

Spanish-Romanian Convergences from Renaissance till Modern Times

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-abstract-

Divided into nine chapters, followed by conclusions, bibliography and the list of annexes, *Spanish-Romanian Convergences from Renaissance till Modern Times*, focuses on the evolution of Spanish-Romanian relations all through the 16th-18th centuries, as this evolution could be observed at all levels, from the political-military till the social one.

The image of Spain and the Romanian Countries was forged not only through the official documents, but also through literature, which enlarged the area of penetration of the information. In order to better understand the Spain of that epoch, we had to permanently refer to Spain's political, social, religious and festive history, to its collective memory, present in chronicles, *avvisi*, comedies, travel notes.

The first chapter, *The Spanish Golden Age between Theory and Concept*, aims to illustrate the main issues that appear when it comes to establishing the length of the Spanish Golden Age, usually associated to the 16th and 17th centuries. Subsequently, we analyse the different names given to the segment delimited by Renaissance and Baroque, from *Golden Century* to *Golden Centuries*. Hence, we present the main theories, given by the *Dictionary of the Spanish Royal Academy* (DRAE), Maria Moliner's *Dictionary*, or by well recognized researchers, such as Marcelin Defourneaux, Barolomé Bennassar, Francisco Rico etc.

In *Achievements and Challenges of the Romanian Historiography Regarding the Romanian-Spanish Relations (16th -18th Centuries)*, we include the most important results of the Romanian researchers, like Alexandru Popescu-Telega, Paul Alexandru Georgescu, the latter writing a monography of the Spanish classical theatre, George Călinescu and his *Impresii asupra literaturii spaniole* (trans. *Impressions over the Spanish Literature*), Alexandru Ciorănescu, whose preoccupations made him publish the first excerpts of the travel notes of the 16th century Spanish soldier Diego Galán about the battle of Călugăreni from 1595, excerpts that were translated later on from French and published in the third volume of the collection *Călători străini despre Țările Române* (trans. *Foreign Travelers about the Romanian Countries*), coordinated by Maria Holban. The second chapter also mentions Eugen Denize's contribution to the acknowledgement of Spanish-Romanian relations, a series of articles which concentrated on the different aspects of these connections, as well as the organization of congresses and research projects which study the realities of the 16th and 17th centuries in Spain and the Romanian Countries.

Chapter III, „*Understanding Spain*”: *Political, Social, Religious and Multiethnic Realities*, opens with the motivation of the history of Spain according to the perspective of the geographical determinism and with the presentation of the special history of peninsulas. Furthermore, we bring into focus the Spanish events from the 16th-17th centuries, starting with the building of the Spanish colonial empire, the social convulsions determined by the taking of the power by Charles I, grandson of the Catholic Kings, who had not been raised in Spain and did not speak Spanish, the apparition of the Inquisition, the illustration of the interethnic conflicts and their

explication from the point of view of well known historians who have studied the issue, such as Bartolomé Bennassar or Joseph Pérez.

The Spanish political reports, taking into account in the chapter *The External Politics of Spain and the Relations with the Romanian Countries* discuss the dynamic activity of the Romanian Countries during the 16th-17th centuries, the information given by the Jesuit Alfonso Carrillo from Sigismund Báthory's court at the end of the 16th century, where the Spaniard found himself as confessor of the prince being extremely relevant for the illustration of the Spanish mentality over the Romanian countries.

Moreover, the chapter brings to light inedite *avvisi* about the Transylvanian events of the 17th century, published in Spain and that we managed to photocopy at the National Library from Madrid.

The Image of Gabriel Bethlen in Spain retraces the portrait of the prince, starting with the account of Duke Diego de Estrada, who had come to Bethlen's court of Alba Iulia as his favourite, where he remained from 1628 to 1630. This character, almost unknown to the Romanian historiography, was briefly mentioned by Eugen Denize in his book, *Relațiile româno-spaniole până la începutul secolului al XIX-lea (The Romanian-Spanish Relations until the Beginning of the Nineteenth Century)*, but he is widely analyzed in our chapter. We focused on Estrada's affirmations regarding the elements of cultural history, which retraced the Transylvanian day to day life in the 17th century. Secondly, the chapter presents the analysis made by the writer and diplomat Francisco de Quevedo of Bethlen's position during the thirty year war, extremely criticized by the Spaniard, especially in his work, *Mundo caduco*.

Chapter VI, *The Image of the Romanian Countries in the Travel Notes and Commentaries of Spanish Intellectuals*, enhances the description made by Diego Galán of the battle of Călugăreni from 1595, our chapter reproducing more fragments than the collection of *Foreign Travelers*, as our translation was made after the Spanish original and not from French.

Afterwards, we analyze the information of architect Alfonso Chacón about the Column of emperor Trajan, our study basing itself on the engravings of the Spaniard's book published in Rome in 1616, as well as on Chacón's details about Valachians, Moldavians and Transylvanians, whom he considered descendants of the Dacians. Likewise, the chapter presents Pedro Cubero's description of Transylvania, an unknown traveler in Romania to date, as well as the studies of Lorenzo Hervás y Panduro about the Latin origin of the Romanian language.

The dramatic representations of comedies whose action took place in Transylvania makes the object of the chapter *The Image of the Romanian Countries in the Spanish Historic Plays*, one of the original contributions of our work, because of several reasons. On one hand, we had the opportunity to update the information about the author of the play *El prodigioso príncipe transilvano* (trans. *The Famous Transylvanian Prince*), due to the most recent research undergone. On the other, because we brought a series of new information about other plays with Romanian characters, such as *El rey sin reino* (*The King without a Kingdom*) by Lope de Vega, whose main character was John Huniades or Francisco de Quevedo's *Cómo ha de ser el privado* (*How the Favourite Should Behave*), where a certain Transylvanian ambassador appears. Using inedite documents, we identified

new issues of the Spanish-Romanian relations, very little debated in Romania to date.

The Image of Spain at the Romanian Historians (16th -18th Centuries) dedicates a substantial study to the image of Spain, divided into three main categories: Roman Spain, Visigothic Spain and contemporary Spain.

The chapter begins with the analysis of the events illustrated by Miron Costin and Dimitrie Cantemir, two historians who dedicated many pages to Spain in their works. The last part of the chapter includes the so called minor chronicles, with very little information about Spain: *The Chronicle of Azarie*, Grigore Ureche, Constantin Cantacuzino, Ioan Neculce, *The Chronicle of the Ghiculești*, *The Anonymus Chronicle of Valachia*, Radu Popescu. The descriptions and opinions of the historians are permanently compared with the historical events, in order to discover their authenticity or to underline the errors of interpretation or of transmission of the information.

The Reception of the Spanish Cultural Model in the Romanian Countries during the Eighteenth Century includes two different parts. The first one debates the first Romanian translation of a Spanish novel, *The Clock of Princes* by Antonio de Guevara, partially translated into Romanian by Nicolae Costin at the beginning of the 18th century. The first critical edition of this translation was not published until 1976 by Gabriel Stempel. *Spanish-Romanian Convergences from Renaissance till Modern Times* describes and analyzes all five manuscripts of Costin's translation which were discovered till the present day. Subsequently, *The Clock of Princes* is compared to the *Advices of Neagoe Basarab to His Son*,

Teodosie, due to the moral character of both works, written in the 16th century. The comparison led to the exposition of the vices and virtues that were common to both Occidental and Oriental culture.

The second part of the chapter focuses on a detailed description and interpretation of the Spanish books found in the library of Constantin Cantacuzino, as well as of their authors and the way the books ended up in Cantacuzino's hands.

The topics of *Spanish-Romanian Convergences from Renaissance till Modern Times* were chosen and structured in order to overtake the limits of the traditional historic interpretation, concentrating on the techniques and main sources of Cultural History, History of Mentalities, Philology, Philosophy, Bibliology and Theology.