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Faculty of History and Philosophy
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***THE CULTURAL AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
BETWEEN ROMANIA AND SPAIN
(1919-1936)***

SUMMARY

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Summary

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This present work entitled "The cultural and diplomatic relations between Romania and Spain (1919-1936)" without claiming the exhaustion of a subject so vast, aims to investigate the fundamental contents of these relations through diplomacy and culture in a vital period of the contemporary history.

The History of Romanian-Spanish relations has not been researched as properly as it should have been, we believe that the moment of approaching the cultural and diplomatic relations between the two countries that takes into account the historical developments of these relations, starting at the basis of the historical and cultural romanian-spanish heritage has come.

In our research we addressed two visions which are intertwined. First of all the appropriate aspects of bilateral relations, and secondly how Romania and Spain have seen the development of the cultural relations. The history of Romanian and Spanish must be perceived inevitably in an international context. Between Romania and Spain exists a double identity: a Latin and an European one.

In this thesis we will interdisciplinary analyze these historical and cultural evolutions. We will try to see how was perceived in the Spanish society events of great importance in Romania's history. We will try to understand the vision, the concepts, the attitudes, and the cultural and political philosophies inerconnected with this environment and with the personalities to whom we have granted a special place in our research.

The cultural diplomacy has constantly stimulated the development of the bilateral relations between Romania and Spain. We will present and analyze our research topic from the broad perspective of the history of international relations. To complete this historical-cultural picture we decided to grant to our approach a particular attention to the bibliography analysis

associated to Romanian and Spanish cultural space, from the first relations and to ultra contemporary period.

In the first part of this thesis we decided to summarize the main issues from the evolution of these cultural relations beginning from the Roman period and until the great progress made in this area during the modern era. The next stage of the research is submitted to the investigation of the manner in which these relations have developed during the World War I. Then we will pay a special attention to the cultural and diplomatic relations between Romania and Spain during the interwar period. We will try to present the way which has reflected in the Spanish cultural space, primordial events of Romanian history and culture, while we will endeavor to present the visions of the Romanian cultural personalities which were dedicated to the research of Spanish culture and civilization.

Relations between the two nations were able to develop for more than two millenniums: the founding of Romanian and Spanish Romanity. Romania and Spain two sister countries, with the same destiny of being born through conquest: with the Roman landing in Ampurias and Drobeta, were able to reunite each other over the centuries due to a common culture and the fundamental elements that define it. In the words of the Romanian historian Nicolae Iorga: "Romania welcomes with joy the reunion with his Western sisters, a reunion that he wanted with all the sincerity of his heart" ("La Époque", 13 of march 1928).

The gradual development of cultural relations between Romania and Spain was not restricted by the political fluctuations on which both countries were subjected throughout the history.

The Middle Ages had distinguished moments of brightness that enlightened and stimulated the strengthening of these cultural relations. The Romanian scholars: Grigore Ureche, Miron Costin, Nicolaus Olahus, Constantin Cantacuzino, Ion Neculce, as well as Spanish professors: Andrés de Poza and Juan Lotiquio represent only a part of the scholars which contributed to the cultural closeness. The modern age has revitalized these relations, especially worth to mention are great personalities like: Nicolaie Bălcescu, C. A. Rosetti, Mihai Eminescu, Vasile Alecsandri, Mihail Kogălniceanu, and Spanish writers such as: Alberto de Quintana y Combis, Juan Fastenrath or Teodoro Lorente. The cultural diplomacy, represented by the great

personalities that we just mentioned has contributed to the mutual recognition of these cultural heritages: Romanian and Spanish.

The establishment of the formal diplomatic relations between Romania and Spain in 1880 has intensified the development of these historical and cultural ties. The main elements of the Romanian-Spanish cultural diplomacy in the process of configuration were: the cooperation between the Universities, the scientific exchange which already existed since the early modern era, this being related to the formation of the elite, represented by Romanian scholars, students at the Universities from Madrid or Paris, the illustrious publishing of great books and also scientific conferences from the both academic environments. The true cultural ambassadors were the intellectuals who have traveled to Spanish or Romanian lands cultivating intellectual dialogue and promoting the improvement of the relations between the two countries; A key role was played by the consular cultural activities attached to the state diplomacy; All these elements contributing together to the extension of this very essential picture of cultural diplomacy. The politics and culture have always been the international determinants agents of rapprochement.

The importance of the cultural factors in the international context in every historic period has been documented through cultural productions, the great importance of the travel books of the academicians: Mihail Kogălniceanu, Joaquín de Llave y García, Nicolaie Iorga and Miguel de Unamuno. The Romanian hispanist scholars such as: Alexandru Popescu Telega and Mihai Tican Rumano have turned themselves into true cultural ambassadors of Romania for the entire Hispanic civilization. The cultural and scientific conferences presented by: Emil Racovitza, Ramón Menéndez Pidal, Sextil Pușcariu, Nicolaie Iorga, Miguel de Unamuno, Ortega y Gasset, Liviu Rebreanu, Elena Văcărescu, Marta Bibescu, Enrique Díez Canedo, Joaquín de Llave, Ramón de Basterra have contributed to the scientific exchanges, and the academic collaboration, to the development of cultural relations between Romania and Spain and to the expanding of the European intellectual heritage.

The "National Exhibition of Romania" (1906) and the "International Exhibition from Barcelona" (1929), are attesting the flourishing of the cultural Romanian-Spanish relations. The visit of the Queen Mary of Romania in Spain (February 3 to May 6, 1929) marked an august moment of the bilateral relations between the two peoples. The Queen's popularity and the Romanian prestige at the end of this decade gave her a special place in the hearts of this nation.

Alongside of the King of Spain Alfonso XIII has demonstrated in front of all Europe the great unity of the two Latin countries. Prince Anton Bibescu the Romanian plenipotentiary minister to Madrid, with the Queen Mary, Nicolae Titulescu the president "League of Nations" the minister Gheorghe Mironescu, the Romanian diplomat and minister Ștefan Ciceo Pop, Henry Helfant, the Romanian embassy's commercial attaché in the Spanish capital, prince Valentin Bibescu, the president of the "International Federation of Aeronautics" and the writer Elena Văcărescu are just a part of the personalities who represented the Romanian cultural diplomacy in Spain.

The Spanish Ambassador in Romania, Juan Francisco de Cárdenas y Rodríguez de Rivas, the diplomatic attaché Ramón de Basterra, the Ambassador Pedro De Prat y Soutzo, viceconsulul Luis Beneyto Martí, Salvador Bonet Marsillach and Manuel de Castro Tiedra were part of the Spanish diplomatic corps, developing a cultural diplomacy of crucial importance to the Romanian-Spanish relations.

The evolution of the cultural ties between Romania and Spain had an upward trajectory in this crucial period of contemporary history. Without a doubt, this positive development of cultural and diplomatic relations represented a model for European diplomacy of the era. This historical example is contributing even today the development of cultural relations and diplomatic Romanian-Spanish and also to the enlargement of the European intellectual horizon.