

**THE INSTITUTE  
FOR HISTORY IN CLUJ AND ITS YEARBOOK  
(1920-2008)**

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The political union of the Romanians in 1918 through majority self-determination based on Wilson’s principles was highly beneficial to the subsequent evolution of the Romanian society. Ninety years ago, the forging of Greater Romania shaped the framework for the organic development of Romanian institutions in the territories recently united with Older Romania laying the foundation for the scientific, cultural and educational establishment required by the general progress. In Cluj, the young Romanian university turned into a modern and democratic institution, open to the youth from the intra-Carpathian province, which aspired to acquire the knowledge they needed for their future, more diverse and specialized, careers.

The Institute for National History set up by professors Alexandru Lapedatu (1876-1950) and Ioan Lupas (1880-1867), members of the Romanian Academy, was among the newly established institutions in Cluj, the main town of Transylvania. In November 1919, in the opening lecture of his course on Transylvanian history at the Cluj University, professor Ioan Lupas was asking for support in order to set up an Institute for National History, and drawing the main guidelines of the future research within its framework, “the high benefits of a historical writing that meets our demands”<sup>1</sup>. The most important scientific duty of the Institute was to investigate Transylvania’s past; that is to identify historical-archive materials and expand the documentary database by publishing collections of historical sources related to the main issues of the past of the intra-Carpathian province, which would serve as starting point for future historical reconstructions.

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<sup>1</sup> Prof. Ioan Lupaș, *Factorii istorici ai vieții naționale românești*. Opening lecture delivered at the University of Cluj on November 11, 1919, published in the volume: I. Lupaș, *Studii, conferințe și comunicări istorice*, I, București, 1928, pp. 10-11.

They envisaged the elaboration of a national historical bibliography in order to keep record of older or more recent achievements in the field, which has ever since become a requisite tool in any scientific enterprise.

On the other hand, the works published by the members of the Institute, their doctoral dissertations focused on topical issues, their papers, and the yearbook of the Institute aimed at turning to account the results of the scientific research. In the Preface to the first issue of the periodical they edited, the two founders of the Institute stated that they had in mind from the very beginning the “publication of a yearbook, perhaps of other periodicals too, within the framework of the Institute, where young researchers who studied and worked here would make their contribution to the progress of national historical writing through their studies and researches, original and noteworthy”<sup>2</sup>.

The leadership of the Institute has consistently followed these guidelines throughout the almost nine decades of activity since its foundation in spite of the hard times during World War II and under the communist regime.

Shortly after the foundation of the Institute in 1920, under the patronage of its founders, its periodical publication was elaborated and published: “Yearbook of the Institute for National History” in Cluj, one of the first historical journals in Romania. The thematic content and columns of the yearbook met the demands of modern European historical research, with which the editors of the Cluj publication were quite familiar. Soon enough, the yearbook of the Cluj Institute gained its place among the scientific periodicals published under the patronage of the Romanian Academy, drawing more and more attention both in the country and abroad.

The periodical publications of any research institute are the most faithful mirror of its organization and activity, the scientific endeavors and achievements of its members. The regular issuance of the journal put into evidence the discipline of its publishers and the constant concern of the leadership of the Institute in turning to account the researches conducted under its patronage. At the same time, the fact that in many cases one volume included issues from several years revealed the scientific, financial or other kind of obstacles the Institute had hardly overcome, which led to a decrease in the quality of its yearbook. In time, they had to drastically cut down the number of pages, which mirrored the hardships of scientific research in humanities during the communist era. The cessation of the publication of the prestigious periodical revealed how political authorities could sometimes brutally interfere with the organic evolution of cultural and intellectual life.

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<sup>2</sup> Alexandru Lapedatu, Ioan Lupaș, <Prefață>, in: „Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională” of Cluj, 1921-1922, 1-2, p. VII.

During the 88 years since the foundation of the Institute for History in Cluj (1920-2008), its „Yearbook” has been published in 56 volumes - some of them including several years, other 8 miscellaneous. All in all, they managed to overcome the obstacles and political-ideological interference of the communist authorities chiefly in the fifth decade of the communist epoch. The first volume of the „Yearbook of the Institute for National History” was published under the auspices of the University of Cluj in 1922 (I, 1921-1922), thus overcoming the difficulties of the first years and the aftermath of the world war of 1914-1918, which had severely affected Romanian society, causing serious human and material loss. The debates on the scientific research team of the Institute, the global economic crisis of 1929-1933 and the aftermath of World War II, when the Institute for History of Cluj was forced to move to Sibiu following the Diktat of Vienna in August 1940, made them cumulate several years in one volume. Nevertheless, the excellent content and the increased number of pages led to a significant improvement as the directors of the Institute and the editorial staff required high standards from the materials included and published in each issue.

In 1945, on the anniversary of 25 years since the foundation of the Institute, the “Yearbook” appeared in one substantial volume in the respective year, which attempted to draw the guidelines for its future publication<sup>3</sup>.

After 1945, under the circumstances of the presence on the Romanian territory of the Soviet occupation troops and the establishment of the communist regime in the post-war years, new obstacles appeared. Professor Ioan Moga, the new director of the Institute, failed in his attempt to publish the 1946 “Yearbook”. The same happened next year, when they attempted to issue a cumulate volume 1946/1947. However, the Central University Library of Cluj-Napoca and, partly, the Library of the Institute for History preserves several copies of excerpts of the papers included in the eleventh volume of the 1946 “Yearbook”, which they did not manage to bind<sup>4</sup>.

In 1950-1954, a “mixture” of scientific works, the periodical entitled „Studii și cercetări științifice” [Scientific Studies and Researches] was published in Cluj, and between 1955-1957 “Studii și cercetări de istorie” [Historical Studies and Researches], both under the patronage of the Cluj Branch of the Romanian Academy, reorganized in 1948. The papers on archeology, antiquity, medieval and

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<sup>3</sup> See Ioachim Crăciun, *Publicațiunile Institutului de Istorie Națională din Cluj-Sibiu și colaboratorii lor de la 1920-1945. Cu o bibliografie a publicațiilor*, Sibiu, Tip. Cartea Românească of Cluj, 1945, 74 pp. Excerpt from „Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională” of Cluj, 1945, X, pp. 634-706; and from the vol: *Institutul de Istorie Națională din Cluj-Sibiu. 1920-1945. Ședința comemorativă din ziua de 4 februarie 1945*, Sibiu, Cartea Românească of Cluj, 1945, pp. 26-98.

<sup>4</sup> Based on the excerpts we were able to reconstruct the eleventh volume of the “Yearbook of the Institute for National History”, 1946-1947, edited by dr. Veronica Turcuș, thus recovered after 60 years.

modern history published in these periodicals aimed at making up for the absence of an Institute journal, which would reappear in 1958 as a new series. Ever since, the “Yearbook of the Institute for History” was published regularly for half of a century, overcoming several other obstacles, such as the fake “paper shortage” crisis caused in 1983-1988 by the dictatorial couple Ceausescu or the 1999-2000 “insolvency crisis”, when they issued one volume for several years again<sup>5</sup>.

In 2001-2008, the “Yearbook” of the Institute for History in Cluj appeared regularly, one volume each year, thus becoming part of the national and international scientific and cultural heritage.

As for page statistics, the inter-war (1921-1947) and the new series published in the last 50 years (1958-2008) of the Institute “Yearbook” amounts to 28,500 in octavo pages. Considering the 77 years of publication of the historical “Yearbook” of Cluj, there is an average of 370 pages per year, or 400 pages per year when considering the last half of a century.

The present brief survey should also mention the structure of the “Yearbook” volumes and the quality of the materials included in each issue. The papers dealing with significant historical issues, as well as the opening lectures at the University, prefaced the inter-war volumes of the “Yearbooks” and those published in the first 25 years after 1958. Next, there was a column entitled *Contributions*, including less elaborate materials, then one called *Debates, Reports and Book Reviews*, which kindled a healthy fire of debate around the historical research and its perspectives and evolution. At the end there was a *Scientific Chronicle* and pieces of information concerning books newly included in the funds of the Institute Library.

The content of the papers published along the years in the “Yearbook” of the Institute for History in Cluj reveals various scientific research trends at the Institute in different stages of its existence. First, they dealt with crucial issues of Transylvanian historical writing in medieval and modern ages, accompanied in the last decades by topics concerning contemporary history as a new department were set up within the framework of the Institute. Among them, we should mention studies concerning the institutions of the Transylvanian voivodat and principality, political, economic, and cultural relations of the intra-Carpathian province with the Romanian countries east and south of the Carpathians, with the states and peoples of Central and South-Eastern Europe. They also dealt with social history, chiefly of the Transylvanian peasantry, with the great medieval and pre-modern social movements,

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<sup>5</sup> See the bibliographic indexes of the periodical of the Institute for History of Cluj: *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională. Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj-Napoca (1921-1981)*. *Indice bibliografic* by Doina Dițu, Ioana Mateiu, Stelian Mândruț, Lăcrămioara Nimu, Adrian A. Rusu. *Introducere* by Acad. Prof. Ștefan Pascu, Cluj-Napoca, 1984, XXII + 124 pp.; *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie din Cluj. Anuarul Institutului de Istorie (1982-1995)*. *Indice bibliografic* by Károlyi Iolanda and Stelian Mândruț, în: „Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Cluj-Napoca”, 1995, 34, pp. 25-62; *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie „George Bariț” din Cluj-Napoca” (1996-2005)*. *Indice bibliografic* by Mihaela Bedecan and Stelian Mândruț, in: „Anuarul Institutului de Istorie «George Bariț» din Cluj-Napoca, Series Historica”, 2006, 35, pp. 487-527.

which were the main concern of the pioneer and historical school founder of Cluj, Ioan Lupas and, consequently, of the members of the Institute, who published wide researches on the respective topics. The 1848-1849 Revolution in Transylvania, the political-national movement of the Transylvanian Romanians for freedom and unification with Romania, concluded in a democratic manner in 1918, based on Wilson's principles, were also favorite topics of the researchers of the Institute<sup>6</sup>.

They are accompanied by studies in cultural-church history emphasizing the intricate denominational and cultural-artistic landscape of medieval and modern Transylvania. At the same time, there was a constant interest in new methodologies and approaches in every field of historical science, such as the comparative method and the integration of Romanian historical phenomena in European history, inter- and pluridisciplinary approaches, quantitative history, the history of mentalities, ethno-history, historical sociology and demography, climatology, etc. In the last decade and a half during the period under discussion, they have also published thematic issues of the „Yearbook”, outcome of the international conferences organized by the Institute: „Religion and Society”, „Rural Civilization – Urban Civilization”(1992, 31), „Majority, Minority, Elites, and Marginals”(1993,32), „Society, Institutions, Culture”(1994,33), „Romanian Society and the Jews in the First Half of the Twentieth Century”(1997, 37 and 1999-2000, 38-39), „Romanian-Hungarian Interference in the Modern Age”(1997, 37), “The 1848 Revolution in Central and South-Eastern Europe”(1998, 37), or the issue of May 2003 dedicated to George Baritiu, commemorating 110 years from his death, when he was appointed patron of the Institute for History in Cluj (2003, 42).

In the landscape of Romanian historical writing, the yearly publication of the Institute for History in Cluj turned out to be most necessary within the historical context after 1918 and World War II. It mirrored the activity and interests of a prestigious historical research institute, which distinguished itself in Romanian and European historical writing, gathering together specialists in various historical domains. The “Yearbook” of the Institute for History played a leading role ever since its beginnings in 1921, being the oldest periodical in the field of historical writing in Romania issued by an institute for scientific research.

The specialists who contributed to the “Yearbook” of the Institute for History in Cluj are distinguished personalities from Romania and abroad: the academicians Alexandru Lapedatu, Ioan Lupaș, Silviu Dragomir, David Prodan, Constantin Daicoviciu, Ștefan Pascu, Dan Berindei, Camil Mureșanu, Sigismund Jakó, Dumitru Protase. Foreign historians also made their contribution: K. Hitchins

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<sup>6</sup> Ștefan Pascu, „Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională din Cluj”. *La 50 de ani de la apariție*, în „A.I.I.A.Cluj”, 1972, 13, pp. 9-11; Idem, „Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională din Cluj”. *La 60 de ani de la apariție*, in „A.I.I.A.C.-N.”, 1981, 24, pp. 129-133; Stelian Mândruț, *Cercetarea istorică actuală oglindită în paginile „Anuarului Institutului de Istorie din Cluj (1982-1995)*, in „A.I.I.C.-N.”, 1995, 34, pp. 15-23.

(SUA), Peter Urbanitsch (Austria), Spira György (Ungaria), Milan Krajčovič (Slovakia), Konrad Gündisch (Germania), Paul Michelson (SUA), Volker Wollmann (Germania), Karvar Anousheh (Paris), Ann Buckley (Anglia), Barta János (Ungaria), Othmar Kolar (Austria), James Niessen (SUA), Mariana Hausleitner (Germania).

Side by side with the members of the Institute, the “Yearbook” has the privilege to welcome collaborators from the other scientific centers of Romania, as well as from Central and Western Europe and over the Ocean, another proof of its thematic and methodological openness. The abstracts of the articles, written in foreign languages, when the articles themselves were not, enabled the communication of their content in wider linguistic areas. Nevertheless, in the last years one could notice the concern of the researcher-authors of the papers, and of the editorial staff, to present their research in languages known in the European and American areas.

The “Yearbook” of the Institute for History in Cluj-Napoca is nowadays present in more than 200 European libraries, as one could see on the site created by the University of Karlsruhe and GVB Gemeinsamer Verbundskatalog. The spreading of the Cluj „Yearbook” in the European area is illustrated in the historical sciences database ViFaOst (Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Osteuropa). It is included in the catalogues of the National Austrian Library, National Hungarian Library in Budapest, British Library in London, Library of Congress in the USA, etc.<sup>7</sup> The International Exchange Department of the Romanian Academy Library makes sure that several copies of the „Yearbook” of the Institute for History in Cluj are sent to Cambridge Philosophical Society (UK), Sofia University Library (Bulgaria), Magyar Tudományok Akademia in Budapest (Hungary), Ceske Akademie (Prague), École Normale Supérieure in Paris (France), UNESCO-Paris, Akademie de Wissenschaften Mainz, Südost Institut in Munich, Herder Institut in Marburg and Universitätsbibliothek in Leipzig (Germany), Polska Akademia in Wasaw (Poland), Universitetbibliothek in Uppsala (Sweden), University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, University of California in Berkeley and Illinois University in Urbana (SUA), etc., in exchange receiving the periodical publications of the respective scientific institutions<sup>8</sup>.

At present, the „Yearbook of «George Barițiu» Institute for History of the Romanian Academy in Cluj-Napoca” enjoys the support of a highly professional international Editorial Staff, made up of historians who are distinguished

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<sup>7</sup> See the report filed by the editorial board of the “Yearbook of the Institute for History in Cluj-Napoca” on November 26, 2008, to the National Council for Research in Higher Education, Bucharest.

<sup>8</sup> See Address no. 3178, October 17, 2007, of the Library of the Romanian Academy to the editors of the “Yearbook of the Institute for History in Cluj-Napoca” with the annexed copy of the shipping receipt of the copies of the “Yearbook” of the Institute for History in Cluj.

representatives of European and American historical writing and who have very high standards in what concerns the quality and modern methodological approaches in the fields of contemporary historical writing.

**Key words:** Yearbook, Cluj, Romanian Academy, Bibliography.

#### „YEARBOOK” OF THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORY IN CLUJ

„Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională” Cluj [Yearbook of the Institute for National History]:

- I 1921-1922, Cluj, XVI + 434 pp.
- II 1923, București, XV + 544 pp.
- III 1924-1925, Cluj, X + 1045 pp.
- IV 1926-1927, Cluj, XXXII + 751 pp.
- V 1928-1930, Cluj, XI + 793 pp.
- VI 1931-1935, Cluj, XII + 844 pp.
- VII 1936-1938, București, XI + 935 pp.
- VIII 1939-1942, Sibiu, VII + 582 pp.
- IX 1943-1944, Sibiu, IX + 672 pp.
- X 1945, Sibiu, XII + 728 pp.
- <XI> 1946-1947, Cluj, <415 p.> [unbound. Miscelaneous edition, Cluj-Napoca, 2009]

[„Studii și Cercetări Științifice” Cluj [Scientific Studies and Researches]:

- I 1950, Fasc. 1, Cluj, 288 pp.; Fasc. 2, Social Sciences, Cluj, 187 pp.
- II 1951, 1-2, Cluj, 382 pp.
- III 1952, 1-2, Cluj, 446 pp.; 3-4, Cluj, 348 pp.
- IV 1953, 1-2, Cluj, 432 pp.; 3-4, Cluj, 434 pp.
- V 1954, 1-2, Cluj, 486 pp.; 3-4, Cluj, 614 pp.
- VI 1955, Series III, Social Sciences, Cluj, 265 pp.; 3-4, Cluj, 157 pp.

„Studii și Cercetări de Istorie” Cluj [Historical Studies and Researches]:

- VII 1956, 1-4, Cluj, 179 pp.
- VIII 1957, 1-4, Cluj, 280 pp.]

„Anuarul Institutului de Istorie din Cluj”, Serie Nouă [Yearbook of the Institute for History in Cluj. New Series]:

- I-II 1958-1959, Cluj, 405 pp.  
III 1960, Cluj, 378 pp.  
IV 1961, Cluj, 300 pp.  
V 1962, Cluj, 424 pp.  
VI 1963, Cluj, 362 pp.  
VII 1964, Cluj, 389 pp.  
VIII 1965, Cluj, 359 pp.  
IX 1966, Cluj, 384 pp.  
X 1967, Cluj, 342 pp.  
XI 1968, Cluj, 349 pp.  
XII 1969, Cluj, 349 pp.  
XIII 1970, Cluj, 350 pp.  
XIV 1971, Cluj, 344 pp. („Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj” [Yearbook of the Institute for History and Archeology Cluj]):  
XV 1972, Cluj, 496 pp.  
XVI 1973, Cluj, 495 pp.  
XVII 1974, Cluj-Napoca, 332 pp. („Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj-Napoca” [Yearbook of the Institute for History and Archeology Cluj-Napoca])  
XVIII 1975, Cluj-Napoca, 460 pp.  
XIX 1976, Cluj-Napoca, 434 pp.  
XX 1977, Cluj-Napoca, 457 pp.  
XXI 1978, Cluj-Napoca, 548 pp.  
XXII 1979, Cluj-Napoca, 523 pp.  
XXIII 1980, Cluj-Napoca, 608 pp.  
XXIV 1981, Cluj-Napoca, 490 pp.  
XXV 1982, Cluj-Napoca, 415 pp.  
XXVI 1983-1984, Cluj-Napoca, 610 pp.  
XXVII 1985-1986, Cluj-Napoca, 565 pp.  
XXVIII 1987-1988, Cluj-Napoca, 724 pp.  
XXIX 1989, Cluj-Napoca, 651 pp.  
XXX 1990-1991, Cluj-Napoca, 411 pp.  
XXXI 1992, Cluj-Napoca, 285 pp.  
XXXII 1993, Cluj-Napoca, 411 pp.  
XXXIII 1994, Cluj-Napoca, 497 pp.  
XXXIV 1995, Cluj-Napoca, 453 pp.  
XXXV 1996, Cluj-Napoca, 506 pp.  
XXXVI 1997, București – Cluj-Napoca, 419 pp.  
XXXVII 1998, București, 392 pp.



XXXVIII-

XXXIX 1999-2000, București, 271 pp.

XL 2001, București, 431 pp.

XLI 2002, București, 448 pp.

XLII 2003, București, 490 pp. („Institutul de Istorie «George Barițiu» din Cluj Napoca, Series Historica” [George Baritiu Institute for History in Cluj-Napoca. Series Historica])

XLIII 2004, București, 731 pp.

XLIV 2005, București, 647 pp.

XLV 2006, București, 495 pp.

XLVI 2007, București, 510 pp.

XLVII 2008, București, 724 pp.