

ALEXANDRU ONOJESCU, **Towards a “Diet of Employees.” The Role of Romanian Clerks from the Liberal Age in the Elections for the Diet from Sibiu (1863-64)**

**Abstract:** The proposed study deals with a less explored aspect of Romanian historiography regarding the period 1860-1867, namely the role that the Romanian civil servants played in winning a Romanian majority in the Diet of Sibiu from 1863-64. Our approach consists of three distinct phases. In the first section we make a brief presentation of the new electoral law which allowed the Romanians a wider political expression. Then, we focus on the Romanian participation in the elections of May-June 1863 and, especially, on the coordinating role that some high-ranking Romanian civil servants played in the electoral process: the nomination of Romanian candidates, the mobilization of the Romanian electorate, ensuring their victory. We try to emphasize the multiple statements of position regarding the role of the so-called royalists (named representatives) in the upcoming legislative forum, but also on the existence of some incongruence between the bureaucratic status and legislative status of the future Romanian representatives. We also try to point out some confessional frictions. In the last section we apply a quantitative and qualitative analysis on the whole body of Romanian representatives – e.g. the confessional distribution, their socio-professional status (named or elected) – which will explain their later legislative performance.

**Keywords:** Civil servants, Elections, Transylvania, the Sibiu Diet from 1863-1864, Romanian deputies.

GEORGETA FODOR, **Romanian Women in the New Economic Context of the Twentieth Century**

**Abstract:** The study aims at revealing some of the key aspects of the process through which women started to become “economic players.” The analysis concentrates on the women from the Romanian society but integrated in the European context. Two are the processes, both European and Romanian, between which the study develops: the Industrial Revolution and the First World War. A major turn in history, the Industrial Revolution, can also be seen as a “women’s revolution” due to the effects and the impact it had on the women’s role in the society. The fact that women had stepped through labor outside the limited circle of family was a real progress that generated the development of the feminist movements. Our intention is to identify the extent to which the new economic context that emerged at the beginning of the twentieth century influenced women from the Romanian society as well.

The study, part of an extended research project, is limited for the moment at the analysis of the theoretical debates that this progress on the labor market generated, as we think that they perfectly mirror the reactions pro and against this challenge of the traditional gender roles.

**Keywords:** Economy, Gender Differences, Labour, Debates, Emancipation.

ANDREEA DĂNCILĂ, **Political and Cultural Elites in Early Twentieth Century Transylvania. Aspects from the Activity of *Lupta* Newspaper from Budapest**

**Abstract:** This paper, seemingly a chapter of Transylvanian newspapers’ history, aims to examine the functioning of the political elites’ relationship with the cultural elites in the dynamic context of the early twentieth century. Starting a newspaper meant to

express the official political views of the Romanian National Party in Transylvania, was not only an old desire of the most experimented politicians but also a wanted scene for the young cultural elite formed around the emblematic figure of Octavian Goga. The dialogue initiated between the two sides, politicians versus men of culture, negotiations and conflicts involving the newspaper *Lupta* are defining signs for the confusion between political and cultural field.

**Keywords:** Press, Transylvania, Culture, New activism, Political elite.

SORIN ARHIRE, **The British Cultural Influence in Romania at the End of the 1930s**

**Abstract:** Throughout the nineteenth century and for much of the interwar period the cultural influence of Great Britain in Romania remained insignificant. The typical “splendid isolation” of England as concerned the continental Europe, and especially its eastern side, held sway, even though from the beginning of the twentieth century, Great Britain became more involved in European affairs as compared to the earlier centuries. The economic problems which plagued France around 1935, had political and military consequences which led to a relative reduction of French presence in Romania. As ever faithful to the principle of European balance, which the Britons applied in their foreign policy for more than three centuries, the British cultural policy attempted to fill the gap left by the relative pulling out of France, thereby proceeding in a manner similar to their behavior in international relations. Romania began to be a country which deserved more and more to be taken into consideration. An important role was played by the “English-Romanian Association” (Asociația Anglo-Română), established in 1927, with the goal of developing the British-Romanian relations. In 1928, with the support granted by this association, Nicolae Iorga published the first scholarly Romanian work on the history and culture of England. The same association supported the conferences held in Romania by various British personalities, such as Sir Ronald Storrs, Bruce Lockhart, and Harold Nicolson.

While the knowledge of English language was relatively low in the interwar period, in the years preceding the Second World War, an increasing interest for learning this language appeared among Romanian students, a fact which explains the creation of the English Language Literature Chair at Bucharest University in 1936. The introduction of the Romanian language news service in the BBC programs can be deemed as part of the effort of Great Britain to increase its cultural influence in Romania, with the goal of countering the German influence which had become preponderant. Starting out later than France and Germany, the British cultural influence in Romania was weak throughout the interwar period. A certain invigoration of the bilateral cultural relations is discernible from 1936 to 1940. Falling into the German and then into the Soviet sphere of influence after Second World War, Romania could establish indeed strong cultural relations with Great Britain only after the demise of the Communist regime in 1989.

**Keywords:** “English-Romanian Society”, British Council, Conferences, Learning English in Romania, Romanian language programs by BBC.