

VASILE GOLDIȘ, PERSONALITY OF THE NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN CULTURE**VASILE GOLDIȘ, PERSONALITATE A CULTURII NAȚIONALE ȘI EUROPENE****Eugen GAGEA****Facultatea de Psihologie și Științe ale Educației****University of the West “Vasile Goldiș” from Arad****Abstract:**

The article is centred around the personality of Vasile Goldiș who had an outstanding contribution to the realisation of the Romanian National Unitary State. But Vasile Goldiș was also an excellent scholar. Cultural preoccupations guided him throughout his entire life as he militated for the rights of the Romanian people but also for the cultural and artistic life from Transylvania.

Cuvinte cheie: *om de știință, Vasile Goldiș, tendințe de denaționalizare, literatură Europeană, recunoaștere culturală*

Key words: *scholar, Vasile Goldiș, cultural awareness, denationalisation tendencies, European literature*

The personality of Vasile Goldiș (1862-1934) attracted the attention of many researchers, who highlighted his outstanding contribution to the realisation of the Romanian National Unitary State through the Great Union from the first December 1918 in Alba Iulia. But Vasile Goldiș was also an excellent scholar. After he completed his studies at universities from Vienna and Budapest (a time when he activated within the literary societies “Romania Jună” and “Petru Maior”), he was a teacher of the Pedagogical Institute (Preparandia) from Caransebeș (1886-1889), then a teacher of the High school “Andrei Saguna” from Brașov (1889-1901), period when he edited several books of history and Latin Language for his students.

In 1901 he leaves Brașov coming to live in Arad where he activated as secretary of the Bishop’s Council (1901-1918) and as a teacher of the Superior School for girls.

He militated for the rights of the Romanian people as a member of the Hungarian Parliament (1906-1910) where he had several interventions supporting the right to existence of the Romanian Confessional schools. In 1911 he became manager of the Newspaper “Românul”(The Romanian), from Arad and of the typographic institute “Concordia” which aimed at cultivating the national feeling through its publishings..

Cultural preoccupations guided him throughout his entire life and after the Union which took place in 1918, he was elected president of the Transylvanian Association for Culture and Literature of the Romanian People from Arad.

In his quality of Headmaster of the cultural association from Arad, Goldiș considered that this society has as its main goal “the protection of Romanian language. In close relationship with the national and social ideals which animated him we also find Goldiș’s ideas regarding literature and his love for the arts, this being a fundamental coordinate of the spiritual equilibrium of the personality of Vasile Goldiș.

Within the article entitled “Arta”(The Art), published in the review “Tribuna poporului”(1902), Vasile Goldiș, after making the assertion that art is one of the essential characteristics that differentiates man from other beings, underlines its importance within the life of a nation. It is art that determines a nation to acquire particular traits in order to be able to assert itself within the universal circuit of the values. Expressing the belief that all peoples love arts he

makes the proud determination that, in spite of the unfavourable historical and political context which didn't allow for the possibility to manifest itself within this area, love for the arts was and still is an important component of the Romanian people .

The political substratum of these highlightenings is not at all difficult to guess. Thus Valise Goldiș shares the conviction that Romanian art has a European and universal character. In his opinion any sustainable work of art doesn't belong only to the people amidst which was created but to the whole mankind. It thus holds a universal character which is the case of the works of art and of the masterpieces of the Romanian literature.

The author is concerned with the problems of the Romanian literature- seen from a broader, theoretical spectrum as we can see from an article published within the review "Luceafarul" under the title Our Literature. The idea animating the article which is still a contemporary idea and which has proven right by the subsequent evolution of the Romanian literature refers to the conviction that the literature of a nation is the result of its development and of its evolution and that it should reflect the aspirations and hopes of the people and places where it was born. For the Romanian writers from Transilvania- as the author shows it- this means the reflection of their life, of their aspirations towards liberty, independence and union, towards morality and civilisation.

Goldiș was the promoter of a realistic type of art which should reflect with accuracy aspects from the social and national life and he militated for such an art urging writers to write about the life and aspirations of the people. We also find in the aforementioned article other important ideas such as the belief that an authentic literary creation must combine the national and the universal features and the conviction otherwise established on the remarkable values that our literature produced that Romanians are capable of creating great literary talents. Slavici and George Cosbuc are two of the the examples cited by Goldiș.

Upon discussing the situation of the Romanian literature from Transylvania, Vasile Goldiș also talks about the unfavourable socio-economical environment which lead to the fact that talented people in order to express themselves under these circumstances had to take refuge on the other side of the Carpathians.

The sociological perspective of the concerned article is also important as it analyses this state of things. The development of the literature is closely linked to the condition of the receiving factor, the public.

In Transylvania, as the author mentions, due to reactionary politics of the Austro-Hungarian officials, the Romanian people lived in ignorance. As a result, because of the small number of schools, cultural societies, newspapers and of the lack of cultural and political activities in Romanian language, the interest for literature was low which lead to its under development.

Thus results the connection or the bond of the writer and of its work with his people and his life. The writer must arouse interest with the masses, contributing efficiently to their cultural awareness, process which in turns is going to have a favourable response in the subsequent development of the field. Between writer and reader there is a mathematical proportion.

Trough his way of seeing literature in close connection with the reading public, Vasile Goldiș was a forerunner of today's literary sociology.

Upon commenting the opinions expressed in his article, some of nowadays literary historians affirmed that they are encouraging Romnian writers from Transylvania to limit themselves to a local production of regional interest which lacks national and universal perspective.

On the contrary, the author of the article is against those writers whom by "universality" understood the search for subjects and exotic attitudes in order to copy foreign examples, trying to be less Romanians as a result of the conviction that otherwise they won't able to gain worldwide recognition.

Finally, at the end of the article, Vasile Goldiș a man with a practical vision suggests a series of concrete methods through which the propagation of good literature throughout Romanian villages could be possible. One of them would be to set up detachable libraries, thus contributing to the growth of the taste for reading of the peasants.

Within the vision of Vasile Goldiș, Romanian art and literature (especially literature from Transylvania) must constitute themselves into an efficient fighting tool against denationalisation tendencies. Aware of the educational value of national literature, of the place it must held within the curriculum of the schools from Transylvania, Goldiș considers that Romanian language and literature can be used as a means of educating the family, the main role being here held by the women.

Copncluzii

The national value of art and literature is seen on another level. Trough prestigious artistic realisations, Romanian people will be able to impose itself to the attention of civilised Europe.

Vasile Goldiș saw Romanian art and literature as an organic whole, beyond political and temporal frontiers. Hence we see the interest that he puts on the cultural and artistic life from 1918 as well as the efforts that he makes into the direction of promoting in Transylvania the works of the classics of our literature.

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