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Facultatea de Istorie • Centrul de Studii Clasice și Creștine

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UNIVERSITATEA „ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA” din IAȘI
FACULTATEA DE ISTORIE
CENTRUL DE STUDII CLASICE ȘI CREȘTINE

Classica et Christiana

**20/2
2025**

**Actele colocviului internațional *Receptarea Romei și a
Imperiului Roman în cultura română contemporană*
(Iași, 14-16 noiembrie 2024)**

editate de

Nelu ZUGRAVU și Ionuț NISTOR

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SIGLE ȘI ABREVIERI / SIGLE E ABBREVIAZIONI*

<i>ActaMN</i>	<i>Acta Musei Napocensis</i> , Cluj-Napoca.
<i>AIIAI</i>	<i>Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie „A. D. Xenopol”</i> , Iași.
<i>AISC</i>	<i>Anuarul Institutului de Studii Clasice</i> , Cluj.
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Ausstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt. Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung</i> , Berlin-New York.
<i>AȘUI.Istorie</i>	<i>Analele Științifice ale Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași</i> , S.N., <i>Istorie</i> .
<i>BSAS</i>	<i>Bulletin de la Société archéologique de Sousse</i> , 1903-
<i>CCSL</i>	<i>Corpus Christianorum. Series Latina</i> , Turnhout, 1953 sqq.
<i>CSEL</i>	<i>Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum</i> , Vienna-Leipzig, 1860 sqq.
<i>DACL</i>	<i>Dictionnaire d'archéologie chrétienne et de liturgie</i>
<i>EDR</i>	<i>Epigraphic Database Rome</i> .
<i>GCS</i>	<i>Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller der ersten (drei) Jahrhunderte</i> , Leipzig-Berlin.
<i>PCBE</i>	<i>Prosopographie chrétienne du Bas-Empire</i> , éd. par A. Mandouze et al., 4 voll., Paris-Rome 1982-2013.
<i>PIR</i>	<i>Prosopographia Imperii Romani. Saec. I.II.III</i> .
<i>PL</i>	<i>Patrologia Latina</i> .
<i>RRMAM</i>	D. French, <i>Roman Roads and Milestones of Asia Minor</i> , Vol. III, British Institute at Ankara, 2012-2016.
<i>SAI</i>	<i>Studii și Articole de Istorie</i> , București.
<i>SC</i>	<i>Sources Chrétiennes</i> , Paris-Lyon.
<i>SCIVA</i>	<i>Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie</i> , București.
<i>TD</i>	<i>Thraco-Dacica</i> , București.
<i>ThLL</i>	<i>Thesaurus linguae Latinae</i> .

* Cu excepția celor din *L'Année Philologique* și *L'Année Épigraphique* / Escluse quelle segnalate da *L'Année Philologique* e *L'Année Épigraphique*.



UNIVERSITATEA
„ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA”
din IAȘI



FACULTATEA de
ISTORIE



Primăria
Municipiului
Iași



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CENTRUL DE STUDII CLASICE ȘI CREȘTINE



COLOCVIUL INTERNAȚIONAL
Receptarea Romei și a Imperiului Roman
în cultura română contemporană

ORGANIZATORI

PROF. UNIV. DR. NELU ZUGRAVU

CONF. UNIV. DR. IONUT NISTOR

Iași, 14-16 noiembrie 2024

Sala H1 (Corp H) / Facultatea de Istorie

**PROIECT FINANȚAT DE PRIMĂRIA MUNICIPIULUI IAȘI PRIN
H.C.L. NR. 61/28.02.2024**

PROGRAM**Joi, 14 noiembrie 2024****14.00-16.00**Moderator: **Nelu ZUGRAVU****14.00-14.30:** Deschiderea colocviului; salutul organizatorilor:

Dl. Mihai CHIRICA, Primarul Municipiului Iași

Dl. Liviu MAHA, Rectorul Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași

Dl. Lucrețiu-Ion BÎRLIBA, Decanul Facultății de Istorie, Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași

Dl. Florian MATEI-POPESCU, Președintele Asociației Societatea de Studii Clasice din România

Dl. Nelu ZUGRAVU, Directorul Centrului de Studii Clasice și Creștine, Facultatea de Istorie, Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași

Orationes inaugurales**14.30-15.00:** Cătălin TURLIUC, Iași, *Discurs istoric și post-adevăr în contextul moștenirii lăsate de lumea romană***15.00-15.30:** Emanuela ILIE, *De la distopia interbelică la policier-ul contemporan. (Re)inventări narative ale unei scheme consacrate, cu romani și (alți) barbari***15.30-16.00:** Discuții**16.00-16.30:** Pauză**16.30-18.30*****Historica (I)***Moderator: **Florica BOHÎLȚEA-MIHUȚ****16.30-17.00:** Gheorghe IUTIȘ, *Istoria Romei în manualele școlare din perioada 1920-1948***17.00-17.30:** Ovidiu-Iulian SANDU, *Imperiul Roman în scrieri politice din perioada comunistă (1965-1989)***17.30-18.00:** Daniel NIȚĂ-DANIELESCU, *Dacia și Roma în scrierile părintelui Dumitru Stăniloae***18.00-18.30:** Discuții**18.30:** Cocktail

Vineri, 15 noiembrie 2024**9.00-11.00*****Philologica***Moderator: **Claudia-Dorina TĂRNĂUCEANU****9.00-9.30:** Theodor GEORGESCU, *Imaginea Romei în cultura română prin ochii autorilor de limbă greacă veche***9.30-10.00:** Nelu ZUGRAVU, Claudia-Dorina TĂRNĂUCEANU, *Ediții din autorii latini în perioada comunistă - exigențe profesionale, concesiile ideologice***10.00-10.30:** Roxana-Gabriela CURCĂ, *Latina epigrafică în cercetarea românească postbelică***10.30-11.00:** Discuții**11.00-11.15:** Pauză**11.15-13.00*****Scholastici***Moderator: **Ionuț NISTOR****11.15-11.45:** Dan DANA, *Un alt latinism interbelic: urmașii francofoni ai Romei***11.45-12.15:** Cătălin BOTOȘINEANU, *O competiție simbolică uitată. Bursierii ieșeni ai Școlii Române din Roma în perioada interbelică***12.15-12.45:** Iulian Cătălin DĂNILĂ, *Fascinația Romei printre bursierii Școlii Române de la Roma***12.45-13.00:** Discuții**13.00-15.00:** Pauză**15.00-16.30*****Postclassica***Moderator: **Bogdan CEOBANU****15.00-15.30:** Ionuț NISTOR, *Limba și civilizația italiană la Universitatea ieșeană în prima jumătate a secolului al XX-lea***15.30-16.00:** Marian-Ionuț HARIUC, *Schimburi culturale româno-italiene în anii destinderii comuniste: locul Antichității romane***16.00-16.30:** Discuții**16.30-16.45:** Pauză

16.45-18.15**Litteraria**Moderator: **Emanuela ILIE****16.45-17.15:** Gabriela DIMA, *Roma antică în percepția lui Liviu Rebreanu***17.15-17.45:** Ioana PETCU-PĂDUREAN, *Imaginea Romei antice pe scena teatrului românesc prin filtrul shakespeareian. Titus Andronicus și Iulius Caesar***17.45-18.15:** Discuții**18.15:** Cocktail**Sâmbătă, 16 noiembrie 2024****9.00-10.30****Historica (II)**Moderator: **Lucrețiu-Ion BÎRLIBA****9.00-9.30:** Adriana PANAITE, *Provincia Moesia Inferior în istoriografie românească de la Vasile Pârvan la tratatul de Istoria românilor***9.30-10.00:** Florian MATEI-POPESCU, *Provincia Dacia în istoriografia românească din perioada 1960-2001***10.00-10.30:** Sorin NEMETI, *Contribuția școlii clujene de istorie și arheologie la studiul religiei romane***10.00-10.30:** Discuții**10.30-10.45:** Pauză**10.45-12.30****Miscellanea**Moderator: **Cătălin TURLIUC****10.45-11.15:** Florica BOHÎLȚEA-MIHUȚ, *Vestigii romane în emisiuni filatelice românești din perioada regimului comunist***11.15-11.45:** Bogdan-Alexandru JITEA, *Dacii și romanii pe marele ecran ceaușist***11.45-12.15:** Bogdan POPA, *Continuitate și antiteză. Contextul social-politic al Daciei***12.15-12.30:** Discuții**12.30:** Închiderea colocviului. Concluzii
Ionuț NISTOR, Nelu ZUGRAVU

Participanți

- Florica BOHÎLȚEA-MIHUȚ, Departamentul de Istorie Antică, Arheologie și Istoria Artei, Facultatea de Istorie, Universitatea din București
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- Iulian Cătălin DĂNILĂ, Facultatea de Științe ale Comunicării, Universitatea „Apolonia” din Iași
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- Theodor GEORGESCU, Departamentul de Limbi și Literaturi Romanice, Clasice și Neogreacă, Facultatea de Limbi și Literaturi Străine, Universitatea din București
- Marian-Ionuț HARIUC, Academia Română, Institutul de Istorie, Departamentul de Istorie contemporană, Iași
- Emanuela ILIE, Departamentul de Românistică, Jurnalism și Literatură comparată, Facultatea de Litere, Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași
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- Bogdan POPA, Academia Română, Institutul de Istorie „Nicolae Iorga”, București
- Ovidiu-Iulian SANDU, Liceul Teoretic „Ion Neculce” Târgu Frumos, Județul Iași
- Claudia-Dorina TĂRNĂUCEANU, Departamentul de Limbi și Literaturi Străine, Facultatea de Litere, Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași
- Cătălin TURLIUC, Academia Română, Institutul de Istorie, Departamentul de Istorie contemporană, Iași
- Nelu ZUGRAVU, Centrul de Studii Clasice și Creștine, Facultatea de Istorie, Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași

ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CIVILIZATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IAȘI IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Ionuț NISTOR*
("Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași)

Keywords: *University of Iași, Italian language, Italian Department, Romanian-Italian relations.*

Summary: *The study of the Italian language at the University of Iași was stimulated by the joint political initiative of Romania and Italy to boost bilateral relations. The political agreement concluded in 1926 paved the way for cultural and academic cooperation, while Mussolini's objective to develop relations with south-eastern European countries, to the detriment of France, led to a more visible presence of Italian culture in Romania especially due to the opening of language and civilization departments within universities. The first Italian Language Department was established at the University of Iași in 1929. The introduction of Italian as a compulsory discipline for Modern Philology students in the mid-1930s led to an increase in the number of students. However, the development of Romanian-Italian academic relations, which was also politically stimulated by both countries joining the Axis, was halted for political reasons, as well: from 1943 Romania and Italy followed different paths, and the collaboration between universities was thus interrupted.*

Cuvinte-cheie: *Universitatea din Iași, limba italiană, Departamentul de Italiană, relații româno-italiene.*

Rezumat: *Limba și civilizația italiană la Universitatea din Iași în prima jumătate a secolului al XX-lea. Studiul limbii italiene la Universitatea din Iași a fost stimulat de inițiativa politică a României și Italiei de a dinamiza relațiile bilaterale. Acordul politic din 1926 a deschis calea cooperării culturale și academice, iar obiectivul lui Mussolini de a dezvolta relațiile cu statele din Europa sud-estică, în detrimentul Franței, a dus la consolidarea prezenței italiene în România, prin înființarea unor lectorate de limbă și civilizație. Astfel, în 1929, se deschidea, la Universitatea din Iași, primul Lectorat de limbă italiană. Introducerea învățământului de limbă italiană ca materie obligatorie pentru studenții care urmau Filologia modernă, de la mijlocul anilor '30, a dus la creșterea numărului*

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rului de studenți. Dar această dezvoltare a relațiilor academice româno-italiene, stimulate politic odată în plus de prezența ambelor state în cadrul Axei, a fost oprită tot din considerente politice: din 1943 România și Italia au urmat trasee diferite, care au întrerupt și colaborările dintre universități.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the Romanian elites manifested a constant preoccupation for the origins of the Romanian people, for its Latin heritage as part of Romanian civilization, but also for the cultural, linguistic and historical links with Italy. Reflection on the common past and on linguistic influences of the two nations went beyond the mere quest for knowledge and intellectual interrogation, constituting the basis for the national and state foundation. The Latin roots of the people and of the language have always represented solid arguments that justified Romanian identity, equally serving, whenever necessary, the political demarcation of borders or international recognition of Romania's position and status. Italy and modern Italian civilization played, in turn, a significant part in the Romanian culture, civilization and the organization of the Romanian state, despite the French model being the most prominent at the time. The position of France as a great power and political and cultural leader had a significant influence on the Romanian political, public and cultural discourse, which naturally centered on Paris. In the Romanian schooling system, this reality was mirrored by the language and culture curricula at all levels. Whereas Latin had been studied in high schools in Moldova and Wallachia since the 18th century, and French had been included in secondary schools and university curricula since the beginning of modern education in Romania, Italian entered the Romanian schooling system with notable difficulty.

The inclusion of the Italian language in school curricula was mainly triggered by political reasons deriving from a particular international context in the inter-war period. Following the First World War, France, which was politically dominant in East-Central Europe, used a series of bi- or multilateral political agreements in an effort to maintain its influence. In the aftermath of the war and after the peace conference, the countries in the region sought France's protection and political rapprochement. Thus, in the early inter-war years, Italy lost this "battle" for east-central Europe. The establishment of the fascist regime and the difficulties in organizing the new state prevented Mussolini from concentrating on foreign relations. Things started to change after 1925, as the Italian leader attempted to enter the Euro-

pean race, impose his political dominance in the eastern part of the continent and outclass France. In order to impose his own Danubian-Balkan project, Mussolini tried at first to reach a general agreement with the states in the region, but was soon forced to revisit his initial strategy when he realized that political interests were rather difficult to harmonize. He concluded a series of bilateral treaties with countries in the region as a first step towards hegemony. In this context, Romania was on the Italian leader's list of priorities.

The political rapprochement context was equally favourable in Bucharest. On March 30, 1926, General Alexandru Averescu, a well-known promoter of Italian culture, was appointed Prime Minister. His political perspective was influenced by his military studies in Turin and his marriage to an Italian woman. The first step towards closer bilateral relations was the Pact of Friendship and Cordial Cooperation between the Kingdom of Italy and the Kingdom of Romania¹ signed in Rome on September 16, 1926. On the same day, there was secret exchange of letters between Mussolini and Averescu in which it was stated that "the major armed forces of the two states will exchange views on the technical modalities for collaboration in the event of unprovoked aggression"². This was in fact a military commitment that complemented previous political cooperation. Further relations were strengthened by the resolution of a very sensitive issue for Romania pending after the Paris Peace Conference: Italy's recognition of the Union of Bessarabia. Disregarding traditionally good relations with the USSR, Mussolini ratified the Treaty of Paris in March 1927³.

This political background proved decisive for the cultural rapprochement, reinforced by the introduction of the Italian language in the school and university curriculum. Article 30 of the 1928 Law on Secondary Education stated: "In addition to the compulsory disciplines⁴, other optional disciplines such as the Italian language, etc.

¹ Vasile Ungureanu, *România-Italia: relații politico-diplomatice (1922-1934)*, PhD thesis, Iași, 2010, 94.

² *Ibidem*, 95.

³ *Ibidem*, 106.

⁴ The compulsory foreign languages were French and either English or German.

may be added, according to the needs and possibilities of the respective school⁵.

At the University of Iași, the decision to introduce the study of Italian language and culture in the curriculum of the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy was based on the law that stipulated the establishment of academic departments. Promulgated by Royal Decree no. 1137 of April 21, 1927, published in the "Official Gazette" no. 91 of April 28, 1927, the same law marked the establishment of the Department of Romance languages and literatures⁶. On June 17, 1927, the University Senate appointed Iorgu Iordan⁷ as tenured professor at the newly established Department. The reputed linguist noted in his *Memoirs* that Alexandru Philippide and Garabet Ibrăileanu were the initiators of the project for the Department of Romance Philology. Two personalities were preferred for the position of substitute professor at the new department: Paul Zarifopol, who had completed his philological studies in Germany, but declined the proposal as he was attracted neither by the teaching activity, nor by the idea of living in Iași, and Eugen Lovinescu (Ioan Petrovici's proposal⁸). Iorgu Iordan was appointed substitute professor of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures on January 1, 1926, yet a specific law was needed to establish a full tenured professor position. The new political context of the Romanian-Italian rapprochement made it possible for this law to be passed in April 1927. A key role at the time was played by Ioan Petrovici – Minister of Public Instruction in Averescu's government – who organized a competition for the position of full professor of Romance Philology⁹. The opening lecture was given by Iordan in

⁵ *Anuarul Universității din Iași pe anii școlari 1926-1927 și 1927-1928*, Iași, 1929, 202.

⁶ Arhivele Naționale ale României Iași (The National Archives of Romania Iași, hereafter – ANRI), fund Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași. Facultatea de Litere, file 262, 1927, 8.

⁷ *Anuarul Universității din Iași pe anii școlari 1926-1927 și 1927-1928*, Iași, 1929, 37.

⁸ Iorgu Iordan, *Memorii*, vol. II, Bucharest, Eminescu Publishing House, 114. Paul Zarifopol was Garabet Ibrăileanu's proposal. Iorgu Iordan also indicated a third person, whom he did not explicitly name, but who would have attracted the symbolic votes from Philippide and Ibrăileanu – the founder of "Viața Românească" journal. This person had completed studies at Humboldt University, but could not be appointed as a substitute as he did not hold a PhD title and specialized studies.

⁹ Iorgu Iordan, *op. cit.*, 116.

mid-January 1926 and was entitled *Linguistics, Philology, Literary History*. The lecture was subsequently published in the journal "Orpheus" in the same year¹⁰. The Romance Philology course had a four-year duration: two years were dedicated to *Romance Linguistics*, one year to *Italian Language and Literature* and one year to *Spanish Language and Literature*. According to the Regulations of the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy, these courses were mandatory for students who studied French, whereas those who had Romanian as a major had to attend, under the same conditions, the *Romance Linguistics* course¹¹.

The syllabus of the *Romance Languages and Literatures* course taught in 1926/1927 comprised two hours of Romance Languages Grammar and one hour of lecture each week¹². In 1930/1931, Professor Iordan taught three hours of *History of Italian Literature - Medieval Period* and three seminar hours each of *Introduction to the Study of the Italian Language* and *Interpretation of Medieval Literary Texts* per week. Upon the death of Professor Philippide, in August 1933, the professors of the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy recommended Iorgu Iordan to be transferred to the Chair of Romanian Philology. A competition was organized for the vacant Chair of Romance Philology, which was won by Dumitru Găzdaru¹³. In 1934/1935, Professor Găzdaru's syllabus included three hours per week of *History of Italian Literature during the Renaissance* and one seminar hour per week of *Historical Grammar of the Italian Language, based on the interpretation of ancient texts*¹⁴. In 1936/1937, Professor Găzdaru taught one course of *Romance Linguistics* (two hours per week) and one of *Problems of Romance Semantics* (one hour per week), as well as a two-hour seminar (*Seminar of Romance Linguistics and Proseminar of Old French*) per week¹⁵.

Despite his rich scientific activity in the field of Italian language and literature, Professor Găzdaru's work at the department was marked by his political actions. On July 10, 1938, Dumitru Găzdaru's professorship was suspended for two years, and he was replaced by Iorgu

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, 115.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, 119.

¹² *Anuarul Universității din Iași pe anii școlari 1926-1927 și 1927-1928*, Iași, 1929, 88.

¹³ Iorgu Iordan, *op. cit.*, 195.

¹⁴ *Anuarul Universității Mihăilene din Iași 1930-1935*, Iași, 1936, 361.

¹⁵ *Anuarul Universității Mihăilene din Iași 1936-1937*, Iași, 1938, 106.

Iordan. On October 1, 1939, Găzdaru was reinstated, resuming his work at the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures¹⁶.

In the 1930s, the Department also hired two assistants: from December 1, 1936 – Alexe Neacșu¹⁷ and from October 1, 1938 – Nicanor Rusu¹⁸.

Italy was manifesting a constant interest in promoting its culture in Romania, in order to consolidate its position in the area. The first lecturer of Italian language, Augusto Garsia¹⁹, was sent to the Faculty of Letters in Iași in 1929. Garsia, born in 1889 in Forlì, was a poet, prose writer and literary critic, who wrote the preface to Ion Agârbiceanu's *Two loves – Due amori*, Perugia-Venice, 1929 and Cezar Petrescu's *Symfonia fantastica – La sinfonia fantastica*, Perugia-Venice, 1929²⁰.

On October 1, 1931, Garcia was replaced by Ermenegildo Lambertenghi, from the Higher Technical Institute of Sondrio²¹, who was appointed by decision of the Ministry of Instruction no. 115444 of August 25, 1931²² following the recommendation of Professor Ramiro Ortiz²³. At the end of the same year, as proof of Italy's increasing interest in the mission of the department, the Italian Consular Agency in Iași asked the Faculty of Letters for a report on Lambertenghi's activities. The Agency required information pertaining to the lecturer's teaching skills and to "the cultural rapprochement desired by both governments, the very purpose for which he was actually sent to Iași"²⁴. Iorgu Iordan was appointed by the Dean to provide an account to the Italian diplomatic representatives. Professor Iordan appreciated that Lambertenghi had all the qualities of a good teacher, had a solid pedagogical and scientific training, yet the period since his arrival was too

¹⁶ *Anuarul Universității pe anul academic 1938-1939*, Iași, 1942, 51, 53.

¹⁷ *Anuarul Universității Mihăilene din Iași 1936-1937*, Iași, 1938, 35.

¹⁸ *Anuarul Universității pe anul academic 1937-1938*, Iași, 1939, 20.

¹⁹ *Anuarul Universității din Iași pe anul școlar 1929-1930*, Iași, 1932, 82.

²⁰ https://revista.biblicad.ro/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/7_3_2018_2-103_113.pdf website accessed on 25.09.2024.

²¹ *Anuarul Universității Mihăilene din Iași 1930-1935*, Iași, 1936, 263.

²² ANRI, fund Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași. Facultatea de Litere, file 339, 1931, 18.

²³ ANRI, fund Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași. Facultatea de Litere, file 356, 1932, 134.

²⁴ ANRI, fund Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași. Facultatea de Litere, file 339, 1931, 11.

short for him to actually contribute to the development of Italian-Romanian cultural connections²⁵.

However, it is worth mentioning that during its first years, the Italian department had to overcome a series of challenges. In April 1932, Lambertenghi wrote a letter to the Dean of the Faculty of Letters in which he pointed out that the budget provided by the Ministry of Education did not include the department. Lambertenghi argued that from an economic and legal point of view, the lecturer functioned as “a mere assistant at the Department of Romance Philology and only bore the title of lecturer”²⁶. He consequently demanded: the establishment of a true Italian department, with proper rights and duties, as agreed between the Italian and Romanian governments and a salary granted on seniority criteria²⁷.

Furthermore, in May 1933, two years after his arrival in Iași, Lambertenghi noted that the study of Italian was not a properly regulated activity but rather depended on the Faculty of Letters, while courses were attended by “whoever wanted and whenever they wanted”²⁸. In his letter to the Dean, Lambertenghi acted as spokesman for the Italian government, trying to identify better solutions for the proper functioning of the department and the “wider use of the Italian language in Romania”²⁹. He argued that the study of the Italian language should be regular and courses should be followed by exams, as it was the case in the Romanian department in Rome, led by Claudiu Isopescu³⁰. In order to put this model into practice, it was necessary either to establish a chair temporarily headed by a substitute lecturer,

²⁵ *Ibidem*.

²⁶ ANRI, fund Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași. Facultatea de Litere, file 356, 1932, 134.

²⁷ Lambertenghi had 23 years of teaching seniority.

²⁸ ANRI, fund Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași. Facultatea de Litere, file 372, 1933, 44.

²⁹ ANRI, fond Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași. Facultatea de Litere, file 372, 1933, 44.

³⁰ Claudiu Isopescu was the first Romanian language lecturer in Italy. A scholarship holder at the Romanian School in Rome (1924-1926), Isopescu was proposed by Nicolae Iorga as a lecturer in Italy in January 1926 - see „Orizonturi culturale italo-române”, no. 1, january 1922, *Claudiu Isopescu, o viață de om în slujba ateneului roman (orizonturiculturale.ro)* website accessed on 27.09.2024.

or to initiate a conference, or to introduce Italian as a compulsory discipline for modern philology students³¹.

It was rather institutional initiative and efforts, more than the demand and interest of the students that led to a change in the status of the Italian language by introducing it as a compulsory discipline³². As a result, the number of students increased, reaching 120³³ by November 1937, so that an assistant was needed to take over the responsibilities of the Italian department. In 1936, Lambertenghi persuaded the management of the Faculty of Letters to remunerate Nicanor Rusu, a young graduate of Italian studies in Iași and of the summer courses in Perugia, as assistant. To reward Rusu's efforts within the department and as a librarian at the Faculty's seminars, the Council decided to grant him financial aid on December 17, 1936³⁴. Lambertenghi also persuaded the Council of the Faculty of Letters to recognize Netto Liberale as honorary assistant on 19 May 1937³⁵, although his activity for the academic year 1938/1939 was not paid³⁶.

Giuseppe Petronio was appointed Italian language lecturer in 1939. Born in 1909, Petronio completed his university studies in Naples and Rome and was granted a PhD in Philology in 1929. He was a literary critic and worked as a teacher at the Govone High School in Alba (1930-1931) and at the Marco Polo High School in Venice (1931-1936). He was an Italian lecturer at the University of Graz (1936-1938), and after the war became a professor at the Universities of Cagliari (1954-1963) and Trieste (1964-1984). In Iași, Giuseppe Petronio was also the director of the Institute of Italian Culture, located on Lăpușneanu

³¹ ANRI, fund Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași. Facultatea de Litere, file 372, 1933, 44.

³² No information is available that would explain the decision of the Council of the Faculty of Letters and clearly indicate when this decision was taken. This outcome was most likely due to Lambertenghi's insistence and Italy's tireless diplomatic efforts. The information on the compulsory status of the Italian language appears in a letter from Lambertenghi to the Dean of the Faculty of Letters dated December 1, 1936 – ANRI, fund Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași. Facultatea de Litere, file 458, 1937, 99.

³³ ANRI, fund Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași. Facultatea de Litere, file 456, 1937, 102.

³⁴ ANRI, fund Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași. Facultatea de Litere, file 458, 1937, 99.

³⁵ *Ibidem*.

³⁶ ANRI, fund Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași. Facultatea de Litere, file 448, 1937, vol. II, 83.

Street³⁷. Petronio taught a general course on *Literature (13th-14th centuries)*, a special course on Boccaccio and a seminar on Italian language and literature³⁸.

The outbreak of the Second World War and, in particular, Romania's entry into the sphere of influence of the Axis led to the consolidation of political relations between Rome and Bucharest. In 1942, competing with Germany for supremacy in the Balkans and the Mediterranean, Italy aimed at unifying the Latin states around Rome in what Mussolini called the "Latin Axis". As an effect of the Italian strategy of rapprochement with Romania, in April 1943, in the presence of the Italian ambassador in Bucharest, the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy inaugurated the Institute of Italian Language and Literature³⁹. However, the Italian Institute was not the only outcome of this political context. In April 1940, the Institute of Turkish Studies was founded under the direction of Franz Babinger and in April 1942, at the request of the German Consulate, the German Language Department was also established⁴⁰. Good relations with Italy, although they did not reach the same level of intensity as the relations with Germany, were also reinforced by countless visits and conferences given by Italian professors and researchers such as Eugenio Morelli, Carlo Toglianini, Ernesto Fodale, Acad. Enrico Bompiani⁴¹.

Romanian-Italian political and cultural ties, which were notably strong during the interwar period and at the beginning of the Second World War, were cut off in 1943, once the two countries took opposite political and military sides. The general political context also affected the course of Italian language studies at the University of Iași, with Italian no longer included in the university curricula at the end of the military confrontation. Cooperation between Bucharest and Rome was gradually reestablished in various fields in a context in which the USSR displayed a shift of perspective in its relations with Western states, while the Romanian Communist Party adopted a divergent attitude towards the "bloc policy" imposed by Moscow in the mid-60s. In 1967, a cultural agreement was concluded between Romania and

³⁷ *Anuarul Universității pe anul academic 1938-1939*, Iași, 1942, 47.

³⁸ *Ibidem*, 171.

³⁹ *Istoria Universității din Iași*, Alexandru Florin Platon, Gheorghe Iacob (eds.), Iași, Editura Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, 2014, 485.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*, 477.

⁴¹ *Ibidem*, 510.

Italy, which provided, among other things, for the study of Romanian language and literature in Italy and Italian language and literature in Romania. Changes in Romania's foreign policy allowed for the Italian language to be studied again as a secondary discipline at the Faculty of Letters, following a ministerial order. Furthermore, in 1974, an Italian lecturer returned to the University of Iași after an absence of nearly 30 years.

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