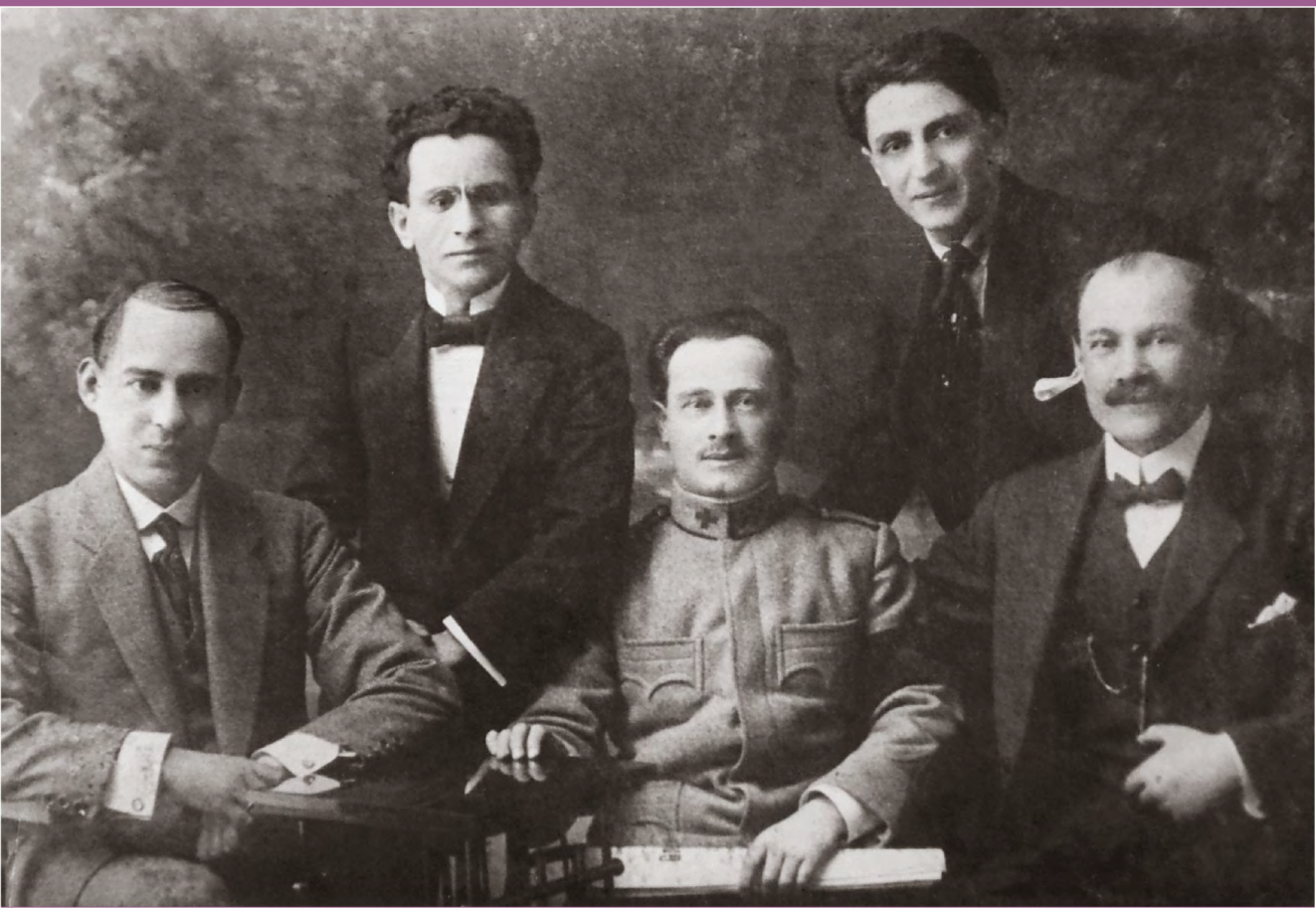


REVISTA DE ISTORIE A EVREILOR DIN ROMÂNIA



Federația Comunităților Evreiești din România - Cultul Mozaic
Centrul pentru Studiul Istoriei Evreilor din România

REVISTA DE ISTORIE A EVREILOR DIN ROMÂNIA

Nr. 3 (19), 2018

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Andreea BALABAN (TOMA)



București, 2018

Prăvălii care au fost dărâmate în strada Bărăției din București.
(Foto: *Realitatea Ilustrată*, 1935)



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VIATA EVREEASCĂ IN CAPITALĂ DAS JUEDISCHE LEBEN IN UNSERER HAUPTSTADT



Inainte de examen, la căminul studen-
ților evrei, din Str. Sft. Ion Nou, 45

In juedischen Studentenheim
vor dem Examen

DIN DUDEȘTI

„S'au scumpit alimentele...”

SORGEN DES ALLTAGS

Dudești: Die Lebensmittel werden teurer



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D-nul Adolphe Pollak (Berlin) vorbește la deschidere
Herr Adolf Pollak (Berlin) spricht bei der Eröffnungsfeier

Deschiderea solemnă a sesiunii 1930-31, la „Hasmonaea”
Die feierliche Eröffnung der Vortragskurse bei der „Hasmonaea” in 1930

PERSONALITĂȚI ALE LUMII EVREIEȘTI

Antisemitismul interbelic analizat cu ajutorul *Jurnalului* lui Wilhelm Filderman

Liviu ROTMAN

Abstract: *This study looks at a new perspective of anti-Semitism during the interwar period, based on the rich source of information provided by Wilhelm Filderman's Diary. The study reveals the causes of the rise of anti-Semitism at the time: the new state that was formed after 1918 imposed the political culture of the Old Kingdom; the "sacredness" of the nation-state as a form of government and the diffusion of xenophobia across the political spectrum. The article draws attention to the particular features of Romanian anti-Semitism at the time, namely the primacy of physical violence. Thus, given its large-scale in space and time, one can refer to a permanent pogrom ambiance in interwar Romania. In the case of Greater Romania, its 20 years of existence could not lead to a cultural, political and social integration of the different regions, but anti-Semitism was one of the few elements of fusion that implicitly helped create a national Romanian identity.*

Keywords: *anti-Semitism, political parties, physical violence, fascistization, radicalization of anti-Semitic language*

100 de ani de la moartea medicului-publicist Adolf/Avram Steuerman-Rodion. Experiența dramatică a frontului

Irina SPIRESCU

Abstract: *Considered by his contemporaries as "one of the most talented journalists, not only in Iași, but all over the country", Adolf Steuerman-Rodion (1872-1918) remains in the Romanian cultural memory due to his numerous literary and journalistic works. A medicine doctor, as well as a „Germanophile” publicist, Adolf Steuerman-Rodion participated in the great conflagration of 1916-1918 as a military doctor, as well as a faithful reporter of war. Having been drafted and sent to the Cașin Valley at the „moment of the national call” – August 15, 1916 – the publicist and physician was remarked due to his exemplary attitude. He participated in the entire Romanian campaign, until the army withdrew to Moldavia. After having been released from active duty, in June 1918, Rodion (the pseudonym frequently used by Steuerman to publish his articles) resumed his collaborations with Germanophile journals such as „Opinia”, „Lumina” or „Scena”. In particular, he published original writings and campaign memoirs in the „Letters from Iași” and „People and Things” series. He also published articles under the general title „String of the Day” and „Small Polemics”. Having been strongly affected by the dramatic experiences on the front and the ethnic injustices he faced, Major Adolf Steuerman ended his life on September 21, 1918. Steuerman-Rodion remains in the history of*

Romanian media and culture as the model of the Jewish intellectual, faced with many ethnic problems that were present in Romania during the first decades of the 20th century.

Keywords: Avram Steuerman-Rodion, Jewish intellectual, military doctor, Journalism, cultural memory

Paul Celan, Eugen Ehrlich și Cernăuțiul lor

Emilian DRANCA

Abstract: *Paul Celan and Eugen Ehrlich are two outstanding personalities in the history of Chernivtsi, as well as in the history of Romania. Nevertheless, to date, their work is insufficiently read and known in Romania, when compared to countries such as France, Germany and Austria. This paper points out the importance of the city of Chernivtsi, implicitly of the interwar period, upon the work and personality of both Paul Celan and Eugen Ehrlich. The two never met, because Ehrlich died two years after Paul Celan was born, but they are present in Chernivtsi (now part of Ukraine), not only due to the books they published, but also to the statues, commemorative plaques, streets and the places that are named after them. In Romania, there was no such initiative. On the contrary, given the current revival of anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe, Romania witnesses a trend meant to rehabilitate people who contributed to the deportation and extermination of the Jewish population, implicitly to rehabilitate people who contributed to the Holocaust. Indeed, Paul Celan's parents were victims of the anti-Semitic and xenophobic policy of the Antonescu regime (1941-1944): they died in a Transnistrian camp, in 1942. This tragedy, which is both personal and collective, deeply influenced Paul Celan's work and made literary critics dub him the "poet of the Holocaust". In his work, Ehrlich preceded and anticipated the development of constitutional law and sociology of law, implicitly the works of Max Weber and Hans Kelsen. His work, fully written in German, is studied and appreciated in the German-speaking academic environment; Instead, in Romania, he is mentioned only very shortly – in the textbooks of General Theory of Law and the Analysis of Legal Doctrines, respectively.*

Keywords: Paul Celan, Eugen Ehrlich, Holocaust, identity

Schiță pentru biografia unui intelectual uitat: Moses Schwarzfeld

Maria Mădălina IRIMIA

Abstract: *The study „A Short Biography of a Forgotten Intellectual - Moses Schwarzfeld” is an insight into Jewish intellectual history that focuses on the biography of Moses Schwarzfeld, who testified, in his writings, the modernization of Jewish life in Romania. He was the longest-running Jewish journalist of the time, as an editor of the Egalitatea Jewish newspaper for 50 years. He was also one of the spiritual leaders of the Jews in their struggle for emancipation and cultural progress. His work, scattered in periodicals along decades, is little known, but extremely valuable, nevertheless. By connecting his articles as if they were the pieces of a puzzle,*

we discover a mature, knowledgeable thinker who was capable of an objective analysis, in the spirit of democratic moderation. Schwarzfeld published his memoirs in the form of a series, thus providing us with a view to a discreet biography, dedicated to the cause of Jewish emancipation, through efforts and modesty. Schwarzfeld's writings are a true chronicle of Jewish life after 1866. The encounter with his biography and writings is an encounter with a whole age of which we know very little, today.

Keywords: *Jewish intelligentsia, emancipation, anti-Semitism, anti-Semitic violence, emigration, Zionism, assimilation.*

Fișă de dicționar: Aristide Blank

Claudiu SECAȘIU

Abstract: *Bank owner Aristide Blank was among the personalities of the Jewish community who played a very important role in Romania's economic life between the two world wars. His complex and controversial personality, depicted both in the press of the time and as one can read in the memories of his contemporaries, has prompted the interest of historians, especially after 1989.*

Keywords: *Aristide Blank, biography, Banking, Marmorosch Blank*

O incursiune în publicistica lui Marius Mircu din perioada interbelică

Carmen ȚĂGȘOREAN

Abstract: *Considered the golden age of Romanian journalism, the interwar period was one of Marius Mircu's most prolific stages of career. He worked for more than 80 years (as he was born in Bacău, Romania, in 1909, and died in Israel, in 2008), and published both in Romanian and Jewish periodicals, in general-audience newspapers and magazines, as well as in children's magazines, a sphere of keen interest to him. The enthusiasm of his youth and his wish to make a difference contributed to his involvement in many projects. The reporter's activity during the interwar period was influenced by the wide variety of topics he was fond of: news, foreign policy, social issues, criminality, leisure, children's magazines, culture and education, travel logs in the country and abroad. Despite the restrictions imposed by Romanian fascist authorities during the Second World War, Marius Mircu managed to publish an impressive number of works, some of which were later collected and published in volumes. The purpose of this paper is to present an overview of Marius Mircu's contributions to Romanian journalism during the interwar period.*

Keywords: *Marius Mircu, journalism, Romanian press*

RELIGIE ȘI CULTURĂ

Diversitate în unitate, unitate în diversitate: rabini, Șef-Rabinat și curente religioase în obștea evreiască din România interbelică

Lucian-Zeev HERȘCOVICI

Abstract: *This article aims to answer a few specific questions about the situation of social and religious life of the Romanian Jews in the interwar period. How was the Mosaic Faith organized in Romania during this period? How did religious diversity and the diversity of Jewish traditions in the provinces of interwar Romania influence organization of their spiritual and religious life, given the new framework? Was there a link between the emancipation of Romanian Jewry and the reorganization of their religious life? What were the main Jewish religious movements in interwar Romania? Was there a mutual influence between Jews in the various Romanian provinces, in the field of communal and religious life, in terms of the Chalacha, as well as of the emergence and development of various philosophical-religious currents of Judaism? Let me mention a few elements meant to provide a general answer to these questions: the diversity of regional and historical traditions, as well as the presence of different religious and cultural traditions among the Jews in the various Romanian provinces; a change in the status of the Jews, both individually and collectively, within the Romanian state; the reorganization of communal and religious life; contacts between casuistic rabbis from different provinces; the mutual influence in the field of Torah study and in publishing Hebrew books.*

One aspect I will refer to is that of the colliding tendencies between the followers of the various trends, as well as the collisions of interests between the followers of centralism and the followers of religious pluralism. I need to mention that the interwar period was the age of maximum development of the Romanian Jewry, both in terms of demography and level of integration, as well as in terms of philosophical-religious thinking and religious practice.

Due to these aspects, I believe one can refer to a certain diversity in unity and to a unity in diversity, as far as the Romanian Jewry in the interwar period is concerned. This issue sparked controversy among the followers of various Jewish currents and tendencies within the community at the time, as well as later, between historians of Judaism and apologists belonging to different religious currents and political tendencies. Another aspect is the fact that the Romanian Jewry had been given citizenship, which meant they now faced different issues from those of the previous period. One such issue was the official acknowledgement of the Mosaic Faith, its right to have a representative in the Romanian Senate, just like all other religious groups, and the state's obligation to subsidize it proportionally with the number of its members¹. This was one of the claims of the Union of the Local Jews, which later became the Union of Romanian Jews. Its main leader, Dr. Wilhelm Filderman, acknowledged the existence of linguistic differences between the Jews living in the various provinces of Romania. While recognizing the religious differences with regard to the Jews in Transylvania, he wanted to present the Mosaic Faith as a unitary organization, before the authorities, asserting the religious unity of the Jews and of Judaism, based on the Chalachic rules of the Shulchan Arukh religious codex. He considered that religious differences were only an internal matter, while the mosaic faith was unitary², and he gained the support of the Liberal Party, that shared this view. Unlike the Liberal Party, the National Party of Transylvania, which later became the National Peasants' Party, supported the idea of pluralism, with different mosaic denominations.

Keywords: religious diversity, Mosaic Faith, Chief-Rabbi, sefardim, askenazim, synagogue

Demersuri misionare anglicane care îi vizau pe evreii din România: 1842-1941

Mihai CIUCĂ

Abstract: *The topic of Protestant Missions that focused on the conversion of Jews, active in Romanian territories between 1839 and 1948, is little known. This article aims to provide a new perspective on the most significant such institution of the time, namely the Anglican Mission. The London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews was the most important organization founded for this reason. Active in Bucharest since 1842, the LSPCJ had permanently sent missionaries, until 1941, when it ended all operations in Romania. British missionaries carried out an extremely complex activity. They organized evangelistic meetings and intensively visited Jews in their neighborhoods, in shops, restaurants, even in synagogues. They distributed Christian bibles and literature in various languages, including Hebrew, Yiddish and Romanian, having organized a vast network of press distribution. Of particular importance was their involvement in education. Overlooked, so far, by historiography, the school founded by the Mission in 1848 was the first elementary school for Jewish children in Bucharest. Except for two years, during the First World War, it operated continuously until 1941 and had an impressive number of students in the interwar period. This article aims to bring back into the spotlight a summary of this almost unknown history.*

Keywords: Protestant Mission, Jewish community, The London Society for Promoting Christianity

Glossen zum unaufhaltsamen Niedergang der deutschsprachigen „jüdisch-liberalen“ Presse im Czernowitz der Zwischenkriegszeit

Andrei CORBEA-HOIȘIE

Abstract: *The study aims to follow up on the slow agony of the German-language press in Bucovina, a province attached to Romania in 1918. This was the expression of a certain public opinion inextricably linked to the cosmopolitan and liberal profile of the German-speaking Jewish bourgeoisie in the former Habsburg province. For more than a decade after the end of the world war, these very diverse and numerous media outlets – such as the Czernowitzer Allgemeine Zeitung, the Czernowitzer Morgenblatt or Der Tag, which enjoyed quite a large print run – actually managed to build-up and cultivate an alternative local „public opinion” to that of the official culture serving the goal of „national” homogenization of the region; in this respect, its lucid relation to Romanian culture and to the emblematic figure of poet Mihai Eminescu, seen as belonging to a set of universal ethical and aesthetic values, can be considered as symptomatic. The existential crisis of the German-language gazettes in Chernivtsi, which was more and more obvious in the 1930’s, was caused not only by the anti-minority policy of the anti-Semitic authorities, or by the excesses of the Romanian far-right, but also by the fact that the so-called „Jewish-German cultural symbiosis” lost credibility when Hitler’s ideology became mainstream. The symbolic threshold of 1933 – when the Nazis came to power in*

Germany – marked the final political and administrative attack against those media outlets, in line with the generalized and aggressive xenophobia directed against them; having been completely banned under the rule of the Goga-Cuza Government and tolerated in a de-structured form by the regime of the royal dictatorship, they eventually disappeared when Northern Bukovina was annexed by the USSR.

Keywords: *German-language press, Bucovina, Jewish community, cultural symbiosis*

POLITICĂ ȘI SOCIETATE

Partidul Evreiesc din România în arena politică a țării (1931-1936)

Lya BENJAMIN

Abstract: *This article presents the main documents issued by the Jewish Party of Romania, from the moment of its establishment (1931) until 1936. They show the general policy of the party, i.e. its programmatic claims for collective emancipation, for equal rights to all citizens of the country. In general, these documents were published in the press of the time and in brochures edited by the Party. Unlike the Union of Romanian Jews, the Jewish Party was a national political organization that campaigned for the recognition of the national minority status for Romanian Jews.*

Keywords: *collective emancipation, national minority, civil and political rights, citizens' equality, anti-Semitism.*

The Joint in Interwar Romania. Reconstruction Activities

Natalia LAZĂR, Lya BENJAMIN

Abstract: *The present study, based on never-published documents, presents and clarifies less known aspects of the support provided by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (the Joint) in Romania during the inter-war period. During World War I and in the first years after, the Joint provided emergency relief by setting up canteens, milk distribution stations, medical aid units, etc. Nevertheless, as of 1921, the organization adopted a new policy, reflected in what was called, at the time, the “reconstruction work”, i.e. the establishment of vocational schools, the organization and maintenance of summer camps for children, the development of credit cooperative networks, etc.*

Keywords: *JDC (Jewish Joint Distribution Committee), Romania, funds, reconstruction*

**Femei sioniste în România primei jumătăți a secolului al XX-lea.
Studiu de caz: Asociația Culturală a Femeilor Evree (ACFE), 1919-1948**

Sylvia HERSHCOVITZ

Abstract: *The Zionist awakening, the enlightenment, the feminist movements that took shape, women's organizations that sprung up around the world, and the spirit of secularization and modernization characterizing the early 20th century – all led Jewish women to recognize the need to organize. This paper aims to analyze the activities of WIZO Romania, originally - The Cultural Association of Jewish Women in Romania (Asociatia Culturala a Femeilor Evree). Established in 1919 due to the initiative and under the leadership of Nadia Stein, it joined international WIZO upon its inception. The activity of WIZO-Romania was multifaceted and full of challenges. It may be divided into three periods: interwar, Holocaust, and afterward. This article will concentrate on their activity only during the first period - the interwar period. WIZO Romania was unique as it was the only Zionist women's organization active in Romania during the first half of the 20th century. The paper deals with quintessential questions regarding WIZO Romania's activity in the interwar period, such as: Under what historical background and circumstances was the organization founded? How did its ideology, founders' background, and organizational activities impact upon the quality of Jewish women's lives and the Zionist movement in and outside of Romania? What challenges did WIZO Romania face? My research ultimately sheds light upon the members' achievements and how they contributed to the nation building and establishment of the state of Israel.*

Keywords: *Zionism, Cultural Association of Jewish Women, WIZO, feminism*

Considerații asupra istoriei evreilor rădăuțeni (1918-1940)

Daniel HRENCIUC

Abstract: *The Mosaic community of Rădăuți is among the oldest and most representative in Historical Bukovina. It was established in a similar manner to all other Jewish communities, such as the ones in Chernivtsi, Suceava, Siret, Gura Humorului, Câmpulung Moldovenesc or Vatra Dornei: the Jewish community's dynamic role in the economy was appreciated and acknowledged by the local authorities. At the same time, Habsburg authorities wanted to colonize Bukovina and develop her economic, industrial and commercial potential.*

Keywords: *community, emancipation, the Mosaic community of Rădăuți, tolerance and multiculturalism, anti-Semitism.*

SPECTRELE ANTISEMITISMULUI

L'émancipation graduelle des Juifs de Roumanie et la révision de la citoyenneté roumaine sous le gouvernement Goga. Aspects juridiques (1879-1938) et historiques (1937-1938)

Philippe Henri BLASEN

Abstract: *This article focuses on the changes of the citizenship status of Jews in Romania between 1879 and 1938. It presents the Romanian citizenship law beginning with the constitutional amendment of 25 October 1879 and concluding with the citizenship review under the Goga ministry. It rediscusses the citizenship review using previously unexploited archival material. It argues that the Romanian State performed an almost complete rotation in the above-mentioned period: the State gradually granted most of the Jews in Romania citizenship, then challenged its acts beginning with 1936. The citizenship review deprived 30% of the Jewish population in Romania of its citizenship shortly later, in 1938-1939.*

Keywords: *Jews in Romania; citizenship; anti-Semitism; Goga ministry; Romanian Royal Dictatorship; League of Nations*

Violența antisemită interbelică. Pogromul de la Focșani (1925)

Adrian CIOFLÂNCĂ

Abstract: *Interwar Romania was ravished by several waves of antisemitic violence. The granting of political rights to Jews by the 1923 Constitution was perceived by the nationalist forces or even by mainstream politicians as a major shortcoming of the Great War and peace negotiations. Nationalist students and militants attacked Jewish students in universities, Jewish neighborhoods and properties, interrupted theatre plays and public events referring to „unpatriotic” topics, assaulted or shot politicians and journalists who were described as Jew-friendly. Large pogroms took place, like the one in Oradea, in 1927. This article focuses on another large-scale incident that took place in 1925, in Focșani. One of the young nationalist leaders, Corneliu Zelea Codreanu, shot dead the Prefect of Police in Iași. He was arrested and went to trial. The trial was moved from Iași to Focșani in order to avoid incidents, but, in the end, more serious incidents took place in Focșani, which was less prepared to face mass riots. Nationalist militants invaded the small town and the Jewish neighborhoods were ravaged. The local synagogue was profaned by throwing dead animals inside. In the end, nobody was legally punished for the pogrom and Codreanu was acquitted, in a masquerade trial in Turnu Severin. This atmosphere of impunity encouraged extremist forces and ruined Romanian democracy.*

Keywords: *Antisemitism, violence, pogrom, C.Z. Codreanu, The Legionary Movement, impunity*

Adolescent Political Turmoil: A Review of Anti-Semitism in Interwar Romanian High Schools

Anca FILIPOVICI

Abstract: *In interwar Romania, discipline was used by school authorities to create loyal and useful Romanian citizens. However, the post-WWI Romanian state was a highly multiethnic country where Jewish pupils had a consistent ratio in the total school population, as the 2nd large ethnic group enrolled in high schools. The limits of the social control of the youth manifested themselves, among other things, in interethnic tensions in high schools, taking place against the backdrop of a generally anti-Semitic society. Using as sources the archives of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior and the General Police Office, this paper offers some statistical enquiries on the high school population of Jewish ethnicity, followed by a synthetic analysis of acts of disobedience and youth political involvement with ethnic connotations.*

Keywords: *teenagers, high schools, anti-Semitism, far-right propaganda, interethnic juvenile violence, Ion Zelea Codreanu.*

Rethinking Interwar Historiography: The Jews of Arad as Subjects of the Nation in 1930s Romania

Emanuel-Marius GREC

Abstract: *The interwar period has been constantly assigned a great deal of importance in the historiographies of Eastern Europe inasmuch as it has been regarded as a new era of post-transitional national states which shaped a new European order. I challenge this rigid categorization by showing how the study of Jews in the western territories of 'Greater Romania' during the 1930s does not highlight social novelty or political empowerment for minorities, but rather the Romanian state's continued efforts at centralization and its attempt to accommodate the Jewish population with means devised in the pre-war period in the 'Old Kingdom'. This involved supporting nationalist and conservative state policies, placing extensive constraints on the overall economy, and insisting on the pursuit of 'Romanianization', as well as putting the division of the newly integrated regions under the rule of petty administrators from Bucharest, who did not understand the cultural plurality of the region or grasp the potential of the state's new situation. As such, I show how the Jews of Arad had to suddenly shift their loyalties after 1918, how they managed to fully integrate into the social and economic life of the Banat region and Romania of the 1920s, and how they later faced the pan-European rise of fascism and anti-Semitism with novel forms of nationalism, during the 1930s.*

Keywords: *Romanianization, Arad, identity, Jewish community, transition*

PERSPECTIVE ISTORIOGRAFICE

Câteva considerații privind reflectarea în postcomunism a istoriei evreilor din perioada interbelică

Cristian VASILE

Abstract: *This paper is not properly an extensive historiographical study, but an attempt to sketch the profile of the post-communist Romanian historiography highly influenced by a sort of ethnic nationalism combined with anti-Semitism which affected also the perspective on the history of Interwar Romanian Jewish community. I have reviewed only a few of the works that came out after 1989, selecting especially those that one considered relevant both generating significant debates, disputes, and representing inflection points in the post-communist historical writing.*

This field of academic study was decisively changed only by Truth Commissions such as the International Commission for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania and by translations into Romanian of relevant Western secondary literature.

Keywords: *interwar period; Romanian Jews, historiography; nationalism, antisemitism.*

MEMORIE ȘI ISTORIE

Amintiri din Bucureștiul evreiesc interbelic

Ioseph Cotnăreanu și Pompiliu Sterian

Andreea BALABAN (TOMA), Camelia ÎNTORSURĂ-MOLDOVEANU

Abstract: *It was in September 2018, at the initiative of Andra Nicoleta Dicu, a psychologist within the Welfare Department of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania, that we began a dialogue with the residents of the “Amalia and Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen” Senior Home. They are an inexhaustible source of true, lived history. These very special people are always open to dialogue and story-telling. Our project was recorded on video camera by Laurentiu Zilberman and on photo camera by Ioana Maria Rusu. Given that the current issue of the Magazine of History of the Jews in Romania focuses on the Jewish community in the interwar period, for this theme, we selected the dialogues we had with two of the interviewed seniors: Ioseph Cotnăreanu and Pompiliu Sterian.*

Keywords: *Ioseph Cotnăreanu, Pompiliu Sterian, Bucharest, antisemitism, Jewish education*

Spicuri din primii mei ani de activitate ilegală în perioada interbelică

Adalbert ROSINGER

Abstract: *The following text is part of Adalbert Rosinger's memoirs, which he wrote immediately after his emigration from Romania to Israel in 1978, as a consequence of Nicolai Ceausescu's personal Decree, during the years 1978-1981. The Decree of June 1978 was issued by Nicolai Ceausescu and determined taking the debts of which Rosinger was accused as part of the Romanoexport trial, on behalf of the State. Issuing of the decree, that followed the direct intervention of US Senator Abraham Ribicoff and other American political personalities, during Ceausescu's 1978 visit to Washington, led to Rosinger's emigration to Israel in September 1978.*

The fragment refers to Rosinger's youth activity as a member of the Communist Youth Union in Budapest and later as a member of the Red Aid Association in Oradea and Bucharest. This Interbellum activity period, began with enthusiasm and confidence in the internationalist ideal, and came to an end, with suspicion and disappointment. This happened, while Rosinger has taken notice gradually of the deployment of Stalinism influence over the youth organizations throughout Eastern Europe.

Keywords: *Adalbert Rosinger, memoirs, Communist Youth organization*

CSIER DUPĂ 40 DE ANI

Amintiri cu Iosif Bercu/ Ioan Șerbănescu (1923 – 2010)

Anca TUDORANCEA

Abstract: *The interview given by Mr. Ioan Șerbănescu is a rare introspection about the places that helped shape his personality, be it the shtetl of Onești, the town of Târgu Ocna, the academic environment in Bucharest and the Schuller home during his time as a student, or the university environment during the communist period. His return to the community, in the 1990s, at the Center for the Study of the History of the Jews in Romania (CSIER), is considered a duty: he felt an inner need to write about the Holocaust and the interwar period. In fact, his last paper published at CSIER focuses on the interwar period and is considered his moral testament.*

Keywords: *Iosif Bercu/ Ioan Șerbănescu, shtetl, Onești, Târgu Ocna, Anti-Semitism, Zionism, Schuller hall, Communism, Center for the Study of the History of the Jews in Romania.*



„Încă o dată spun că noi nu ne considerăm a fi o națiune în cadrul unei națiuni, ci o minoritate etnică. Originea etnică a unei persoane nu este o chestiune de opțiune, ci o realitate istorică. (...) Chiar dacă sunt diferit din punct de vedere etnic și religios de concetățenii mei români, am absolut aceleași interese naționale ca și ei. Vorbesc despre național în sensul întregii națiuni. O națiune reprezintă totalitatea cetățenilor care trăiesc într-o anumită țară.”

Wilhelm Filderman, *Memorii*, 23 martie 1928