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2011 **ALLRO**

ANTHROPOLOGY AND LITERATURE

Abstracts, Bibliographies:

Openings

1. Marcel CORNIS-POPE - NEW LITERARY HYBRIDS IN THE AGE OF MULTIMEDIA EXPRESSION. REFLECTIONS ON A THEMATIC PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF ICLA / **11** (Article code 367-001)

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Abstract: *Historically, textual study has meant writing and reading verbal texts in the medium of print. Today, however, the concept of "texts" has expanded far beyond the printed word. The final decades of the twentieth century witnessed an explosion of new, popular media forms—notably the internet, television, advertising, video, and digitized sound—as well as a worldwide shift towards the visual, the mass-produced, and the virtual text. This shift has opened up new domains of human achievement in art and culture, but it has also generated new ways of understanding the art and culture of the past, in relation to their medium (the book, the manuscript, the gallery, the museum). The following article describes a book*

project, edited by the author of this essay, which focuses on literary production and expression in multimedia environments. Literature remains an important focus of research, even as its modes of manifestation and interaction with multimedia environments expand to include new hybrids that stretch the traditional definition of what is “literary”. The proposed volume will draw on recent theoretical and applied work in the field of electronic and multimedia literature, expanding, reorienting, and at times correcting it. While the author and his collaborators are eager to build on previous work in the field of multimedia communication, they are also aware that phenomena in this field change or become rapidly obsolete. New theorizations of multimedia work are not only welcome but also necessary. The volume will be divided into five sections, covering: 1) Theoretical and Methodological Questions; 2) Multimedia Productions in Historical Perspective; 3) Regional and Intercultural Projects; 4) Forms and Genres; 5) Readers and Rewriters in Multimedia Environments. The volume is scheduled to be published in early 2013.

Key-words: Literature and multimedia, medium of print, hybrid texts, paradigm shift, digimodernism vs postmodernism, text stretching and redefining, project, ICLA.

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2. Ion SIMUȚ - WHAT HAPPENED TO ROMANIAN LITERATURE DURING POST-COMMUNISM? A PLEA FOR A SYMPTOMATIC CRITIQUE OF LITERARY CHANGES / 27 (article code 368-002)

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Abstract: *An ordinary reader (that is anyone but a literary critic) watches in perplexity the years after 1989: it would be difficult for him to say what happened. I have often been asked to give an answer, as short as possible, to such a query: How should we understand the state of Romanian literature in the Post-December period? Where do these disturbances come from? What has changed? What specific tendencies have emerged? How can one draw the diagram of aesthetic tensions and how can one describe the tectonic of the literary genres and values, without going into the specific problems of the prose, poetry, theatre, literary criticism or history? A critique of the symptoms of literary changes would be able to describe the phenomenon.*

Key-words: internal changes of the Romanian literature after 1989, new emergent perceptions on literature, contestations, the variable ratio between fiction and non-fiction, nowadays literary trends, the stable canon and alteration of the canon

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Anthropology and the universe of folktales

3. Péter BÁLINT - THE ROLE OF SILENCE IN FOLKTALES /36

Abstract: *The article suggests how the two fundamental methods of analysis: the historical-geographical and the structuralist should be brought together through the study of tales of many regions and of the 'variants' emerging in the tales. The idea is that we would turn back towards the source of the tale, and story- (and) tale-telling, specifically to the spoken or told history of the tale (tales are often built-up on each other), in this sense to the basic communicative situations (interaction) that exist between the teller and the audience. It might be added that the reading and analysis of folk tale collections that have been published thus far require us to adopt the same basic approach.*

Key-words: tale, collector, myth, universal motifs, creative tale-telling

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4. Florin CIOBAN - THE PAST AND PRESENT RESEARCH OF ROMANIAN FOLKLORE IN HUNGARY / 66

Abstract: *The article is an approach of some contemporary anthropological and folkloristical experience in the field of traditional fairy tales and their preservation in the milieu of Romanian minority in Hungary. Interaction and preservation, tradition and contemporary reality are only some issues discussed here, focusing on a particular case of a representative family. The inhabitants of Salonta (with Hungarians living in Romania) and Micherechi (with Romanians living in Hungary), over the years, having the same basic occupations and the same goal to ensure better living conditions, are a special case of exchange of traditions. The heritage of storytelling is preserved and passed on to the children of Micherechi.*

Key-words: folkloristical experience, Romanian minority in Hungary, preservation of tradition, bilingual storyteller, exchange of traditions

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5. Zoltán BÓDIS - DREAM AS NARRATIVE CONSTITUTION OF IDENTITY IN FOLKTALES/71

Abstract: *This research article deals with the ontology of tale, regarded as the “coming into existence” of the hero and of the tale-listeners. Tale telling may be experienced as a boundary crossing – rite de passage – that on the one hand may be compared to adolescent initiation rituals, and on the other hand may be connected to funerary rites. In the background we can find the linguistic characteristics of initiation that make the sacral aspects of communication visible. Following Lüthi’s interpretation, tales are linguistic phenomena that, by displaying their own world order, create the self-identity of those who enter that world. A dream itself becomes significant through the act of narration, because this is how it can be shared and stored in memory and this is how it becomes the source of an individual’s self-interpretation. The dream in tales is not directed towards the future; it is not a tool for prophecies, it does not reanimate the past, but simultaneously creates the present.*

Key-words: tales, dream, world-order, words, narration, identity construction, one-dimensional world, Dream-lad

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6. Gábor BICZÓ - CONCEPTION OF FRIENDSHIP IN THE HUNGARIAN FOLKTALES / 87

Abstract: *Friendship in its universal sense is a widespread socio-cultural form of relationship whose importance is obvious from the number of analytical and other works which deal with it. Our common experience tells us that friendship is an important founding element in the organization of social communities. Wherever we look, both our own experience of events and contemporary local communities bear witness to the fact that friendship is a decisive factor in making our everyday lives liveable.*

Key-words: friendship as relation, social communities, friendship in folk tales, tale interpretation

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7. Magda DANCIU - SPATIALIZING EVERYDAY PRACTICES:THE KITCHEN EXPERIENCE / 103
(Article code 373-007)

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Abstract: *The present paper conflates issues of space studies and of the anthropology of everydayness in an attempt to render the possibility of a new approach to literary texts from a multidisciplinary perspective, thus opening new avenues of investigating fiction within the context of blurring or vanishing borders between discourses.*

Key words: space, everyday practices, production, consumption

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8. Anemona ALB - CONSUMER EXCESS, OBJECT BULIMIA AND ALL THINGS PLENTIFUL
IN CHICK LIT / 109 (Article code 374-008)

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Abstract: *As gluttony or greed both represent a possible facet of the gastronomic experience, in this paper I set out to look at how greed in its shopaholic stance is instantiated in several chick lit novels - the term chick lit means literature for chicks, i.e. young ladies - or more specifically in what I term 'object bulimia' or modernist rationality gone bad in postmodernism. Indeed it is part and parcel of the current Zeitgeist, l'air du temps for people to engage in excess, to revel in consumer cornucopia. The new forms of feasting (as opposed to fasting in the Bakhtian vein), of engaging in consumption of the horn-of-plenty of goods and services in consumer society, that include shopaholism (i.e. a form of ideological alcoholism, the addiction to shopping) and the consummate shopaholic are the subject-matter of many a chick lit novels. Equally saliently, a cultural avatar of the shopaholic - the y.u.p.p.ie / the upwardly-mobile career woman, whose gluttony is of a more utilitarian nature in the sense that she needs to make room at the top for herself, but room at the top is never enough, her corporate greed obscuring all other existential areas, as Bridget Jones miserably shows in her - aborted - trajectories in Disturbia, or personal Hell. The two chick lit novels I am looking at in this paper for textual evidence of the above are Helen Fielding's Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (1999) and Sophie Kinsella's Shopaholic Abroad (2001). And last but not least, it is up to men - according to Candace Bushnell (the author of Sex and the City published in 1996) - to generate alternative paradigms to consumerism and shameless indulging in cornucopia and to herald the way out of this paradigmatic labyrinth, indeed to attempt metanoia, i.e. a change in the mindset, in the mental arrangement of our female protagonists. The way to do this is to overtly engage in minimalism.*

Keywords: cornucopia/horn-of-plenty, consumerism, consumer excess, object bulimia, shopaholic, yuppie-ism, minimalism.

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**9. Delia RADU - JOANNE HARRIS` GASTRONOVELS OR WEAVING FICTION
AROUND FOOD / 117(Article code 375-009)**

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Abstract: *For Joanne Harris, food reveals people's character, personality, attitude to life and other people, it's a way of expressing oneself, an opinion she shares with Mexican novelist Laura Esquivel. The magic universe she creates in her novels is inspired by the already classic fairy-tales written by Romantic authors such as brothers Grimm, Andersen and Perrault, where food plays unusual roles and has magical properties. Chocolate to ease pains and solve domestic problems, wine that contains and unleashes long-forgotten memories, feelings and words of the past, recipes that cover a family's secrets which is gradually deciphered while cooking them, these ideas make up the plot of the author's three novels, "Chocolat", "Blackberry Wine" and "Five Quarters of the Orange" our paper focuses on. Although the novels are woven around food, they also cover essential themes such as identity, attitudes towards the Other, the outsider, in small communities, the world of art, war time realities, a.s.o.*

Key-words: *contemporary British fiction, food, identity, sin, intolerance, the Other, memories*

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**10. Magdalena INDRIEȘ - LE SACRÉ DE LA NOURRITURE DANS
MEMOIRES D'HADRIEN/ 125 (Article code 376-010)**

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Abstract: *In this research article, we aim to show that, for the famous writer Marguerite Yourcenar, the notion of sacred has a special meaning different from that of religion. The entire cosmos is permeated with the sacred. Therefore the sacred is retraceable even in the universe's most simple components, such as food. If food is sacred, this has a direct and immediate effect on the body to which it transmits the essence of immortality. The food is then the link between man and the other kingdoms, between the microcosm and the macrocosm. The attitude towards food is the expression of a philosophical conception on man.*

Keywords: *sacred food, sobriety, simplicity, nature, immortality.*

Résumé: *Dans cet exposé, on a essayé de démontrer que pour l'écrivain français Marguerite Yourcenar, la notion de sacré a une signification particulière, différente de celle religieuse. Tout le cosmos est imprégné de ce sacré et par conséquent on le retrouve dans ses composants les plus simples, comme les aliments. Si la nourriture est sacrée, ce fait a une conséquence directe et immédiate sur le corps auquel elle transmet l'essence de l'immortalité. La nourriture représente ensuite le lien entre l'homme et les autres règnes, entre le microcosme et le macrocosme. L'attitude envers la nourriture est l'expression d'une conception philosophique de l'homme. L'empereur Hadrien manifeste envers cette composante, si nécessaire et si importante de la vie, de la sobriété et y recherche la simplicité, le contact direct avec la nature et avec nos origines humaines.*

Mots clés: *sacré, nourriture, sobriété, simplicité, nature, immortalité*

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**11. Dana SALA - COOKING AS THE GATEWAY TO IMAGINARY - REALNESS CONCOCTION
IN JOSÉ SARAMAGO'S *THE ELEPHANT'S JOURNEY* AND DIANA ADAMEK'S *THE SWEET
STORY OF THE SAD ELEPHANT* / 133 (Article code 377-011)**

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Abstract: *Cooking can become the alchemy of transmuting realness into the imaginary and vice versa. Two fake historical contemporary novels speak of the unnamable visceral desires that are aroused by facts of imagination. The same real or legendary fact of the journey of an elephant given as a royal gift is the pretext of two different novels: José Saramago's 2008 *The Elephant's Journey* (the hypo-text) and Diana Adamek's 2011 *The Sweet Story of the Sad Elephant*. Saramago's novel catches the cosmic and ancient epic rhythms of the world under elephant's march across Europe. In the Romanian novel, Roro, the elephant-like man, is the eye through which the world is seen, but he is at the same time the eye regarded by others. The world changes around him, as if the world has started to be governed by him. Where is Roro, after all? Maybe he is only in the mind of the story-narrator, José (Saramago?!). The two novels tell us about the things that leave no trace in the realm of visible and yet have the power to transform us. Food is the route to the discovery of the hidden desires and longing trapped in the body.*

Key-words: alchemy, food, chef, unnamable desires, melancholy, *Elephant's Journey*, bitter-sweet taste in fiction

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12. Fabrice DE POLI - IL PIACERE POETICO E LA MEMORIA DI SÉ NELLO ZIBALDONE DI GIACOMO LEOPARDI / 141(Article code 378-012)

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Abstract: In his analyses present in his unique intellectual diary, *Zibaldone*, Leopardi emphasizes the importance of the work of art as a mirror of who benefits and who seeks, in the aesthetic dimension, a way to remedy his /her own insatiable sensitivity. The purpose of these pages is to show how philosophical reflection on man, especially on memory, desire and *amor proprio* allow Leopardi to develop an acute analysis of poetic pleasure – both the pleasure of the poet who writes and that of the *lecteur*.

Key-words: Leopardi`s *Zibaldone*, involuntary memory, pleasure of representation, art`s mirror, reason versus nature, poetic sensitivity

Abstract: *Nelle sue analisi, Leopardi sottolinea l'importanza dell'opera d'arte come specchio di chi ne usufruisce e di chi cerca, nella dimensione estetica, un modo di porre rimedio all'inappagamento della propria sensibilità. Lo scopo di queste pagine è di mostrare come la riflessione filosofica sull'uomo, in particolare sulla memoria, sul desiderio e sull'amor proprio, permettano a Leopardi di sviluppare un'acuta analisi del piacere poetico – sia piacere del poeta che scrive che piacere del lettore.*

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13. Paul MAGHERU - THE IDENTIKIT PICTURE OF THE INSIGNIFICANT MAN IN ANTON CHEKHOV`S SKETCHES / 150(Article code 379-013)

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Abstract: *The ordinary man as a special typology and the aesthetic of the insignificance are a late emergence in literature. Only realism uprooted the persistent paradigm of grandeur imposed by heroic times and bestowed a stable citizenship to the character of humble man. Balzac, Flaubert, Dickens, Gogol, Chekhov believed that grand literature should grant the insignificant a major role. Chekhov is the writer of a time-lapse disaggregating. There are two stages in Chekhov`s works regarding the aspect of petit clerk typology. If the early sketches use too much a black-and-white, inferior-superior pattern, the second-stage sketches, after 1889, are more refined and complex, more dauntless and more questioning of the ideological impact on human psychology.*

Key-words: typology, the aesthetics of the insignificant, humble man, realism, Chekhov`s sketches;

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14. Ioan DERȘIDAN - UN MANOSCRITTO DI MONICA LOVINESCU. IL FONDO SPECIALE DEL LIBRO DELLA BIBLIOTECA UNIVERSITARIA DI ORADEA – DOCUMENTO E LETTERATURA / 155 (Article code 380-014)

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Abstract: *Monica Lovinescu (1923-2008), married to critic Virgil Ierunca, was a famous Romanian writer, essayist, literary critic and journalist. She was the daughter of the critic Eugen Lovinescu. She was*

an opponent of the Romanian Communist regime, creating a tribune for the voices of dissidents at Radio Free Europe. The special book fund Monica Lovinescu-Virgil Ierunca has been donated to the Library of the University of Oradea. This article presents an inedited manuscript of this book-fund, an annotated novel, „Refugii” by Augustin Buzura, bearing the commentaries of Monica Lovinescu.

Abstract: *Le sedici fogli del manoscritto analizza il romanzo Refugii di Augustin Buzura. Presentiamo questo manoscritto. –*

Key-words: *Novel Refugii by Augustin Buzura, Monica Lovinescu, special book fund, library, reading, the obsessive present, history of literature*

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Fondul special de carte al Bibliotecii Universității din Oradea, 1996. (The special book-fund Monica Lovinescu - Virgil Ierunca (2010) donated to the Library of the University of Oradea)

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15. **Cristina BALINTE** - BILAN DE LA FRANCE CULTURELLE D'APRÈS LA GRANDE GUERRE, DANS LES LETTRES DE MICHEL RALEA, ENVOYÉES À LA REVUE «VIAȚA ROMÂNEASCĂ» / 161
(Article code 381-015)

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Abstract: *This research articles reveals the ways in which Mihail Ralea (1896–1964), one of the most brilliant intellectuals of the interwar Romania, identified the very essence of cultural mechanisms even in the simple process of writing the editorials (Lettres de Paris) he sent to the literary journal „Viața românească” («La Vie roumaine»), while he was pursuing his doctorate(s) in Paris. A forerunner of the interdisciplinary studies in an organic, harmoniously totalizing sense, Mihail Ralea excelled in so many of the humanistic sciences that it would be difficult to isolate one: philosophy, literature, aesthetics, law, psychology, sociology, history of European culture, politology, history of social ideas, anthropology. Before he had elaborated his theories on the specificity of Romanian culture, Ralea found as specific for «l'esprit français» the identification with the so-called l'homme générique, abstrait, l'homme-en-soi.*

Key-words: *cultural mechanisms, M. Ralea's "Lettres de Paris", l'homme générique, l'esprit français*

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Viața românească, tome XLIV, année XII, no. 4-6: 300-301 [la lettre est signée Mihai D. Ralea et porte, au début, la date «Juin, 1920»].

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Viața românească, tome XLV, année XIII, no. 1-3: p. 278 [lettre signée Mihai D. Ralea].

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«*Viața românească*», tome XLVII, année XV, no. 1-3: p. 260-266 [lettre signée Mihai D. Ralea].

Viața românească, tome XLVII, année XV, no. 7-9: 195-207.

16. **Crenguța GÂNSCĂ** - VASILE VOICULESCU. AUTHOR OF SCIENCE-FICTION? / 170

(Article code 382-016)

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Abstract: *The article deals with two less known texts belonging to an author canonically considered rather traditionalist. In this context, discovering him as an author of science-fiction texts may be a surprise, not only because of the totally different preoccupation, but because of the very modern approach, one of the texts revealing concerns present also in the contemporary discourses of the environmentalists nowadays, while the other one reveals Vasile Voiculescu as an author with an out-of-ordinary historical intuition, an author who could read and predict through science-fiction the negative events brought up by the instauration of communism in Romania, unfortunately proven true by his literature of anticipation.*

Keywords: science-fiction, eugenics, lobotomy, communism, anticipation, visionary

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17. **Marius MIHEȚ** – THE BEST SUBVERSIVE NOVELLA PUBLISHED IN COMMUNIST ROMANIA / 176 (Article code 383-017)

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Abstract: *The Madman and the Flower is definitely a thought-provoking novel. The reader is surprised by its clear subversive content, expressed through the medium of numerous symbols - the tyrant, the vegetal nation, the moral misery, the mirage of power, the danger of totalitarianism, the political prosecution and the freedom of expression are only a few examples. Such an approach should have been regarded inconceivable in the age of communism. However, the lack of censorship in the countryside might have represented the only chance of this novel to be published. Ironically, it is a work that deserves far more than one chance, since we are talking about an eschatological parable, The heroes stake their selves for understanding truths that might offer them existential(ist) solutions. Heroes carry strong significations and pass through a complex cognitive process, concluding that beneath death is only life. The Madman and the Flower is a successful fusion of poetry, drama and ingenious structure – it is an undervalued masterpiece.*

Key-words: eschatological parable, metaphysical reality, communism, novella, subversive;

WORKS CITED: GUGA, Romulus. *Nebunul și floarea. (The Madman and the Flower)*. Edited by Nicolae Băciut, Târgu-Mureș: Nico, 2011.

**18. Sonia VASS - GHEORGHE CRĂCIUN. THE PATHWAY FROM AUTHENTICITY
TO CORPOREALITY / 182(Article code 384-018)**

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Abstract: *The essay deals with the issue of writing as an adventurous quest for the body, a recurrent theme in Gheorghe Crăciun's prose. The obsession of explaining the language through the human body assumes dismantling the body of its alphabetical armor and "writing" it down as an attempt of returning to the authentic corporeality. Gheorghe Crăciun's lucid autoscopia proposes a pure, Adamic language destined to absorb the emotions, the sensations, the blood and the heartbeats of the writer, consequently the act of writing itself turning into the "flesh" of the narrative and resembling a bodily seismogram that fights the constrictive stereotyping of the letter.*

Key words: Gheorghe Crăciun, corporeality, body, authenticity, language

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**19. Alin CREANGĂ - MYTHOLOGICAL FORESHADOWINGS OF THE POSTMODERN
FRAGMENTARY PROSE (A SPECULATIVE STUDY) / 188(Article code 385-019)**

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Abstract: *Among the most important analysts of contemporary literature are the ones who chose to build their new theory on the very challenging and productive foundation of the mythological. Such approaches are to be noted in Ihab Hassan's reference to the myth of Orpheus in Dismemberment of Orpheus: Toward a Postmodern Literature, as well as in Jacques Derrida's Dissemination or Jean Ricardou's New problems of the novel- both of them creating thorough interpretations of the legend of Osiris. This list could also be completed by Cristian Moraru, with his Poetics of reflection, a volume in which the critic creates an impressive debate based on the myth of Narcissus. In the Romanian cultural space the archetypal image of the artist is painted by the legend of Master Manole, the one who sacrificed himself for the timelessness of his creation.*

As will be demonstrated in the following lines, the exploitation of the mythological has always created the possibility of the development of some complex approaches to the various problems of the human horizon, whether they concerned literature, arts in general, society or simply human existence.

Key-words: postmodernism, dissemination, textual narcissism, fragmentarism

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20. Corina PĂCURAR - THE ROLE OF PRAGMATIC CONNECTORS IN MARIN SORESCU'S DRAMATIC DIALOGUE. THE OCCURRENCE OF BUT / 195 (Article code 386-020)

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Abstract: *Pragmatics has, among others, as an object of study, the argumentation, which is considered a way of acting upon your interlocutor through discourse. With regard to the speech acts which are pertinent for the study of argumentation, a decisive role is played by a number of connectors, rarely taken into consideration by the traditional semantic analysis. Among these, the connector BUT has a special importance, examined in Marin Sorescu's dramatic dialogue.*

Keywords: pragmatics, argumentation, connectors, dramatic discourse, dialogue.

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21. Daniela IEDERAN- MEMORY AS A CHARACTER IN PAUL GOMA'S CALIDOR/ 201 (article code 387-021)

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Abstract: *A literary work based on memory gathers all the spiritual strength of the author in one central point. In fact, this point turns to be the center of an entire fictional universe. The symbol of the point joins the symbolism of the center, as the unique mark of the being.*

Memory has undoubtedly a regaining function, The character is animated though permanent flash-backs: thus he shapes his own destiny as a mosaic.

Memory speaks, yells, cries or whisper together with the character itself. Ezra Pound's imagism, Celine's naturalism and Faulkner's way of confession are echoed in Paul Goma's novel "Din calidor", as far as his style is concerned. But the emotional power of the writing is quite original, as it is hidden behind the apparent roughness.

Key words: memory, calidor, time, voice, existence, conscience

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 22. **Carmen ANDREI** - NICOLAE BALOTĂ ON THE ROMANIAN CRITICISM / 209
 (Article code 388-022)

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Abstract: *The European criticism around the 6-th and 7-th decades of the last century represented a sum of new trends and manners developed by each culture. The most well-known waves of the moment were, of course: Nouvelle Critique, New Criticism, Neue Kritik. The Romanian criticism was also in the process of finding a new identity, which had to follow the evolution of all human sciences. One of the most authoritarian voices of the new generation of critics and essayists was that of Nicolae Balotă. In his monumental 1969 book of essays, Euphorion, he accomplishes a relevant analysis of the phenomenon starting from the polemics between the defenders of the critical manner of George Călinescu and the forwarders of the new critical methods. The conclusion drawn by Nicolae Balotă is that "the involuntary relativism of the new criticism is not epistemological, but, much graver, ontological."*

Key-words: new criticism, hermeneutical analysis, anthropological criticism, cosmological analysis

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Traditions, anniversaries

DUMITRU DRAICA - IOSIF VULCAN AND THE 1865 LITERARY MAGAZINE “FAMILIA”-
 IDENTITY, LANGUAGE, ORTHOGRAPHY / 217; (Article code 389-023)

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Abstract: *Apart from publishing Mihai Eminescu’s debut poems, Iosif Vulcan, founder of the literary magazine “Familia” in 1865, had an important role in the cultural press of the 19th century in the matters of language and orthography. The transition from a Cyrillic alphabet to Latin writing brings along the*

problems of variant spelling, the instability of orthography. As we can see, for the 19th century the question of orthography was ultimately an issue of identity. The controversy in the epoch was about the adoption of the etymological principle in writing, on one hand, and on the other it was the adoption of the phonetic principle. As we can see nowadays, the phonetic principle emerged victorious. Iosif Vulcan was, by his formation, a follower of the Latinist school in favor of the etymological scholarly principle. However, as much as we expected him to be on the opposite side of Maiorescu, because so was his intellectual circle, Iosif Vulcan manifested a moderate position, contradicted the extremists of his party and imposed some of Maiorescu's ideas on the issue of orthography.

Key-words: Cultural unity, language and literature, publications, identity of language and culture, unitary spelling, language and national tradition, Neolatin language

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BOOK REVIEWS

VERONICA BUCIUMAN - A EUROPEAN HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY AND LITERARY CRITICISM /222

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On the book:

Kulturwissenschaftliche Literaturwissenschaft. Disziplinäre Ansätze – Theoretische Positionen – Transdisziplinäre Perspektiven by Ansgar Nünning, Roy Sommer (ed), Tübingen, Gunter Narr Verlag, 2004.

Abstract: This review presents a work of general interest for literary critics and researchers, who deal with such themes pointing to an interdisciplinary approach of literature. This study presents the possibilities of highly conscious usage of the cultural studies terminology in the field of literary criticism from the second half of the 20th century and the first decades of the 21st century. The collective volume, coordinated by a consecrated researcher, professor at the Gießen University, in Germany, offers syntheses, clarifications and examples of applied literary studies from a cultural studies perspective. This collective work brings important clarifications to the notions pertaining to the sphere of the interface between theory of literature and cultural studies.

Key words: Ansgar Nünning, cultural literary studies, European history of philosophy and literary criticism, history of mentalities, interdisciplinarity of literature, sociological and anthropological studies, discourse analyses and poststructuralism

On the book:

Lecturi actuale. Pagini despre literatura română contemporană by Bogdan Crețu, Editura Timpul, Iași, 2006.

Present-day Readings. Pages on Contemporary Romanian Literature, "Timpul" Publishing House, Iași, 2006

Abstract: *The third volume of Bogdan Crețu (born in 1978), Lecturi actuale (Present-day Readings) is the embodiment of equidistance. Many young Romanian would-be critics aspire to this status by using either a trend of denial or a trend of hotshotness. Bogdan Crețu knows that it is preferable for a critic to recognize his limitations. His book is one of commonsensical re-comforting criticism. In the midst of the convulsions of the patched and dispatched fictionality through criticism, he points to the surprising element of the analyzed text. Within the tide of numerous young "critics" highly and deliberately obfuscated by the literature they write about, Bogdan Crețu stands apart, reinforcing the value of moderate, reasonable criticism.*

Key-words: assumed act of criticism, discernment, balanced critic, critical verdict, generation of Romanian young critics

MARIUS MIHEȚ - THE HISTORY OF AN ILLEGIBLE STORY ON WORDS / 227; article code 391-026R6

On the book:

Cuvintele careucid. Memorie literară în romanele lui E. Lovinescu by Ligia Tudurachi prefață de Ioana Bot, Editura Limes, Cluj-Napoca, 2010;

(Words that kill. Literate Memory in E. Lovinescu's Novels, preface by Ioana Bot, Limes Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, 2010

Abstract: *Ligia Tudurachi challenges the linear model adopted by literary historians in treating the prose-writings of Eugen Lovinescu (1881-1943), Romanian critic who swerved the direction of Romanian literature from the ideology of traditionalism to modernism. Previously, Lovinescu's novels were regarded as the not very accomplished attempts of a great critic to write prose. Ligia Tudurachi emphasizes the inner circulation of Lovinescu's discourses from criticism to prose and vice versa. The characters of Lovinescu's novels are unable to sustain their inner balance, but this happens because they live under the fatality of the uttered word. Words become words of terror, terrorizing words, reflections on stereotypes. The young researcher finds credit for her theory of illegibility in Lovinescu's theories on suggestiveness.*

Key-words: Lovinescu's prose, paradoxical characters, fatality of words, suggestiveness, words that kill

MARIUS MIHEȚ - A CRITICAL VOICE ABOUT OTHER CRITICS / 229; article code 393-027R7

On the book:

Fragmentarium. Impresii despre oameni și cărți, by Antonio Patraș Editura Timpul, Iași, 2006; *(Fragmentarium. Impressions on Men and Books*, Timpul Publishing House, Iași, 2006)

Abstract: *Antonio Patraș's book, Fragmentarium, reveals him as a very good diagnostician of literature, a consecrated figure among the young Romanian critics under 40. He belongs to a new generation of critics rooted in the balance of strong verdicts on literature, who prefer to state judgments confirmable by*

time, instead of juggling with withdrawable findings. The most exciting sections of this book are by far those dedicated to validated critics. Antonio Patraş has the courage to assess and resort to the act of critiquing many important Romanian literary critics. The talented author of this book is likely to become one of the leaders who decide in time the stakes in the arena of Romanian criticism.

Key-words: verdicts on literature, criticism, validated critics, generations of Romanian critics

MARIUS MIHEȚ- THE CRITIC (OR THE POET)'S DISOWNMENT OF IRONY / **232** article code 394-028R8

On the book:

Șapte teme ale romanului postpașoptist by Andrei Bodiu

(*Seven Themes of Romanian 19th Century Post-forty-eight novel*,

Paralela 45 Publishing House, Pitești)

Abstract: Andrei Bodiu is a consecrated Romanian postmodernist poet. He surprises his readers with a book in the form of an essay, entitled *Șapte teme ale romanului postpașoptist* (Seven Themes of Romanian 19th Century Post-forty-eight novel:1855-1865). This book risks interpreting the nebulous time of novel-writing beginnings in Romanian literature. His essay leaves aside the irony distinguishable in his poetry. The book is addressed to students and is designated like an intellectual game in order to make more comprehensible and more appealing that decade of Romanian literature. Andrei Bodiu finds multiple keys of interpretation and multiple openings, conducting to the possible stakes of this study, which is "How to better understand our postmodernists by rereading the classical".

Key-words: novel-writing beginnings in the Romanian literature; essay and intellectual game; postmodern irony; l'amour, society, city, suffering, death, writing as novel themes.

DANA SALA -THE CRITIC AND THE LIVE-ABLE TEXTS AND WORLDS / **236;** article code 395-029R9

On the book:

Literatura română contemporană. Prelungiri, by Irina Petraş

(*Romanian Contemporary Literature. Follow-Throughs*)

Cluj-Napoca, Casa Cărții de Știință Publishing House, 2010

Abstract: Books are live-able, one should abide in them. Akin to Heideggerian terminology, the critic is the person who receives the text as the very world or home of the author whose text is dealt with. This is the new vision of critiquing embraced by Irina Petraş, author of *Literatura română contemporană. Prelungiri* (Romanian Contemporary Literature. Follow-Throughs). Once assuming the choice that a certain text is worth-abiding in it, the critic explores it with the risks of exploring a new world, rather than for the sake of finding the faults and criticising the author. Irina Petraş's unique style of criticism is succulent, always refined and flavoured with the sensations given by the "inhabited" texts.

Key-words: criticism, Romanian contemporary literature, panorama, abiding in texts

BOOKS IN CIRCUIT

DANA SALA- NOVEL'S FORCE OF ABSORPTION /**238**

On the book:

Title in Romanian: *Gândirea romanului*, by Toma PAVEL,

Humanitas Press, Bucharest, 2008

Original title: LA PENSÉE DU ROMAN

Translated from French by Mihaela Mancaş

Abstract: Toma Pavel's research on the theory of the novel, *La pensée du roman*, is a book of a lifetime vision. The author has the indisputable merit of linking the theory of novel with man's orientation towards transcendence. His thesis is a new way of looking at the history of novel as the plait of two

tendencies: the idealistic and anti-idealistic, modeled by man's relating to otherworldly heavens or soul-imprinted images. The idealistic wave of the novel is the quest for perfection. La pensée du roman may reveal why, never mind how punctilious the architecture of a novel is on the vertical scale, the centre of a novel is a labyrinth and it is so due to its force of absorption. Toma Pavel's theories freely arrange themselves just like the grain of sands in a sand-glass. In the magic mirror of the theory on the novel we see the past and its marks and we also see the mirror of our time.

Key-words: novel, genre, idealistic wave of the novel, realistic wave, rethinking the theory of the novel, new vision on the novel

THE LANGUAGE WE LIVE IN. Books on language

VALERICA DRAICA – A BEST –SELLER BOOK ON LANGUAGE / 241; article code 397-031R11

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On the book:

101 cuvinte moștenite, împrumutate și create, by Marius Sala, Humanitas Publishing House, Bucharest, 2010 (101 Words Inherited, Borrowed and Created)

Abstract: Marius Sala's book speaks about words as about living things, although they are considered from the point of view of lexicology, therefore from a scientific perspective. The author discusses the birth, life and death of words. This book is a fabulous research tool for those willing to find more things about Romanian. It speaks about the Latin heritage, about Romanian as importer and exporter of words. The book is already a great success.

Key-words: Romanian lexicology, Latin words, life of the words, words as living beings, etymology

PERENNIAL BOOKS

DANA SALA -THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE COLLECTIVE/245; article code 398-032R12

On the book:

L'individu, la mort, l'amour. Soi-même et l'autre en Grece ancienne, By Jean-Pierre Vernant
Gallimard, © 1989, present edition: 2007 (in French)

Abstract: As we can see from Jean-Pierre Vernant's (1914-2007) exemplary life, his own consciousness and the collective consciousness of the „polis” never excluded each other. Vernant is the anthropologist who revealed the depths of our ancient-Greece based thinking. *L'individu, la mort, l'amour. Soi-même et l'autre en Grece ancienne* reveals how the values of the collective rendered different senses for the individual apprehension of death, eros and conscience. For the ancient Greeks, one face of death(that which is not absolute terror) incarnates values seeded in the absolute, in the ideal, more than in the intimacy of subject. Eros is viewed as different from Plato's concept of Penia (deficiency) but in connection with the excess of plenitude, the plenitude of One as in the orphic Eros.

Key-words: individual in ancient Greece, anthropology, funerary ideology, alterity, orphic Eros.