

***The Repertory of Typographers, Engravers, Editors,
Patrons of Romanian Books (1508–1830)****
– Review –

Anca Elisabeta TATAY
Library of Romanian Academy,
Cluj-Napoca

Keywords: old Romanian books, typographers, engravers, editors, patrons

E-mail: ancatatai@yahoo.com

*

A recent series of articles, studies, monographs and catalogues related to the history of books investigated from several points of view: book circulation, history of printing, history of engraving, collections of books found in different libraries in Romania or abroad, catches our attention and fills us with joy, to the same extent. The first edition of the *Repertory* in discussion came out in 2008. It was achieved by a group of researchers, particularly from Alba Iulia and Sibiu, coordinated by Eva Mârza, professor at 1 Decembrie 1918 University in Alba Iulia. This work is the outcome of project no. 733, financed by CNCIS between the years 2006–2008.

It was the monumental work *Bibliografia Românească veche* [Early Romanian Bibliography] (henceforth BRV) drawn up in four volumes between 1903–1944 by Ioan Bianu, Nerva Hodoș and Dan Simonescu that was without doubt a chief instrument of work. It is known that BRV is far from being exhaustive. Even if a new edition were published, comprising the new contributions signalled by Daniela Poenaru (1973), by Dan Râpă-Bucliu (2000), or those from volume I (A-C) accomplished by CIMEC (2004) and, last but not least, those published in countless articles issued throughout the last century, a new book would certainly appear soon and therefore the new BRV edition would be incomplete again. This matter has been debated on starting with the scientific sessions devoted to early Romanian books organized at Târgoviște prior to 1989, which were continued afterwards at Alba Iulia, since 2007, organized by Eva Mârza and Ana Maria Roman-Negoi. Under these conditions, the *Repertory* in discussion, hard to achieve, is neither complete, nor will it be in the years to come, although the authors' wish is to attain this goal, which explains the release of the new edition which contains adequate improvements. After all, the chronicler himself stated: "I have written with a hand of dust and ashes, not a saint's one".

*Eva Mârza, Florin Bogdan (coordinators), *Repertoriul tipografilor, gravurilor, patronilor, editorilor cărților românești (1508–1830)* [*Repertory of typographers, engravers, editors, patrons of Romanian books (1508–1830)*], the second edition, revised and enlarged, Sibiu, Astra Museum, Techno Media, 2013, 305 p. ISBN: 978-606-8520-20-9 and 978-606-616-102-2.

As a result, after years of steady research work, in 2013, the second edition, an imperative one, of *Repertory of typographers, engravers, editors, patrons of Romanian books (1508–1830)* was published at Sibiu, coordinated by Eva Mârza (whose rigorous researches in the field of the history of books and printing are already well known in the specialized world not only in Romania but also abroad) and the young researcher Florin Bogdan (guide at the Union National Museum in Alba Iulia). On the forth page of the book it is mentioned that “The *Repertory* is the result of collaboration of the following authors: Teodora Ancateu, Florin Bogdan, Silviu Borș, Diana Ciugudean, Zevedei Drăghiță, Doina Dreghiciu, Alin Mihai Gherman, Eva Mârza, Gabriela Mircea, Iuliana Wainberg. Ana Maria Roman-Negoi, Dorin Wainberg”.

Except for those of Eva Mârza’s generation (Doina Dreghiciu, Alin Mihai Gherman and Gabriela Mircea), the other authors belong to the school competently formed within Alma Mater Apulensis by the eminent professor Eva Mârza during the 25 years put in the service of the reputed University, formerly mentioned.

Printed under good graphic conditions, the book starts with an introduction named in the title of the work: *Repertory of typographers, engravers, editors, patrons of Romanian books (1508–1830)* (p. 5–8) signed by Eva Mârza, followed by the English translation made by Adina Bogdan (p. 9–12). From the very beginning, the coordinator states: “we felt it necessary to draw attention to the phenomenon of early Romanian writings from a different angle of investigation than the usual one” (p. 5). Therefore, while BRV deals with writings, the present repertory starts from “the human element that contributed to printing of books” (p. 5). Sources of the work are clearly mentioned, as well: “This work is meant to be a synthesis of information possible to be gathered from periodical or monographic publications (those that accumulate earlier relations or new discoveries), published documentary sources, and last but not least, from writings printed on Romanian territory up to 1830, completed with mandatory bibliographical references, finally having the role and the shape of a dictionary” (p. 6).

The *Repertory* proper (p. 13–298) comprises the persons presented who were evidently arranged alphabetically. A person’s file consists of the following headings: *Name – office* (Pandovici, Dimitrie – typographer, engraver); *the list of books he worked on*; *Observations* (presents the features of books); *Bibliography* (rendered through siglas and abbreviations); *Biographical references* (brief biographical medallions).

Bibliography (p. 299–305) – which contains new titles as compared with the first edition – is divided into five sections: *Critical editions, facsimile editions* (p. 199–301); *Bibliographies* (p. 301); *General Bibliography* (p. 302–303); *Studies* (p. 303–305); *Webography* (p. 305) – which finishes this ample and successful work.

In conclusion, we consider that through their laborious work the team coordinated by Eva Mârza and Florin Bogdan have attained the proposed desiderata making this *Repertory* constitute a very useful instrument for historians and all those interested in the respective subject-matter.