

**THE INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM *THE RECEPTION OF
GRECO-LATIN ANTIQUITY IN THE EUROPEAN CULTURES,*
UNIVERSITY OF CRAIOVA**

Under the aegis of The Romanian Society for Classical Studies, Craiova branch, by the dedication and enthusiasm of the members of the Department of General Linguistics and Classical Languages, the Faculty of Letters, University of Craiova, the International Colloquium *The Reception of Greco-Latin Antiquity in the European Cultures* was initiated in 2007. So far three editions have been organized, while the fourth is in preparation. It may have been considered a risk-taking endeavour, in terms of chance of continuity, since we are in a period in which classical studies are systematically marginalized, if not despised, in Romanian education at all levels. However, the large number of participants and the value of many of their papers stand proof of the interest in such studies of the academic world and intellectuals in many fields, giving us hope that this colloquium will have many other editions.

This colloquium, along with the Master studies programme in the same field developed by our department for several years now, is linked to the more increasing interest in revisiting and reevaluating of many aspects of classical antiquity. The studies on the reception of the Antiquity should be understood from two perspectives which should not be confused, although there is a reciprocal relationship.

The first perspective is the study of classical antiquity for itself, i.e. classical philology, which includes studying Greek and Roman languages, literatures, cultures and civilizations, recover manuscripts and texts, making critical editions and dealing with everything related to *realia* of the ancient world. Classical philologists translate Greek and Latin authors, to the benefit of those who do not know these languages. The translation activity is also part of this reception and in this respect it prepares the ground for those concerned with the second perspective.

This second perspective focuses on the reception studies in the sense proposed by the latest cultural trends. They can do without the direct knowledge of ancient texts, because there are translations available to any

modern reader. To this purpose, we must add, the most important ancient texts benefit of constantly updated translations which are interfaces of cultural reception.

The modern reception of classical antiquity has a wider spectrum of interests extended beyond the stage of studies of “influence” centered on a work, an idea or an author and privileging the restoring to a univocal sense, paradigmatically, from antiquity to a certain epoch, in a linear, simplified progression, as the ancient world holds perpetual truths that may be transplanted in any cultural context. Today the ancient culture is seen as a world of diversity, of uncertainty and imperfections, because postmodernity projects on it its paradigm images, attitudes and interpretations, making selections that are different from those of the past.

Therefore, current reception studies change the conservative and old approach to classical culture by adopting an open and comprehensive attitude, in which different cultural, social or other factors that influence the reception context help uncover new dimensions and interpretations and revitalize the ties with the antique sources to benefit of both parts.

Our colloquium has been designed in this spirit, which has been adopted by the participants and became evident in their papers. Although subsumed under this common approach, the papers are characterized by eclecticism regarding the methods of analysis and interpretation or the choice of contact points between the classical world and subsequent European cultures on which they focus.

The thematic framework of the colloquium is divided into three sections comprising language, literature, civilization, history and the teaching of classical languages. The authors of the papers show imagination and inspiration in the topics suggested and in the way they treat them.

On each edition of our Colloquium, there was a large number of participants: academics from foreign and Romanian universities, most of them from the University of Craiova, from research institutes and other cultural and educational institutions. The interest and enthusiasm with which those who are not directly involved in studying classical languages and literatures joined us in this action is proof that the recent drastic decrease of the classical education in the Romanian educational system at

all levels is a phenomenon caused by a lack of vision and by bad decisions taken by those in charge of education, rather than by an objective trend imposed by the beneficiaries of this education.

The idea of organising this colloquium was advanced by Professor Katalin Dumitraşcu PhD, whose academic activity is well known by classicist scholars, as well as by others humanistic scholars. The academic staff of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, especially Dana Dinu and Mădălina Strehie have ensured the good development of the programme.