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**REGIONAL PRESS IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT.**  
**MONOGRAPHIC STUDY – IOAN N. ROMAN’S FULL**  
**JOURNALISTIC WRITING**

**- PhD THESIS SUMMARY –**

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Key words: regional press, journalism, European context, province, liberalism, dobrogenism

The subject of the paper - the journalistic work of Ioan N. Roman - is affiliated to press history researches, embedded in the vast field of the communication science studies.

As prominent regional media representative in the European context, Ioan N. Roman is distinguished by an extensive opera - covering more than five decades and most political, social and cultural problems in the Romanian provinces.

Ioan N. Roman was the greatest journalist of Dobrogea, one of the leading politicians of the province at the beginning of the century, unjustly forgotten for a period, with cultural civic, patriotic worth, and recognized by contemporaries.

The professionalism model and civic consciousness proven by Ioan N. Roman led me to study his journalistic work, which, unfortunately, has not been fully researched and known at a national level, until now.

In a complex and direct approach, the paper presents a portrait of Ioan N. Roman, tracing many values and dimensions of his personality. The research offers bio-bibliographic information, outlines a profile, and creates an atmosphere, in order to capture the subject in its specificity.

In order to illustrate all the aspects of Ioan N. Roman's personality, we considered the dominant issues in an attempt to determine his professional and human unique value.

The mission that the present research aimed was not easy, but the whole approach has proved to be particularly interesting and useful in the light of the conclusions we reached.

The study of the old Dobrogea and national press involved a laborious work, made for the first time, being at the same time a necessary study, as the research reveals new evidence of the decisive contribution that Ioan N. Roman had to solving political, cultural and historical problems in Dobrogea and at a national level, in a complicated historical period.

The analysis is based on the historical event, life captured by the journalist and recorded in the newspaper's pages. The man-history-event relationship reflects how the press history studies provide the outline of what has happened in the past, producing strong meaning and holds current value.

The research analyzes the degree of social significance that the journalist profession had in the past and customizes the regional journalist's features, as he joins with the time and space in which he operates, trying to meet the material, intellectual, moral needs of the moment. Thus, the regional journalist is an indicator for the states of spirit and resumes the atmosphere that governs the producing events.

## **Paper structure**

The paper is divided into two parts - the first provides introductory and methodological information, and a second part that is exclusively dedicated to the case study - a total of 15 chapters, plus a series of annexes, containing documents, articles and photos.

The first chapter presents the topic arguments and foundations, the theoretical concept definitions and the applied methodology.

The case study begins in the second chapter, which presents the biographical data of Ioan N. Roman, providing information about the date and place of birth, along with details on the primary, secondary school and high school education.

The following 9 chapters present, in chronological order, the main stages in the life and journalistic activity undertaken by Ioan N. Roman.

Thus, the III<sup>rd</sup> chapter provides information about his debut in journalism, at *Albina* and *Familia* papers.

The IV<sup>th</sup> chapter presents Ioan N. Roman's activity at *Drapelul*, a paper that he has founded in Iași, when he was only 22 years old.

Chapter V provides information about Ioan N. Roman's involvement in the literary life – the relationship he had with Junimea and his debates with C. Dobrogeanu- Gera. This chapter also presents, for the first time, an interview about Mihai Eminescu, preserved in manuscript, that hasn't been published yet.

Chapter VI presents Ioan N. Roman's journalistic activity in Bucharest, in 1892, when he was editor in chief of *Adevărul*, while Alex. Beldiman was the paper's director.

Chapter VII provides information about the period in which Ioan N. Roman left to Brussels, in order to finish his university studies. At the end of this period, he was awarded a PhD in law.

The next stage, presented in Chapter VIII, is Ioan N. Roman's return to Sibiu, at Ion Ratiu's call for support at *Tribuna* paper. Here, between 1894-1897, Ioan N. Roman proved to be a fierce defender of Romanism against Hungarian revisionism.

The IX<sup>th</sup> chapter presents Ioan N. Roman's activity at the Romanian Cultural League, as he was chairman of the Cultural League in Belgium. Later on, Ioan N. Roman led, as chairman, the Cultural League established in the main cities of Dobrogea.

Chapters X and XI present the intense activity carried out by Ioan N. Roman in Dobrogea, since his arrival in the region - in 1898 – until his death, in 1931. Each chapter presents detailed information about the publications that Ioan N. Roman established and in which he wrote articles this whole stage of his life. Particular attention is paid to the presentation of the historical, political

and legislative context of Dobrogea and the crucial contribution that Ioan N. Roman had to solving the region's problems in this period.

Chapter XII presents references and appreciations of Ioan N. Roman and it is followed by a special chapter (XIII), dedicated to the awards that with his name, established by his family, in order to preserve the memory of Ioan N. Roman.

Chapter XIV reviews the activities developed by contemporaries in memory of Ioan N. Roman, and the research conclusions are presented in the XV<sup>th</sup> chapter.

## **Methodology**

In order to define the theoretical framework I used the historical research method, based on the chronological study and analysis of social phenomena, including the appearance, formation and evolution of the regional press.

The theoretical structure of the paper required a multidisciplinary and complex approach. Considering the premise that mass media had a particular evolution in each of the country's regions, the scientific approach has been extended from communication sciences to history, politics, philosophy, sociology and psychology. The argument for expanding the theoretical frame is based on the fact that the regional media's identity metamorphosis was based on political reasons determined by the emergence of social structural changes.

The study required using several methods, which involved the detection and analysis of various documentary basis, throughout the research period. The documentation sources were: collections of papers, monographs, theoretical papers and statistics.

Another method that I used is the analytical scientific approach, which allowed me to emphasize the essential features of the evolving regional press. Then, I applied the observation method as mean of gathering information, by accessing public documents related to the chosen research topic.

The case study is written as a monographic memoir on the work and personality of Ioan N. Roman, which includes biographical data, along with information about his activity, lifestyle, opinions, way of being, physical details.

In this scientific approach, the research methods are: historical research (which includes analysis of social, political, administrative documents, and an extensive scientific literature research) and media monitoring mainly used in communication sciences research, which involved tracking publications that emphasized the studied topic.

The study is based on the analysis of archives and collections of local and foreign publications containing material bearing the signature of Ioan N. Roman. Through the *qualitative* research of the materials I studied the content and graphic presentation of the articles in the regional press, and through the *quantitative* research I obtained information on the periodical structure: appearance, editors and categories.

The communication analysis through the media was carried out in several stages: in the preliminary stage, I studied the specialty literature that refers to the communication phenomenon, and the studies dedicated to the particularities of Transylvania and Dobrogea regions (historical and administrative documents) necessary to understanding the specificity of the provinces.

I selected the particular aspects that form together an image on the history of political parties, reconstructed through the events generally recorded by the press, and particularly emphasized by Ioan N. Roman.

I used the comparative method based on finding the identification and differentiation elements of the same theme or the same event reflected in different newspapers. The case study is an interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary one, as it crosses areas such as: communication sciences, history, sociology, and political science, law.

The research strategy also integrates classical research methods used in the field of historical research, as I combined the fieldwork with the specialty literature study. The approach involved the following stages: data search and collection using methods, techniques and tools of reality observation and investigation; the data processing by preliminary analysis, hypothesis formulation, construction, hypotheses testing, model examining, generalization and theoretical constructions underlying the research's conclusions.

The study carried out in order to outline the full journalistic activity of Ioan N. Roman consisted in searching and finding the publications in public libraries, archives, by consulting and resuming the articles in the regional press. Thus, I have developed a database containing an inventory of materials belonging to Ioan N. Roman: press articles, poetry books, printed and in manuscript, translations, references, iconography and official documents.

## **Conclusions**

The main research questions that formed the basis of the study and through which the theoretical concepts gain cohesion, transposed from present to history and returned within the current sphere, thus shaping a new representation, are:

- How is the regional press defined?



- What is the European context in which it is defined?
- To what extent are European information and ideas found in the regional press?
- What is the regional journalist's mission?
- Is Ioan N. Roman a regional journalist and European journalist at the same time?

Through this approach, in addition, the subject has become modern, vast and original.

By recovering and analyzing Ioan N. Roman's journalistic activity, this study aimed to enrich the cultural and scientific heritage in the field of communication sciences – generally - and the press history - particularly.

The main reason for choosing this subject is the desire to identify and reevaluate the elements that have not been so far explored in the sphere of patterns that history provides, which help create new perspectives, by assuming, strengthening and structuring social identity through the values and virtues which it circulates.

In the research conducted, I paid particular attention to the role that regional press holds in the European media context, by pointing its coordinates and characteristics, defined by concepts such as networking, proximity and the notion of being European in a regional context.

After identifying and collecting all information and documents needed for research, the study was chronologically structured, starting with Ioan N. Roman's biographical data presentation, included in a special chapter.

The study presents new information about Ioan N. Roman's main life and journalistic activity stages, from his debut in journalism, at *Albina* and *Familia* papers.

Particular attention through detailed analysis was paid to Ioan N. Roman's activity at *Drapelul*, which consists of 200 issues, which add up to approximately 800 pages, I have accessed and studied at the Romanian Academy Library in Bucharest.

In the perspective of an assumed liberal editorial policy, *Drapelul* performed a detailed scan of the political, social, administrative, economic and cultural life. Its founding editor - Ioan N. Roman - was the mainstay of the newspaper's pages, where he signed his articles with his whole name, with the INR initials and alias Ioan Ghyb, Inero, Morna and Tiflă.

The details on Ioan N. Roman's involvement in the literary life, through his the relationship with Junimea and the debates with C. Dobrogeanu- Gherea hold great significance for shaping Ioan N. Roman's portrait.

The premiere presentation of an interview about Mihai Eminescu, that hasn't been published yet, offers the study of a substantial cultural and scientific value.

A distinct stage of Ioan N. Roman's journalistic activity took place in 1892, in Bucharest, where he was chief-editor of *Adevărul* and founder of the Sunday literary supplement *Adevărul literar*, where he published the works belonging to Șt.O.Iosif and Traian Demetrescu.

Ioan N. Roman's professional forming continued by his leaving to Brussels, in order to finish his university studies. Here he was awarded a PhD in law; the diplomas presented in appendixes have an exceptional documentary value.

During this period, Ioan N. Roman conducted an intense activity to defend the rights of Romanians. In 1897, on behalf of the Cultural League in Belgium, he published *The Protest of the Romanians in Transylvania and Hungary against the Hungarian oppression*, a document that produced a strong echo in the public opinion and in the European press. *Tribuna* in Sibiu published the protest, as well.

The next stage I have studied in detail is Ioan N. Roman's return to Sibiu, at Ion Ratiu's call to work at *Tribuna* paper.

With a visionary approach, Ioan N. Roman based his battle on nationality principles, which he believed to underlie future Europe, while political borders of various countries were to meet the respective nations' ethnic boundaries.

The most important part of the activity carried out by Ioan N. Roman occurred in Dobrogea, between 1898 – 1931.

The research includes detailed information about the publications Ioan N. Roman established and in which he wrote articles this whole stage of life. Thus, this study presents and analyzes articles from publications such as: *Ovidiu*, *Drepturile Dobrogei*, *Farul*, *Drapelul*, *Farul, serie nouă*, *Arhiva Dobrogei*, *Analele Dobrogei*, *Dobrogea Jună*, *Justiția Dobrogei*, *Liberalul Constanței*, *Liberalul*, *Voința Dobrogei*.

Ioan N. Roman was a militant journalist who promoted fundamental values and universal themes, which he approached from the liberal ideology perspective, adapting them to the region's particular needs. By addressing these topics and through his manner of approach, the regional journalist Ioan N. Roman proved himself to be a European journalist as well, who had an immense journalistic talent emphasized by the diversity of journalistic genres: editorials, reports, portraits, essays, chronics, documentaries, satires and pamphlets.

In each stage of his journalistic activity, Ioan N. Roman has kept the nationalism flame alive, advocating for the rights and values of Romanians everywhere.

As I studied Ioan N. Roman's journalistic activity, I undoubtedly conclude that he was a prominent representative of the regional press in the European context.

This study proves that all media articles written by professional journalists aim for the moment but breathe for an eternity, dedicated to those seeking for truth, beyond the obvious lack of content and meaning. The research also points out that valuation of models is the solution that can free us from our daily boundaries.

As a result of this research, I can say without fear of being mistaken, that Ioan N. Roman is a true model for all who can build a healthy present and future, bearing in mind the love for models that history offers.

A future project, initiated with the support of the leaders of the National Liberal Youth Party from Constanta, is reestablishment of the Ioan N. Roman awards that will be annually awarded to authors of cultural, literary, historical, legal works and projects, on themes regarding Dobrogea's past, present and future.

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