The Romanian Literary History as Reflected by the Dictionaries of the Romanian Academy. The Contribution of the "A. Philippide" Institute of Romanian Philology

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In 1950 the Institute of History and Philology was organized under the Iasi Branch of the Romanian Academy. The Institute carried on research in the field of the Romanian culture and language that had been innitiated by the Institute of Romanian Philology founded in 1927 under the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University. În 1950, several professors were members of the Department of Philology of the Institute of History and Philology: G. Ivănescu, Şt. Cuciureanu, N. Bagdasar, Al. Claudian and the ex-librarian Ioan Lăzărescu. The researches coordinated by Professor Al. Dima PhD and Professor N.I. Popa PhD, concentrated upon the study of general aspects regarding the evolution of culture in Moldova in the 19th century and of the literary or scientific societies.

Starting with 1963, the Philology Department, coordinated by Al. Dima, corresponding member of the Romanian Academy, changed its name to the Center of Linguistics, Literary History and Folklore; the Department of literary history was coordinated by Professor N.I. Popa PhD. The number of the researchers increased as new members joined the team: Ioan Lăzărescu, Alexandru Teodorescu, Gabriela Drăgoi, Dan Mănucă, Leon Volovici, Remus Zăstroiu and later Constanţa Buzatu, Stănuţa Creţu, Florin Faifer, Algeria Simota, Rodica Şuiu, Constantin Teodorovici, Maria Teodorovici. The research field included the history of Romanian literary criticism of the 19th century, monographs about Romanian writers, studies based on the documents in the National Archives. During senior researcher Dr. N.A. Ursu's directorship the preparations for *Dicţionarul literaturii române de la origini până la 1900* [The Dictionary of the Romanian Literature from Its Origins to 1900] started. Modern editing guidelines were created (with an important contribution by the researcher Corneliu Moraru) and a rich documentary and bibliographic

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material was gathered. An important contribution in this area was made by the colleagues from the Folklore Department (Lucia Berdan, Lucia Cireş, Ion H. Ciubotaru). The work for the dictionary was completed and the whole material was handed over to the Romanian Academy Publishing House in 1975 but it could be printed only in 1979 due to difficulties from the Press Direction.

After 1980 new members joined the Department of Literary History: Victor Durnea, Andrei Hoişie – later transferred to the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University, Ioan Holban – transferred to "Cronica" magazine, Gheorghe Hrimiuc-Toporaş, Dimitrie Costea, Constantin Paiu, Tereza Petrescu, Horst Fassel, Valeriu P. Stancu – transferred to the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University.

A project that was meant to continue the dictionary mentioned above was *Dicţionarul literaturii române de la 1900 la 1950* [The Dictionary of the Romanian Literature from 1900 to 1950]. The creation of a **Database** including documentary and information sources (books, magazines, newspapers, almanachs, calendars; manuscript funds, documents, iconography) was the result of a huge effort. A questionnaire helping the researchers to get bio-bibliographical data initiated frequent correspondence with the writers, with the families of the deceased writers, with the National Archives and with the Registry Office, with museums, birthplace museums, schools etc. The **Database** consists of thousands of bits of information drawn from books and journals, written on paper shifts. The whole correspondence, the iconography, the manuscripts and the books sent by the writers are included in the **Archives** of the Department of Literary History.

Starting with the 90s, this whole lot of documentation has contributed to one of the fundamental and foreground projects of the Romanian Academy, namely *Dicţionarul general al literaturii române* (DGLR) [The General Dictionary of the Romanian Literature], first edition, edited between 2004 and 2009, in seven volumes, as well as the compendium *Dicţionarul literaturii române* [The Dictionary of the Romanian Literature] in two volumes (2012); both of them are coordinated by acad. Eugen Simion. DGLR is the result of the work of research teams from the "G. Călinescu" Institute of Literary History and Theory (Bucharest), the "A. Philippide" Institute of Romanian Philology (Iaşi), the "Sextil Puşcariu" Institute of Linguistics and Literary History (Cluj-Napoca), and the "Titu Maiorescu" Banat Studies (Timişoara). DGLR is a genuine cultural institution of impressive size, a thesaurus dictionary of the Romanian culture and literature. Some of the members of the review committee for the first edition were members of the "A. Philippide" Institute of Romanian Philology: Gabriela Drăgoi, Victor Durnea, Florin Faifer, Dan Mănucă, Remus Zăstroiu. The representatives of the Institute in the review committee for the second edition (out of which the first two volumes were published in 2016) are Victor Durnea and Remus Zăstroiu. Among the authors of articles in both editions our colleagues working at the Department of

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Ethnology should also be mentioned: Lucia Berdan, Lucia Cireş, Ion H. Ciubotaru, Ioana Repciuc. The research teams are currently working on the second edition of DGLR. Since 2014 the researchers from the Department of Literary History of "A. Philippide" Institute have also been working at *Enciclopedia scrierilor memorialistice româneşti* [The Encyclopedia of the Romanian Memoirs Writings] – the research topic of the department coordinated by Professor Bogdan Creţu, PhD.

As has already been mentioned, the department has an **Archive** and a **Database**. The Archive of *Dictionarul general al literaturii române* [The General Dictionary of Romanian Literature] was established starting with the 70s by sending a specific questionnaire on literary lexicography. It was sent to the writers, to their relatives, to the institutions in possession of biographic data; the questionnaire brought to the Archive answers on about 1300 authors, quite often accompanied by various iconographic documents. The Database has been in place since 1975 and it includes bio-bibliographic information written on paper. Both the Archive and the Database have increased continuously. The Archive also contains three important funds:

1) The Eugen Relgis fund. It includes books, magazines, articles from different publications donated by the writer's son.

2) The Dumitru Iov fund. It includes personal documents, letters, photos and different publications donated by professor Maria Apostu.

3) The Sergiu Matei Nica fund. It includes manuscripts donated by the family of the writer Sergiu Matei Nica.

In the course of time, the heads of the Department of literary history were: Professor N.I. Popa, PhD, senior researcher dr. Al. Teodorescu, professor Dan Mănucă, PhD, senior researcher Remus Zăstroiu, PhD; at present the head of the department is senior researcher Ofelia Ichim, PhD; the members of the department are: dr. Şerban Axinte, Nicoleta Borcea, dr. Amalia Drăgulănescu, dr. Sebastian Drăgulănescu, dr. Victor Durnea, dr. Ofelia Ichim, dr. Doris Mironescu, drd. Maricica Munteanu, dr. Remus Zăstroiu.

Dicţionarul general al literaturii române, vol. I (A–B), vol. II (C–D), coord. acad. Eugen Simion was awarded "B.P. Hasdeu" Prize of the Romanian Academy (2006); *Dicţionarul literaturii române de la origini până la 1900* got "Timotei Cipariu" Prize of the Romanian Academy (1979). Prizes of the Romanian Academy for individual volumes were offered to Şerban Axinte, *Definiţiile romanului. De la Dimitrie Cantemir la G. Călinescu*, Iaşi, Editura Timpul, 2011, 324 p., "Lucian Blaga" Prize of the Romanian Academy (2013); Doris Mironescu, *Viaţa lui M. Blecher. Împotriva biografiei*, Iaşi, Editura Timpul, 2011, 204 p., "Titu Maiorescu" Prize of the Romanian Academy (2013); Victor Durnea, *C. Stere. Publicistică*, vol. I *(1893–1905)*, Iaşi, Editura Universităţii "Alexandru Ioan Cuza", 2010, 567 p., "Titu Maiorescu" Prize of the Romanian Academy (2012); Florin Faifer, *Incursiuni în istoria teatrului universal (de la*

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The researchers of the department have initiated other projects with national or international funding, they were awarded grants and they have been active in literary criticism and history, comparative literature, other areas of culture (philology, drama studies, critical editions, cultural studies, history of mentalities etc.). They have published studies and specialized monographs. They have also presented papers at national and international symposia and they have organized different scientific events. Some of them have been members of the editorial staff of several journals.

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Abstract

This is a brief history of the Department of Literary History from "A. Philippide" Institute of Romanian Philology – the Iasi Branch of the Romanian Academy. The main achievements of the researchers of the department are *Dicţionarul literaturii române de la origini până la 1900* [The Dictionary of the Romanian Literature from Its Origins to 1900] – as a work belonging only to the Iasi team. Other very important contributions are *Dicţionarul general al literaturii române* (DGLR) [The General Dictionary of the Romanian Academy], the first edition, edited between 2004–2009, in 7 volumes, as well as the compendium *Dicţionarul literaturii române* [The Dictionary of the Romanian Literature], in two volumes (2012), both of them coordinated by acad. Eugen Simion. The second edition of *Dicţionarul general al literaturii române* (DGLR) [The General Dictionary of the Romanian Academy] is in progress.

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