The Antithesis of a Prophetic Idea –
G. Ibrăileanu versus E. Lovinescu

From dialectical critical positions, Eugen Lovinescu and Garabet Ibrăileanu embody
a generation of critics who, reiterating earlier polemics, engage in a dispute regarding the
specificity of the Romanian literature and the sources of its topics and subjects. Populist,
respectively modernist, their visions, though antithetical, could be seen complementary in
terms of messianic involvement and prophetic pulse, almost instinctive. “Art for art” and
“art with tendencies”, their positions mark, structurally, the deep troubles of an era of social,
political and literary transformations.