

a.2. English Summary

Historiography, Borders and Political Imaginary

After graduating from higher education, I applied and I was employed at the University of Oradea as of the academic year 1993-1994. I followed the natural professional course, that is, I was a teaching fellow (1993-1996), an assistant (1996-1998), a lecturer (1998-2005), a senior lecturer (2005-2008), and a professor as of 2008.

We will further refer to the most important scientific research concerns after the award of the title of Doctor in 2001. A first direction aims at returning certain aspects of the scientific activity and life of the historian Silviu Dragomir to the scientific circuit. Our activity has pursued this direction after the defence and publication of the doctoral thesis. The work on *Silviu Dragomir-istoric/Silviu Dragomir-Historian*, reprinted in 2008 in a reviewed and appended edition, was welcomed by the scientific world. The proof in point is represented by the several reviews published in journals in the field.

Together with the activity of restoring the life of the historian Silviu Dragomir after his release from prison, some of his fundamental works were edited and disseminated, that is, *Istoria desrobierii religioase a românilor ardeleni în veacul XVIII și Vlahii din nordul Peninsulei Balcanice în Evul Mediu/History of the Religious Liberation of the Romanians in Ardeal in the 18th Century and the Wallachians in Northern Balkan Peninsula in the Middle Ages*, as well as other manuscripts of works and studies. To the same approach belongs the publication of the new study by the historian Silviu Dragomir on the Diploma of the Ioannite Knights. Two editions on the topic were published, a Romanian and a French version, as follows: Ioan-Aurel Pop, Sorin Șipoș, *Silviu Dragomir și dosarul Diplomei cavalerilor ioaniți* and Ioan-Aurel Pop, Sorin Șipoș, *Silviu Dragomir et le dossier du Diplôme des Chevaliers de St. Jean*. As a sequel to the aforementioned research, we published some studies where we tried to seize the background of the great religious union, bringing to the foreground the protests of the Romanians in Transylvania wishing to preserve their Orthodox faith, as well as the results of inquiries carried out in the Făgăraș Country.

Another research orientation focused on editing new documents on the Romanian area in the French archives, some reports of foreign travellers and theories on the concepts of Europe and border. Consequently, the inquiry topic is generous and has drawn the attention of several Romanian and foreign authors throughout the years. Our interest aimed at achieving critical editions and syntheses, but also studies based on new documentary sources. All these works speak of the Romanian world, the Romanian area, the border between East and West. We remind only some of the core contributions, such as the bilingual edition by Antoine-Françoise Le Clerc, *Memoriu topografic și statistic asupra Basarabiei, Valahiei și Moldovei, provincii ale Turciei Europene/Topographic and Statistic Memoir on Bessarabia, Wallachia, and Moldavia, Provinces of the European Turkey* and the bilingual work by Sorin Șipoș, Ioan Horga, *De la „Mica la Marea Europă“ Mărturii franceze de la sfârșitul secolului al XVIII-lea și începutul secolului al XIX-lea despre frontiera răsăriteană a Europei. Studii și documente. De la „Petite“ à la „Grande Europe“ Témoignages français de la fin du XVIII^e et du début du XIX^e siècle sur la frontière orientale de l'Europe. Études et documents*.

Other important research topics were approached as well, such as the evolution of the eastern and western borders of the Romanian area from Middle Ages to our time. It is a

long-term analysis of the evolution of the Romanian area through the comparative analysis of imperial policies in the East and the West of the Romanian area where the Habsburg, then the Austro-Hungarian Empire acted and, on the other hand, the Tsarist Empire, the Ottoman Empire and particularly the USSR. Another topic focused on the historical writing in Romania and the Republic of Moldova. The starting point was the obvious reality of the involvement of politics in historical research. Out of space and historiography, we focused on investigating imperial policies of great powers neighbouring the Romanian area throughout centuries. Another important research direction we assumed was investigating the notion of historical document, the relations between history and philology, the status of history at our epoch and the power in its different forms and dimensions, as well as its political, symbolic, anthropological, and social representations.

We elaborated numerous scientific works on the research directions mentioned above, as well as on other innovating topics, whether we refer to the analysis of concepts such as courage and boldness at the time of King Ladislaus IV the Cuman, questions on ceremonies preceding the iron test in the Oradea Records, fragments of the life of some Romanian rulers and voivodes considering the relations between politics and ideology. Another research direction developed in the past years aims at investigating micro-areas and the use of the historical material and immaterial patrimony potential, as well as the inhabitants' in the researched area awareness of history and tradition.

There are some research topics already initiated on which we intend to focus in the future together with some new ones. For instance, we envisage strengthening the Doctoral School in History at the University of Oradea. As far as scientific work is concerned, we intend to pursue the research topics we have developed so far and to follow new research directions. First, we need to ponder upon the status of the Romanian history in general, and of the European history in general in contemporary society. Secondly, we wish to elaborate a work on the symbolism and perception of foreigners travelling throughout the Romanian area in 1691-1810 regarding the border. The topic starts from works we have already published on the time when Transylvania began to be under the rule of the Vienna Court, which facilitated the access of foreigners to the Romanian area. A new research topic envisages a monograph on the Oradea Church Court of Justice. Consequently, a new monograph on the Oradea Church Court of Justice using a modern analysis on the types of documents preserved and on the role and place of the writing and the document in Middle Ages is compulsory. We wish to bring to the foreground the cultural patrimony and the memory of certain places or historical areas in Oradea and the Bistra Valley. Last but not least, we are interested in confining our research to the Middle Ages, in order to try and render a history of betrayal, courage and boldness in the Middle Ages Romanian area.