reason for certain reflections on the literature of travelogues and of fiction inspired by the Southeast of Europe in the period of the Renaissance until the nineteenth century, though the Enlightenment gains the widest prominence. I do not imagine that it can enter either in the number that we (oh dear!, I'm ashamed!) agreed on, nor in some other (it is too long, isn't it?) But I would like you to believe me that I did not let myself be taken away by other temptations, that you so well know. I minded my business instead and managed to accomplish in my tarrying other things as well. Of course, I discovered documents of an overwhelming number and variety. Allow me to blandish you with some from this abundance and to put at your disposal, if and when you want, the Caterina Macedonski-Leboeuf' letters to Barutel from 1889-1895. Possibly you know them. They are amusing: gossip, recollections of her father, the general, very copious confessions and this characterization of Alexandru: "Mon frère est journaliste et poete très discuté de son temps, parce qu'il a su s'atlères la hamé de tous par ses satyres (sic!). Il a écrit du mal du Roi et de la Reine, ensuite du bien et comme ça ne prenait pas, encore du mal, mais a part ces poésies qui veulent être decadentes, il a de très belles nuits. Malheureusement, lui écrit en roumain" (that is, not in French like her!) Silly things...

¹ *Cahiers. Corespondență română, 1977*, "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Adrian Marino archive stock, Marino Fd.19, p. 43.

I saw your book in the libraries in Paris and I congratulate you. Another subject that I would be happy to discuss with you is the episode of the encounter of the Knight Oliveira with Marie-Elisabeth de Bonffremont and her husband, the Prince Radu Cantacuzino. But first, forgive me and write me a few words so that I know what I should do with the article.

Please accept, respected Mr. Marino, the assurances of my highest consideration,

Andrei Pippidi

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Dear Mr. Marino,

I had a hesitation at the moment of dating this letter, not only because I do not know, indeed, which day it is, but also due to the fact that I anticipate my delay again. Indeed, you are waiting for the titles that I would propose in exchange for the books that you benevolently and confidently offered me. It was not an easy option and the list remains open. However, not for the reason that my library would be short of works about the eighteenth century, Enlightenment, etc., but because I find it hard to detach myself from them.

Here it is, provisionally, a list from which you can choose, not two, but three or more volumes because I believe that it still does not match exactly the value of those that I owe you.

1. J. Bronowski and Bruce Mazlish. The Western Intellectual Tradition (1963), a useful synthesis of ideas from Leonardo to Hegel.

2. French Popular Imagery (1974), more than a 145 p. exposition catalogue, since beside an introduction by Jean Adhémar and the copious commentaries it comprises very suggestive reproductions for the history of popular culture.

3. Gino Damerini, Caterina Dolfin tron (Milan, 1929), biography, slightly obsolescent tone of a "femina de lettres" from the eighteenth century, but interesting for the Venetian atmosphere and with a documentary appendix containing letters.

4. J. Segond, Le problème de génie (Paris, 1930), book that could on no account leave a literature theorist and aesthetician disinterested.

¹ "Corespondență internă, 1979", "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Adrian Marino archive stock, Marino Fd. 99, p. 117.

I repeat, if you happen to have some of them, I can suggest other books as well.

Elena Siupiur writes with ardour, only that as Penelope, she unravels everything that she has woven, which does not mean that you will have to wait ten years. She read the final version of my first pages yesterday.

I encountered Miss Holban the other day and I will call on her again. I am sure that she will hand you a nice article.

It remains for me, respected Mr. Marino, to thank you again for the friendly reception and give my respectful homage to your lady.

Accept the assurances of my devoted sentiments,

Andrei Pippidi

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20 Mai 1979

Dear Mr. Marino,

It seems to me that life seldom gives us the opportunity to cause pleasure to our fellows. I consider thus a favourable junction that it befell to find books, which should be useful to you, though in a smaller measure than the valuable edition of the Porphyrogenitus.

I also thank you for the excerpt. The article, beside the satisfaction that I suppose each reader feels, it has offered me that other, more bitter one of seeing the fatal effects of (late) Enlightenment in Romanian culture: theatre censorship from Alexandru Şuţu² until today.

Mrs. Holban was amazed not to find Cahiers on the shelf in the Academy Library. I would like to mention for those who would like to listen this omission of the Bianu³ epigones. Mrs. Siupiur does not stop writing except when she reads on the phone, about two-three pages of her work. In a few days it will be ready. The other collaborators are all right? Out-ils pondu leurs oeufs d'or?

I am very delighted with the book of the Polish fellow.

Please accept, dear Mr. Marino, the assurances of my devoted sentiments,

Andrei Pippidi

¹ Idem, p. 128.

² Alexandru Şuţu, ruler of Moldova between 1801–1802 and of Muntenia in 1802, 1806, 1818–1821.

³ Ion Bianu, philologist, bibliographer and literary historian (1856–1935).

Bucharest, 26 November 1979

Dear Mr. Marino,

I too have, like many others, a weakness: when I have to write a letter that is unpleasant for me or for the addressee, I let time go by, in the hope that who knows why, I might be absolved from this obligation. So for more than a week, your letter has been lying as a scolding on my worktable (one way of expressing: this desk is covered with a heap of books and journals, as always when I am in the middle of a writing a study). I am even sorrier for this delay as it is befitting for me to thank you for the publishing of the study on the "Morlachs". The issue is very good the way it is, though I am afraid it would not have been of a lower level without the "Morlachs".

Now, concerning the next issue, the one with the "Journeys". In September, when I thought I could keep my word I was very busy with the completion of my doctoral dissertation, and your absence from the country has encouraged me! Since then I am continuously held up and retained by another obligation: the plan study, with an unyielding resonance, an exhaustive research about the library of the Mavrocordats,² about the Eastern and Byzantine sources of the Phanariot culture. The truth is that until the end of the year I cannot do anything! I read Baczko,³ but it would be unfair to make a superficial review to such a wonderful book.

Then what do I propose? Either I return the book so that you have it at hand, and for the presentation of the Foreign Travellers you address directly the Editors of the collection (Mrs. Holban, Gh. Snagov, 28, or Dr. Paul Cernovodeanu, the "N. Iorga" Institute of History, Aviatorilor Boulevard, 1). The latter shall certainly be willing to do it: he is also the author of the book Societatea feudală românească văzută de călători străini (sec. XV-XVIII), [Romanian Feudal Society Seen by Foreign Travellers (15-18th century)] from 1973. Or you wait until January. The third solution would be for you to cancel the two reviews, at least for the

¹ "Cahiers. Corespondență, 1979", "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Adrian Marino archive stock, Marino Fd. 29, p. 14.

² The name of a Phanariot family distinguished in the history of the Ottoman Empire, Wallachia, Moldavia, and modern Greece.

³ Bronislaw Baczko, Polish writer (b. 1924).

summary of the thematic issue. The other for Baczko's book shall find a place in another context later too.

Please believe me I am desolate to put you in such a mess, I imagine that any delay starts to become annoying, therefore in order to get your answer sooner, I allow myself to give you my phone number, XXXXXX, and the one from the Institute – the Secretary's Office 507290 (here, daily after midday). Once again, I apologize.

Accept please, with my respectful homage for Mrs. Marino, my ashamed, but not less cordial greetings,

Andrei Pippidi

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Bucharest, 6 December '79

Dear Mr. Marino,

I accept your decision. Come what may, it remains for the upcoming month.

I am waiting for an answer from Mrs. Anghelescu (the last time that I inquired after her she was in hospital!) about the copyrights. Will the extracts be ready until January?

Accept please, the assurances of my cordial, devoted sentiments,

Andrei Pippidi

9²

Bucharest, 31 January 1980

Dearest Mr. Marino,

In November I promised: "in January". And January it is (still), so I am posting you in about ½ hour the review – discussion – commentary. I attempted to make something other than a usual bibliographic presentation, urged by the esteem that I bear for the journal that will publish me (right?), as for the work itself. The praises spring

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

² "Cahiers. Corespondență, 1980", "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Adrian Marino archival stock, Marino Fd. 34, p. 16. On this letter Mr. Adrian Marino made the following note: "Ana Spaleru 15 A Buc. I".

from my true conviction that we have a good work for 100 years in the travelogue collection. What should I do with the Utopia? How long can I keep it? If you could shift the review for the next number...

I did not get the extracts from the Good Savage. Really, it is a pity, why? I reckon the answer: typography, etc. Surely you do not have any blame.

Please accept, thus with delay, my best wishes for your good health in a prosperous year. I attach my cordial respects to Mrs. Marino, With devoted sentiments,

Adrian Pippidi

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Bucharest, 21 February 1980

Dear Mr. Marino,

I did not instantly answer – as I should have – your last letter, which arrived almost at the same time with the expected extracts, a double occasion of thanking you. Are you ready to oblige me once more? I hesitated to address you this request, not venturing to confide the pleasure that the news caused me, about Lionello Sozzi and Jaques Proust expressing a favourable opinion about my article. But after giving it a second thought, I believe I can be forgiven – at my age – for my rejoicing over such appreciations. I even need them in order to convince myself from time to time that I too can do something good. Thence I allow myself asking you to transcribe, only for my personal use, the benevolent words of your correspondents. It happens that, from the two colleagues whom I offered the first extracts, one did not read it until today, and the other has found it “weak”. I have been thus rather discouraged when I received from you the assurances of other, more enviable echoes.

Best wishes,

Andrei Pippidi

¹ “*Corespondență internă, 1980*”, (Internal Correspondence, 1980), “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, Adrian Marino archive stock, Marino Fd. 100, p. 33.

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Bucharest, 8 May 1981

Dear Mr. Marino,

Today I received the first sign of your return into the country (Welcome!) and I hurry to send you the book you borrowed me as you have the delicacy of saying "from some time". I am blushing! Not talking then about the shame of not being able to write the promised review... On the other hand I do not know whether the Cahiers shall continue to appear. Anyway, I have seen the proof-correcting, due to Mrs. Anghelescu's kindness, who is yet again very hard to find without a telephone.

Also related to the reconstitution of your library, I was expecting an answer after I have sent you Hommes et idées du Sud-Est européen.² I considered it better for you to find it on your return. If it somehow got lost, please ask my friend, Mihai Gherman, at the Cluj Academy Library, who has anyway four copies in his custody, or you can wait for my first visit, which will not be delayed too much, because at the end of this month or at the beginning of the next month I will have to arrive to Cluj in order to defend my Doctoral Dissertation. I will have then the pleasure of writing a new dedication to the volume, with the same devoted sentiments,

Andrei Pippidi

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Bucharest, 29 November 2000

Dearest Mr. Marino,

Here it is, finally, the Xerox-copy of the much-searched article. Is it worth or not the trouble, you will decide. But honour is saved: I

¹ "Corespondență internă, 1981", (Internal Correspondence, 1981), "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Adrian Marino archive stock, Marino Fd. 101, p. 77.

² Andrei Pippidi, *Hommes et idées du Sud-Est européen à l'aube de l'âge moderne*. Bucharest, Paris, 1980.

³ "Corespondența română", (Romanian Correspondence), 2000, vol. II, "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Adrian Marino archive stock, Marino Fd. 425/2, p. 67.

managed to find the volume only at the library of the Theological Institute.

I did not receive the acknowledgement of the package posted about ten days ago to your address. It is my book, recently appeared in Iași, in which many texts – older and more recent – are collected. It might still be on the road...

Please accept, dearest Mr. Marino, the cordial assurances of my best thoughts,
Andrei Pippidi

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Bucharest, 6 December 2000

Dearest Mr. Marino,

Exactly, when I started to worry, I received your letter, in about two hours when I called you to inquire whether you received my book. Meanwhile I assume that you have also received my article from the “Raze de lumină” (Sunbeams). Even if you do not need it anymore, you will find that I did everything I could do to be at your service.

In order to answer your questions, Țurlea’s book N. Iorga în viața politică a României² (N. Iorga in the Political Life of Romania), is an assiduous book. I can say that I have supervised each page of the text and the author had then my collaboration as a former university colleague and as an honourable – as I considered then – person. Afterwards it was embarrassing to see his degrading metamorphosis, that I have denounced him myself in “22” breaking publicly and definitely every relation with him. Much weaker is the work of Titu Georgescu Nicolae Iorga împotriva hitlerismului (Nicolae Iorga against Hitlerism),³ also because of the moment of its writing (however, it has a good preface written by M. Berza). Both books can be read for the conflict of Călinescu regarding the suspending of *Neamul Românesc* (Romanian Nation). I believe that you have Scrisori către Catinca⁴ (Letters to Catinca), the publication of my

¹ „Andrei Pippidi”, “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, Archival stock Adrian Marino, Marino Fd. 449, p. 1.

² Petre Țurlea, *Nicolae Iorga în viața politică a României* (Nicolae Iorga in Romania’s Political Life), Bucharest, 1991.

³ Titu Georgescu, *Nicolae Iorga împotriva hitlerismului* (Nicolae Iorga against Hitlerism), Bucharest, 1966.

⁴ Nicolae Iorga, *Scrisori către Catinca 1900-1939* (Letters to Catinca 1900–1939), Bucharest, 1991.

grandparents' correspondence, which in a chapter refers to the grim atmosphere of suspicion by the police during the regal dictatorship.

Concerning the "Constitution" of Constantin (not Nicolae) Mavrocordat published in "Mercure de France", the bibliography is very rich. I would start with Gh. I. Brătianu, Două veacuri de la reforma lui Constantin Mavrocordat, (Two Decades from the Reforms of Constantin Mavrocordat), A.A.R. in S.I., s. III, T. XXIX, 1947 (pp. 435–443 contain the French text itself). Another guiding mark is the study of Șerban Papacostea, La grande charte de Constantin Mavrocordato (1741) et les reformes en Valachie et en Moldavie, in Symposium. L'époque phanariote, Thessaloniki, 1974, pp. 365–376. There is another special article about this propagandist publication in France, facilitated by Desfontaines¹ Abbey, one of Voltaire's adversaries, in R.E.S.E.E.² around 1980, not in 1981, XIX, 4: is Anne-Marie Cassoly, Autour de l'insertion dans le "Mercure de France" de la "Constitution" de Constantin Mavrocordato. Finally I would add Remus Niculescu, Portretul unui domn din epoca luminilor: Constantin Mavrocordat, văzut de Jean-Etienne Liotard³, (The portrait of a ruler from the age of the Enlightenment) in Studii și cercetări de istoria artei, (Studies and Researches of Art History) s. Plastic Art, T. 41, 1994, p. 43–54. There is another tiny volume by Florin Constantiniu, Constantin Mavrocordat,⁴ a biography written for the series of rulers at the Editura Militară.

Depasta⁵ was one of the Greek adulators for the Greeks. The French translation of the hrisov had another public in target.

I like to think that what preoccupies us is before the elections that cannot be, anyhow, other than disastrous. But my father, in August 1944, was at Sinaia translating the *Eleași*, a perpetually enviable example.

Please accept, dear Mr. Marino, our best wishes for the coming holidays. Happy New Year!

Andrei Pippidi

¹ L'abbé Desfontaines. French writer (1685–1745).

² R.E.S.E.E. = Revue des études sud-est européennes.

³ Remus Niculescu, *Portretul unui domn din epoca luminilor văzut de Jean-Etienne Liotard* (The Portrait of a Ruler as seen by Jean-Etienne Liotard), in S.C.I.A.-A.P., 1994.

⁴ Florin Constantiniu, *Constantin Mavrocordat*, Bucharest, 1985.

⁵ Petru Depasta the Peloponnesian, erudite Greek chronicle, established in the Romanian Countries, physician in the court of Constantin Mavrocordat.

14¹

Bucharest, 25 January 2001

Dearest Mr. Marino,

Why do I write to you, despite the hazards of the post that you warned me of, when I could transmit on the phone as well my thanks for the review – brought in as a gift for the beginning of the weekend – that I have just read? Because when addressing you, I feel the need for solemnity. I would like that the expression of my gratitude for those understanding and benevolent words that you wrote about my book to remain somehow fixed.

You remember – however, I could never forget – that you gave me the accolade to my doctorate 20 years ago. The two volumes that you had given to me remained in a special place in my library (Constantine Porphyrogenitus² in the best edition, rarity, being even very handy at that current moment). The solidarity that you are declaring to me after two decades is especially precious to me. We are in good terms: of course, my friend Vlad, whose loss I cannot console myself of, Constantiniu, naturally, though it is impossible for me to understand his admiration for Ceaușescu and Antonescu, Boia rather superficially – I do not know Mr. Voicu, and I do not think that he is a historian. I am glad that you liked the images about Lăcusteanu³ (it is due to my father who had put this book,⁴ which he liked, into my hand).

You have accurately recognized in the passage regarding Sabina Cantacuzino,⁵ a *pro domo* allusion. Finally, I could not have wished for a more attentive reader who is more considerate and more willing to declare his affinities.

Please, accept once again my best wishes and for a long life, equally sincere also after so many years. Please pass on these greetings to your wife.

Andrei Pippidi

¹ “Andrei Pippidi”, “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, Adrian Marino archival stock, Marino Fd. 449, p. 2.

² Byzantine emperor, 1000 B. C., author of the famous treaty *De administrando imperio*.

³ Grigore Lăcusteanu, senator and Romanian officer (1813–1883).

⁴ Grigore Lăcusteanu, *Amintirile colonelului Lăcusteanu* (The Memories of Col. Lăcusteanu), Bucharest, 1933.

⁵ Sabina Cantacuzino, Romanian writer (1863–1941), daughter of I. C. Brătianu and wife of physician Constantin Cantacuzino.

Bucharest, 1 November 2001

Dearest Mr. Marino,

Thank you for the good words on Alina's book. I shall let her, tell you what pleasure she had while reading the article from the "Observer".

I started to search for information about Leonte Radu. Being "piqué" (stung as one could say) I tried to reply to the trust that you always had in me. What did I find then?

The text of the System, that is of the basic documentary, is Hurmuzaki, supl. I to vol. VI, p. 82-96.

The only article dealing with him is the one by Valerian Popovici² (a sad figure of the Iași University from the Stalinist period). Some new data about the confederative conspiracy, in the volume Lucrările sesiunii generale științifice din 2-12 iunie 1950, (Works of the General Scientific Session from 2-12 June, 1950) Bucharest, Ed. Acad., 1951, p. 1993-2000.

A commentary appears at Platon, Moldova și începuturile revoluției de la 1848, (Moldova and the Beginnings of the 1848 Revolution), Chișinău, ed. Univeristas, 1993, p. 141-143. He emphasizes the fact that L. Radu and the scribe N. Ene, had not done anything but transcribed the documents. These belonged according to Radu's declarations to the owner from Văleni, to the Agha Alecu Roset, and their content would not have been known (flagrant contradiction!). what is more, our man insinuates that, "if other, bigger houses were searched, much uglier papers would be found"... The year is 1839. The appellation "confederative conspiracy" deals with the intention of building a confederation Moldova-Muntenia-Serbia, with a hereditary foreign prince, after the Western model "such as in Europe".

At Traian Ichim, Alecu Russo. Cîteva date nouă cu privire la viața și familia lui, (Alecu Russo. Some New Data Regarding His Life and Family) extracted from "Viața Românească", (Romanian Life), [1923], p. 25, is a reference to the boundaries of the estate from Horniceni of the "divested equerry Leon Radu". The article is very interesting because it contains the list of the inventoried books at the death of Alecu Russo, his personal library. The quote allows us to

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

² Valerian Popovici, historian (1908-1967).

understand that Leon Radu emigrated after the conspiracy had been revealed, or he was exiled.

I was curious to see General Radu Rosetti's opinion on Alecu Roset, the Rosetti Family, I, Bucharest, 1938, p. 134–136, born in 1795, died in 1837, buried in the Tălpari church from Iași, son of Constantin and of Anastasia Beldiman, married Profira Miculescu. He has been a permanent maverick, a restless and fiery spirit, always in conflict with the esquires and the Russian consul. If it is to believe L. Radu, the project of the constitutional reformation already exists “with a year or more” preceding the death of Rosetti, thus in 1835–1836. It is very possible that Radu had blamed the dead man, so that he will not be called to account for it. Two from the Alecu brothers, though clerics, the bishop Veniamin and the abbot Ghenadie have actively taken part in the political life of the period. Veniamin and another brother, Scarlat have taken part at the revolutionary movement of 1848.

Here it is a brief orientation in the subject matter. It was a pleasure for me to be at your service.
With the most affectionate salutations,

Andrei Pippidi

P.S. My apologies for the delay. There is always a story with our correspondence. I gave it to Alina to post it, but meanwhile she went abroad, I retrieved it with difficulty.

16¹

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
very HAPPY NEW YEAR

These are Alina's and my wishes for You and the esteemed Madam. In order to assure you of our best wishes, we added a work that will, possibly, be of use when writing the opus about censorship. A sign of friendly solidarity, on the threshold of a New Year, which we wish will be full of happiness and equally good.

Andrei Pippidi

¹ “*Andrei Pippidi*”, “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, Adrian Marino archival stock, Marino Fd. 449, p. 4, Greeting card.

17¹

The angel comes to bring “the miraculous news” and the affectionate thoughts of Alina and me. I have not yet seen Sorin’s last book about which you write in “România literară” (Literary Romania) (or “22”, I do not remember where I saw it), but I believe the difference is in the chosen interlocutor, who of course has the same stimulant verve.

Happy New Year. Merry Christmas.

Anderi Pippidi

18²

Bucharest, 2 April 2001

Dearest Mr. Marino,

Here are other signs of respectful affection from Alina – not to mention, shared by me. For now I am busy with the lecture of Antohi’s dialogues. Naturally I sympathize with both speakers.

Around here, we too have our entertainment. At a contest for the Director of the Iorga Institute I had as an adversary the politician Scurtu, Presidential Counsellor, who gave me four votes out of 5.

Please accept Alina’s and my best wishes,

Andrei Pippidi

¹ “Corespondența română”, 2001, vol. II, “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, Adrian Marino archival stock, Marino Fd. 430/2, p. 56, illustrated postcard.

² “Corespondența română”, 2001, vol. I, “Lucian Blaga” Central University Library, Archival stock Adrian Marino, Marino Fd. 430/1, p. 46.