

THE MODERN EVOLUTION OF TÎRGOVIȘTE TOWN'S CULTURAL LIFE (1878-1914)

Ramona Elena STANCIU
ramonaestanciu@yahoo.com

Abstract

We could state that after having gone through a stage of great founders and foundations in the 19th century, the Romanian culture began a new one.

Thus, in the general framework of the rebirth and national affirmation process that characterized the second half of the 19th century, all the Romanian provinces lived a strong cultural effervescence. In this context, in the old Walachian capital as well, culture was reborn, cultural personalities such as I. H. Rădulescu being recognized on a national level. He even tried to inaugurate a bookshop in Târgoviște with the help of I. D. Petrescu. A restoration in the cultural life of this town occurred through the opening of several primary schools and the creation of a secondary school in 1874,¹ and especially through the creation of the Society "Progresul" (The Progress), in 1876, the first cultural society of Târgoviște, which managed to attract the town's personalities.² Out of the intellectuals of Târgoviște who laid the foundations of this cultural society and carried out a particular activity, we shall mention: I. D. Petrescu, D. Condurățeanu, Al. Duda.

Key words: culture, library, school, cultural society.

¹ Constantin Manolescu, Mihai Oproiu, *Pagini din istoria culturii târgoviștene. Societatea Culturală „Progresul”* (1876) (Pages of the cultural history of Târgoviște. The cultural society "Progresul", 1876), in: Victor Petrescu, Mihai Oproiu, Constantin Manolescu, *Târgoviștea culturală. Studii. Articole. Note* (Cultural Târgoviște. Studies. Articles), Editura Bibliotheca, Târgoviște, 2000, pp. 137-138.

² *Ibidem*, p. 138; Mihai Oproiu, Dobrin Pârvan, *Târgoviște. Orașul și împrejurimile sale între 1821-1918* (Târgoviște. The town and its surroundings between 1821 and 1918), vol. II, Editura Biblioteca, Târgoviște, 2001, pp. 279-280; For the Cultural Society "Progresul" (The Progress) of Târgoviște see the Central National Historical Archives (Arhivele Naționale Istorice Centrale), Authority of Dâmbovița County (Direcția Județeană Dâmbovița), (henceforth A.N.I.C., D.J.D.) *Fond Primăria orașului Târgoviște* (fund: *Târgoviște Town Hall*), dosar (file) 79/1876-1877.

Besides the activity of “culturalization” undertaken by the Churches and monasteries, which supported schools and libraries and are representative in architecture or mural painting, at the beginning of the 19th century, a process of effervescence shall begin and continues plentifully after the 1950s.

Documents kept in the local National Archives, in archives created by the Prefecture of Dâmbovița County, by the Town Hall of Târgoviște or by the local School Committee but also by the schools that are representative in the cultural landscape of Târgoviște preserve pieces of information that attest serious cultural preoccupations in the area of this town and of this county, in general.

The prevailing information, when it comes to the existing situation of the local education, refers to: construction of new schools or rental of buildings to be “attested” by commissions caring about pupils’ health, in agreement with the demands of the Ministry of Education³; need of repairs, furniture and teachers, which generated a large number of petitions addressed to the mayor of the town (“door repairs, as the classrooms get unbearably cold”⁴; brooms and “ordinary cloth to dust the furniture”, or “metallic mugs” to drink water⁵; school whitewashing, floor and window cleaning, as the headmasters of the Boys’ Schools No.1 and No.2 demanded - these schools occupied the floor and the upper storey of the same building⁶); assuring wood to light the fire was another necessity that the Town Hall needed to solve, as in the case of the School for Cantors, which, for the cold weather of the year 1911, requested a fathom of wood⁷.

³ SJAN Dâmbovița, Fond *Primăria Orașului Târgoviște*, dos.27/1878, f. 3.

⁴ *Ibidem*, f.1.

⁵ *Ibidem*, f.5.

⁶ *Ibidem*, f.7.

⁷ *Idem*, dos.19/1911, f.6.

At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, in town there were 10 schools running their activity: the 4 grade secondary school, two schools for girls and two for boys, a school of secondary practice for girls, founded by Fussea, the school for army assistants of Dealu Monastery, where in 1912, the Military High School of Dealu Monastery was founded⁸, and other schools that had already begun to get open in the outskirts of the town.

In 1910, the first kindergarten (“grădină de copii mici”) was opened, too⁹.

Another quantitatively representative series of documents of those times, kept in the local archives, reflect the interest in the books needed to award the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize at each school, at the end of a school year (for example, the headmaster of “I.Văcărescu” Primary and Secondary School handed over to the mayor a clear list of the books that needed to be purchased, some of them being *Nine Stories for Children* (“Nouă istorioare pentru copii”), *The Two Sisters* (“Cele două surori”), *The Christian Family* (“Familia creștină”), *The Nightingale* (“Privighetoarea”) etc., worth 0.70 lei each¹⁰.

The petitions addressed to the Town Hall also concern other aspects of the cultural life of Târgoviște, for example the holding of certain courses or the organization of exhibitions, for whose good running it was required to assure the necessary space¹¹, the organization in Târgoviște of congresses or conferences of the personnel in education (for example, at the 8th

⁸ Fr. Dr. C.Nițescu, *Mănăstirea Dealu și Liceul Militar “N.Filipescu”* (Dealu Monastery and the “N. Filipescu” Military High School), Tgv., 1932, pp. 60-74.

⁹ Xxx, Școala generală “Vasile Cârlova” (“Vasile Cârlova Primary and Secondary School), Tgv., 1976, pp.70-74.

¹⁰ SJAN Dâmbovița, Fond *Primăria Orașului Târgoviște*, dos.34/1879, f. 10.

¹¹ *Idem*, dos.106/1978, f. 4.

Romanian Primary Teachers' Congress /Congres al Învățătorilor din România, August 1911, for whose organization, the mayor Gonzalv Ionescu asked the local butchers, bakers and bar-owners to provide “enough food for 2000 people”¹², or the congress of the “Orientalists of Rome”, of 1899, attended among others by Smaranda Gheorghiu (Mother Smara)¹³.

The organization of the local museums starts timidly, with a numismatic mini-collection, at the “Ienăchiță Văcărescu” Primary and Secondary School, due to the personality of D.Papazoglu and the donation made by Fussea in 1911, who donated his houses and goods, where the History Museum was established¹⁴.

The important figures of the local and national culture were given their due importance by placing their statues in the town squares (I.H. Rădulescu, Gr. Alexandrescu, Tudor Vladimirescu – situated in front of the Metropolitan Church, owing to the efforts of Mother Smara¹⁵.

The same cultural set included the settlement of different, numerous societies, according to what the documents indicate – “Progresul” (The Progress), with a role in the editing of the newspapers “Armonia” (*Harmony*), “Progresul” (*The Progress*) or “Unirea” (*The Union*); “Liga Culturală din Târgoviște” (The Cultural League of Târgoviște); “Târgoviștea” - 1910¹⁶, aiming to preserve and maintain the historical monuments; “Năluca” – a gymnastics society, founded in 1907; “Societatea Corpului Didactic din Târgoviște” (The Society of the Teaching Staff of Târgoviște), aiming to create a school for adults, in town¹⁷.

¹² *Idem*, dos.21/1911, f. 1-5.

¹³ Oproiu Mihai, Dobrin Pârvan, *Târgoviște*, vol.II, Tgv., 2001, p. 290.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 303.

¹⁵ Mihai Oproiu, *Op.cit.*,p. 321.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 286.

¹⁷ SJAN Dâmbovița, Fond *Primăria Orașului Târgoviște*, dos.27/1878, f. 51.

We also need to mention the innumerable petitions regarding the execution of different repair works, demolitions or the building of new churches, the announcements regarding the events occasioned by the celebration of Their Royal Majesties, and the numerous petitions requesting space or authorization for the organization of different shows, masquerades or cinema projections¹⁸.

Bibliography:

- ***, 1910, *Statutele Societății "Târgoviște"* (Statutes of "Târgoviște" Society),.
- ***, 1972 "Acta Valachica".
- ***, 1976, Școala generală "Vasile Cârlova" ("Vasile Cârlova" School), Târgoviște.
- ***, 1980-1981, "Valachica", nr. 12-13, Târgoviște.
- IANCU, Maria, 1974, *Liceul Ienăchiță Văcărescu*, monografie (Ienăchiță Văcărescu High School monograph), Târgoviște.
- NIȚESCU, Fr. Dr. C., 1932. *Mănăstirea Dealu și Liceul Militar "N.Filipescu"* (Dealu Monastery and the N. Filipescu Military High School), Târgoviște.
- OPROIU, Mihai; PÂRVAN Dobrin, 2001, *Târgoviște*, vol. II, Târgoviște.
- SJAN Dâmbovița, Fond *Comitetul Școlar al Orașului Târgoviște* (papers of the School Committee of Târgoviște).
- SJAN Dâmbovița, Fond *Prefectura Județului Dâmbovița* (papers of Dâmbovița County Prefecture).
- SJAN Dâmbovița, Fond *Primăria Orașului Târgoviște* (papers of Târgoviște Town Hall).

¹⁸ *Idem*, dos. 37/1878, f. 3, dos. 91/1878, f. 8 și 42, dos.10/1912, f. 4 și 15.