

***BETWEEN PHILOLOGY AND CREATION – DUMITRU ALISTAR***

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*Abstract: The Faculty of Letters, "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău, has a little known history, which may cause misinterpretations from contemporaries. The work attempts to highlight the essential contribution of Dumitru Alistar to the foundation of the francophone philological education in the former 3-year Pedagogical Institute in Bacău, since 1961. His Birth Centenary Celebration (on July 18, 1914) is an opportunity to reactivate the picture of the impressive scientific, didactic, cultural and literary personality that the member of the academic staff of Bacău has got.*

**Keywords: creative localism; philological education, Romanistic studies, cultural journalism, literary creation.**

The phrase *genius loci* usually relates to a settlement's privilege of being the area in which a coming personality saw the daylight. We believe, however, that another phrase belonging to the same semantic field would be more appropriate for the context – i.e. *creative localism* - whose meanings are not and will never be clearly defined: how much of a personality does actually belong to the geographical environment that generated it and how much does it offer, in turn, to the space that received it?

Dumitru Alistar was the luck of Bacău University Center and of francophone philological education, just like Traian Cantemir was, thanks to his contribution to the assertion of the philological education in Romanian language and literature. Both of them performed a rare feat in those times: to put the academic duty - consisting in courses and seminars not at all common - alongside the diligence to go beyond the condition of mere managers of concepts and official evaluators. Without overpassing the area of intellectual interests of any other member of the Department of Philology, the two ones and others like them (Ioan Grigoriu, Grigore V. Coban etc.) have zealously and skillfully made a name for themselves, a name which is currently mentioned, for instance, on the entrance door to the largest Amphitheater of the Faculty of Letters (i.e. C2, now "Dumitru Alistar"). On his Birth Centenary Celebration a multi-perspective<sup>1)</sup> reminder of his personality is worth considering.

Works of general information nationwide<sup>2)</sup> (that is, the ones consulted by us) do not pay him much attention whereas regional works record<sup>3)</sup> him among the local personalities. A sentimental, and also informative, portrait of him was achieved by Rodica Tudorache, daughter of Dumitru Alistar, in an interview printed in 2004<sup>4)</sup>.

He saw the light of day on July 18, 1914, in the County of Râpi (nowadays, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Arsura Village)<sup>5)</sup>, where the great 1848 Revolutionist<sup>6)</sup> comes from. Alistar Family<sup>7)</sup> has roots in Bessarabia, as Mihai Cimpoi and Victor Crăciun inform us, with particular reference to Elena Alistar-Romanescu<sup>8)</sup>. His training phases are common knowledge: primary school in his home village, high school at „Cuza-Vodă" in Huși, Baccalaureate diploma got in Bârlad, and Bachelor's degree awarded by the Faculty of Letters and Philology in Iași (1932-1936). He starts a teaching career in pre-university education: National High School ("Mihail Sadoveanu") in Iași and several high schools in Bacău such as: Teachers' Training School for Boys, "Ferdinand I", "Vasile Alecsandri".

In a 1995<sup>9)</sup> analysis meant to reflect the specifics of the teaching staff working at the University of Bacău, Dumitru Alistar is mentioned, among other names (in a sequence, after Virgil Radulian, Dumitru Fînar, Mihai Merfea and followed by Ioan Grigoriu, Traian Cantemir, Grigore Coban etc.) of those teachers promoted from secondary education. A second presence of the man who founded the Department of French Language and Literature in Bacău is to be noticed in the chapter entitled “The scientific Activity of the Faculty of Philology”. Reference is made to the doctoral thesis, highly appreciated for “its scientific<sup>10)</sup> value”, to the course on Contemporary French Grammar and to the anthology of texts.

Of those consulted, we deduced that there are three levels in Dumitru Alistar’s activity which are confirmed:

- a militant for asserting and developing the philological education in Bacău;
- a researcher in the area of applied Philology;
- a manager of the scientific and journalistic activity in the Institute.

After six years of higher education in Bacău, the editorial staff of “Ateneu” Magazine initiates a journalistic investigation whose title<sup>11)</sup> reunites a phrase to be found in the response of Dumitru Alistar (i.e. “Unitary Profile”) and a phrase used by V. Radulian in his speech: *stability*. First answer belongs to D. Alistar, Dean of the Faculty of Philology, who criticizes the situation in the Romanian academic environment: “Given that all - or nearly all - graduates with pedagogical training, whether they come from universities with a 5-year-long study programme or from 3-year pedagogical institutes, generally begin their work at the grades V-VIII, it is abnormal, unreasonable for them to have different intellectual background and training, i.e. more ‘accomplished’ for part of them, more ‘concise’<sup>12)</sup> for the rest.” All the viewpoints, carefully examined, denote concord between the members of the academic staff, high standards, and openness to pedagogical education<sup>13)</sup>.

On July 18, 2014, at “Dumitru Alistar” Centenary, I had the opportunity to learn about the Benedictine efforts of the former teachers interested to develop the educational offer of the Institute: they used to travel by train, by car or by bicycle through the counties of the central part and the northern half of Moldavia in order to investigate the situation of education at that time. At the end of the debate hosted by the “Athenaeum” in 1967, D. Alistar is once more present and suggests the issuing of a scientific research newsletter and also supports the need for setting up specializations in foreign languages<sup>14)</sup>. Two years later, the local press, by means of an interview with the successful artisan – university lecturer D. Alistar, announces “a new section of the Faculty of Philology”. Before the pedagogical institutes from Bucharest, Pitești, Suceava, the University of Bacău is allotted 50 seats for the Romanian-French specialization. The quality of the early graduates - who enjoyed great appreciation – did also contribute to this<sup>15)</sup>. Admission tests were in French language and literature (both in written and oral variant) and Romanian language and literature (only in writing).

As a promoter of scientific research, he noticed that “it becomes a more and more pressing need for each Pedagogical Institute (and particularly for those in the regional University centres) to edit annually, by their own means<sup>16)</sup>, a scientific bulletin”. With the support of the Scientific Secretary, Assoc. Prof. Traian Cantemir, and of the lecturer Ioan Mîtreă, in 1972 appears the volume: *Studies and Scientific Research*. Series History-Philology, an event signalled by the History of the Romanian Literary Press<sup>17)</sup>.

It is here where D. Alistar publishes his study about the adaptation of French neologisms, a fragment of the forthcoming doctoral thesis. Besides the academic chair, the two university professors from Bacău – i.e. Traian Cantemir and Dumitru Alistar - were appointed local branch chairpersons for the Philological Sciences Society in S.R. of Romania, expressing their “desire to join the national effort for asserting the rights of the Romanian language and literature, but also to recommend values and traditions perfectly fit to meet national requirements”<sup>18)</sup>. At that time, D. Alistar was a distinct personality in the teaching environment of Bacău, so that his appointment as President was the natural consequence of reality. Ion Coteanu, Ion Hangiu and Mircea Frânculescu, members in the central management of S.Ș.F., spoke highly of the two philologists from Bacău.

As an author of manuals, two contributions - three decades distant in time and with distinct destinations: „Geografia dell’Italia (per la classe VI dei licei e delle scuole normali e per la classe VII dei licei commerciali)” - are worth reporting. The authoress, Edvige Bestazzi, addressed the “Cugetarea” – Georgescu Delafras Publishing House (București, [1943])<sup>19)</sup>. It must have been any useful to him between 1948 and 1954, when the future university professor taught academic disciplines such as: “Commercial Correspondence” and “Office Works” at the Mixed School of Economic Administration in Bacău. In the year when he turns 60, he draws up the first part of a specialty course - “Grammaire du français contemporain. I-e partie: La morphologie”, a document signed “PhD. Associate Professor Dumitru Alistar”, with the specification “internal use only - 1974” (press mark BUB: IV 801, inv. 101019/1975, barcode 016801). It is a 285-page, A4-formated and schapirographed document, with a one-page-long “Avertissement”, from which we learn that the teaching interests outclassed the originality ambitions. It was meant to be a plain, concise presentation with no “structuralist, transformational or other complications whatsoever”<sup>20)</sup>. Chapter I, “Le mots. Classification. Les parties du discours”, opens the parts of speech series identical with those in the Romanian language (that is to say, nine morphological classes, excepting the numeral). To be noted the maximum accessibility, the methodical rendering and the schematic organization of the content. Speaking about the etymology of French words (p. 2), he carries out a foray into the world of lexical doublets, with reference to Latin, as follows:

**Latin:** auscultare; delicatum; examen; masticare; nativum; navigare; potionem; praedivatorem; redemptionem; prehensionem.

**Formation populaire:** écouter; délié; essaim; mâcher; naïf; nager; poison; prêcheur; rançon; prison.

**Formation savante:** ausculter; délicat; examen; mastiquer; natif; naviguer; potion; prédicateur; rédemption; préhension.

The work is completed with the series of key interjectional phrases:

Ah! ça; A la bonne heure! Bonté divine! Eh bien! Eh quoi! Fi donc! Grand Dieu! Hé bien! Ho, ho! Jour de Dieu! Là, là! Ma foi! Mille bombes! Mon Dieu! Or ça! Or sus! Oui - da! Par exemple! Quoi donc! Ta ta ta! Tout beau! Tout doux!

A turning point might be, in our opinion, the moment when D. Alistar devotes himself mainly to the study of universal literature<sup>21</sup>). He advocated the need to open the Romanian education to planetary values and, therefore, he welcomes - in 1968 - the introduction of the “Universal Literature” as subject to be studied in high schools, considering nothing more precious than striving to provide students with a unitary picture of the broad field of literatures in the world, along with historical and geographical coordinates, and thus to arouse a new center of interest meant to accomplish the intellectual profile of the new generations<sup>22</sup>). Without making ideological concessions whatsoever, D. Alistar can afford to put forward daring proposals, just like this: “It is only when the Bible – of course approached as a literary fact – becomes familiar to us, that Milton in *Paradise Lost* or in *Samson Agonistes*, Byron in *Cain*, Lermontov in *The Demon*, Hugo in *The Legend of the Ages* (to mention just these titles) will be much better understood<sup>23</sup>).

His journalistic contributions to universal literature can be grouped in reviews published in the “Ateneu” (in the magazine called “Renașterea / Renaissance”, by Andrei Oțetea – no. 3/1965; “Introduction to Latin American Literature”, by Francisc Păcurariu – no. 2/1966, with the note about the missing sub-chapter dedicated to the French-Language Literature in Haiti; “Hemingway” by Radu Lupan – no. 10/1967; “Portuguese Letters of Mariana Alcoforada” in Veronica Porumbacu’s version - no. 1/1968, p. 8 “Niccolo Machiavelli”, by Alexandru Balaci – no. 3/1970, together with a reproach addressed to the Tineretului / Youth Publishing House, which “skipped a little too many typographical errors, so annoying a fact even for less valuable books”, Portraits hosted by the daily paper “Red Flag / Steagul roșu” (“The Up-to-date Homeric Poems” – August 13, 1966, with a significant introduction addressed to a nature as sensitive as that of Alistar’s: “It’s been twenty-eight centuries now since, on the Greek shores of Asia Minor, the inspired voice of one of the greatest bards of humanity could be first heard; and his song lasted over times, ransacking the hearts, stirring the imagination and continuing to vibrate deep inside us, the people of today”; “Aristophanes, A Fighter for Peace” - October 29, 1966) and by the “Ateneu” (“J. Joyce” - no. 6/1967, concluding that “the work is a cosmic poem written in a language invented, full of echoes and tips; a rhapsody where everything is in all of it, just as the Liffey – the river of Dublin - is integrated into the waters cycle”; “Norman Mailer” - No 1/1968, the preview of the novel “The Naked and the Dead”). Some other times, the translation made by a colleague (“A Visit to the Old Poet” by Miguel Unamuno, in the version of Veronica Porumbacu – No. 19/1966) or a translation of his own (from the stories of Miguel Torga – no. 3/1970) offers D. Alistar the opportunity to develop applied presentations, brief studies of these particular works.

Students in Philology were provided, in 1968, with an anthology of support-excerpts for courses and seminars. “Choix de textes des auteurs du programme pour les étudiants de seconde année de la faculté de psihologie” (89 pages, A4; last text from “Tartarin of Tarascon”, by Alphonse Daudet). A year later, he prints<sup>24</sup>) a bulky “Course in the History of Universal Literature for the Students in Philology<sup>25</sup>”, liable to guide their study, given the difficulties to procure the references suggested by the provincial institutions<sup>26</sup>).

Therefore, they specify that the paper has “no claims of absolute originality - this would not be ever possible - the author aiming primarily to make of it what is especially needed: a tool<sup>27</sup>”). The Bibliography includes 54 summaries (histories of the world literatures)

and a sequence of monographs: in Romanian (9), and in French (10). There have been investigated “all the works of the writers included in the syllabus issued by the State Publishing House”, as well as “original works of French and Italian writers”<sup>28</sup>). Following the guidelines of the era, the first two cited papers belong to the “classics” of the pervasive ideology: Marx-Engels, *On Literature* (Political Publishing House, 1953) and *Lenin about Literature* (Romanian Workers’ Party Publishing House, 1949). Note, however, that 28 out of the 54 summaries have been studied in the original (let us mention two examples: Giacomo Prampolini, *Storia universale della letteratura*, Turin, 1936, A. Rousseaux, *Littérature du XX-e siècle*, Paris, A. Michel, 1961) and also note that even a hasty browsing of the three parts displays the constant cohesion of the informative discourse. It is also obvious the slalom discreetly directed by the professor in order to make students avoid the passages visibly processed on behalf of any copyright obligations on any author’s part<sup>29</sup>). “To live and die learning”<sup>30</sup>), a significant quote decreed as the urge from the Renaissance, also expresses the author’s opinion.

The third coordinate is that of an author of scientific papers delivered on large-scale events, such as “The Days of Călinescian Culture” / “Zilele culturii călinesciene”, held in Onești County. At the third edition of the event (between 4 and 6 June, 1971), D. Alistar presented the paper “Spanish Literature as seen by G. Călinescu”, in the same section with Al. Piru, L. Ulici, Adrian Marino, Romulus Vulpescu etc. Other participants from the Institute of Bacău attending the conference were: Constantin Călin, Maria Gabrea, Valerian Ciubotaru, Marin Buga, Traian Cantemir, and Nicolae Nicolescu. This background enables the connection with the following component of the outstanding scientific personality exhibited by D. Alistar: that of a philologist. Profile lexicographical works<sup>31</sup>) do not record him, even if the public defence of his highly appreciated doctoral thesis occurred in 1972. Not even the works on the History of the Romanian Language<sup>32</sup>) mention him in the section allotted to the influence of French on the Romanian language, except for the one relating to Romanian literature. Ștefan Munteanu and Vasile D. Țâra quote D. Alistar’s study “Aspects of the Adaptation of Neologisms at writers of the early decades of the past century”, in chapter “Works concerning the Modern Age of the Romanian Literary Language”, part of the much acclaimed “History of the Romanian Literary Language” published in 1983.<sup>33</sup>) The PhD thesis, *Contributions to the Study of the French Influence on the Romanian Literary Language in the Former Half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*, endorsed by The University of Bucharest, the Department of Romanistic, Classical and Oriental Languages (paper coordinated by Al. Niculescu, PhD. University Professor), is dated 1972. Four names are hand-written on the inside cover: Paul Cornea, G. Ivănescu, Paul Miclău and Iorgu Iordan, perhaps members in the Examination Board. The paper includes 557 typed pages, with a Foreword opening ex abrupto, as follows: “Not without a certain sense of fear did I decide to approach the influence that the French language exerted on the Romanian literary language, at a time so important to our history.” And yet, the fear was not justified, if we take into account the Commission’s recommendation to reduce the size of the work, given the lack of similar studies (apart from that of P.V. Haneș, published in 1927).

Alistar’s aptitudes as a publicist, quite obvious in his monographic works<sup>34</sup>), were definitely influenced by social challenges (*The Idea*, *New Times*, *The Fighter / Red Flag*), by didactic and scientific endeavours (*Tests*, *Studies and Scientific Research*) or by

predominantly literary attempts (the *Square*, the *Ateneu*). To those listed above we add the *Dawn*, literary and scientific magazine of the students of “Cuza-Vodă” High School in Huși - year II, no. 1, Dec. 1931, and also the *Gaudeamus*, a magazine edited by C.U.A.S., the Pedagogical Institute [3 year-study programme] Bacău - year III, no. 4 (6), Jan. 1971. Another publication entitled *Dawn* (a magazine of the school youth in Bacău County), issued in 1947, is the work of a group of students who “do not forget to thank the directors A. Mocanu and D. Alistar”<sup>35)</sup> for their support.

Representative for the journalistic aspect of his personality remains the publication bearing the title “Square”, which illustrates the creative dimension as a philologist of D. Alistar (according to the article “The Poet «en titre» of the Magazine *Square*” written by M. Cosmescu-Delasabar, in the “Ateneu” 5 / 2003). Mihail Straje overlooked him in his “Dictionary of Pseudonyms” (Bucharest, “Minerva” Publishing House, 1973), even if Gh. Pătrar warned: “Poetry is presented by Dumitru Alistar, who signs with the pseudonym Spiridon Casian”<sup>36)</sup>, in the “Square”.

The most striking dimension of his literary personality highlighted by Dumitru Alistar is that of a translator. At a time when the open relationships with the universal literature used to be sporadic, and if they lasted, they were unilateral – i.e. the art of the communist bloc countries -, the universitarian from Bacău manages to break the wall between the artificially isolated worlds and to bring to Romania realities totally unknown till that moment. The ability to handle the palette of Romanistic languages - French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish -, the honor of being recognized by the great national publishers, and the merit to have initiated meetings with famous writers of the world, in a city as modest as Bacău, all these are signs of a spirit endowed with tenacity, skill, clear-sightedness. The corollary of these attributes is the quality of the translation: a natural, fluent, accomplished piece of discourse to equally meet demands concerning both the lexicological aspect and the requirements of the punctuation marks (I noticed the occurrence of commas exactly wherever they are needed, i.e. without pedantry or obstinacy). The skillful and skilled reader understands that he does not face an interpretation from a language of prestige, but a genuine act of artistic creation.

The only dictionary which somehow records his contributions is the one of Mircea Zaciu, in the box reserved to Paul Anghel, co-translator of “The Lost Grove”<sup>37)</sup>. The cultural press recalls his name among other names “of researchers and academics with definitely increasing popularity”<sup>38)</sup>.

The works have a threefold nature: cultural (the hall notebooks in the State Theater, with inset presentations<sup>39)</sup>), literary (the translations themselves) and scientific<sup>40)</sup> or occasional.

In the “Ateneu” (particularly in the series named “Radu Cârnecki”) he published excerpts from “Death of a President” by William Manchester (after *Paris Match*) - 1, 2/1967; “The Stranger” by Albert Camus - 4/1967; “Nausea” by Jean-Paul Sartre - 5/1967; “Juan Darien” by Horacio Quiroga - 11/1967; “The Naked and the Dead”, by Norman Mailer - 1/1968; “Confession” and “Miura” by Miguel Torga - 3/1970; “Malhadinas” (V) by Aquilino Ribeiro - 3/1975 etc.

In volume, he translated all alone the following: *Blind Ants*, by Ramiro Pinilla (Bucharest, Universal Literature Publishing House, 1968), *Morgado*, by Miguel Torga (Bucharest, Albatros Publishing House, 1973) and *Memoirs of a Banknote*, by Joaquim Paço

d’Arcos (Bucharest, Universe Publishing House, 1974). In collaboration with Paul Anghel, he got a Romanian version of Rafael Alberti’s “Memories”, *The Lost Grove* (Bucharest, Universal Literature Publishing House, 1966; with notes by Andrei Ionescu). A special situation is considered the novel “Pepita Jiménez” by Juan Valera (Bucharest, “Minerva” Publishing House, 1970) - “translation and preface by Andrei Ionescu”. In the copy held by the family, next to the translator’s name there is a firm question mark, and below, in green, the mention: “Translator Dumitru Alistar”.

People from Bacău have been praising the translator, philologist, poet and journalist Dumitru Alistar. The man who carried on, converted into a book, a simple thought of gratitude was Professor Emeritus Marin Cosmescu-Delasabar, whose offer of cooperation we could not refuse. The work, “Dumitru Alistar - an illustrious Moldavian scholar”, appeared in the series “Recuperatio”, “Egal” Publishing House, in 2004 and it was meant to be a synthesis of life and work of the academic personality from Bacău. Due to the broad support of the family, illustrative fragments revealing his cultural, didactic and scientific prestige were gathered together. “Happy mix of talent and erudition”<sup>41)</sup>, “founder of the Pedagogical Institute”<sup>42)</sup>, “Dumitru Alistar is one of the greatest personalities of Bacău County”<sup>43)</sup>. Undoubtedly, the work can be improved in terms of content and overall structure.

2014, year of the Centenary, was declared - even unofficially – Year of D. Alistar. In order to pay homage to him, “Vasile Alecsandri” Cultural and Scientific Society from Bacău organized an event, the same day (i.e. on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July), in the council chambers of the Faculty of Letters, in collaboration with the Association for Promoting Francophony of Bacău. There attended former students and colleagues of the department, historians, scholars, artists, teachers involved in the management of the S.Ș.F. - Bacău branch, bachelor and master students representative of the philological school of Bacău. Only a night before, I managed to get the phone number of Al. Niculescu, the one who coordinated Alistar’s PhD. thesis. Florica Dimitrescu - wife, the famous historian of the Romanian language - gave me assurances that she would send to Paris, the living place of Al. Niculescu, the information about the centenary event that was about to happen in Bacău. “I’m glad that you pay homage - a rare initiative nowadays - to those who are no longer among us”, said cordially the philologist from Bucharest. I assured her that it was not all: in the autumn, we are going to organize a conference on Romanistic Studies, dedicated to the same centenary.

### Bibliographical Notes

- 1) We bring to attention, as far as possible, items different from the ones included in our paper ten years ago - Marin Cosmescu, Ioan Dănilă, *Dumitru Alistar - an illustrious Moldavian scholar (a poet, translator, linguist)*, Bacău, “Egal” Publishing House, “Recuperatio” Series, 2004
- 2) For instance, Lucian Predescu, *The Encyclopaedia of Romania*, “Cugetarea / Meditation”, Bucharest, 1940
- 3) For Vaslui County: Vasilica Grigoraș, *Items of Romanian Spirituality*, Bucharest, Oscar-Print Publishing House, 2001, s.v. The work - although ambiguous by title (it is only after a few of the portraits are read that someone can infer that it is about Vaslui County) – includes, in the seven halves of typographical rows allotted to Dumitru Alistar, a favorable

assessment: “Author of a French Grammar, of some courses on universal literature, popular and appreciated too in the Academic Center Iași” (the decision of removing the preposition “of” from the original phrase “Centre of Iași” belongs to us). His name is missing from the “Dictionary of Famous People from Vaslui”, Petre Necula and Mihai Ciobanu, Vaslui, “Pandora’s Box” Publishing House, 2001) and, inexplicably, from Traian Nicola’s Encyclopedia entitled “Spiritual Values of Vaslui. Bibliography”, vol. I, A-O, Vaslui, “Stephen the Great” History Museum, 2001. (In volume II, P-Z, the final section called “Personalities of Vaslui who are not included in this volume”, the name of Dumitru Alistar is not mentioned.) “The History of Huși” (Galați, Porto-Franco Publishing House, 1995) provides 99% (including the word order) out of the information found in the previous paper, signed by Vasilica Grigoraș. The coordinator of the “History ...”, Theodor Codreanu, is famous for the reliability of the information conveyed and for his fondness of the local values. For Bacău: Eugen Budău, Ioan Dănilă, *The Encyclopaedia of Bacău County* (coordinated by Emilian Drehuță), Bacău, “Agora” Publishing House, 2008, with a summary of his life and work (including titles of works), written in 24 typographic rows. The most detailed description is done by Eugen Budău in “Literary Bacău” (Iași, “Universitas XXI” Publishing House, 2004), structured according to the criteria of literary history. He is missing from the series bearing the title “Personalities from Bacău”, Cornel Galben (Bacău, “Corgal Press” Publishing House), opened in 2000 and continued in 2003.2009, 2010.2011, 2012

4) See Marin Cosmescu, Ioan Dănilă, op. cit., pages 46-58: “My father was a man who used to put his whole soul and passion in everything he did.” (Coincidence: the husband, Nicolae Tudorache is also born on July 18.)

5) The City has experienced a dynamic of administrative affiliation: it first belonged to Podoleni Ward in 1774, then to Crasna Ward and entered the villages Cotul Ghermănești, Pâhnești, Vărăria, Drânceni (subsequently it became a borough) and Arsura (1935). It encompasses estates such as Brăteni and Scrivuleni (1779), as well as the village known as Dințeni along with strips of land Merești, Odobești and Orțești. It was also called Râpile-Răzeși (1854), Moșia Răchii (1827), Răchile (1783), Răpele (1846) and, from 1926, Mihail Kogălniceanu (1929 – M. Kogălniceanu); according to the Romanian Academy, “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology, Iași, *Toponymical Treasure of Romania*. Moldova, I, A-O, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing House, 1991

6) The native place – considering the paternal line - of the Kogălniceanu Family shall be identified in the Lilivei Valley, on the left banks of the rivers Tătarul and Barahoiul, Râpile (Răchile) Village, «Fălciului Region, Podoleni Ward» (Augustin Z. N. Pop, *Tracking Mihail Kogălniceanu*, Bucharest, Sports and Tourism / Sport Turism Publishing House, 1979, p. 13). “A few months a year, Mihail Kogălniceanu used to spend his childhood in Râpile - a land which, by the terms of the testament, he bequeathed to his youngest son, Ion” (ibidem, p. 14).

7) A name from the calendar, (St. Ap. Aristarchus, Pud and Trofim - April 15) after the name Aristarchus, of Greek origin (Bul. Phil., I, pages 165-166), with the variants Alistarh (let us name it “a regressive dissimilarity”) and Alistari. The toponym Alistari presents a vowel -i which “determines the soft uttering of of the sound r (under the influence of the derivatives in -ariu, as a matter of fact in -ar, with the rounded r)” (see Iorgu Iordan, *A Dictionary of Romanian Family Names*, Bucharest, Scientific and Encyclopedic Publishing House, 1983, s.v. ). In the same series another form – Alistor – about which Iorgu Iordan

specifies: “a mistake in transcribing the name *Alistar* or a linguistic reality?” To enrich the data, let us selectively quote the description made by N. A. Constantinescu in *Onomastic Romanian Dictionary*, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing House, P.R.R., 1963: “ARISTARH, gr. Aristarhos “Optimus princeps” 1. Aristarho ban; 2. Aristarchi; 3. Aristarh; 4. Alestar; Alestari”.

8) A publicist born in 1873, in Vaisal (Ismail), with studies in Chişinău and Iaşi. "The only female member of the Council of State (1918) from Bessarabia, as a member of the Moldavian Bloc. The author of the book “National Movement in Bessarabia” (1930) (as cited in L. Predescu, s.v.). She guided future members of the staff in the higher education, as a Headmistress of the Diocesan High School in Chişinău (according to Valeriu Cozma, *The History of the State University in Moldova - 1946-1996*, Chişinău, 1996, p. 385) and delivered speeches on the conferences organised by the Radio Broadcasting Company from Bucharest, (“The Role of Watchpersons in Bessarabia”, at the “Guard Time”, April 30., 1938; see the *Romanian Radiophonic Bibliography*, II, Bucharest, Romanian Radio Broadcasting National Company, “Casa Radio” Publishing House, 2000, s.v. ).

9) Tiberiu Căliman, C. Gh. Marinescu, University Bacău (1961-1991), Bacău, “Lead / Plumb” Publishing House, 1995. The work is daring in terms of intention and is therefore perfectible, at least in terms of mirroring the beginnings of this institution of higher education.

10) *Ibidem*, p. 86.

11) *Unitary Profile and Stability - the Main Conditions for the Development of Higher Pedagogical Education*, investigation by V. Sporici and C. Călin; persons in charge: Gh. Hasan, V. Radulian, D. Alistair, Tr. Cantemir, V. Pocinoc, M. Gabrea, I. Mitrea, in the “Ateneu”, year I, no. 10 (39), October 1967, p. 16.

12) *Ibidem*.

13) “Before answering the test, each student handed his examiner a self-evaluative sheet of paper where students evaluate their knowledge in the fields they were taught.” The most difficult exams proved to be Contemporary Romanian Language followed by Pedagogy etc. (C. Lupu, *Moments of Emotions and Confirmations*, “Red Flag” Publishing House, Bacău, year XXIV, no. 5095 (6574), in 26.06.1969, p. 3)

14) *Unitary Profile...*, article cited

15) According to C. Lupu, article cited

16) *Unitary Profile...*, article cited

17) I. Hangiu, *Dictionary of Romanian Literary Press (1790-2000)*, Bucharest, “Romanian Cultural Institute” Publishing House, 2004, position 2319. Io(a)n Mitrea, a responsible editor of the volume, mentions that, due to an error, on the cover of the second volume there was again printed the year 1972, instead of 1973, and the number of 1974, dedicated to the birth tercentenary of D. Cantemir, was the most successful of all. The only article signed here by I. Hangiu is “D. Cantemir - Scholar and Patriot” written by Traian Cantemir, tempted by the likelihood of some genealogical link between the two persons. (They find moral support in Lorin Cantemir, son of the university professor from Bacău.) Two numbers of the publication - 1972 and 1974 – are analysed, although the cover mentions that “it appears in Bacău yearly (1972 and 1974)”. In the “Index of places” at the end of the Dictionary, there erroneously appears the note “Studies and Scientific Research (1970-1972)”. The volume is registered under the name SC St Bacău (“Studies and Scientific Research”, History-Philology Series,

- Bacău, 1972), in the study entitled “History of the Romanian Literary Language” by Ștefan Munteanu and Vasile D. Țâra (Bucharest, Didactic and Pedagogical Publishing House, 1983), p. 365. It should have been registered - mea culpa! – in the “Encyclopaedia of Bacău County”.
- 18) Ioan Dănilă, *Romanian Society of Philological Sciences – branch of Bacău*, in “The Encyclopaedia of Bacău County”, op. cit., S.V.
- 19) The work is not mentioned in the “Encyclopaedia of Romania – Reflection” by Lucian Predescu.
- 20) Dumitru Alistar, *Avertissement* la “Grammaire du français contemporain. I-e partie: La morphologie”, Bacău, Teacher Training Institute / Pedagogical Institute, Faculty of Philology, 1974, p. 0. Translation is ours.
- 21) “The Syntax of Contemporary French” was taken over by Elena Bulai as She presented at the Symposium “Dumitru Alistar Centenary” (18 July 2014).
- 22) D. Alistar, *A Picture as Faithful as Possible of World Literatures*, in “Red Flag”, Bacău, year XXIII, no. 4647 (6126), from Jan. 17 1968, p. 2.
- 23) *Ibid.* To get the article printed, they made use of small letters (i.e. *bible* instead of *Bible*), with a specification at the end.
- 24) As a matter of fact, multiplication took place under parsimonious conditions; typing was done by V. Dimitriu.
- 25) The capital letter in the title (“Faculty”) is not justified as long as the course is addressed to students from any of the philological faculties throughout the country. It is true, the courses could also be used by the students in humanistic high-schools, which - from 1968 onwards – used to benefit from a long envisioned discipline, that is the universal literature.
- 26) D. Alistar, *Course in the History of Universal Literature*. Part II, centuries XIX-XX, Teacher Training Institute with 3-year study programme in Bacău, 1969, p. 470 (“Afterword”).
- 27) *Ibidem*.
- 28) *Ibidem*, pp. 471-474.
- 29) I have read, page by page, all the copies which the family made available, along with those registered in the Inventory of “Vasile Alecsandri” University Library of Bacău (press mark IV 626/74110-1970/087 776) and I noticed two aspects: some renumbering of pages added probably on account of censorship recommendations, and some “Yes” / “No” indications addressed to the writers commented on. Among these ones, N.A. Ostrovsky (1904-1936), “who embodies the best traits of human nature characteristic of the new society” (p. 355), author of the novel “So Was the Steel Hardened”. Some error correction can be made by the reader: “Adam Mickiewicz (1898-1855)” (p. 103); correct: (1798-1855).
- 30) *Ibidem*, p. 309. It belongs to Luigi Pulci, an Italian poet (1432-1484).
- 31) Jana Balacciu, Rodica Chiriacescu, *Dictionary of Romanian Linguists and Philologists*, Bucharest, “Albatross” Publishing House, 1978.
- 32) Al. Rosetti, *The History of Romanian Language*, Revised Edition, Bucharest, Scientific and Encyclopedic Publishing House, 1986.
- 33) Ștefan Munteanu and Vasile D. Țâra, *History of Romanian Literary Language*, Bucharest, Didactic and Pedagogical Publishing House, 1983, p. 345. Our investigations - “We have read the work three times, first the footnotes and then the full pages” – could not

locate the page where Alistar's study is quoted, although all the names of the authors are typeset as spaced words. We think that the information was used by the two linguists from Timișoara in the subchapters: "Aspects of the French Influence on the Literary Language in the Former Half of the 19th Century" and "The Evolution of the Stylistic Structure of the Romanian Literary Language".

34) *History of the Romanian Journalism in Data* (coordinated by Marian Petcu) (Iași, "Polirom" Publishing House, 2012) records two of D. Alistar's labour conscriptions: a press contributor to the "left-oriented" publication *Idea. Independent Local Newspaper* (Huși, 1934), along with Octavian Gâdei and N. N. Tiron; a coordinator of the "New Times" Publication (organ of the Social Democratic Party. Middle Regional Branch) (1946-1948), together with Sandu Russu, Viorel Alecu, Al. Tiron, Al. Sendrea, Gh. I. Simion etc.; editor of the "Square" Magazine (Bacău, 1939-1940), together with Andrei Mocanu, Th. Fecioru and Ioan Grigoriu. (A Description of the "Square" and of the weekly "New times" publications was done by Florinela Floria, on the basis of the 1969 synthesis of Gh. Pătrar.) The editors of "History of the Romanian Journalism ..." record the Index combinations: *Alistar, D. - Alistar Dumitru*, but fail to record page 635, where he is mentioned as one of the four editors of the "Square". It is also missing (from the "History...") the annual of the 3-Year Pedagogical Institute of Bacău, with the title "Studies and Scientific Research. History-Philology Series" (1972-1974). As if they wanted to complete each other, the *Dictionary of Romanian Literary Press (1790-2000) ...*, op. cit., describes "Studies and Research ..." (infra, note 17), but omits the "Square".

As for the cultural journalism practised by the "Ateneu" (new series, 1964), it is described in the monograph elaborated by Marilena Donea "Ateneu 40. Bibliography 1964-2004", Bacău, 2004. The index of names includes both Alistar D. and Alistar Dumitru (neighboring with regard to printing), whereas, in the article on Niccolo Machiavelli, there appears Dumitru A. (see letter D). A copy given by the family specifies, on top of A, the full name: Alistar, in the author's handwriting. The one who does not associate this last signature with the pair Alistair D. - Alistar Dumitru ignores some cultural piece of information.

Gh. Pătrar, in the periodicals of Bacău - 1867-1967 (Bacău City Library, 1969), makes a detailed description of the publications to which D. Alistar contributed: *New Times* (1946-1948), *The Fighter* (1946 -), *Square* (1939- 1940), *Ateneu* (1964 -), *Trials* ("G. Bacovia" High-School No. 1, 1966-1967).

35) Gh. Pătrar, *op. cit.*, p. 173.

36) *Ibid*, p. 169. Nevertheless, while enumerating the contributors to the "New Times" newspaper, Gh. Pătrar notes, on page 89, both of the names, i.e. Spiridon Cassian and Dumitru Alistar, as if they would not designate the same person. (The information is taken and recorded by the "History of Journalism ..." ) (Prof. Iliana Onisie, a townswoman, advanced the idea that Ticus – a name signing the editorial published in the "Gaudeamus" - is a pseudonym of D. Alistar, a counterpart to Tică.

37) M. Zaciu, M. Papahagi, A. Sasu (coordinators), *Dictionary of Romanian Writers, I*, Bucharest, "Albatross" Publishing House, 1995, s.v. Paul Anghel.

38) V. Sporic, *Creative Action Program*, published in the "Ateneu", new series, year V, and no. 8 (49), August. 1968, p. 3.

- 39) “Molière Our Contemporary” - 1962; “Lope Félix de Vega Carpio” - 1969, “Popular Molière” - 1972, “Attic Comedy and Aristophanes” etc.
- 40) PhD University Professor Valeriu Popa provided us with the manuscript of a scientific speech on Mathematics, published in “Scientific and Technical Bulletin. Mathematics, Physics, Theoretical and Applied Mechanics Series” of “Traian Vuia” Polytechnic Institute from Timișoara, vol. 2 (35), 1976, pp. 134-140. The handwriting of D. Alistar and the occasional proofreading (eg: *aussi* instead of *également*), covering 6 pages, make up a document.
- 41) Leonida Maniu, *From the "Creative Localism" Theory to "Recuperatio" Collection*, in the “Chronicle”, Iași, s.n., XXXIX, no. 10 (1546), October. 2004, p. 10.
- 42) Ion N. Oprea, *People and Work. Essays*, Iași, Editura PIM, 2013, p. 333.
- 43) Adrian Jicu, *Dumitru Alistar - An Illustrious Moldavian Scholar*, published in the “Ateneu” s.n., 41, no. 10 (422), October. 2004, p. 7 (Date of birth is July 18, not July 14.)