

ANDREEA MÂRZA, *Portretul unui iluminist ardelean. Bibliotecarul Imre Dániel (1754-1804)* [The portrait of a Transylvanian Enlightenment scholar. Imre Dániel, the librarian (1754-1804)], preface by István Monok (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Mega, 2020)

In 2020, the bibliography on the history of the Romanian libraries was enriched by an original volume authored by Andreea Mârza, *Portretul unui iluminist ardelean. Bibliotecarul Imre Dániel (1754-1804)* [The portrait of a Transylvanian Enlightenment scholar. Imre Dániel, the librarian (1754-1804)], published by the prestigious Cluj-based publishing house, Mega.

From the very beginning, we must bear in mind that the author began her endeavour from a substantial documentary basis, represented by the previous publication of numerous scholarly works in the field of the history of the library and of old book history, be they handwritten or printed.

The 433-page book belongs to the biographical genre and it skillfully retraces the life of Imre Dániel, entrusted by Ignác Batthyány different tasks, from book acquisitions to transcribing manuscripts or organising the library from Alba Iulia. From the very beginning of the book, the author's attachment to the world of libraries and librarians is quite clear, as proven by the dedication to her parents, renowned historians of culture, libraries and books, Eva and Iacob Mârza.

The substantial scientific "weight" of the volume is enforced by the preface signed by the reputable Hungarian professor István Monok, general director of the Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, who had previously also coordinated several other important volumes dedicated to libraries and old books.

The volume aims to reconstruct the intellectual profile of not only the librarian from the Age of Enlightenment, but also that of the intellectual.. Mârza's work comprises seven chapters: *Personalitatea lui Imre Dániel – un intelectual al epocii iluministe* [The character of Imre Dániel – an intellectual in the Age of Enlightenment], *Prin praful cărților și documentelor: Imre Dániel – omul și bibliotecarul* [In the clouds of dust raised from the books and documents: Imre Dániel – the man and the librarian], *Discipolul preocupat de achiziții de cărți și cataloage pentru Maestru* [The disciple preoccupied with the acquisition of books and catalogues for the Master], *Peregrin prin Europa: sejurul italian al lui Imre Dániel (1783-1785)* [A pilgrim through Europe: Imre Dániel's stay in Italy (1783-1785)], *Imre Dániel și colecția sa de cărți* [Imre Dániel and his book collection], *Diarium Italicum* [Diarium Italicum], *Identitate și alteritate în corespondența lui Imre Dániel* [Identity and otherness in Imre Dániel's correspondence]..

The first chapter, *Personalitatea lui Imre Dániel – un intelectual al epocii iluministe* [The personality of Imre Dániel – an intellectual in the Age of Enlightenment], immerses the reader into the world of the Enlightenment, giving historical and cultural background on

Europe and Transylvania. The chapter shows what a library and a librarian's attributions looked like in the aforementioned period.

Prin praful cărților și documentelor: Imre Dániel – omul și bibliotecarul [In the clouds of dust raised from the books and documents: Imre Dániel – the man and the librarian], the volume's second chapter, is divided into two subchapters that approach the direct relation between Imre Dániel's résumé and his becoming a librarian. Dániel was born on the 16 May 1754 in Dumbrăveni (Sibiu County), into a family of Armenian merchants. He was later educated by the Jesuits in Cluj (1768-1769); in 1771, he enrolled in the Faculty of Philosophy, at the University of Vienna. In 1773, the future librarian studied theology instead, at the Seminary in Alba Iulia. After his time in Alba Iulia, Dániel continued his theology studies in Vienna (1776-1779), where he was ordained. This is when he met Ignác Batthyány, who financially supported him throughout the period of his studies and who offered him the librarian position within the chancery office (1781), where he was put in charge of the Bishop's personal library. Imre Dániel's involvement in Ignác Batthyány's acquisition of the library owned by Christoph Anton, Count of Migazzi, Cardinal of Vienna and Bishop of Vác, in 1782, represents another important episode of his life.

Discipolul preocupat de achiziții de cărți și cataloage pentru Maestru [The disciple preoccupied with the acquisition of books and catalogues for the Master] focuses on the relationship between Imre Dániel and Ignác Batthyány, which began when Dániel was a student in Vienna and Ignác was provost in Eger. Thus, based on the letters exchanged between the two, as well as on the entries from Imre Dániel's journals, the author reconstructs his efforts in acquiring the books requested by the bishop. As part of the book-buying endeavours, the future librarian came into contact with numerous typographers and booksellers, as proven by the multitude of catalogues from publishing houses, bookstores and auctions, which are today part of the holdings of the Batthyaneum Library from Alba Iulia.

Dániel's stay in Italy between 1783-1785 is covered by an entire distinctive chapter. Ignác Batthyány's recommendation enabled him to study in the most important libraries and archives of the country: Rome, Venice, Florence, Bologna, Padua and many others. During his stay in Italy, Dániel not only conducted research on documents and books, but also transcribed them, which was an important part of his activity. The transcription of certain works for Ignác Batthyány had begun as early as the period in which Imre Dániel was a student in Vienna. Several entries in his daily journal are verifiable based on the presence of the manuscripts copied by him or other amanuensis in Italian libraries, then handed over to Ignác Batthyány, which are now part of the collections in Alba Iulia. The chapter also contains further information provided by the analysis of Imre Dániel's journal: the libraries' schedules at the end of the 18th century and economic details such as a librarian's salary and the costs of copying certain documents. The chapter about his pilgrimage in Italy ends by analysing the correspondence between Imre Dániel and his acquaintances, his family and, naturally, with his benefactor, Ignác Batthyány. An important aspect, highlighted accordingly in the volume, is the financial support given to Imre Dániel by Abbot Aureliano de Angelis, a sum that would

later be reimbursed by the Bishop; the detailed analysis of Imre Dániel's journal shows that Angelis had funded – in the form of a loan – his stay in Italy with the sum of 400 scudi.

Imre Dániel was not merely Ignác Batthyány's librarian – over time, he organised his own collection (i.e., his own library). The fifth chapter of Andreea Mârza's work, *Imre Dániel și colecția sa de cărți* [Imre Dániel and his book collection], revolves around the volumes which actually compiled Dániel's own library/book collection. After searching through the collections and resources held by certain libraries in Transylvania, numerous volumes were identified to have been part of Imre Dániel's personal library. What is somewhat surprising is the presence of certain volumes in the Catholic parishes from Gheorgheni and Misentea (Harghita County); however, most volumes can be found today in the Batthyaneum Library, in the library of the Roman-Catholic Theological Seminary in Alba Iulia, in The National Museum of the Union of Alba Iulia, and in the library of the Armenian Church from Dumbrăveni. Most of them still have Imre Dániel's label or handwritten bookplate. As far as their content goes, Andreea Mârza identified theological and philosophical works, while some belong to the field of ecclesiastical history.

Repeatedly cited as the book's main source, alongside other documents, the journal kept during his stay in Italy, at the request of Ignác Batthyány, *Diarium Italicum*, is analysed in a separate chapter. The journal comprises Imre Dániel's journey in detail: the hardships faced on the road, his access to the libraries that were relevant to the research conducted at the request of his benefactor, the issues regarding his diet, etc. The two-volume manuscript surpasses 800 pages written in Latin during the 2 years spent in Italy and was completed after his return to Transylvania. The information in the journal was meant to offer Ignác Batthyány a full account of Dániel's journey – where he had been, how much he had spent, etc. Moreover, the two volumes consequently include Batthyány's notes and observations as well.

The last chapter, *Identitate și alteritate în corespondența lui Imre Dániel* [Identity and otherness in Imre Dániel's correspondence], examines the letters he received in Italy from his acquaintances (from Transylvania and from abroad), which now are part of the holdings of the Batthyaneum Library. They have historical value due to their subjects of discussion: they touch on issues such as dissolving the Trinitarian Order of Transylvania and the fate of the goods it had held, the situation of the Greco-Catholic Church (Imre Dániel had corresponded with Bishop Ioan Bob as well), the education system in Transylvania, the reforms issued by Joseph II and information about the uprising of Horea, Cloșca and Crișan, all important events from the second half of the 18th century.

Andreea Mârza's work, dedicated to the librarian and the man that was Imre Dániel, has an extended abstract translated into English and Hungarian, followed by the selective bibliography of the works used in the efforts of documenting Dániel's activity and life.

The final part of the volume contains the documentary annexes: book catalogues, recommendations, the list of mailing expenses from the time spent in Italy, the catalogue of books that were part of Imre Dániel's personal library and that have been identified so far and the list of churches he visited in Rome and Naples. The volume ends with an index that is highly useful to both researchers and those merely interested in the subject matter.

As a result of research conducted over several years, Andreea Mârza's work offers its readers – scholars and amateurs alike – the complete image on the becoming of the librarian and the intellectual from the second half of the 18th century. The volume under scrutiny is not only a major contribution to the history of the libraries/librarians from Transylvania, but also a component of the corpus of results obtained from the research endeavours conducted in the field of the history of culture in Transylvania in the Age of Enlightenment. Given its rigorous scientific documentation, it suits historians, librarians and readers who want to learn more about life in the second half of the 18th century.

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