

LE MINISTÈRE D'EDUCATION NATIONALE  
L'UNIVERSITÉ "VALAHIA" TARGOVISTE

# ANNALES

## D'UNIVERSITÉ "VALAHIA" TARGOVISTE

SECTION  
d'Archéologie et d'Histoire

**Tome I**

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## The targovistean cultural societies from the end of XIX<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of XX<sup>th</sup> century

**Agnes ERICH,\***  
**Mihai OPROIU\***

The XIX<sup>th</sup> century wake up the Europeans national conscience especially of people, which were under the foreign possessions. There was the period of national recalling and the moment in which the self-conscience of each nations become a primordial characteristic because it took the right to know the personal history and language for making them immortal cultural creations. Among the southwest European nations the Romanian one claimed the right to a historical existence.

The Union of Moldavia with Wallachia in 1859 and the Independence of modern Romanian State as a result of the war from 1887, the national fight of the Romanian people come into its last phrase towards the end of XIX<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the twenty century one. An important contribution in the process of the national development of the Romanians had the cultural society throughout the country, which initiated ample programs representing the synthesis of an intense national cultural movement.

The necessity of supporting these ideas on locally managed to set up such cultural society in Targoviste. In 1876 set up the first Targovistean cultural society named suggestively Progresul. Its program supported the development of the sciences and cultural activities. Also, under the influence of the Progresul came out many historical books and very important reference works.

The first president of Progresul was Stefan Marinescu and C. Alessandrescu was the secretary of it. An important role in supporting their activity had the elaboration of *Armonia* newspaper in 1881. Because among its contributors was Alexandru Vlahuta, it was supposed that him was a member of those society. Beginning with 1883 a new stage came in "Progress" cultural life, the new staff from Dambovita with this occasion made up the publishing of "Progresul" newspaper, which through the

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merging with "Armonia" became a new paper intitulated "Unirea: the paper of Progresul society from Targoviste".

As a part of cultural activities undertook must be pointed out the interest of society members in Romanian folklore, among the first subscribers to the volume "Folk Poetry" by G. Dem. Theodorescu being the active members of Progresul society: D.P.Condurateanu, T.Nicolescu, N.I.Eladescu and Stefan Vasilescu.

Also, wasn't accidentally the elaboration in Targoviste in that period of some scientifically works, very appreciated in that epoch. So, I.D.Petrescu published the historical monographs: *Radu cel Mare; Tergovistea. Historical and topographical sketch; The "dismount" of Negru Voda and his fortress on Dambovita.*

An important reference work, awarded by the Romania Academy was the *Geographical Dictionary of Dambovita* made by D. Condurateanu, which synthesized the knowledge's of the epoch, taking over the traditional elements and the epoch preoccupations.

C. Alessandrescu published many geographical schoolbooks and geographical dictionaries for Ilfov, Valcea, Olt and Prahova. Beginning with 1913 he published "The peasant culture" in which appeared two tales books by I.Creanga and P.Ispirescu.

The establishment of the League for Cultural Unity of the Romanians in university centers, the League succeeded in going the cultural activity with the political one and it declared that "no Power in the world can't hinder the Union of 1891 improved the entire cultural and political activity of the Romanian people aging to establish sections in the most important towns of Romania and in some Romanians".

The Targovistean section run from 1891 and it represented a natural continuation of the society Progresul. As a result of cooperation it was emphasized the raising up of the famous representative "pasoptist" generation-Ion Heliade Radulescu.

In the epoch stayed memorable the great manifestations with a deep political, patriotic and national character, representing through the evocation to great moments of our national history. So, the commemoration of 300 years from Mihai Viteazul's dead leaded in the autumn of 1901 at the organization of many demonstrations in the most important towns in the country, as well at pilgrimage to Dealu Monastery. The distinctive note of those was the Romanian participation from all regions of the country.

A good reason for Romanians from these regions to meet themselves was the great national exposition from 1906, which was organized in Bucharest. With this occasion transilvanians visited Targoviste and Gh. Tocilescu evocated Vlad Tepes and Mihai Viteazu's reigning.



Beginning with 1912 the Cultural League would be reorganized and Dr. Ion Marinoiu would manage it. At 30 August 1912 a group of priests and teachers met to School 1 from Targoviste to put into practice that plan. Its cultural activity would support the foundation of scientifically debating circle, schools, popular teachers, and public libraries a.s.o.

It is necessary to finish up the presentation of the Cultural League from the Valea Lunga's priests towards Romanian's soldiers: "...go happy and without fear, because you don't go alone. The Cross which has accompanied Mircea, Stefan and Mihai, the Cross which has protected Romania ... today is more than any time with you. Be good descendants of yours brave predecessors".

The new events brought back Targoviste in the attention of the whole country, so that this fact determined the revival of the interest in the past vestiges. The resultant of that action was the foundation of the society "Tergovistea" in 10 May 1910. Its goal was "...the conservation and preservation of the historical monuments from Targoviste and Dambovita region". The idea was that all-cultural value of the past to be kept in a regional museum.

Similar preoccupations had the cultural society "The conservation and advancement of traditional customs 1913". This society encouraged the development of the theatre activity, the promotion of Romanian plays.

Towards the end of the XIX century began to run "The Didactic Circle of Schoolmasters from Targoviste". During the meetings talked about the teacher's responsibilities, the relation between school and family, the spreading of scientifically knowledge. In 22 April 1913 was constituted "Teacher's Society from Romania" which intended "to promote the cultural interests of its members, the organization of library in Targoviste. An another goal was the creating of a local review, which had to support their principles.

From this account followed that in this period Targoviste witnessed an intense cultural activity. Only in this way, the spiritual heritage sent from those people, who had self-conscience, might be knowed by successors.