

The International Colloquium “Europa – centru și margine. Cooperare culturală transfrontalieră”, 4th Edition, Arad, October 22-23, 2015

This event was a cultural feast of the whole city, the local authorities being involved and addressing a foreword (a message from mayor Gh. Falcă was presented to the participants). The academic communication session was vowed to: “The promotion of European literature and culture through translations”. Rector C. Cotorâci and President A. Ardelean of Universitatea de Vest “Vasile Goldis” delivered speeches through which they sustained the European multicultural perspective. The Doctor Honoris Causa title was awarded to Acad. Professor Thede KAHL, from the University of Jena, Germany, who as well delivered an inaugural speech. The themes of the communications were attractive and highly diverse, raising by this fact the interest of the participants (and the readers of the proceedings). Local late personalities were evoked through their cultural activities (C. Lăzărescu, E. Gagea, D. Mihăilescu) as well as the Macedo-Romanian remarkable writer N. Batzaria (I. Janjic, V. Popovic). Modern poets took this opportunity to present some of their recent creations (V. Man). Translation issues were as well invoked as fruitful pretexts for approaching, through literary means, some of the hot preoccupying questions which do rise nowadays. In the matter of translations, some down-to-earth problems were approached, like the eternal “sequence of tenses in French and Romanian” (E. Volontir-Sevciuc), the “challenges of teaching English to medical students” (M. Anghel), the “educational valences in translations regarding children’s literature” (discussing, of course, the works of Carroll, Dickens and Twain, but as well the ones of J.K. Rowling, in an interesting to-and-fro movement between their natural spell and the pragmatic teaching necessities). (L. Faur) Some very interesting comparative studies were presented about the various versions in Romanian of the Holy Scripture as they were interpreted by a Romanian poet in his artistic work in verses (though the author implicitly disadvantaged V. Militaru by always comparing him to L. Blaga!) (C. Bejan Vasca) but about Goethe’s *Faust* translated in two Romanian versions too (the ones by L. Blaga and by Aug. Doinas, duly supported by theoretical comments about two specialized books). (A.D. Igna) The latter author’s pragmatic perspective is remarkable: “(...) translations do not make a literature, but they could serve to its development”. The purpose of the concerned study was to: “(...) verify the relativity, the approximation, the gains and losses, the difficulties or the compensating modalities through which a translation might be as close as possible to the original”. The “difficulties in translating proverbs in Romanian” were approached in the case of Vuk Karadzic, with Anton Pann as his counterpart. (V. Popovic, I. Janjic) The authors do methodologically distinguish Karadzic from Pann through the former’s choice of leaving the proverbs unversified and closer to fairytales than the latter who subordinates them to his cultural initiative of versifying them. At the European level, “the cases of Romanian writers of French expression” are enumerated in a common *laudatio* (S.S. Milancovici) and some current “cultural conflicts (...)” are analysed through the study of the works of Huntington, Lawson and Avgeri (I.D. Stefan). Literature could not have been ignored, so modern symbolical perspectives were presented for some creations of G. Adamesteanu (the idea of multiple novels into one, reflecting various points of view is interesting, though the author does not explicitly unveil his own personal opinion about the “history strolling around” (S. Axinte), G.

Grass (where the author does identify a sort of reversed “magical realism” of the dark side) (M.-M. Ciocoi-Pop) and... I. Slavici (Mara and her local church, seen as the essential public space of the rural world, are analysed by the means of, among others, Habermas and Foucault). (R. Sima) The Colloquium was eclectic in a judicious proportion: the “types of discourse in texts for television broadcasts” are enumerated with their respective features, among which...“pessimism”! (A. Jireghie), the “life of concerts in the 19th century Transylvania” is presented in a rather idyllic as well as attractive manner (A.-M. Armean-Dinescu), but as well “P.H. Emerson, the master of landscape photography” is summoned by the author both as a witness and as evidence of the fact that: “serious amateurs have realized excellent works in social documentation and in reporting” (V. Markert) are brought to public attention. The activity of a local journal is presented, in its most representative achievements, under the aegis of: “transdisciplinarity and international excellence” (D.Riga, S.Riga, A. Ardelean, V.Man). The proceedings of the Colloquium are concluded by a little but nice photo album illustrating it; the cultural atmosphere of this reunion was delightfully fruitful.