

Bogdan CREȚU, Ofelia ICHIM, Marius-Radu CLIM (coord.), **Memorialistica românească: între documentul istoric și obiectul estetic** [‘Romanian Memoirs: between the Historical Document and the Esthetic Object’], Iași, Editura Universității “Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, 2017, 378 p.

The volume collects the papers delivered at the homonymous symposium organized by the “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology – the Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy and “A. Philippide” Cultural Association, 9–10 June 2015, in Iași, the first edition. The symposium actually derives from the research topic *Enciclopedia scrierilor memorialistice românești* [‘The Encyclopedia of the Romanian Memoirs Writings’] undertaken by the Department of Literary History of “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology on behalf of the Romanian Academy. The initiator and coordinator of the project is Prof. dr. Bogdan Crețu, the director of the “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology. The 2018 symposium, on its 4th edition, is meant to collect information from researchers all over Romania about more or less hidden memoirs that might contribute to the final theme *Enciclopedia scrierilor memorialistice românești* [‘The Encyclopedia of the Romanian Memoirs Writings’]. Here are the titles of the papers delivered at the first edition of the symposium, in 2015: Alex Ciorogar, “Către o cultură a memoriei: de la individual la colectiv” [‘From Individual to Collective and Cultural Memory Studies’], Adrian Crupa, “Memorie – Mărturie – Martiriu. Cadre ale memorialisticii spațiului concentraționar” [‘Memory – Confession – Martyrdom. The Scope of the Concentration-Camp Memoirs’], Ștefan S. Gorovei, “Prememorialiști, pseudo-memorialiști” [‘Pre-memorialists, Pseudo-memorialists’], Andi Mihalache, “Timpuri, decoruri, vârste. Narativizarea vechilor interioare în literatura autobiografică” [‘Times, Décors, Ages. Narrativization of Old Interiors in Autobiographical Literature’], Șerban Axinte, “Leon Donici și Revoluția rusă. O restituire” [‘Leon Donici and the Russian Revolution. A Reconstruction’], Flori Bălănescu, “Femeile în detenția politică – o perspectivă dată de memorialistica edită și inedită” [‘Women in Politic Prison – a Perspective Given by Published and Unpublished Memoirs’], Liliana Burlacu, “Forme ale vieții moderne în memorialistica românească interbelică” [‘Elements of Modern Life in the Romanian Interwar Memoirs’], Astrid Cambose, “*Jurnalul inedit (2001–2002)* al Monicăi Lovinescu: particularitățile discursului diaristic și provocările îngrijirii de ediție” [‘Monica Lovinescu’s *Unedited Diary (2001–2002)*: Particularities of Discourse and Challenges of Edition’], Richard Constantinescu, “Nicolae Leon: o floare și mulți gropari” [‘Nicolae Leon: A Flower and a lot of Grave-Diggers’], Loredana Cuzmici, “Textul viu. Terapia prin literatură” [‘The Breathing Text. Therapy through Literature’], Diana Darabană, “«Locuri» ale memoriei colective în publicistica politică eminesciană” [‘Topoi of the Collective Memory in Eminescu’s Political Journalism’], Ioana-Rucsandra Dascălu, “Critică literară și portretistică în *Memoriile* lui Eugen Lovinescu” [‘Literary Criticism and Portrayal in Eugen Lovinescu’s *Memoirs*’], Mioara Dragomir, “Un om, o epocă – *Sub călcâiul vremii*, de Ion Gheție” [‘A Man, an Era – *Under the Heel of Time* by Ion Gheție’], Mariana Flaișer, “Nicolae Iorga și epoca sa așa cum a fost” [‘Nicolae Iorga and His Era as It Was’], Liliana Foșalău, “Despre oameni, locuri și vinuri în memorialistica lui Vintilă Russu Șirianu” [‘About People, Places and Wines in Vintilă Russu Șirianu’s *Memoirs*’], Livia Iacob, “Cum te salvezi din deșertificarea cuvintelor: *Ultimele caiete* închipuite de Doina Cornea” [‘How

to Escape Words Desertification: *Ultimele caiete* Written by Doina Cornea’], Ofelia Ichim, “N.B. Locusteanu – *Amintiri*” [‘N.B. Locusteanu – *Memories*’], Emanuela Ilie, “Memorialiști în sutană. Re(ve)lații obișnuite, înfrigurări insolite” [‘Memoirists in Cassock. Common Revelations, Unusual Excitements’], Mădălina Lascu, “Memorii de artist” [‘Artists’ Memoirs’], Cecilia Maticiu, “Istoria și istoriile Elenei Văcărescu” [‘The History and the Stories of Elena Văcărescu’], Natașa Maxim, “Jurnalul lui Jeni Acterian – ipostază a demoniului kierkegaardian” [‘Jeni Acterian’s Diary – an Aspect of the Kierkegaardian Demonic’], Ioan Milică, “Ritualuri ale *Memoriilor*”, [‘Rites of *Memoirs*’], Doris Mironescu, “*Amintiri din copilărie* de Ion Creangă sau despre performanță în memorialistică” [‘*Memories of My Boyhood* by Ion Creangă or What Makes a Memoir a Masterpiece’], Maricica Munteanu, “Spațiul ieșean: capitală provincială, «hartă mentală», *lieu de mémoire*” [‘The City of Iasi: Peripheral Capital, “Mental Map”, *lieu de mémoire*’], Adrian Mureșan, “*Jurnalul fericirii* și strategiile subversiunii culturale. Aluvionări memorialistice în eseistica lui N. Steinhardt” [‘*Journal of Happiness* and the Strategies of Cultural Subversion. Memorialistic Alluvia in N. Steinhardt’s Essayistic’], Paul Nistor, “Comuniștii români și memorialistica privind politica externă. «Cosmetizarea» amintirilor: uitarea ideologiei și folosirea abuzivă a interesului național” [‘The Romanian Communists and the Memoirs Concerning the Foreign Policy. The “Embellishment” of Memories: Forgetting Ideology and the Abusive Use of the National Interest’], Ioana Repciuc, “Eul și chestionarul. Inserții memorialistice în discursul etnografic românesc” [‘The Self and the Questionnaire. Inserting Memoirs into Romanian Ethnographic Discourse’], Elvira Sorohan, “Dimitrie Cantemir. O memorialistică insolită” [‘Dimitrie Cantemir. Unusual Memories’], Ligia Tudurachi, “Memorialistica vieții literare sub comunism. Cazul «Sburătorul»” [‘Memoirs of the Literary Life under Communism. “Sburătorul” Case’].

Cornelia BELCIN PLEȘCA, Laura TOADER, Cătălin ALEXA, **Familia țărănească în România. Un secol de fotografie** [‘The Peasants’ Family in Romania. A Century of Photography’], Romanian language editor: Ortansa Stângă; English translator: Anca Stere Remeta; București, 2017, printed by Monitorul Oficial R.A., 416 p.

This album is a precious document whose photos illustrate various aspects of rural Romanian life. The photos belong to the funds of the “Constantin Brăiloiu” Institute of Ethnography and Folklore Archive – the Romanian Academy, and the authors are researchers at the same Institute. I shall quote some explanations given in the “Foreword” by Dr. Ion Ghinoiu, coordinator of the *Romanian Ethnographic Atlas*: “The authors of this volume (...) represent two out of the three generations of ethnologists who created the *Romanian Ethnographic Atlas*, a monumental work dedicated to folk culture. (...). This volume dedicates 10 chapters and 35 subchapters with hundreds of images and explanatory texts to the peasant family which starts with a wedding, is enlarged by every birth, and made incomplete by death. All documentary photos included here capture the family life: its members (husband, wife, children, grandparents), or groups of families working, resting, talking, having a good time, invoking the divinity (...). Due to its structure and concept the book is a valuable textbook of visual ethnology extremely useful for university and high school education. The texts explaining the photos concisely present the significance of the ethnographic phenomena approached in their geographical, historical and ethno-folkloric contexts” (p. 7).

In the “Introduction” to the album, Dr. Cornelia Belcin Pleșca mentions that “[the album] *The Peasants’ Family in Romania. A Century of Photography* is offered out of a deep respect for the traditional family – bearer of a fabulous universe of values which belong to, speak about, and bear witness to the way of life, psychology and creativity of the Romanian people. The subtitle *A Century of Photography* is only a conventional time limit, the photographic material, in all its elements, reminds of even older times, when the rural area and the Romanian peasant families had almost the same unaltered characteristics. (...). Recently, the village, the family and the nation – which shields it protectively – have been subjected to the dissolving effects of globalization. The family’s traditional values and, the nation itself (and its identity) along with them are exposed to corrosive aggression and progressive marginalization. (...). With this album, we are trying to offer for sensible reflection a time that is not too remote in the past, and to inspire answers for a future in which the family and its existential values will regain its essential role to perpetuate the nation, so close to the 100-year celebration since Romania’s Great Union” (p. 11).

The chapters of this album refer to: I. Peasant families (Moldavia, Bukovina, Bessarabia, Muntenia, Oltenia, Dobruja, Transylvania, Banat, Crișana, Maramureș); II. Family life. The precincts of the village; III. Family life. Shelters and roads; IV. Starting a family; V. Children; VI. The daily meal; VII. The peasants’ family at work; VIII. Family and community; IX. Funeral. Commemoration of the ancestors; X. Great communal meals; Bibliography; Editorial notes.

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