

The history of the Romanian University of Cluj, in the documents of a private archive

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Abstract: The present study was started on the basis of the documents contained in a private archive, transferred in 2004 into the property of the Romanian state and currently located in the Special Collections section of the “Octavian Goga” Cluj County Library. These are Dumitru Popovici's (1902-1952) personal and professional documents, professor of the history of Romanian literature at the University of Cluj from 1936 until his death, one of the most important Romanian literary historians of the interwar period, author of important studies concerning the Enlightenment, Romanticism and modern Romanian literature. Safekept by his family, many of the documents in Popovici's personal archive manage to complete sequences of the history of Romanian university life, where the Communist Regime, with its various purges, destroyed the archives of official institutions. Based on these documents, and through a careful reconstruction of the life of the professor, new perspectives on various aspects of the Romanian intellectual history of the last century are opened: the history of several Romanian academic and cultural institutions, the history of various university disciplines and specialisations, the personal history of an important university figure in the transformation of the Romanian academic space etc.

Keywords: Dumitru Popovici, university history, intellectual history, “King Ferdinand I” University of Cluj, Romanian university programs.

Introduction

The present article is part of an extensive project, focusing on the research of the personal archive (documents and manuscripts) of Dumitru Popovici, respectively the complete editing of his work in literary history, including the university courses taught between 1936 (the year in which he won the contest for the position of professor of History of Romanian Literature at “King Ferdinand I” University of Cluj) and 1952 (the year of his death). Coordinated by Adrian Tudurachi, a scientific researcher at the “Sextil Pușcariu” Institute of the Romanian Academy from the Cluj branch, the project involves a team of researchers from the Modern Literary Philology Research Center (FiM), who have over 10 years of experience in conducting research and publishing similar editions, starting from the personal archive of Ioana Em. Petrescu (1941 – 1990), another exceptional professor of Romanian literature at “Babeș-Bolyai” University of Cluj Napoca. The previous project, undertaken between 2008 and 2022, was coordinated by Ioana Bot.

Dumitru Popovici (1902 – 1952) was one of the most important historians of Romanian modernity, author of some fundamental studies dedicated to *Literatura românească în epoca „Luminării”* [*Romanian Literature in the Age of Enlightenment*] (Sibiu, 1945), *Romantism românesc* [*Romanian Romanticism*] (Bucharest, 1969, ed. II – 1974) and to various major authors of the 19th century Romanian literature (Mihai Eminescu, Ion Heliade Rădulescu, Cezar Bolliac etc.)¹. Having died prematurely, D. Popovici left behind the idea that he had failed to write an editible posthumous work. During the later years of the 1960s, his daughter, Ioana Em. Petrescu would dismantle this prejudice, starting the process of editing the work of her father, who met an untimely end. She also has the merit of having preserved the personal archive of the literary historian, which can now be consulted in the Special Collections section of the “Octavian Goga” Cluj County Library, together with D. Popovici's personal library, a great treasure of old Romanian and foreign books, that are rare or have become rare as a result of the destruction of numerous volumes, periodicals and their circulation,

¹ For more information about the scientific activity of D. Popovici and his impact on the Romanian literary studies, see Bot & Tudurachi (2022) and Petrescu (2001).

from public libraries at the hands of the communist censorship in the half-century long dictatorship that followed the Second World War in Romania.

Along with the profusion of manuscripts that the FiM Research Center team is currently working on, Dumitru Popovici's archive contains yet another treasure – represented by personal and official documents that marked his intimate or institutional stages of life: from the birth certificate issued by the mayor of Șerbănești (Olt county), through the documents of the student years and the various exams of his career as a secondary education teacher and as a doctoral student in Bucharest and later in Paris, down to the documents of his university activity, as a full professor at the University of Cluj (starting with the documents of the competition that led to his hiring, and which reveal a special “story”, proving the ability of a democratic academic institution to oppose backstage politics²). On the basis of these documents, we were able to reconstruct the chronology of the life and activity of the professor, which will be reproduced below. We considered that its unfolding, in the cadence of the years and the restored data, is the most compelling way to introduce today's reader, interested in the history of Romanian university education, in the primary constituent material of that history, from which three axes of restitutive reflection can be assembled, namely:

1. A first axis that the archived documents reconstruct concerns of the professional career of a son of Romanian rural intellectuals, in the first half of the 19th century, from the school of Șerbănești village in Olt county, to the University of Bucharest, respectively to the Superior School of Oriental Languages from Paris, and later conducting the Seminar dedicated to the history of Romanian literature at the youngest Romanian university of the time, “King Ferdinand I” University of Cluj. The economic situation, precarious at best, of the young Popovici could be compensated both both by circumstantial solutions and university scholarships, won by the exceptional students following several competitions. It is an entire individual destiny,

² A reconstruction of the respective competition on the basis of the archive used in the present study as well can be found in Curticeanu (2022).

not bereft of dramatic episodes, reconstructable from the pages of the archive documents.

2. A second axis – probably the richest in terms of documentation – concerns the internal life of the University of Cluj, and the organisation of higher education in a field of utmost necessity (Romanian language and literature, national philology etc.), but also scientific excellence. Course and seminar programs, examination topics, teaching aids, meeting minutes of the department of the History of Romanian Literature, the organisation of the seminar library, the organisation and development of competitions for teaching positions, interdisciplinary collaboration, elections for leadership positions at the university, the reports required by the Ministry of National Education (periodic or exceptional), all this administrative activity is reproduced in its proximity by the archive documents, but also on the basis of the coordinates of the relationship between the respective academic tasks and the career options of a university professor of indisputable devotion to his vocation. This chapter also includes all the documents (official and private) that concern the vicissitudes encountered by the University of Cluj during the Second World War, when it took refuge in Sibiu, following the cession of Northern Transylvania to Hungary under Horthy in the autumn of 1940. The first constitutive documents of the Democratic University Group (the initiative committee also included D. Popovici, who kept numerous drafts of the first meetings), as a reaction against the wartime right-wing dictatorship of Ion Antonescu, are also found intact here. And last but not least, we came across documents that speak, indirectly, about the installation of communist / Soviet political control in the University of Cluj after 1945 (more accentuated after 1949, when the communist reform of education occurs): the control of teaching staff and students, political purges, investigations disguised as “declarations of political allegiance”, all of these can be read in the palimpsest of the documents preserved by D. Popovici and his family. We are all the more interested in these, now, as the successive communist administrations in Romania from 1948 to 1989 were constantly careful to erase of the traces of the

reprehensible actions of the Political Power, periodically “cleansing” the funds of the official archives, which such private archives come to reconstitute and complete, restoring a much needed accurate history of their epochs.

3. Thirdly, having an impact on the historical profile of scientific excellence assumed by the University of Cluj, we draw attention to certain founding, institutional acts, initiated by Professor Dumitru Popovici, which embodied, in the middle of the last century, the efforts of Romanian academics to comply with the scientific standards of European universities. We are referring to the founding, by D. Popovici, at the Seminar on the History of Romanian Literature in Cluj, of the first Romanian scientific journal of literary studies, entitled simply “Literary Studies”, with an annual periodicity and a content worthy of what nowadays is globally accredited and recognised as a “scientific journal of high impact” in a field such a modern philology. Moreover, on the University's return to Cluj from the refuge, D. Popovici obtains the approval of the University Senate for the creation of an Institute of Literary History, for advanced research, with a multinational and multicultural team (the team included Romanian, Hungarian, Italian, French etc. specialists), with its own research budget and collective projects on current issues. The “model” invoked by D. Popovici in the official memoirs, a significant detail for the general orientation of the University in which he wanted to fit, is the Institute of Speleology founded by Emil Racoviță in Cluj, and whose world scientific prestige represents the standard of excellence at which the edifice proposed by D. Popovici aspires. As might be expected, the Communist Regime tacitly buried such an initiative, and the sudden disappearance of D. Popovici facilitated the repudiation of such scientific aspirations of European level, contrary to the new regime that was imposed in postwar Romania. Rediscovered today, they speak of a free academic world, benefitting from a democratic functioning, from an internal democracy, with programs of excellence assumed at the highest level of the University.

Therefore, they speak about a university world that preceded us and with which, today, we seek to re-establish historical ties, in order to build the university of the future. Like any descent into the archives, this history lesson is, in fact, about the future of the institution of the university and the future of studies in the field, in particular, of Romanian studies. Before being interpreted and used in specialised studies, the official and private documents from the D. Popovici collection must be rediscovered as objective evidence of the tradition and excellence of the modern university of Cluj.

Dumitru Popovici (1902-1952). Life and work chronology

1870 (1871?) Ioan Popovici is born, the nephew of the priest Scarlat Ghioca (known as “popa Scarlat”), the first pedagogue of Șerbănești commune (since 1838). A theology graduate, descended from a family of priests, he refused to be ordained and becomes a teacher in Șerbănești, Olt county. According to D. Popovici, his father participated in the peasant movements, starting with 1900. Considered as agitators of the peasants, the rural teachers were moved from one school to another, in order to thwart their efforts to coagulate the peasant movement. In the winter of 1899, Ioan Popovici became a teacher in his native commune, Dăneasa (where he offers a room of his own family house as a school place). Here, Ioan Popovici became once again involved in the peasant movements, so that in 1907 he was sentenced to death for his role in the Peasants' Revolt – the death sentence was changed to a short-time prison sentence. He returned home ill and died in 1914.

1874 Ioana (née Popescu or Șerbănescu?), the future wife of Ioan Popovici (housewife), was also born in Șerbănești.

1897 The first child of the Popovici couple, Petru, is born, who will become a teacher (graduated in 1916 from the Drobeta Turnu Severin Teachers' School), returning to his home village after the war, where he would marry and have several children, who went to school in Bucharest and settled far from their native village. He was a member of

the Socialist Party (“Voitec group”³), as stated by D. Popovici in a document requested by the staff selection of Babeş University during the 1948/49 education reform, however, D. Popovici continues, “I do not know his current situation, because we haven’t seen each other for years.” He died in 1980.

1898 or 1901 (uncertain data) Gheorghe, the second son of the Popovici family is born. He would later become a priest (“popa Gogu”) in Şerbăneşti (after being a teacher for several years, together with his older brother). He had completed 8 classes in theological seminary and was to serve at the church in Şerbăneştii de Jos. He died as a young man around the Second World War, which may explain the absence of any reference to him in D. Popovici's autobiographies written after 1945.

The documents kept in D. Popovici's archive confirm the relations, probably very distant ones, between the professor from Cluj and the family left in Oltenia.

October 25, 1902 Dumitru Popovici was born in Dăneasa commune (Şerbăneşti district, Olt county), in the house of his parents.

1909 – 1914 D. Popovici attends primary school in Şerbăneşti Olt.

1914 – 1923 He is a student at the “Radu Greceanu” Boys' High School, in Slatina (baccalaureate in July 1923). According to the autobiographical drafts kept in the family archives, in grades V – VI (1919–1921) D. Popovici worked as a preparatory teacher in a family, while in grades VII – VIII (1921–1923) he temporarily replaced a teacher in primary education (Buta village, Olt county). “In this way I was able to provide for myself, I managed to obtain the books I needed for studying and I was able to pay the exam fees”. An interesting episode from this period: in 1920–1921, D. Popovici was a substitute teacher and class master at the school in Şerbăneştii de Sus, in which capacity he addressed a report to the School Inspectorate of Olt County requesting the establishment in the same village of a School for the illiterate adults.

³ Ştefan Voitec (1900-1984) was a member of the Socialist Party of Romania, later forming the Socialist Workers Party of Romania, then the United Socialist Party.

During the same period - when he filled multiple teaching positions around his native village, preparing in particular for his high school exams (after the death of his father the situation of the family was very precarious), D. Popovici probably got acquainted with Dumitru Caracostea⁴, the son of the noble landowner family from Șerbănești (in fact, the mansion was in the vicinity of the school), who spent a lot of time in the locality (among the villagers he was called “Mr. Mitică”). Unverifiable family sources claimed, however, that Dumitru Caracostea was already Dumitru Popovici’s godfather (in the name of the good relationship between the “boyar” Caracostea and the teacher from Șerbănești of the time, Petrică Popovici)⁵.

1923 – 1927 D. Popovici is studying at the Faculty of Letters in Bucharest, where he obtains a degree in Modern Philology (Romanian literature). Among his professors were O. Densusianu⁶, D. Caracostea, N. Cartoian⁷, I. Bianu⁸. His final exam was held on May 20. Throughout his studies he was the beneficiary of a scholarship from the University.

1924 – 1926 Honorary assistant of Professor Dumitru Caracostea at the University of Bucharest, where he participated in the organization of the bibliographic service of the Seminar on Modern Literary History. The research undertaken during this period leads to his first

⁴ Dumitru Caracostea (1879-1964) was a folklorist, literary historian and critic. As a professor at the University of Bucharest, department of modern Romanian literature and folklore, he held courses on the History of Modern Romanian Literature, before being excluded from the education sector during the Communist Regime, for serving as Minister of National Education during the far-right administrations of Ion Gigurtu and Ion Antonescu.

⁵ This is what Liviu Petrescu claimed in the 90's. We have not yet found any document to confirm this story, although it is not implausible.

⁶ Ovid Densusianu (1873-1938) was a philologist, linguist, folklorist, literary historian and Romanian poet, full member of the Romanian Academy and professor at the University of Bucharest.

⁷ Nicolae Cartoian (1883-1944) was a literary historian, publicist, full member of the Romanian Academy, specializing in Old Romanian Literature, professor at the University of Bucharest.

⁸ Ioan C. Bianu (1856-1935) was a philologist and bibliographer, full member and president of the Romanian Academy, head of the first Department of History of Romanian Literature, at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy in Bucharest. He organized the library of the Romanian Academy, endowing it with a large number of manuscripts, books and periodicals.

professional study, *The Poetry of Cezar Bolliac* (published in “Viața românească”, no. 11–12, 1929). He also took part in the organization of the bibliography service of the Romanian Literature Seminar.

1926 – 1927 Substitute teacher at the Normal School for Boys in Slatina.

1927 He undergoes the capacity certificate examination for secondary education, at the Pedagogical Seminar in Bucharest, with Romanian literature as his main specialty and history as his secondary specialty.

1927 – 1928 Licensed substitute teacher, at the upper course of the Commerce School in Slatina (teaching Romanian and German according to some statements, or Romanian, Latin and history - according to others - which would be more in line with his bachelor’s diplomas).

1928 Together with several colleagues from Slatina, D. Popovici founded the local magazine “Oltul”, where he published a collection of folk poetry, as well as short studies on literary topics, which he will not retain in later bibliographies. The magazine will benefit from the collaboration of famous writers, such as Nicolae Iorga⁹, Jean Bart¹⁰, Tudor Arghezi¹¹, but will cease to appear in 1931.

September 1, 1928 - December 1, 1928 Full-time teacher of Romanian language and literature, at the elementary school and at the high school of the Commerce School from Slatina. From this function, he publishes together with Gh. Vișoiu, *Elemente de istoria limbii și literaturii române lucrare alcătuită în vederile programei oficiale pentru examenul de bacalaureat* [Elements of the history of Romanian language and literature, a paper composed in view of the official program for the baccalaureate exam] (Slatina, Moșt C. Constantinescu-(Bulbeș) Printing House and Bookbinding).

⁹ Nicolae Iorga (1871-1940) was a historian, politician, literary critic, memoirist, professor, Albanologist, poet and playwright.

¹⁰ Jean Bart is the literary pseudonym of Eugeniu P. Botez (1874-1933), prose writer, cultivating the logbook and the marine sketch in Romanian Literature.

¹¹ Tudor Arghezi, born Ion N. Theodorescu (1880-1967), poet, prose writer, playwright and journalist.

December 1, 1928 – August 31 **1929** Military recruit, to satisfy the obligatory military service. The military record states that he was discharged on September 7, 1929, as a reserve artillery sergeant. He will no longer be incorporated.

1929 Debut with the study *Poezia lui Cezar Bolliac* [The Poetry of Cezar Bolliac], published in “Viața românească”, no. 11–12, 1929.

1929 – 1930 Full-time teacher of Romanian language, at the elementary school and at the high school of the Commerce School from Slatina. He lives in Slatina, on Gării street no. 5 (Slatina City Hall issues him a certificate of citizenship and religion with these data, in order to obtain the passport necessary for his future departure to Paris).

1930 – 1936 Full-time teacher at the Boys’ Elementary Commerce School in Iași. Participates in the (failed) attempts to unionize teachers from Iași.

1931 – 1932 Substitute Romanian language teacher at the Military High School in Iași.

1930 – 1934 He benefits from a scholarship for doctoral studies in Paris, where he also holds the position of Romanian language lecturer at Sorbonne (at the Institute of Romanian Philology, where he will teach Romanian language practical courses, respectively *Introduction to the history of modern Romanian literature, Interpretations of Eminescu, Interpretations of Vasile Alecsandri, History of Romanian Literary Historiography*) and at the School of Oriental Languages in Paris (where he will work under the coordination of Professor Mario Roques¹² and teach Romanian language practical courses, respectively *Interpretations of Eminescu, Caragiale and Alecsandri*). It is an important period in the formation of the future literary historian, which he himself summarizes in a *Memoir of titles, studies and works* (written for the University contest and published in Cluj, “Casa Românească” printing house, 1935), as follows:

¹²Mario Roques (1875-1961), French scholar, professor of history of medieval literature and Romance philologist.

The problems that arose for me mainly followed two directions: firstly, the deepening of Franco-Romanian literary relations in the nineteenth century, secondly, problems of research method in the field of literary history, be it national or comparative. These concerns delimited my sphere of activity in Paris: I attended French literary history courses, especially the courses given by Mr. D. Mornet¹³ at Sorbonne, which for me were mainly the practical solution of some methodological problems; I attended the comparative literature courses given by Mr. Baldensperger¹⁴ at the Sorbonne and by Mr. Paul Hazard¹⁵ at the Collège de France, and I attended meetings of interpreting Vico's work under the direction of Mr. Hazard. [...] I was put in the position of being closely acquainted with Mr. Mario Roques, with whom, in my dual qualification as a student and lecturer [at the School of Oriental Languages, n. I.B.], I worked for four years. Thus, in my scientific orientation, I was able to take advantage not only of his courses so rich in suggestions, but also of his precious and benevolent advice. The nature of my research then led me to modern Greek literature, which often mediated Romanians' knowledge of Western writers. In order to be able to follow these concerns, in 1933 and 1934 I studied neo-Greek at the Oriental School of Languages in Paris, with Mr. Mirambel¹⁶.

In order to support himself financially (he only received a monthly scholarship from the French state), he worked (clandestinely, as he confesses in the autobiographies) as an editor and proofreader for French authors, on the recommendation of his friend, Professor Voilgnieu, of the Lycée Louis le Grand, from Paris.

1933 He is issued a passport - STUDENT by profession, Traveling IN EUROPE OUTSIDE RUSSIA; Iași Police Headquarters. Living at Lascăr Catargiu street no. 25, Iași. He obtained a French visa on December 23, 1933. He passed through Serbia (visa) on December 28, 1933, and

¹³Daniel Mornet (1878-1954) was a literary critic and historian, professor at the University of Paris and dean of the Faculty of Letters, specialized in the 18th century literature.

¹⁴Fernand Baldensperger (1871-1958) literary critic and historian, a theorist of Comparative Literature.

¹⁵Paul Gustave Marie Camille Hazard (1878-1944) was a professor, literary historian and historian of ideas, a promoter of Comparative Literature.

¹⁶André Mirambel (1900-1970) was a French Hellenist, professor of modern Greek at the École des langues orientales, which he administrated from 1958 to 1969.

through Italy on December 29, 1933. He returned (visa) on July 17, 1934.

1934 He published the study *Românii în presa saint-simoniană* [Romanians in the Saint-Simon press], Iași, 1934.

1935 D. Popovici participates in the founding and management (1935–1936) of the magazine “Atheneum” (publication of ideology and science of military high schools) in Iași. In the first issue, he publishes the study *Vico and Heliade* (from the substance of his doctoral thesis). In the second issue - an article from the volume “*Santa cetate*”. *Între utopie și poezie* [*Santa Cetate, between utopia and poetry*], which he was working on, is published. D. Popovici published two books in the same year: *Ideologia literară a lui I. Heliade Rădulescu* [*I. Heliade Rădulescu's Literary Ideology*] (based on his doctoral thesis), Bucharest, Cartea Românească Publishing House, and, towards the end of the year, “*Santa cetate*”. *Între utopie și poezie* (Bucharest, Publishing House of the Institute of Literary History and Folklore).

February 5 The announcement concerning the contest for the position of professor of Romanian literature at the University of Cluj, appears in the “Official Monitor”.

March 4 D. Popovici obtained his doctorate in Philosophy and Letters, at the University of Bucharest (the diploma will be issued on April 9, 1935), with a thesis on *Ideologia literară a lui I. Heliade Rădulescu* [The Literary Ideology of I. Heliade Rădulescu], with the distinction *summa cum laude*.

March 5 D. Popovici registers for the competition at the University of Cluj.

March – April 1935 The University of Cluj designates the competition committee, which is ultimately made up of professors S.

Pușcariu¹⁷, N. Drăganu¹⁸, G. Giuglea¹⁹, Th. Naum²⁰, as members, and S. Dragomir²¹ and I. Lupaș²² as substitutes (from the University of Cluj). From outside the University of Cluj D. Caracostea (member) and N. Cartoian (substitute) from the University of Bucharest; G. Ibrăileanu²³ (member) și I. Iordan²⁴ (substitute) from the University of Iași; Al. Leca Morariu²⁵ (member) and Alexe Procopovici²⁶ (substitute), from the University of Chernivtsi will participate.

¹⁷Sextil Pușcariu (1877-1948), Romanian linguist and philologist, the first rector of the Superior Dacia University in Cluj.

¹⁸Nicolae Drăganu (1884-1939) was a linguist, philologist, and literary historian, professor of Old Romanian Language and Literature at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy in Cluj. He also held the positions of Dean of the Faculty of Letters, then rector of the King Ferdinand I University of Cluj.

¹⁹George Giuglea (1884-1967) was Romanian Language lecturer at the Sorbonne. He defended his doctorate at the University of Cluj (1920), where he was a professor at the Department of Romance Philology of the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy from 1919 to 1947.

²⁰Teodor Naum, (1891-1980) was a philologist and translator. Under the guidance of Vasile Bogrea, he defended his doctoral thesis, *Theocrit's Rustic Idylls*, becoming, in 1924, the first doctor in classical philology in the country.

²¹Silviu Dragomir (1888-1962) was an academic, historian, politician and university professor of the history of the people of South-Eastern Europe at the Faculty of History of the University of Cluj, between 1918-1947. At the University of Cluj he held important positions: vice dean, dean, vice-rector.

²²Ioan Lupaș (1880-1967) was a historian, academic, politician, Orthodox theologian and priest. In 1919 he became professor at the University of Cluj, teaching Modern History and Transylvanian History until 1946, and in 1920, together with Alexandru Lapedatu, co-founded the National History Institute, located also in Cluj; he also taught Church History at the Theological Academy.

²³Garabet Ibrăileanu (1871-1936) was a literary critic and theorist, writer, translator, sociologist, professor of the history of Romanian literature at University of Iași, and, together with Paul Bujor and Constantin Stere, main editor of the "Viața Românească" literary magazine between 1906 and 1930.

²⁴Iorgu Iordan (1888-1986) was a linguist, philologist, diplomat, journalist, Vice President of the Romanian Academy, founder and first director (1949-1962) of the Institute of Linguistics of the Romanian Academy.

²⁵Alexandru (Leca) Morariu (1888-1963) was a writer, publicist, folklorist, university professor and literary historian from Bucovina. Between 1922-1940 he taught as a professor at the Department of Modern Literature and Folklore of the University of Chernivtsi, also fulfilling the position of dean of the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy (1936-1938).

²⁶Alexe Procopovici (1884-1946) was a linguist and philologist. Procopovici became, in 1938, a full professor at the University of Cluj, succeeding, from 1940, Sextil

April 2 The Ministry of Education decides to suspend any competitions and appointments in education for one year.

November 29 D. Popovici requests the addition of the work *Santa Cetate* (published after the submission of his competition file, in March of the same year) to his competition file.

December 20 The Ministry approves the continuation of the works for the respective position.

February 6, 1936 The meeting for designating the competition committee takes place; Prof. S. Pușcariu is elected its president.

February 16 The competition commission meets to take note of the withdrawal of D. Mazilu from the competition and to decide not to admit G. Marinescu (the report is prepared by D. Caracostea; S. Pușcariu dissents from the conclusions of the report, in a memorandum addressed to the same competition commission, in which the wish of the former tenured professor, G. Bogdan-Duică²⁷, deceased, to be followed in position by his assistant, Ion Breazu, is invoked). Ion Breazu²⁸, Dumitru Murărașu²⁹ and D. Popovici are admitted to the competition.

February 22 The test of titles and works of the competition (each candidate has approximately one hour for a presentation). The scores obtained: D. Popovici - 17.60, Ion Breazu - 16.20, Dumitru Murărașu - 16. Dumitru Murărașu withdraws from the competition.

Pușcariu at the Department of Romanian Language and its Dialects, as well as at the management of the Museum of the Romanian Language.

²⁷Gheorghe Bogdan-Duică (1866-1934) was named a professor in the history of modern Romanian literature at the newly founded University of Cluj, proposed by Sextil Pușcariu. He served as dean of the literature and philosophy faculty in 1919–1920, as rector of the university in 1927–1928 and as vice rector in 1928–1929.

²⁸Ion Breazu (1901-1958) was a historian and literary critic. In 1943, he became a lecturer in the history of literature at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Cluj-Sibiu, then promoted professor of the University of Cluj (1955-1958). He taught the course History of Modern Romanian Literature, in which he focused on the circulation of universal values in the Romanian cultural space in Transylvania.

²⁹Dumitru Murărașu (1896-1984) was a literary historian, editor and translator, known mainly for his contribution to studies on Mihai Eminescu.

February 24 Colloquium (oral exam) of the contest. D. Popovici – 18,40, Ion Breazu – 16,40.

The topics for the first public lesson in the competition are announced: 1. The poetry of D. Anghel, 2. Language and style in the work of V. Alecsandri, 3. The plays of V. Alecsandri, 4. The topicality of Maiorescu's critique in examining contemporary Romanian poetry, 5. Liviu Rebreanu's novels, 6. I. Budai Deleanu, *Tiganiada*, 7. Attempts at Romanian epics, 8. Literary criticism and V. Alecsandri, 9. Methods of literary history, 10. Style and language in the writings of I. Creangă.

February 26 D. Popovici holds, during the contest, the public lesson on *Style and language in the writings of I. Creangă*. He achieves an average of 18.60.

The topics for the second public lesson of the competition are announced: 1. The work of St. O. Iosif, 2. The literary works of B. P. Hasdeu, 3. Literary criticism and V. Alecsandri, 4. The plays of V. Alecsandri, 5. Gh. Coșbuc with special attention to his beginnings, 6. Our folk epic poetry, 7. The Romanian novellas, 8. Mutual influences between oral literature and written Romanian literature, 9. The role of "Junimea" in the history of modern Romanian literature, 10. The beginnings of literary criticism in Moldova.

February 27 D. Popovici holds the second public lesson in the competition, on *The beginnings of literary criticism in Moldova*. He achieves an average of 19. In the afternoon, he holds the first seminar, with the subject *Analysis of the sonnet Veneția*. He obtains an average of 18.

February 28 D. Popovici holds the second seminar on the subject *A poem by L. Blaga from the last volumes* (by choice). He chooses to analyse *Ioan se sfâșie în pustie*. He gets an average of 20. The reports of the contest record the general average obtained by D. Popovici: 18.60. He is declared the winner of the contest.

October 20 D. Popovici is a member of the Department of Romanian Literary History at the University of Cluj. He moves to Cluj, where he would live (until taking refuge in Sibiu, in 1940) on A. Șaguna Street, no. 16. The first university course he teaches in Cluj is dedicated to “Junimea” (unedited), and the seminar - to the plays of Vasile Alecsandri.

November 1 After passing the aggregation exam, D. Popovici is appointed associate professor at the Department of Romanian Literature History at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters in Cluj (document signed by the Minister of Instruction, Cults and Arts, Prof. Fl. Ștefănescu-Goangă³⁰ - who later became rector of the University of Cluj). He held this title until 1952, when he died.

1937 – 1938 He gives a lecture on *Junimea. Action and reaction* (only partially edited) and a seminar on *Romanian poetry before Eminescu*.

1938 He publishes the studies *Evolutia conceptiei literare a lui G. Bogdan-Duica* [The evolution of the literary conception of G. Bogdan-Duică], in “Dacoromania”.

1938 – 1939 He teaches the *Romanian Literature in the Age of Enlightenment* course (lithographed, 1939) and the seminar on the *Romanian Novel of the 19th century*.

1939 The publication of the works of Ion Heliade Rădulescu, *Opere* [Works] begins. Volume I is published by the “King Carol II” Foundation for Literature and Art (Bucharest).

1939 – 1940 D. Popovici holds the Modern Romanian Literature course, titled *The tendency of integration in the western cultural rhythm* (lithographed, 1940).

³⁰Florian Ștefănescu-Goangă (1881-1958) was a Romanian psychologist, corresponding member (1937) of the Romanian Academy. During the interwar period he was appointed professor at the University of Cluj, where he founded in 1924 the Institute of Experimental, Comparative and Applied Psychology, forming a valuable team of experimental psychologists. He served as rector of Cluj University between 1932 and 1940.

March 21, 1939 The Rector's Office of the University approves the financing of D. Popovici's participation in the International Congress of Literary History in Lyon (the trip did not take place).

1939 – 1940 He teaches a course on *Romanian Literature during the time of Asachi and Heliade* (partially edited), which he will resume in 1949–1950.

December 15, 1939 By royal decree, D. Popovici is elevated to the rank of full professor of the department.

March, 1940 D. Popovici becomes a member of the Board of Directors of the Publishing Office of the “King Ferdinand I” University of Cluj.

September: after Northern Transylvania ceded to Hungary, D. Popovici, like many other academics from Cluj, moved to Sibiu along with the University. On October 31, 1940, D. Popovici already gave an introductory lecture in Sibiu for first-year students at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy, with the topic *Introduction to the Literary Sciences*.

September 21 In Sibiu, D. Popovici marries Elvira Antonia Chiffa (born on October 20, 1916 in Budapest), the only daughter of Alexandru Chiffa and Ghizela Chiffa (born Liebhart), a graduate of the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy in Cluj, English section. Witnesses to the marriage: Petre Grimm, university professor and Dan Partenie, lawyer. The couple will live in Unirii Square, at no. 6, during the refuge in Sibiu.

December Within the measures of application of the Decree Law no. 3670/1940, the Commission for the revision of university professors (president P.P. Panaitescu³¹, director I. Fărcăoanu³²) of the Ministry of

³¹~~Petre P. Panaitescu~~ (1900-1967) was a literary historian. In 1923-1924 he was a Romanian language lecturer at the University of Krakow and starting from 1927 he became an associate professor, and from 1934 a professor of Slavic history at the University of Bucharest.

³²Panaite-Octavian Botez (1884-1943) was a literary critic and historian. In 1927 he became an associate professor at the University of Iași. From 1936 until his own death, he worked as a full professor in the department of modern Romanian literary

National Education, Cults and Arts, appoints D. Popovici in the verification commission of professor Octav Botez (from the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters from Iași).

1941 D. Popovici is part of the Editorial Board of the “King Ferdinand I” University, taking care of its meeting reports (drafts are kept in the family archive).

1941 – 1942 D. Popovici teaches the *The literary movement of “Dacia Literară”* course (partially edited).

June, 1941 D. Popovici is appointed chairman of the Baccalaureate Commission at the “Carmen Sylva I” High School in Timișoara.

September D. Popovici is appointed by the Rectorate of the University “King Ferdinand I” (in refuge in Sibiu) to hold conferences for the initiation of first year students of the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy (with the theme *Introduction to Literary Sciences*), respectively for final year students of the university, from all specializations (the topics required by the Rectorate are: *The spiritual boundaries of the Romanian people in their historical evolution, In search of spiritual autonomy, Supreme affirmation: Eminescu*). The last two conferences on this list were held on May 18 and May 25, 1942.

December 28, Sibiu the first child of Dumitru and Elvira Popovici is born: Ioana Emanuela, who will study Philology at the University of Cluj (1959–1964) and will marry her colleague Liviu Petrescu (b. December 17, 1941, Râmnicu Sărat - d. July 5, 1999, Cluj-Napoca). The daughter will sign with the name Ioana Em. Petrescu. A significant part of her work as a literary historian and philologist will be devoted to the posthumous editing of her father’s writings.

1942 D. Popovici receives the Hamangiu Prize for Literary Criticism, from the Romanian Academy. Hailed by the then rector of the University of Cluj (Professor Iuliu Hațieganu³³) for this prestigious

history.

³³Iuliu Hațieganu (1885-1959) was an internist doctor particularly recognized for research done in the field of tuberculosis. The University of Medicine and Pharmacy

distinction, D. Popovici will never mention it in the post-war years, after the establishment of communist regime, for obvious reasons.

January He founded the “*Studii literare*” Academic Journal, of the Seminar on the History of Modern Romanian Literature, published at the “King Ferdinand I” University, which will appear until 1948. It is the first scientific journal, with this profile, in Romanian culture. In the Preface, D. Popovici outlines the program of the publication:

The object of study we propose is Modern Romanian Literature, observed both in the internal development of its artistic and ideological values, as well as in its relations with foreign literatures. It will therefore be a magazine of national literary history and comparative literature on a Romanian basis. At the same time, full attention will be paid to issues related to research methods and the entire specialized scientific movement will be presented in a critical light. This gesture is all the more appropriate today, when research feels the need for a new direction and when, torn from the positivist glaciation, our literary history is thrown back into the fresh waters of Impressionism on which it once floated.

Authors signing in this issue are D. Popovici (Franco-Romanian Studies, Pope and Conachi, Ienăchița Văcărescu and the modern chronicle of the

(UMF) and the UBB Cluj-Napoca University Sports Park are named after him. He was the first dean of the Faculty of Medicine between 1919 and 1920 and he held the position of rector twice in the interwar period.

time) I. Verbină , N. Lascu³⁴, I. Breazu, O. Boitoș³⁵, G. Scridon³⁶, E. Todoran³⁷, Pia Gradea, C. Daicoviciu³⁸.

In the same year he published an edition of D. Bolintineanu's work, *Scrieri alese* (Craiova, Scrisul Românesc Publishing House) and the articles *The contribution of Romanians from Transylvania to Romanian literature*, in the magazine „Transilvania”, no. 7/8 (1942), *Poetic Messianism in the work of Octavian Goga*, in the magazine „Luceafărul”, year II (1942), no. 7-8.

April 23 D. Popovici participates in the commemoration of Gh. Lazăr, in Avrig, organized by the “King Ferdinand I” University and Sibiu’s District of Astra. Within the program, the professor will hold the commemorative conference Centenary of the death of Gh. Lazăr. C. Petrescu, Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Education, Professor I. Hațieganu, Rector of the University, “Răsunetul Ardealului” university student choir, local notables, students were present.

June By order of the Minister, D. Popovici is appointed in the Reporting Committee for the contest (for the History of Romanian Literature), at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters from Iași.

³⁴Nicolae Lascu (1908-1988) was a literary historian, translator and university professor at the University of Cluj, specialist in the history of Latin and Greek literature and classical influences in Romanian culture. From 1950 to 1973, he worked as full professor at the Department of Classical Languages, then at the Department of History of the University of Cluj, where he was also dean (1959-1960) and vice-rector (1962-1968).

³⁵Olimpiu Boitoș (1903-1954) was a Literary historian and publicist. In 1943 he was appointed professor and taught Romanian at the Academy of Higher Commercial and Industrial Studies in Brașov. He was a member of the board of directors of the National Theater in Cluj and one of the collaborators of the Institute of Linguistics and Literary History of the Romanian Academy, Cluj branch.

³⁶Gavril Scridon (1922-1996) was a philologist, University professor, literary critic and literary historian. Between 1972 and 1985 he was head of the department of Romanian literature, comparative literature and literary theory at the University of Cluj.

³⁷Eugen Todoran (1918-1997) was a philologist, literary historian and university professor, member of the Sibiu Literary Circle.

³⁸Constantin Daicoviciu (1898-1973) was a historian and archaeologist, professor at the University of Cluj and rector of the same university between 1957-1968.

May 22 By ministerial order, D. Popovici is appointed member of the ministerial commission that will analyze the book of G. Călinescu³⁹ (associate professor at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters in Iași), *History of Romanian literature from its origins to the present* (Bucharest, FRLA, 1941), following the complaint of Mrs. E. Petricari Davila, who accuses the author of having “brought insulting assessments to the late Alexandru Davila.” D. Popovici draws up a detailed report (submitted to the Ministry in July 1942) in which he exculpates G. Călinescu.

June 1 (August?) he is appointed vice-dean of the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy.

September D. Popovici is appointed chairman of the Bacalaureate Commission at the “Carmen Sylva” High School in Bucharest.

November D. Popovici is part of the Commission for the appointment of a professor at the Department of Italian Language and Literature at the Faculty of Letters in Cluj-Sibiu. The chairman of the commission was A. Marcu⁴⁰, members - G. Giuglea, M. Șerban⁴¹, D. Popovici, Șt. Pașca⁴². The competition was won by Umberto Cianciòlo⁴³.

1942 – 1943 He teaches a course on Vasile Alecsandri (partially edited) and another on Alecu Russo and Nicolae Bălcescu (from which lesson sheets have been preserved).

³⁹G. Călinescu, born Gheorghe Vișan (1899-1965) was a literary critic, historian, novelist, academician and journalist, university professor at the Faculty of Letters in Iași and at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy in Bucharest.

⁴⁰Alexandru Marcu (1894-1955), was a professor of Italian language and literature at the University of Bucharest, literary historian, specialist in Italian studies, translator and corresponding member of the Romanian Academy (1940). During wartime, he was dean of the Faculty of Letters in Bucharest.

⁴¹Mihai Adrian Șerban (1887-1947) was a politician, agronomist, university professor, rector and dean of the Academy of Agriculture in Cluj, the current University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine.

⁴²Ștefan Pașca (1901-1957) was a linguist and philologist, corresponding member of the Romanian Academy. In 1941, he becomes full professor, at the Department of Old Romanian Language and Literature. From 1946, he will be the head of the Romanian Language Department of the University of Cluj.

⁴³Umberto Cianciòlo (1914-1969) was a philologist, diplomat and professor of Italian literature at the University of Cluj. He was first husband of Eta Boeriu, and a member of the Sibiu Literary Circle.

1943 The second volume of the Ion Heliade Rădulescu edition, *Opere* [Works], edited by D. Popovici (Publishing House of the Foundation for Literature and Art “King Carol II”, Bucharest) appears.

Volume II of the journal “*Studii literare*” appears (director D. Popovici). Signed by: D. Popovici (*The first manifestations of literary theory in Romanian culture*), N. Lascu, I. Breazu, I. Horia Rădulescu⁴⁴, D.M. Pippidi⁴⁵, I. Breazu, P. Grimm⁴⁶, V. Pescaru, H. Jacquier⁴⁷.

August 2 D. Popovici signs the contract for the publication of the volume *Literatura românească în epoca „Luminării”* [Romanian Literature in the Age of Enlightenment] with the Center for Studies and Research on Transylvania of the University of Cluj.

From Sibiu, D. Popovici sends seven specialized works for the exhibition of Romanian books in Paris (*Ideologia literară a lui I. Heliade Rădulescu* [The literary ideology of I. Heliade Rădulescu] - 1935, *Santa Cetate* - 1935, *La littérature roumaine de Transylvanie au dix-neuvième siècle* - 1938, I. Heliade Rădulescu, *Opere* [Works], I and II - 1939, 1943, *Studii literare* [Literary Studies] I and II - 1942, 1943), requesting that after the end of the exhibition the volumes, destined for the school library, be entrusted to Professor I. Horia Rădulescu, librarian of the Romanian School of Fontenay-aux-Roses.

1943 – 1944 He teaches a course on Vasile Alecsandri (partially edited).

⁴⁴Ion-Horia Rădulescu (1902-1962) was literary historian, lecturer at the Romanian School of Fontenay-aux-Roses, benefiting between 1935-1937 from a French government scholarship. He undertook studies of comparative literature on the influence of French theater on the Romanian Principalities.

⁴⁵Dionisie Mihail Pippidi (1905-1993) was an archaeologist, epigraphist and historian, full member of the Romanian Academy. He was the head of excavations at the Histria site.

⁴⁶Petre Grimm (1881-1944) was a literary historian, translator and university professor, researcher of Romanian-English cultural relations. He founded the English department at the University of Cluj.

⁴⁷Henri Jacquier (1900 -1980), professor at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Cluj, head of the Department of Romance Philology. During the refuge of the University of Cluj (1940-1944), he was a member of the Literary Circle from Sibiu.

1944 He publishes the volume *Cercetări de literatură română* [Researches of Romanian Literature] (Cartea Românească Publishing House, Sibiu). The volume inaugurates an editorial collection, created by D. Popovici, entitled “*Library of Literary Studies of the University of Cluj*”. For obvious reasons, the collection did not survive the 1948–1949 education reform.

Volume III of the journal “Literary Studies” appears. The following academics publish in this issue: E. Turdeanu⁴⁸, D. Popovici (*Difuzarea ideilor „Luminării” în Țările Române* [Dissemination of the ideas of “Enlightenment” in the Romanian Territories]), U. Cianciòlo, I. Breazu, O. Boitoș, L. Pop, I. Verbină.

February By order of the Minister D. Popovici is appointed a member of the convening committee by appointment as full professor at the department of History of Modern Romanian Literature, vacant at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy in Iași.

April D. Popovici, together with many other academics from Bucharest, Iași and Cluj, signs a memorandum submitted to Marshal Ion Antonescu, demanding Romania’s exit from the war against the Allies and the armistice. Published in the press of the time, the memorandum numbers 66 signatories.

May D. Popovici prepares a Memorandum, addressed to the Rector of the “King Ferdinand I” University, concerning the evacuation (rescue from the frontline, which was approaching Sibiu) of the university library. The Popovici family archive preserves the drafts of the memoir (handwritten and typed), with ironic passages about the poor functioning of the academic administration and the political opportunism in the university environment. We do not know if the memorandum was forwarded to the University management.

October 6 The Democratic University Group is established in Sibiu, the Cluj-Sibiu section (following the model of the Democratic University Group previously established in Bucharest), at the initiative of the

⁴⁸Emil Turdeanu (1911-2001) was a philologist and literary historian exiled after the Second World War, he taught at the Department of Romanian at the Sorbonne, as well as at the Sapienza University of Rome.

professors from the “King Ferdinand I” University, and D. Popovici is one of the founders (together with E. Petrovici⁴⁹, M. Kernbach⁵⁰, I. Goia⁵¹, Gh. Popoviciu⁵², P. Grimm, L. Rusu⁵³, I. Breazu, Al. Roșca⁵⁴, D. Macrea⁵⁵, S. Cupcea⁵⁶, Z. Barbu⁵⁷, D. Prodan⁵⁸ - present at the constituent meeting, respectively by T. Moșoiu⁵⁹, C. Daicoviciu, C. Pârvulescu⁶⁰, Fl. Ștefănescu-Goangă, T. Dinculescu⁶¹, N. Lascu, C. Drăgulescu⁶², V. Novacu⁶³ and V. Iancu⁶⁴). He is the one who reads the constitutive act, in the October 6 meeting of the G.U.D., where he is

⁴⁹Emil Petrovici (1899–1968) was a Romanian linguist, dialectologist and Slavist. Petrovici worked as a professor at the Slavic Department of the University of Cluj, head of the Department at the University of Bucharest and then at the University of Cluj, director of the Institute of Linguistics and Literary History in Cluj.

⁵⁰Mihail Kernbach (1895-1976) was a Romanian doctor, professor of Forensic Medicine at the Faculties of Medicine in Cluj and Iași.

⁵¹Ioan Goia (1892-1982) is the founder of medical semiology education in Romania. Between 1922 and 1925 he was an associate professor in the Propaedeutic discipline, then from 1932 a professor at the Department of Medical Semiology. From 1932 to 1962 he was head of the Medical Clinic III, then consulting professor (1962). He founded the Medical Clinic II.

⁵²Gheorghe Popoviciu (1895-1946) was a pediatrician and hygienist. Alternately, he worked as full or substitute professor at the departments of Physiology (1932-1935), Pharmacology (1935-1939) and Child Clinic and Childcare (starting from 1935).

⁵³Liviu Rusu (1901-1985) he was a psychologist, esthetician, researcher and literary historian, university professor at the University of Cluj. Since 1938 he has been a full professor of aesthetics at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters in Cluj, from where he was removed by the new authorities in 1948.

⁵⁴Alexandru Roșca was a Romanian psychologist, one of the parents of the Cluj school of psychology, a full member of the Romanian Academy. From 1946 to 1976, Al. Roșca head of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Cluj.

⁵⁵Dimitrie Macrea (1907-1988) he was a phonetician and linguist, university professor, corresponding member (since 1965) of the Romanian Academy. He was also the main coordinator of the Romanian Encyclopedic Dictionary in 4 volumes.

⁵⁶Salvador Petre Cupcea (1908-1958) was psychologist and psychiatrist. In the interwar period he was an important collaborator of the Cluj Institute of Experimental Psychology, led by Professor Florian Ștefănescu-Goangă. He held several important academic positions: president of the Society of Medical Sciences, Cluj branch (since 1951), dean of the Faculty of Hygiene (which he also organized), director of the Cluj university clinics, head of the Hygiene Department of the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj. Also, from 1949 until his death, he was director of the Cluj Branch of the Institute of Hygiene and Public Health.

⁵⁷Zevedei Barbu (1914-1993) was a Professor of Sociology and Social Psychology. He assisted Fl. Ștefănescu-Goangă of the Psychology Department and Lucian Blaga of

elected general secretary of the Group. He will also be invited to the official G.U.D. reunion in Bucharest, from November 19, 1944, but will be present only at the second official meeting, from November 20, 1944.

Publishes, in the magazine "Transilvania", no. 8/9, the study *Etape în dezvoltarea literaturii române* [Stages in the development of Romanian literature], in fact - an introduction to the later study published in French, *La Littérature roumaine à l'époque des Lumières*.

Memorandum (undated), addressed by D. Popovici to the Minister of National Education, for the establishment - under the auspices of the "King Ferdinand I" University of Cluj, of an Institute of Romanian

the Department of Philosophy of Culture between 1940 and 1945. After being accused of engaging in left-wing political activity, Barbu was arrested in 1943 and released in 1944. He sought political asylum in the United Kingdom afterwards.

⁵⁸David Prodan (1902-1992) was a historian, academician, librarian, university professor, specialist in the history of Transylvania. He was a university professor from 1948-1962 and head of department at the Institute of History and Archeology from 1948 to 1972.

⁵⁹Tiberiu Moşoiu (1898-1953) was a jurist, politician and professor of Roman law at the University of Cluj.

⁶⁰Constantin Pârvulescu (1890-1945) was, at a time, Associate Professor of Astronomy and Rational Mechanics at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Chernivtsi (1925-1931); Associate Professor of Astronomy and Geodesy (1931-1940), Associate Professor at the Department of Astronomy of the University of Bucharest and then at the University of Cluj - Timișoara, where he became a professor in 1942.

⁶¹Traian Dinculescu (1909-1982) was external, secondary doctor, biochemistry trainer, assistant at Balneology - Faculty of Medicine in Cluj. He worked as associate professor since 1949 and professor in 1957; vice-rector (1956-1961).

⁶²Coriolan Drăgulescu (1907-1977) was an academician, chemist, full member (1963) of the Romanian Academy. At the beginning of the Second World War he took refuge together with the faculty in Timișoara, where he established the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry within the Polytechnic Institute of Timișoara, of which he became dean.

⁶³Valeriu Novacu (1909-1992) was a physicist and professor at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Cluj and at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the University of Bucharest.

⁶⁴Victor Iancu (1908-1981) was a prominent figure of the University of Cluj and a member of the Literary Circle from Sibiu. Early university activity is linked to the University of Cluj, where he becomes assistant to the Department of Aesthetics and Literary Criticism since November 1939. He takes refuge in Sibiu together with the University, befriending the group of students who will form the Sibiu Literary Circle.

Literary History, modeled on the institutes already existing in the University (Institute of Geography, Institute of National History, Museum of the Romanian Language).

1945 D. Popovici is appointed vice-rector of the “King Ferdinand I” University (still in Sibiu). Upon returning to Cluj, the Popovici family (together with their in-laws, Chiffa) will move into their in-laws’ house, on Bisericii Ortodoxe street no. 1. The family will remain there even after the nationalization of the property by the communists, restricting its space in favor of the tenants sent by the authorities. They will not move until after 1975.

Lucrețiu Pătrășcanu⁶⁵ holds a conference in Sibiu, at the invitation of the Democratic University Group. It is presented by D. Popovici (as general secretary).

D. Popovici publishes the volume *La Littérature roumaine à l’époque des Lumières* (part of a History of Modern Literature project, which he never managed to complete); the volume was anticipated by lithographed courses taught at the University of Cluj, *Literatura română în epoca „Luminilor”* [Romanian Literature in the Age of Enlightenment] and *Literatura română modernă. Tendința de integrare în ritmul cultural occidental* [Modern Romanian Literature. The trend of integration into the Western cultural rhythm]. The volume appeared at the Center for Studies and Research on Transylvania, in Sibiu (where the University took refuge).

1945 – 1946 Teaches the course entitled *The poetry of Eminescu*.

January, 1945 In a memorandum addressed to the rector of the “King Ferdinand I” University, D. Popovici resumes the issue of establishing an Institute of Romanian Literary History, which, a year before, he had also raised to the Ministry (and which was approved by the

⁶⁵Lucrețiu Pătrășcanu (1900-1954) was a communist politician and leading member of the Communist Party of Romania, also noted for his activities as a lawyer, sociologist and economist. For a while, he was a professor at the University of Bucharest.

University Senate, it is said). He also attaches a draft budget of the Institute.

1946 – 1947 He teaches the *Eminescu in Romanian literary criticism and history* course (the second part of the course is also being published at that moment, lithographed; the first part, from 1946, has not been lithographed) and the *Eminescu Prose* seminar.

1947 – 1948 He teaches the course on *The Poetry of Eminescu* (the lithographed course appears under the auspices of the National Union of Students in Romania. Cluj Student Center) and the *Problems of literary methodology* seminar.

January 2, 1948 D. Popovici takes and signs the oath of allegiance to the Romanian People's Republic (required of all teaching staff at the University), in front of the Dean, Prof. I. Crăciun⁶⁶.

February D. Popovici requests the support of the Ministry of National Education to participate in the World Literature Congress to be held in Paris (March 30 - April 1), with the theme *Modern Literature and Political and Social Movements*. He intended to present the paper entitled *Le role social du Titan dans le Romantisme roumain*. The Ministry of National Education responds to the Rectorate of the University of Cluj, by the address no. 68,211 / March 1948, which states "the Ministry does not send any delegate to the Congress of Modern Literature, which will be held this year in the French capital, as it does not have funds".

February 14 Daniel Alexandru, the second child of the Popovici family is born in Cluj. He was recorded in the civil status documents of the Romanian People's Republic on February 16, 1948. He became a piano teacher at music schools in Cluj, where he also founded a

⁶⁶Ioachim Crăciun (1898–1971) was a historian and bibliologist. In 1932, he inaugurated the first bibliology and bibliography courses at the University of Cluj (within the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy). In December 1949, he was dismissed from the University, but a few years later, with the help of Constantin Daicoviciu, he was rehired first at the Institute of History, then at the University, where he continued his scientific activity. He coordinated the team that produced the first volume of the Historical Bibliography of Romanians, published in 1971.

publishing house, Arpeggione, in the post-communist period. In 1975 (from his marriage to Lucia Popovici), a daughter was born, Ioana.

D. Popovici holds several public conferences on Romanian literature in Oradea and Cluj. According to a poster kept in the family archive, one of these conferences in Oradea was entitled *The Social Experience of the Generation of 1848*. It was held on March 7, 1948, under the aegis of the Secondary Teachers Union - Bihor, Cultural Section, in a series of lectures entitled “Aspects of the Revolution of 1848”.

Volume IV (the last) of the “Literary Studies” journal appears, now under the auspices of the “Victor Babeş” University of Cluj. Signed: I. Verbină, I. Breazu, D. Popovici (*The Literary Doctrine of I. Budai-Deleanu's Ţiganiada*), Tancred-Bănăţeanu⁶⁷, I. Breazu, I. Muşlea⁶⁸.

D. Popovici elaborates a Report on the composition of the “Great Archive of Romanian Literature”, stating that:

The composition of this archive stems from the conviction that it is necessary to read again, with a scientific spirit, all the Romanian literary material, printed or handwritten, as well as all the material that interests Romanian literature and its relations with the literature of its ethnic minorities; it also stems from the belief that it is necessary to register this material according to well-specified technical procedures... .

In the same year, 1948 (?), Elvira Popovici obtained her authorization as a French and English translator at the courts in Cluj. The authorization will be renewed in 1950 at the Tribunal of the Romanian People's Republic, Cluj section.

May 14, 1949 A handwritten note, signed by D. Popovici, kept in the family archives, suggests the political pressures to which he was

⁶⁷Tancred-Bănăţeanu (1922-1987) was an ethnographer, folklorist, pedagogue. Since 1946 he worked as assistant at the Museum of Ethnography of Transylvania, and held the course of Folkloric Literature at the Faculty of Philology in Cluj.

⁶⁸Ion Muşlea (1899-1966) was a folklorist. He proposes the establishment of a Folklore Archive, realized in 1930 in Cluj, next to the Museum of the Romanian language, under his own leadership. He founded the publication „Anuar al Arhivei de folclor”.

subjected, as a consequence of the installation of communist power and the reform of education. It is a 4-line note containing the following:

As additional autobiographical information, all I have to note is that my political ideas are reflected in my studies and that they are found in all public libraries. D. Popovici, professor at the Faculty of Philology of Babeş University in Cluj.

December In a signed and dated autobiography, in which the stereotypical forms imposed by the new regime can be recognized, D. Popovici states the following concerning his activity and political sympathies:

I was not enrolled in any party. I had sympathies only for the democratic movement, which can be seen in my writings. In addition, under the regime of former King Carol II, I was one of the signatories of the memorandum demanding the release of Professor Constantinescu-Iași, detained for communist activity; in Iași I also participated in the teachers' syndicate movement, and in 1944 I signed a memorandum by which a group of academics and university professors asked former Marshal Antonescu to leave the alliance with Germany. That memorandum was signed only by four professors of the University of Cluj-Sibiu. In connection with the preoccupations of my specialty, however, I was interested in political programs, and when my health permitted, I attended political meetings of various parties. The only ones who didn't attract me, not even as a neutral spectator, were the legionnaires. What forbade me and keeps forbidding me any political activity was my poor health: I had a very serious liver disease (cirrhosis), which prohibits any physical exertion and emotions.

1951 – 1952 In the first semester, D. Popovici teaches a course on the *Enlightenment Aspect of Transylvanian Literature. The Enlightenment - a literature with revolutionary social objectives*, and in the second semester, a course on *The Works of I. Budai Deleanu* and a seminar on the *Theater of V. Alecsandri*.

1951 Publishes the article titled *On the occasion of a new edition of I. Budai-Deleanu's Țiganiada*, in "Literary Almanac", no. 3.

October The State Publishing House for Literature and Art (Classics and Critical Studies Section) in Bucharest informs D. Popovici of the inclusion in the editorial plan of his critical edition proposal Ion Budai-Deleanu, *Țiganiada. Texte, note glosar* [*Țiganiada. Text, glossary notes*]. The edition will never be realised.

1952 D. Popovici is appointed director of the Library of the Romanian People's Republic Academy from Cluj. He also became a scientific reviewer at the Cluj Institute of Literary History and Folklore of the R.P.R. Academy. As director of the Library, on June 18, 1952, he addressed a Memorandum to the Presidium of the R.P.R. Academy on the resource crisis of the Branch Library – and proposals for remedying the situation (including the modification of the Statute of Organization of the Academy's Libraries, by bringing to Cluj the book funds sheltered during the refuge from Northern Transylvania, in inappropriate conditions, by organizing his own book binding etc.). The Literary History and Folklore Group of the R.P.R. Academy, Cluj branch, becomes the Institute of Literary History and Folklore in Cluj, with 3 sections: 1. Romanian literature and comparative literature (led by D. Popovici), 2. Romanian literature from Transylvania, led by I. Breazu), 3. Hungarian literature in Romania.

In the autumn of the same year, D. Popovici, director of the Department of Romanian Literature (appointment confirmed on October 1), prepared a Report on the activity of the department from the beginning of the school year 1951/52 to March 1, 1952. The report makes explicit concessions to the new regime. At the same time, he reveals in detail the difficulties that the Department faced in the post-war period.

August 31 – September 2 D. Popovici goes to the leadership of the R.P.R. Academy, in Bucharest, to discuss the problems of the Library of the Cluj branch (he writes a report to the director of the branch, on his return).

September 6, 9 D. Popovici writes two memoirs, concerning the state of the Academy Library of the Cluj Branch and the mending of its problems, addressed to the management of the Cluj Branch of the R.P.R.

The autumn of 1952 is marked by D. Popovici's numerous official efforts to normalize the functioning of the Branch Library (by identifying suitable spaces for a library and a research institute in the city; bringing back to Cluj the funds scattered in inappropriate shelters during the war and the military occupation; the integration of the libraries of various historical high schools from Transylvania in the funds of the Library of the Cluj branch etc.).

December 2 (?) D. Popovici had been invited to chair a meeting of the Literary Circle (located in Cluj), dedicated to Nicolae Bălcescu's anniversary.

December 6 D. Popovici dies as a result of a chronic liver disease, aggravated during the war. The family (wife, two small children and in-laws) remains in the apartment on Bisericii Ortodoxe street no. 1 from Cluj, being restricted in the residential space, as a result of the new policies applied by the popular regime.

1964 The study of D. Popovici, *Eminescu*, edited by Ioana Em. Petrescu, appears in "Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai. Philology Series", fasc. 2, year 1964.

1967 Excerpts from the translation of Dante's *Inferno* are published in "Tribuna", no. 6 (1967).

1969 *Poezia lui Eminescu* [The poetry of Eminescu], an edition composed and prefaced by Ioana Em. Petrescu (Bucharest, Tineretului Publishing House) and *Romantismul românesc. Partea 1: Prima perioadă romantică: (1829–1840): scriitorii de la Dacia Literară* [Romanian Romanticism. Part 1: The first romantic period: (1829–1840): writers from Dacia Literară], foreword by Tudor Vianu⁶⁹, preface by Dan Simonescu⁷⁰, edition and notes by Ioana Em. Petrescu (Bucharest, Tineretului Publishing House) appear.

⁶⁹Tudor Vianu (1898-1964) was a literary critic, art critic, poet, philosopher, academic, aesthetician and translator. He is the founder of the school of stylistics of the Faculty of Letters in Bucharest and the initiator of the department of universal literature, of which he was head for a long time.

⁷⁰Dan Simonescu (1902-1993) was a bibliographer and literary historian. His activity is limited to the fields of history of culture, bibliography, bibliology and textology.

1970 An excerpt from the comedy *Regele din Propontide* [The King of Propontis] is published by Ioana Em. Petrescu in the magazine “Tribuna”, year XIV, no. 5. Another fragment appears, in 1972, also in “Tribuna”, year XVI, no. 48.

1972 The following volumes appear: *Poezia lui Eminescu* [The poetry of Eminescu], edited by Ioana Em. Petrescu (Bucharest, Albatros Publishing House) and *Romantismul românesc* [Romanian Romanticism], edition and notes by Ioana Em. Petrescu (Bucharest, Albatros Publishing House).

1972 Ioana Em. Petrescu begins to publish the writings of D. Popovici, in a series of authors, at Dacia Publishing House (Cluj-Napoca), with volume I – *Literatura română în epoca „Luminilor”* [Romanian Literature in the Age of Enlightenment]; followed by *Romantismul românesc* [Romanian Romanticism] (volume II, 1974), *Ideologia literară a lui Ion Heliade Rădulescu* [The literary ideology of Ion Heliade Rădulescu] (volume III, 1978), „*Santa cetate*”. *Între utopie și poezie* [“Santa cetate”. Between Utopia and Poetry] (volume IV, 1980), *Poezia lui Mihai Eminescu* [The poetry of Mihai Eminescu] (volume V, 1988), *Eminescu în critica și istoria literară română* [Eminescu in Romanian literary criticism and history] (volume VI, 1989). The death of Ioana Em. Petrescu (October 1, 1990) permanently suspends the editing process.

1977 Excerpts from the translation of Dante’s *Inferno* are published in “Echinox”, no. 11–12.

1978 Excerpts from the comedy *Bucătarul de la Salamandra* [The Chef of Salamandra] appear in the magazine “Manuscriptum”, no. 4.

1996, June 8 The anniversary of D. Popovici takes place in Șerbănești (with the support of the village hall, the Olt School Inspectorate etc.). On this occasion the village school, with grades I - VIII, receives his name and a bust of the professor is also revealed (author Nicolae Truță, sculptor from Slatina).

2002 The author's son, Daniel Popovici, publishes an edition of D. Popovici's dramatic writings, *Teatru* [Dramatic Works], under his own direction (Cluj-Napoca, Arpeggione Publishing House). The volume includes the pieces *Bucătarul de la Salamandra* [The Chef of Salamandra] and the *Regele din Propontide* [King of Propontis]. Excerpts from the play *Regele din Propontide* [King of Propontis] had also been published by Ioana Em. Petrescu, in "Tribuna" (no. 5/1970 and 48/1972).

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