

***Romanian Modernity – Historical, Cultural and Theological Paradigms*, Romanian Academy, Center for Transylvanian Studies, Supplement no. 1 of “Transylvanian Review”, Cluj-Napoca, year XXX, 2021, 314 p.**

At the end of 2020, the worthy hierarch Gurie Georgiu, the first Orthodox bishop of the Diocese of Deva and Hunedoara, relocated to the Kingdom of God – too early – on October 21, 2021, obtained, by the goodwill of Mr. Academician Ioan Bolovan and the members of the editorial board of the “Transylvanian Review” and by virtue of a beautiful collaboration between the “Center for Transylvanian Studies” of the Romanian Academy and the Diocese of Deva and Hunedoara, supplement no. 1 of this prestigious history magazine from Cluj. The supplement was intended to include papers presented at a future international symposium, entitled *Romanian Modernity – Historical, Cultural and Theological Paradigms*, organized in collaboration with the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies “Silviu Dragomir” of the University of Oradea.

Unfortunately, given the rigors imposed by the pandemic, the cultural-ecclesiastical event, expected to be organized in Deva during the same period, was not held. However, the essays of the guests, as well as other authors who joined us along the way, were collected and clustered in a beautiful volume, edited in English, French and Italian, and printed in special graphic conditions, the coordination of which, from the entrustment of the mentioned Hunedoara hierarch, came back to me.

The volume brings together, in its pages, various concerns in the field of History, Theology, Philology, Sociology and other, the topics being grouped into two distinct sections, plus a final microsection “varies”. The first section, entitled *Romanian Modernity – Historical and Cultural Paradigms*, brings together studies that capture the idea of “Romanianess of Romanians”, as reflected in the notes of foreign travelers in the 18<sup>th</sup>

century, the idea of “national and ecclesial legitimacy”, outlined at the border between the Austro-Marxist current and the revolutionary discourse in Romania in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, then some elements of historical demography and anthroponymy of the Bihor settlements on the Bistra Valley (according to the urban conscriptions of 1770), the Russification process of the Bessarabian Romanian Orthodox Church in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the religious jurisdictions and the pluralization of legal judgment in modern Romania, as well as a presentation of the evolution of the Hunedoara Orthodox monastic settlements from the medieval period to the present day. Two other studies, in Italian, make a brief analysis of the Uruz language and the “songs of the dead” by Ilarie Voronca.

The second section, entitled *Romanian Modernity – Cultural and Theological Paradigms*, also includes research on topics such as the impact of the postmodernist current on society as a whole, “Christian culture” today, the Romanian village in search of its new identity, the recovery of everyday life in the “post-pandemic era”, respectively the cultural heritage of the period of the great hierarch Anthim the Iberian.

To these is added a *Varia* microsection, with equally interesting studies on pastors of the past, as precursors of the spread and consolidation of Romanianism, the restoration and reform of the House of Austria, and the confessional landscape of the gypsy communities in today’s Romania.

The authors – hierarchs, researchers, professors of History, Theology and Letters – approach, therefore, a diverse subject, the result of their work offering to the reading public the supplement referred to, a volume which I warmly recommend for reading, knowledge and – why not? – reflection.

**Rev. Florin DOBREI**