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*Editorial board and editorial politics in Romanian press from Transylvania and
Hungary*

Journalistic Romanian intellectuality between (1838-1918)

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SUMMARY

The history of the Transylvanian press prefigured by editorial boards and their contribution in political, institutional and social plan wished to emphasize the role of an intellectual and socio-professional category with deep involvement in journalism, the chronological interval proposed for discussion (1838-1918), wanting to bring a view on the evolution of the press but especially on the evolution and reconstitution these editorial groups and also on their contributions at the social level.

We consider that in contents of this work we answer, throughout the different chapters, to methodological research question, demonstrating also the role of these editorials collective at the manifestation of Romanian national identity assumed at the level of the Transylvanian society. Editor groups from Albina (The Bee), Albina Carpatilor (The Carpathian Bee), Romanian Telegraph, Concordia, Federațiunea, Transilvanian Gazete, Tribuna and Tribuna Poporului, manifested a deep sense of duty by editorial work and through the spirit of intellectual identity militancy metamorphosed at the polemical and intellectual debate by the Transylvanian press. Editorial groups known especially through group leaders made the coagulation of a Romanian national spirit contributing significantly through their role those editors, publishers, correspondents in the various newspapers to the identification and debate of certain issues that Romanians from Transylvania faced. Transylvanian editors and journalists from the nineteenth century were the creators of public opinion and national identity. Romanian students trained in the Austro-Hungarian universities, were returning to Transylvania and after their enrollment in editorial groups, they maintained the Romanian national consciousness and national feeling. We can affirm that we approached Romanian national problem from the nineteenth century in Transylvania and from the first part of twentieth century through the press and press articles, capitalizing in our research a consistent number of relevant press articles, also demonstrating the contribution of editorial and socio-professional groups to the Romanian national issues from Transylvania. These journalistic teams assumes leadership of the national movement , militating in press to identify and solve certain matters related to cultural rise of Transylvanian Romanians as well as their representativeness in different decision-making fora. They had developed a deep spirit of the patronage and involvement in Transylvania's legislative, political, social and cultural issues, offering scholarships to the studious youth and at the same time being willing to raise collections in for war orphans or for establishment of schools. Nineteenth century journalists were putting their ideas into practice through the press. It is that category of intellectuals which conducted a supported activity on the national movement scene and they contributed through its journalistic, political, social and cultural activity to the Transylvanian society modernization and the outlining of some issues and directives who had to be solved and assumed at the Transylvanian leaders.

Leading each editorial there was one political, economic, literary- historical and social-national personality, frequently identified with the national militant. The merit of these journalistic personalities was to foreshadow the culture and national politics orientation of the Transylvanian intellectuality. Often Romanian journalists from the nineteenth century's Transylvania and Hungary adopted the idea of a Romanian national spirit. In the editorials it was conveyed the ideology of a national consciousness, those who were at leading the editorials being the promoters of the century's spirit and the Romanian national identity. In many cases Romanian editors identified with national and social cultural problems of Romanians from Transylvania, debating in newspapers and trying to find solutions for national rights and for Transylvanian Romanian's representativeness. All Romanian newspapers from Transylvania and Hungary adopted the historical, philological and educational dimension objectified nationwide. The media referred especially to urban society's intellectuality who read daily newspapers, commented press news and engaged in polemics and disputes materialized at public opinion level. Also newspapers assumed national ideal conscience, this identity characteristic being observed in newspapers pages by augmenting national desiderates disseminated in the Transylvanian society. The editors of the Romanian newspapers, no matter the disputes, polemic and internal tensions, are united by consciousness of belonging to a national joint project. The journalistic teams' contribution was to keep alive the Romanian national consciousness because in the editorial offices the ideas and conceptions of a real school of national pedagogy were perpetuated, assuming to also make a national project, desideration which was materialized at 1 December 1918.

In the current paper I also pointed out the functioning mechanism of an editorial in the nineteenth century, the leadership, the functionality of group level and hierarchical coordination being sensitive as in most cases found in Romanian newspapers from Transylvania. I also foreshadowed the predilection of the Transylvanian editors to leisure and spending free time, participating at the organization of cultural evenings, student performances, banquets, dinners, socio-cultural meetings. Romanian journalists from Bucharest benefited of free trips by train to places to rest and relax. In the description, I also made an incursion in the journalists', editors' and newspaper owners' world from nineteenth century and first part of twenty century.

Through our historical approach, I have sketched evolution and formation of the Romanian editorial intellectuality from Transylvania and Hungary, following, in a first step, the educational evolution, crowned by graduating a specialized school in their homelands, to later observe the educational path by continuing the academic studies in the centers of Austro-Hungarian monarchy, all the higher education being revealed at the academic journey level by the manifestation of that „peregrinatio academica“ and their professional perfection by taking this profession of journalist,

that gradually becomes independent and it becomes a concrete reality in the context of first world war. It is an intellectuality which was transmitting a cultural-identity ideal, disseminating in the epoch the ideology of a Romanian national political and cultural movement.

Through this research we realized a transfer from classical theory of the elites, which studies the elite as a separate category with a superior level of knowledge and with a special a status in society, to pluralist theories on elites. These theories were increasingly more bandied in western historiography, studying the structural gregarious social elite professional categories. The hierarchical socio-professional component of the editorial groups and the operating mechanism of journalistic groups highlighted in the present paper, can focus our attention towards a new study approach of the socio-professional groups from nineteenth century of Transylvania and Hungary. We can say that our historical approach takes a step towards a research method, increasingly more present in studies and books of young researchers of Cluj from the Babeş-Bolyai University. The transition from the classical theories on the elite to pluralistic theories, which in this case studies social and hierarchical component the editorial groups, the group leaders belonging to the elite, family alliances and the social promotion system of the Romanian journalists in the Transylvanian society , bring more value to this thesis.

By filtering the theories of the elite, we demonstrated the social and group structure of the editorial collectives, social promotion system being watched in relationship with professional and university formation, but benefiting and certain socio–professional conjectural contexts at the top level of Transylvanian society. Journalistic collectives’ coagulation around an economical, cultural, political personality with influence in the Transylvanian society, the internal operating mechanism of editorials and of the editorial groups, the instructions given by hierarchical leaders to members belonging to different journalistic collectives, social structure and component of these groups of journalists, each with this own interests in Budapest, can demonstrate that in the second half of nineteenth century, we are seeing a competitive development of Romanian journalism from Transylvania and also the assertion and the rise of the intellectual editors in the press.

To outline certain aspects and conclusive considerations on our historical research, we can mention that the economy of the work, structured in five chapters and trying as much as possible to keep a balance between these, analyzed the fight for emancipation of the Romanians of Transylvania through the filter of the media and through the militant intellectuality which assumes involvement in Romanian national issues. The proposed chronological interval is significant for at least two reasons: a first reason being that the year 1838 represents the moment of birth of the Romanian press in Transylvania, by the appearance in Braşov of the Transylvanian Gazette and the

second motivational aspect is offered in 1918, this year marking the end of First World War and one of the landmarks of professional perfection of Transylvanian editors. First World War brings, besides the material and personal difficulties inherent from the war, specialization of the editors and modernization of the editorial techniques, an evolution of the militant Romanian journalism in the specialization of this profession which represents the crucible immersion in society problems, the news dissemination by the readership of newspapers and the formation of public opinion in a society increasingly connected to the cities' modernity and to the western cultural models from the nineteenth century .

In the first chapter of this paper, suggestively titled *Prolegomena* (introductory statement preceding the actual exposure in a scientific work) *to the history of journalism* we wanted to follow the Transylvanian press evolution from its first attempts and initiatives to the end of the First World War, thus having a complete picture of the moments of decline and editorial ascent in Transylvania. Another subsection treated in this chapter, was related to *The stability and instability in the editorial committees*, demonstrating that the majority of the young editors who joined such journalistic teams, remained loyal the newspaper management that they followed, rarely being cases when due to internal disputes, a misunderstanding at the group level, or with the editorial head, different editors went to the other newspaper. Unwilling to reiterate certain specified matters in the content of this historical research, we affirm that we identified some suggestive cases , such situation being foreshadowed by the moment when the young members of the Tribune left the telegraphist group and founded the Tribune in Sibiu. Another example is offered by misunderstandings occurring between newspaper editors of Federațiunea, these misunderstanding leading to the decision taken by Alexandru Roman and Sigismung Pop to found another newspaper, Concordia.

Other relevant subchapters for contouring this theme were: Transferring from ecclesiastical intellectuality to an intellectuality of laic origin, arguing that the two categories of intellectuals, clerics and laics, coexisted throughout the national movement in various committees, national assemblies, election clubs and deputies, clerics gradually making space to the laity at the national movement leadership; *The intellectual portrait of the editors in nineteen century*, managing to outline the characteristics of the intellectual editor in the nineteenth century and noticing his militant spirit in the Romanian press and on issues debate arena of the Transylvanian in the nineteenth century and early of twentieth century society, also highlighting the Transylvanian editors implication in activism-passivity dispute, this debate of politic ideas taking scale after creating the Austro-Hungarian dualism in year 1867.

The second chapter highlights the importance and internal structure of the political newspaper proposed for debate, thus we considered that this analysis of the newspapers structure is useful, because this way we can focus our attention on the modality how journalistic teams reasoned these newspapers, how they structured them, what was the political attitude revealed in their contents, their geographic spread, also noting which was the impact of these newspapers by number of subscribers. The descriptions and aspects of analysis compared between different Transylvanian publications, can demonstrate a level of development of the Transylvanian society, an increase of rhythm of life and the desire to always be informed by press about various news and debates of the Dualistic Monarchy. This comparative analysis of various newspapers that had a strong impact on social categories which subscribed to those newspapers, emphasizes a fighting spirit of competition through various publications to attract and win subscribers, by attracting studious youth at their editorials, everything being observed by the top management and the disputes between editorial groups. Relevant to the editorial groups brought in historiographical wake is the cultural side promoted in the press at which we add the spirit of patronage, helping various social categories collecting war orphans, contributions to the establishment of schools, initiative spirit and involvement in Transylvanian society, representing a category which besides the contribution in various spheres of socio-professional structures (lawyers, elementary-teachers, teachers, priests, doctors, here can be observed the humanistic side of the editors), brought and real contributions to the Romanian national identity from Transylvania by their journalistic, political and historic contribution, through daily work in editorial offices of newspaper with profound political and national character, forming around these newspapers true journalism schools, those who formed such journalism schools distinguishing themselves as: George Barițiu, Ioan Slavici, Eugen Brote, spiritual parents as Andrei Șaguna, all of them being group leaders who led newspapers, gave instructions, they offered scholarships to eager young people for intellectual formation in the prestigious academic centers, also proposing a model of coagulation for the journalistic teams which they led, them being the ones who, somewhat represented the groups and newspapers in different important moments. We want to reconstruct as much as possible the entire editorial component of different newspapers and their contributions to social and institutional level through their activity and dedication evolved from the spirit of Vienna and specific romance of the era in which they activated.

Chapter three is considering the diachronic reconstruction of editorial groups, applying the research using a prosopographical method (collections of biographies), in the evocation of different editors' life. The early years, the professional university formation, the intellectual routes, the family and group links joined by their work in political, social and literary-artistic plan are elements

that were brought for this intellectual category's reconfiguration. To these biographical medallions, we managed to ascribe nicknames for each editor which they were signing with, those interested in such a subject succeeding more easily, from now on, to identify the one who signed a certain article, who was behind a particular debate or controversy, many editors signing with initials, pseudonyms, anagrams or more articles not being signed, then it was necessary to recognize those who were behind them. Besides the description of the aspects related of their life and work, we succeeded in shaping their intellectual profiles, establishing the identity of editors by their nicknames, with which they signed articles, political, literary contributions etc.

Chapter four showed an increasing interest for the definition and the role of an editorial policy, at the Transylvanian journalism level. So we applied a modern concept, in this era nobody was talking about this editorial policy, for nineteenth century newspapers. I defined and noticed who established the editorial policy of the relevant newspapers, who decided what is published, what was rejected from the publishing grid, who was hiring and who was rejecting those who wanted to be part of the editorial office of the newspaper, what were the criteria for selection and their role in leading of newspaper, everything being revealed and highlighted by internal disputes, dissensions, inherent problems that arise between editors when they are considering debates on certain problems and recurring themes from the Transylvanian society, also revealing a team spirit when the context asked for it, everything being directed by the group leader. At same time we managed to bring in historiography debate the role of politics and economics in establishing an editorial policy. In this chapter I also treated the professionalization of Transylvanian journalists, which, as I have said in the paper content, is a long process which begins in the 60's of the nineteenth century and is finished at the beginning of the twentieth century by the Romanian Journalists Foundation from Hungary (1910) and Journalists Syndicate of Transylvania and Banat, founded in Cluj in 1921. I demonstrated the transfer from the writer-editor status, specific for nineteenth century, to professionalization and social consecration by having an occupation that just was as good as the other modern professions.

Chapter five, the last in our theme structure, but not the least, wanted to present the press processes in which George Barițiu was implicated, because the Gazette of Transylvania and George Barițiu represented a landmark for Transylvanian journalism, its processes being important for the description of the aspects which Transylvanian editors faced and also giving the reasons for bringing in front of the court, how to perform such as press process, how to realize the process etc. We chose to describe press processes instituted by the Transylvanian Gazette and George Barițiu, because the Romanian press founder from Transylvania constituted a milestone for both the

Romanian press in Transylvania, as well as for the whole movements of emancipation of the Transylvanian Romanians in the nineteenth century.

Obviously, press processes were filed to other publications (Federațiunea, Tribuna, etc), these being mentioned in various thematic sections of the paper. It should be noted that a constant of these press processes is their duration, most press processes from Transylvania resulting in fines and bringing in front of court, which stretched during several months in prison, court costs being supported by the defendants. Few are cases when editors received one or two years in prison, this last chapter having extensive descriptions about the press processes from Transylvania and their metamorphosis into a movement of true national reclaim. We hope that we brought to historiographical attention a topic which is worth debating and being treated further, during our intellectual trip tracing certain lines and research directions which can be studied in case of possible future research. By these described we believe that we brought another historiographical contribution to what we know so far about this subject of this history, succeeding to emphasize the contribution of intellectual categories with profound implications in Transylvanian journalism.

In completing of these preliminary issues, we opine that the present historical demarche will be useful to other historians and colleagues who approached the research of such subjects which unite in a scientific research symbiosis the knowledge of the cultural history, sociology and comparative perspective of the historical study, all metamorphosed into an intellectual research area of recovery of the Transylvanian editorial intellectuality.