

**The 10<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium**  
***The Reception of Greek and Latin Antiquity in European***  
***Cultures, May 26, 2018, Craiova, Romania***

This year's edition of the International Colloquium *The Reception of Greek and Latin Antiquity in European Cultures* has marked the tenth anniversary of its existence. As always, it has been organized by the members of the classical languages team of the Department of Romance and Classical Languages of the Faculty of Letters at the University of Craiova. It has also been held, like the other editions, under the aegis of the Classical Studies Society of Romania, Craiova Branch.

The theme proposed by the organizers was "Greco-Roman Discursive Tradition", a fertile theme which offers many research possibilities both from the point of view of the development of rhetorical art in Greco-Roman antiquity, and that of its reception in modern cultures, which is one of the main aims of the conference. Therefore, over thirty participants responded to the invitation, and they provided presentations in a highly diversified spectrum. The conference proceedings were opened by three plenary lectures held by high level academics from Romania and abroad.

The first lecture was delivered by Prof. Florica Bechet from the University of Bucharest entitled "Rhetoric and bait". Her purpose was to analyse the evolution of Latin oratorical art both in theory and in practice at the time of Cicero and at the beginning of the imperial period, after which there was a sharp decline in public speaking. The causes of this phenomenon are identified by the author in the constraints exerted by the imperial policy on the freedom of public life which, during the Republic, was strongly manifested in the forum. The consequence was the refuge of rhetoric in schools and the need to adapt its requirements to the poor taste of the students.

Prof. Marco A. Gutiérrez lectured on "Traducción, tradición y traición: fortuna del tópico *omnibus mobilibus mobilius sapientia*" in which he thoroughly examined the nuances they have in translating the terms/ideas 'sophía/sapientia/sabiduría' in different contexts, from the perspective of the topic *omnibus mobilibus mobilius sapientia* of the *Book of Wisdom* 7, 24 of the *Old Testament*.

The inaugural conference of Prof. Teodor Sâmbrian was entitled "The rhetorical function of Latin expressions in Romanian legislation". He noted that the Latin quotations also have, besides the function of expressing some legal concepts or principles, a rhetorical function, which, I add, in the rhetorical theory is called *ornatus*. His research focused on all legal documents published in the Official Monitor of Romania between 1859-1942, in which he identified eleven Latin phrases whose frequency he quantifies and which he exemplifies in different contexts.

The theme of the colloquium was differently treated by the participants. Some of them strictly referred to it, aiming to develop aspects of rhetorical art in Greek and Roman antiquity, or how rhetoric evolved in the European and Romanian space, others preferred related topics. The papers were presented in two sections, grouped by the areas they covered. The first section was entitled "rhetoric and discourse" and included literary and linguistic articles, and the proceedings of the second section were conducted under the title "Mythology and history". Two papers on the art of rhetoric and its development from the antiquity till modern age were presented by Dana Dinu

under the title “The first rhetorical treatises at Rome” and Ana-Maria Trantescu, “From ancient rhetoric to contemporary cognitive rhetoric”. Two articles stem from the research in the field of Romanian rhetoric: “Romanian rhetorical textbooks in the nineteenth century” by Nina Bălan and “The ancient discursive tradition in the *Didahii* (Sermons) of Anthimus of Iberia. Case study” by Florentina Nicolae.

As expected, most papers referred to ancient authors and exploited in an original and intelligent way the discursive resources of their works. Thus, in her presentation “Anamorphosis and narrativity at Apuleius”, Valy Ceia dwelt upon the Latin author Apuleius, Ilona Duță chose to highlight a certain type of discursivity in one of Cicero’s works “*De amicitia* as a speech on the other”, Magdalena Indrieș referred to “The oratorical art in Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*”. Seneca and the continuity of his ideas were the subject of the paper “The perpetuation of the ideas of Seneca’s works in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance” by Andreea Petcu. Plautus and Terentius are also present in the paper “Plautus’ *Aulularia* (200 BC) and Terentius’ *Heautontimoroumenos* (163 BC): A basic outline of the senile age” of Panagiotis Asimopoulos, alongside Cato Maior in “Cato the Censor’s discursive obsession” by Mădălina Strechie.

Greek authors were treated in papers such as “Thucydides’ discourses and the challenges of today’s world” by Theodor Georgescu, a very interesting and well documented presentation, and “Four suitors of the legendary Medea: Euripides and Apollonius of Rhodes, Ovid and Seneca”, by Panagiotis Asimopoulos. Two articles dealt with the strategies of panegyric speeches, one of a funeral type “Saint Gregory of Nyssa’s epitaph pronounced in the honour of Saint Meletius the Great, an avatar of the ancient funeral eulogy” provided by Cătălin Paul Oprea, and the other speech of praise addressed to the emperor titled by its author Dan Iulian Bălțeanu “The foreign policy in the speech to the emperor of Ps.-Aelius Aristides”. A very interesting proposal of discourse analysis is made by Laurențiu Nistorescu’s presentation “Projections of the Romanity through speeches mirror-in-mirror”.

The mythological discourse and its extensions in the modern era were the subject of several articles such as “Symbolic thought in myths: ancient Greek and Roman invention and contemporary reinvention” by Ioanna Papadopoulou, “The Myth of a Hero: Antigone in Sorj Chalandon’s *Le Quatrième Mur*”, by Camelia Manolescu. Corina Geană emphasized a linguistic aspect of mythology and history in her article “English idioms referring to Greek mythology or Roman history”. An interesting comparative study on the evolution of satirical speech was undertaken by Roxana Lăzărescu in the paper titled “Modern approaches to ancient satire. Jonathan Swift and the Menippean”.

A linguistic perspective on the topic of the colloquium is addressed by Ioana Costa in the presentation “*Os – orare-orator*”, and by Ilona Bădescu in “From speak to chat” and by Mihaela Popescu in “A brief overview of speech markers with metatextual value in classical Latin”.

The stylistic domain is present through the paper of Ioana Rucsandra Dascălu titled “L’antonomase, ce lieu de mémoire de la stylistique”. Elena-Veronica Nicola spoke about the meanings of the word *forum* in the presentation “The term *forum* from Roman antiquity to modern age”. Legal issues are dealt with by a series of works such as Daniela Dincă’s “Les dénominations des institutions judiciaires en français et en roumain: quel type d’équivalence ?” and “*Lex Oppia* from 215 B.C. Effects, supporters

and contestors”, presented by Decebal Neduand Andreea Raluca Barboş.

This year's symposium owes its success to the good scientific level of most of the papers that have proved very interesting and in line with the proposed theme. They succeeded in creating a productive dialogue and exchange of valuable ideas among the participants, which contributed to a pleasant, relaxed and collegial atmosphere. The volume designed to result from the transformation of these papers into studies and articles is likely to be come a valuable contribution to the reception studies of the cultural heritage of classical antiquity in Romania.

The tenth edition of the International Colloquium *The Reception of Greek-Latin Antiquity in European Cultures* was at the height of its number of years and because of the interest shown by a constant number of participants, there is good reason to hope that in the coming years, other editions will be added.