

The Society for Romanian Studies

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 29

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## New SRS National Board Formed

The results of the elections for the officers and selection of National Board members are complete. Serving as President of the Society for Romanian Studies for 2006-2009 will be Paul Michelson, Huntington University IN. He will be joined on the Executive Committee by Ileana Orlich, Arizona State University AZ, as Vice-President; and Jim Augerot, University of Washington, as Secretary-Treasurer.

The 2004-2007 class of the National Board is composed of Henry (Chip) Carey, Georgia State University GA; Tanya Dunlap, independent scholar MO; Steve Roper, Eastern Illinois University IL; and Lavinia Stan, St. Francis Xavier University of Canada. They will be joined by the class of 2006-2009: Margaret Beissinger, University of Wisconsin WI; Maria Bucur, Indiana University IN; and Bill Crowther, University of North Carolina-Greensboro NC.

The Board is already at work on our primary concern for the next year: the Fifth International Congress on Romanian Studies, which will be held June 25-28, 2007, at Ovidius University in Constanta. A call for papers, panels, and roundtables has been issued; for details, see pp. 6-7 below. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis, beginning in the fall of 2006, so you are encouraged to get yours in soon. We also welcome additional suggestions for topics that you think might be of interest.

# The Future of Romanian Studies

*Paul Michelson, Huntington University*  
President, The Society for Romanian Studies

The formal conceptualization of Romanian Studies in the United States dates back to 1973 when a group of academics—principally historians and language and literature specialists—decided that the number of American scholars on Romania created in the previous dozen years had achieved sufficient critical mass so that a more formal networking association was needed. This led to the creation of the Romanian Studies Group, the holding of the first of what was to prove many subsequent conferences, and the publication of a newsletter. In the late 1970s, the RSG formalized its role as the premier promoter of Romanian Studies in the US, changed its name to the Society for Romanian Studies, and eventually became a formal affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), the South East European Studies Association (SEESA, originally the American Association for Southeast European Studies), the American Historical Association (the AHA), and the American Political Science Association (APSA). Academically, the SRS had arrived, since these are the two leading area studies organizations in the United States and the principal American historical and political science associations.

In 1986, the first SRS International Congress on Romanian Studies was held at the Sorbonne

in Paris. This was followed by congresses in Iasi in 1993, Cluj in 1997, and Suceava in 2001. The fifth SRS International Congress will be held June 25-28, 2007 in Constanta. Organizationally, the SRS established a consistent and solid record of activities (newsletters, website, conferences), something exemplified by the fact that if one Googles “Romanian Studies”, the first two entries (out of some 5,650,000) are for the Society for Romanian Studies. The SRS conferences and meetings have provided a venue for people in small and large colleges and universities with an interest in Romania and things Romanian somewhere to meet like-minded people, share information, discuss issues, and metaphorically recharge their batteries.

As we look over the three decades plus of organized Romanian Studies in the United States, we have tolerably good reasons for pride in what has been accomplished. However, the past is only prologue. The challenges of the 21st century continually require us to rethink and reshape as we consider what is needed to move Romanian Studies to the next level.

The first issue that needs to be considered is that of the “location” of Romanian Studies. From 1945 to 1989, this question was easy to answer: Romania was part of the Communist bloc. This meant that Romanian Studies was part of

Russian and East European Studies, even to the somewhat absurd extent of being part of a national Association for the Advancement of Slavic (sic) Studies. From a funding point of view, this was convenient: there wouldn't have been an International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) for Romania if Romania had been outside of the Communist sphere, there would have been fewer Fulbright grants, and publishing venues for Romanian Studies would have been considerably much sparser. From a university perspective, Romanian Studies fit tidily in the purview of Russian and East European studies centers, though Romanian language studies had a more amorphous fate—for example at one university it was variously part of the French Department, the Portuguese Department, and the Slavics Department.

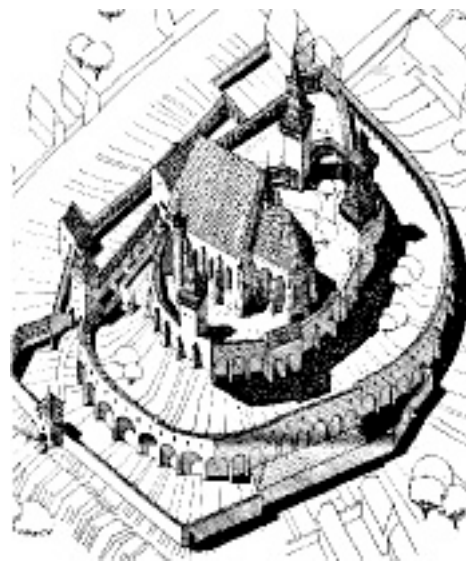
All of this, of course, changed after 1989 (or threatened to change), raising multiple and to-date unresolved problems of just where Romanian Studies “belong”. The challenges, threats, and opportunities of dealing with radical societal refocussing after 1989 was not only a problem for Romanian society in transition from Communism, but also for the academic study of Romania. “Transition to what?” many have asked. Well, that's the problem isn't it? The AAASS itself is undergoing something of an identity crisis, leading to a major discussion at last fall's national meeting in Salt Lake about whether or not to abandon the name in favor of a new one. (See Katherine Verdery's essay “What's in a Name,

and Should We Change Ours?” *AAASS Newsnet*, March 2006, pp. 1-4, and the discussion, pp. 5-6.) Does Romania belong to Central Europe? To Southeast Europe? Or just simply Europe? A reasonable case can be made for any of these. The answer we give to this question will determine to some extent our agenda for the future. And it is clear that there is a crucial relationship between the success scholars will have in describing, understanding, and clarifying the transformation of post-Communist Eastern Europe in general and Romania in particular, and the future growth and development of Romanian Studies in the future.

Another issue has to do with funding and university agendas. The potential contribution of American academia to a better understanding of Romania is unclear. Part of the problem here is the lack of continuity in academic programming and in the personalized nature of Romanian Studies in academic institutions to this point: if there is a historian or a language-literature specialist who is interested in Romania and who takes some initiatives, a modicum of Romanian Studies activities ensues at that institution. But when these individuals retire, their programs often disappear along with their entrepreneurial energies. Why? Because academic administrators are extremely short sighted, want to save money, and in the end view faculty positions as simply “history” or “political science” and not as “Romanian History” or “Romanian Politics”. There are far too many sad cases

where people have made heroic and magnificent efforts to build up Romanian Studies programs and resources, including libraries, that are now in danger of fading away or have disappeared entirely once these individuals retire.

One response to this might be the creation of a wider Romanian studies network in the United States, involving both formal programs (such as that at Indiana University or Arizona State); informal programs (individuals who occasionally teach courses on Romania, institutions which are willing to host exchanges or sponsor lectures, and so forth), which is the context in which most Romanian specialists are now working; and people interested in Romania for business, heritage, or other non-academic reasons. It has been suggested that the Romanian Cultural Institute might form academic partnerships, big and small, supporting centers as such of Romanian Studies as well as assisting the efforts of those in institutions where Romanian Studies is primarily individual in nature. Obviously, the big and small programs could and should work together. Obviously, networking among Romanianists needs to be taken to the next level. These possibilities were recently given focused attention at a consultation held at the Romanian Embassy in Washington with the leadership of the Romanian Cultural



Institute and American academics, as well as at a session in March at the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York.

The key to the development of formal academic centers will probably and logically be language instruction, a matter also given some attention at the Washington meeting. A coherent approach to the study of the Romanian language centered around language training needs to be developed. After a flurry of language text books and programs in the 1960s-1990s, focus has somewhat been lost in the last few years, especially as the pioneers in the field began to retire. Some excellent materials do exist, but often are too expensive or too specialized or too hard to obtain for the average individual who wants to learn Romanian for whatever purpose. Summer school opportunities seem poorly advertised or somehow fly under the radar of potential students or lack a clear focus (are these programs designed for professional scholars, heritage learners, business people or what?). Given the current interest in multiculturalism, one might hypothesize that the study of Romanian should be attractive to administrators and students. One would be wrong. Perhaps the lack of true advocacy centers is responsible. Perhaps a lack of collaborative support is to blame. Of course, teaching lesser known foreign languages and cultures is expen-

sive, at least at the start when there will be fewer students. One solution might be some kind of matching grant program or partnership effort sponsored by the Romanian government or the Romanian Cultural Institute to make teaching Romanian more attractive to university leaders all too often focussed on the bottom line.

Another theme that has emerged with frequency in recent discussions is the need to be more interdisciplinary in our work. Historians, in a sense, have always approached their work in an interdisciplinary fashion, so there is nothing new in that. In addition, one of the continuing features of our meetings and congresses is the generalist character of many of the participants: people interested in Romanian studies are interested not only in history or politics or literature, but are concerned with all things Romanian. One can't have a grasp of, say, Romanian politics without having a grasp of Romanian literature or culture or history.

Yet the pressures of graduate preparation and the realities of scholarly publication and university promotions tends to militate against multi- or interdisciplinary work. Political science departments look askance at people who write articles about Titulescu in plain English rather than some theory laden, incomprehensibly mathematical piece. In some circles there is even a suspicion that multidisciplinary work is by definition shallow or superficial. This is further fostered by those who exaggerate the merits of interdisciplinary studies and who are the mas-

ter of no discipline themselves. Of course, we need to recognize the boundaries and the idiosyncrasies of various disciplines.

But these are no excuse for ignorance or a justification of the shallowness of the specialist who presumes to be able to generalize about Romania without knowing a word of Romanian or more than a smattering about its culture. The case for interdisciplinary work is the same as the case for area studies; we probably need to bring these cases up to date and make it stronger.

We also need to recommit to being interdisciplinary students of Romanian culture and society. When we meet, we need to remember that we are a Society for Romanian Studies, not just a collection of historians, language-literature specialists, and social scientists who happen to be at the same meeting. Here we have an excellent tradition on which to build, not only with our own SRS conferences and congresses, but in activities tied to the meetings of the AAASS, SEESA, the APSA, and the AHA.

We also continue to need to address the information gap that exists in regard to Romania. We all cringe when we contemplate the public image of Romania—the land of Dracula, HIV orphans, street children, Holocaust deniers, and bacsis. Practically the only time Romania appears in the American media is when something aberrant happens there. And how many of us have read with amazement and chagrin erroneous encyclopedia or media discussions of various Romanian topics, discussions which are the

basic source of information (or, rather, misinformation) about Romania for American school children and their teachers?

Since media preoccupation with the sensational or the bizarre is not going to go away, contributing to a better and more accurate perception of Romania remains a principal task. Progress has been made. More and more encyclopedia articles, for example, are written by people who actually have some expertise on Romania. But scholars who have a high regard for the Romanian people and their culture are too few and there is too much that needs to be done. That is why the work of the Romanian Cultural Institute is important, both in carrying out its own activities and in supporting and facilitating the activities of informed and concerned academic specialists, not only in the United States but across Europe and elsewhere. The affirmation of Romanian Ambassador at the Romanian Studies consultation was an important reminder: far too much attention has been given to mere political and economic affairs.. What we need to do is to affirm that Romanian culture is both more significant and of greater long run significance.

At the Romanian Studies consultation, it was also obvious to all that we need to reconceptualize our ideas about the collection and the dissemination of information about Romania. The internet makes traditional channels more and more obsolete, at the same time opening up far greater access to materials at far less cost than ever before...provided that the producers of such

information are not primarily concerned with making money off of their work. Efforts need to be made to create new channels for the distribution of content about Romania: ebooks and articles, videos, podcasts, MP3s, etc. And of course content is needed, perhaps starting with online reference lists and resources, a guide to Romanian materials, and a continuously updated online Bibliography of Romanian Studies. A lot of this can be done relatively inexpensively. A "Virtual Romania" project will require organization and effort, but it would not be nearly as cost prohibitive as it would have been 30 years ago.

We can also profit from a systematic analysis of what is being done elsewhere, e.g. by the British, the French, and the Germans. Romanian cultural agencies and groups, naturally, face different problems from those of a Germany, a UK, or a France. But not all the issues of small cultures are *sui generis*.

We should benefit from the experiences of other studies groups as well, whose work ought to be examined for lessons to be learned. Our contacts through SEESA have been a start.

The commitment of the newly installed officers and board of the Society for Romanian Studies is to actively pursue these and other issues. We all have contributions that we can make individually, whether large or small. We solicit your participation.

[Adapted from remarks delivered at the Romanian Cultural Institute of New York, March 24, 2006 and the resulting discussion as well as from the discussions at the March 4, 2006, consultation on Romanian studies at the Romanian Embassy, Washington DC.]



# FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ROMANIAN STUDIES CONSTANTA, ROMANIA JUNE 25-JUNE 28, 2007

## CALL FOR PAPER, PANEL, AND ROUNDTABLE PROPOSALS

The Society for Romanian Studies is pleased to announce that its **Fifth International Congress on Romanian Studies** will be held in June 25-28, 2007, in Constanta, hosted by Ovidius University and the SRS. The meeting is designed to be a general congress on Romanian studies at which the best and most interesting of current studies, topics, and concerns dealing with Romanian culture and civilization will be presented. Thus, as with the previous such meetings in Paris (1986), Iasi (1993), Cluj (1997), and Suceava (2001), there will be no official theme or emphasis for the Congress. It is expected that scholars from Romania, Moldova, the United States, Western Europe, and Eastern Europe will be participating.

Interested scholars are hereby invited to submit proposals (along with a fifty word abstract) for papers, complete panels, and roundtables for consideration by the Program Committee. Paper presentations will be strictly limited to 20 minutes. Since it will be assumed that conference participants have a basic familiarity with Romanian culture and civilization, most panels will not need to have formal discussants, thus allowing for greater discussion among attendees.

The Deadline for Submission of Proposals is 31 January 2007. Acceptances will be made on a rolling basis, beginning in the fall of 2006. The preferred submission option is via eMail.

We would especially like to encourage the submission of proposals for panels or roundtables on the following topics: the Eliade centenary (2007); history and pedagogy about the Holocaust; gender

studies and gender politics in Romania; Romanian mass media in the age of the Internet; publishing on the Internet; communism and memory; consumerism and postcommunism; human rights and human trafficking; the interaction of the rural and the global; religiosity after communism; Romania in the European/EU future; corruption, transparency, and 21st Century Romania; and literature and politics. Other topics, are, of course, welcomed.

The official languages of the Fifth International Congress will be English, French, German, and Romanian. Topics will include anything having to do with the scholarly study of Romanian culture and civilization, such as history, political science, language and literature, folklore, the arts, religion, and such like.

It must be strictly emphasized that will not be possible for papers to be given in absentia. Persons wishing to make available copies of their papers to conferees may bring and distribute them at the appropriate session.

For further details and updates as they become available concerning CONSTANTIA 2007, please visit the SRS website at

[www.huntington.edu/srs/srs\\_conferences.htm](http://www.huntington.edu/srs/srs_conferences.htm)

The SRS Website will also carry information about travel and housing as well as local tourism options as it becomes available. It is expected that conferees will make their own travel and housing arrangements. Ovidius University will try to make available housing in their facilities for congress participants from Romania and Moldova who need it.

Proposals for papers, panels, and roundtables (as well as other inquiries) should be sent (preferably by eMail) to:

Dr. Paul E. Michelson  
Department of History, Huntington University  
Huntington IN 46750 USA  
eMail=[pmichelson@huntington.edu](mailto:pmichelson@huntington.edu)



# ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF NATIONALITIES (ASN) CONVENTION

## Nationalism in an Age of Globalization

The Eleventh Association for the Study of Nationalities world convention was held March 23-25, 2006, at Columbia University, sponsored by the Harriman Institute. The ASN Convention is probably the most widely attended international and inter-disciplinary scholarly gathering of its kind. At this meeting, owing in part to the assiduous work of Chip Carey (Georgia State), a full slate of Romanian Studies papers panels was presented as follows (in some cases, persons listed in the program were unable to attend).

1. *Nationalism and Nationality Issues in Modern Romania*, chaired by Kathie Barrett (Georgia State), with papers by Paul E. Michelson (Huntington University) on "Nationalism and Nationality Issues under Carol I," Ernest H. Latham, Jr. (Foreign Service Institute, Romania) on "Nationalism and Nationality Issues under Mihai I," with Joseph (Jody) Prestia (Indiana University) as discussant.

2. *A Walk On The Wild Side: The Evolution Of Romanian Nationalism In The 20th Century*, chaired by Paul Michelson, with papers by Mihai Chioveanu (Central European U, Budapest) on "Redemptive Hyper-Nationalism in 1930's Romania: From Political Ideology to Political Religion," Felicia Waldman (University of Bucuresti) on "The Striking Similarities between Turkish Nationalism in 1915 and Romanian Nationalism in 1940-1944," Adrian Mihai Cioflanca (History Institute, Iasi) on "National(istic) Pride and Historical Guilt: Politics of Oblivion in Post-Communist Romania," with Michael Shafir (Babes-Bolyai U, Cluj-Napoca) as discussant.

3. *Identities in Chernivtsy/Bukovyna*, chaired by Tanya Richardson (Columbia University), with papers by Anatoliy Kruglashov (Chernivsti National U), "A Border Region with Fluctuating Identity: The Evolution of Polyethnic Society in Bukovina," Ladis Kristof (Portland State U), "Bukovina and the Evolution of its Northern Frontier / Boundary: Migration, Demographic Pressures, and Religious versus Linguistic versus National Identity," and Ionas Aurelian Rus (Rutgers U), "'Romanian' and 'Moldovan' Nation-Building and Voting Patterns in the Chernivtsy Region of Ukraine (1989-2004)."

4. *Post-Ceausescu Romania*, chaired by William Crowther (University of North Carolina, Greensboro), with papers by Alexandru Gussi (Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris), "Nationalism, Anti-communism and Political Use of the Past in post-Communist Romania," and John Gledhill (Georgetown University), "Organizing Anarchy: Transitional Violence in Romania," with Melanie Ram (George Washington University) as discussant.

5. *European Integration and Romanian Reform*, chaired by Ernest H. Latham, Jr. (Foreign Service Institute, Romania), with papers by Peter Gross (University of Oklahoma), "The Roma Media and Reform in Interethnic Relations," Kathie Barrett (Georgia State), "Is the Romanian Constitutional Court Moving Toward Integration?" and Raluca Viman Miller (Georgia State), "European Union Integration and the Impact on the Transformation of the Romanian Parliament," with Michael Shafir (Babes-Bolyai U, Cluj-Napoca) as discussant.

6. *National Difference in Moldovan Space: Transnistrians, Jews and Gagauz*, chaired by Elizabeth A. Anderson (New York University), with papers by Rebecca Chamberlain-Creanga (London School of Economics), "The Transnistrian People: Identity and Imaginings of 'the State' in an Unrecognized Country," Dan Dungaciu (University of Bucuresti), "Refreezing the "Frozen Conflicts"—or What Transnistria Has to do with Kosovo?" and Dmitry Tartakovsky (University of Illinois), "The Jewish Cultural League in Interwar Romanian Bessarabia: A Point of Irreconcilable Differences," with Vladimir Solonari (University of Central Florida) as discussant.

7. In addition, papers dealing with Romanian-interest subjects on other panels included: Cristina Petrescu and Dragos Petrescu (University of Bucuresti), "Hungarians and Romanians Living Abroad: A Comparative Perspective on Two Cross-Border Nation-Building Processes," Andrew Ludanyi (Ohio Northern University), "The Impact of 1956 on the Hungarians of Transylvania," Stefania Costache (University of Illinois), "Constructing the Transylvanian Identity: Regional Identity in Provincia 2000-2002," and Matthew Ciscel (Central Connecticut State University), "A Separate Moldovan Limba de Stat."

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS  
ON ROMANIAN STUDIES 2007  
(Pass it On)

# NEWS, NOTES, and Queries

Best wishes to Acad. Cornelia Bodea who celebrated her 90th birthday this year. She was recognized with a festschrift published by the Romanian Academy, to which several SRS members contributed articles. Radu Florescu (Boston College) was one of the speakers at the celebrations held at the Romanian Academy on May 8.

Congratulations (and possibly sympathies) to Jim Augerot (University of Washington) and to Maria Bucur (Indiana University) who are heading up the Russian/ East European institutes at their respective institutions.

Petre Guran (Princeton University) recently organized and hosted a colloquium entitled "When Culture Dreams Empire: 'Byzantium' as Usable Past," May 12, 2006, sponsored by the Princeton University Program in Hellenic Studies. Participants included George Majeska (University of Maryland),

*Doesn't it lose something in the translation? Some Remarks on the Appropriation of Byzantine Culture in Russia;* Nikos Chrissidis (Southern Connecticut State University), *Was there Byzantium after Byzantium? The Evidence from Russia in the Seventeenth Century;* Molly Greene (Princeton University), *Greek Merchants and the Catholic Reformation;* Petre Guran (Princeton University), *God explains to Patriarch Athanasios the fall of Constantinople: I.S.Peresvetov and the impasse of political theology;* Nikos Panou (Harvard University), *Emperor without empire: Rhetoric, power, ideology in late seventeenth-century Wallachia;* Christine Phil-



liou (Yale University), *Janus-faced or synthesis? Anatomy of a Phanariot-Ottoman ceremony;* Jack Fairey (Princeton University), *Failed Nations and Usable Pasts: The Case of the Byzantine Union, 1844-1860s;* and Paul Bushkovitch (Yale University), who summarized the discussions.

SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS: Anne Quinney, Department of French, University of Mississippi, is editing a collection tentatively titled *The Other Francophone World: The Cultural Legacy of France in the Romanian Imagination*, which aims to unravel the complex cultural relationship between Romania and

France, in particular from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. Recent changes to the European political and economic landscape make it imperative to consider the notion of national boundaries in a new way, that is, with an increased appreciation for the historical permeability of those boundaries as well as to consider the possibilities of a Francophone literary tradition that extends beyond the colonial dimension. The principal point of intersection for these essays concerns the hybrid cultural identity that developed for writers from Romania who chose French as a literary language. Rather than add Romanians to the list of Francophone writers summarily, the essays will reflect the inquiry into the commonalities with and differences from works written in French produced in various geographical spaces, and based on these, to establish the ways in which the Romanians are or are not in a separate category.

Essays should address the ways in which French both facilitated and complicated the forging of this hybrid identity throughout their lives. Ultimately this approach will support the claim that these individuals deserve recognition as Francophone writers within a field of Francophone Studies that has for too long neglected their place. Other possible subjects for essays include Romania's fascination with Paris as a space of cultural identification and the historical underpinnings of the identification of Romanian intellectuals with French philosophers and literary figures.

Contributors are welcome to focus on particular Romanian writers who spent the majority of their lives in France, wrote in French, and assimilated readily into French culture. Essays should be written as book-length chapters (30-40 pages, double-spaced). Please send a hard copy of a one-page chapter abstract to Anne Quinney, The Department of Modern Languages, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677 or as an attachment to [aquinney@olemiss.edu](mailto:aquinney@olemiss.edu). Deadline: Summer, 2006.

The title of Tom Gallagher's (Bradford University) *Modern Romania: The End of Communism, the Failure of Democratic Reform, and the Theft of a Nation* (New York: NYU Press, 2005) aptly summarizes the author's pessimistic take on post-1989 Romania. He identifies the negative factors in Romanian society that are making and will make the development of democracy extremely difficult and argues that "exploitative relations between a privileged group at the apex of society and most of the rest of the population have been the norm for centuries." In other words, the political culture of Romania changed little during the Communist era, indeed the Communists only accelerated the tendency of Romanians toward dependency on a state "which is simultaneously too big and too weak." The book provides a thoroughly entertaining viewing of Romania's political dirty laundry, including the activities of such worthies as the Grain Baron, Trita Fanita, and the Pig Baron, Culita Tarata; the frequent and always

mysterious leaking of supposedly secret or sequestered documents to rightly or wrongly impune ones political opponents; the habitual looting of foreign sources of financial assistance; and high-level corruption, including the financial “prowess” of former Prime Minister Adrian Nastase. Gallagher is skeptical that the EU will be able to do much to change Romanian political culture, given its tendency to look the other way at illegal machinations if they are for the “right” cause and given its dismal record in promoting change in Romanian education, which he feels is single most significant avenue for real reform.

*Romania Redux: A View from Harvard* (Bucuresti: Humanitas, 2004), 163 pp., is the title of a cooperatively-written book by graduate students at Harvard, most of them Kokkalis fellows, edited by Dan Dimancescu. In contrast to the Gallagher book above, the authors believe that while contemporary



Romania faces significant challenges, these are not terminal: “Romania is a country, a people and an economy in the throes of wrenching but generally optimistic transition.” Though they are guarded about the Romanian future, they are very enthusiastic about the pre-Communist Romanian past, which if it could be resurrected (“redux”=“restored to former importance or prominence”) would catapult Romania back into the heart of

Europe. As Dimancescu points out, some of the issues may be of the “is the glass half full or half empty” sort. Others seem more intractable, but the Romanians have over the last two centuries surprised outside observers more than once.

Nancy M. Wingfield (Northern Illinois) and Maria Bucur (Indiana University) are the editors of *Gender and War in Twentieth Century Eastern Europe* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2006), 264 pp., which studies the place of gender in considerations of the history of the World Wars and Eastern Europe, and in the history of 20th century European conflict.

Theodore Damian (Romanian Institute of Orthodox Theology, NY) is the author of *Pasiunea textului* (NY/Bucuresti: Editura Universala, 2003), 222 pp., a collection of reviews written over the last several years, dealing with Romanian-American themes, theology, and literature; and *Implicatiile spirituale ale teologiei icoanei* (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Eikon, 2003), 217 pages, a somewhat revised version of his doctoral dissertation at the Faculty of Theology at the University of Bucuresti. It is a Biblical and Christological defense of the tradition of icons in Orthodox theology and life, and a study of their spiritual implications.

Oxford University Press has issued a paperback version of Charles King's (Georgetown University) excellent *The Black Sea. A History* (New York, 2004), 302 pp.

Nimbus Records has begun a ten CD collection of the musical works of Nicolae Bretan, of which six have already appeared: *Golem and Arald, Luceafarul, Horia, Sacred Songs, My Liederland, Vol. 1, and My Liederland, Vol. 2*. They also have a sampler disc of Bretan's music. Pendragon Press will publish this year a revised and expanded edition of Hartmut Gagelmann's *Nicolae Bretan: His Life, His Music*. Bretan's daughter, Judit Bretan will also publish in 2006 in Romanian and Hungarian *Uraganul: O viata pentru Nicolae Bretan. Marturisire in fragmente*. For more information, contact the Nicolae Bretan Music Foundation, 8542 Georgetown Pike, McLean VA 22102.

*Balkanistica*, Vol. 18 (2005) contains articles by Christina Stojanova (Wilfred Laurier University), "Beyond Dracula and Ceausescu: The Phenomenology of Horror in Romanian Cinema," pp. 113-125; review articles by Don Dyer (University of Mississippi) on *Balgarskijat ezik v Moldova "The Bulgarian Language in Moldov' and Hidden Linguistic Treasure on the Plains of Bessarabia*; and Andrej Sobolev (Universities of Marburg and St. Petersburg) of the late Emil Vrabie's *An English-Auromanian (Macedo-Romanian) Dictionary*; and a review by Paul Michelson (Huntington University) of Dorina Rusu's *Membrii Academiei Romane, 1866-1999: Dictionar*.

Ioana Ieronim's *41* (Bucuresti: Cartea Romaneasca, 2003), 113 pp., is a bi-lingual edition of selected poems, translated by Adam J. Sorkin (Penn State) and the author. A major theme of the poems is the "divided self", interestingly present in poems written both before and after the fall of Communism in Romania, as Dan Cristea points out in his Afterword. The title, by the way, comes from the Romanian divination practice of throwing 41 magic beans to determine the cloudy future.

Sorkin is also the translator (along with the author) of Daniela Crasnaru's *The Grand Prize and Other Stories* (Evanston IL: Northwestern University Press, 2004), vii + 97 pp. The stories are less a part of the recent East European tradition that uses literature as a means of political expression and commentary, despite being set in the darkest era of Romanian history. Crasnaru's brief stories (none is longer than 26 pages) combine realism (another worthy East European literary tradition) with elements of the fantastic, the humorously ridiculous, and the grotesque.

Several SRS members published pieces in Al. Zub and Adrian Cioflanca, eds., *Cultura Politica si Politici Culturale in Romania Moderna* (Iasi: Editura Universitatii A. I. Cuza, 2005), including Keith

Hitchins (University of Illinois), "Modernity and Angst in South-East Europe Between the World Wars: Emil Cioran and Yanko Yanev," Maria Bucur (Indiana University), "Calypso Botez: A Feminist Critique of Interwar Romanian Politics," Vladimir Tismaneanu (University of Maryland), "Intelegerea stalinismului national. Mostenirea socialismul ceausist," and Paul E. Michelson (Huntington University), "Romanian Culture Enters the European Mainstream: Contributions of A. D. Xenopol."

The Romanian Association for American Studies continues to be very active under the presidency of Rodica Mihaila (University of Bucuresti). They publish an informative newsletter, *American Studies in Romania* and hold a biennial conference in even numbered years. The current issue contains articles on American studies in Timisoara and Cluj. For more information, contact them via eMail at [mrodica@fx.ro](mailto:mrodica@fx.ro).

The Kokkalis Program on Southeastern and East Central Europe at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University has a master's program in Public Policy, Public Administration, and Public Administration/International Development for graduate study by persons from Eastern Europe, including Romania and Moldova. Fellowships are available for natives of Eastern Europe who are committed to public service. Information about Kokkalis Fellowships is available from the Fulbright Commission in Bucuresti and the Public Affairs Office of the US Embassy in Chisinau, from the Kokkalis website at [www.ksg.harvard.edu/kokkalis/fellowships.html](http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/kokkalis/fellowships.html), or via eMail at [Kokkalis\\_Program@ksg.harvard.edu](mailto:Kokkalis_Program@ksg.harvard.edu). Deadlines for application is in January, though deadlines for admission to the Kennedy School vary according to the degree program (see the KSG website at [www.ksg.harvard.edu/apply/deadlines.htm](http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/apply/deadlines.htm)).

Paul Michelson (Huntington University) contributed an entry on Nicolae Gheorghe to Carl Skutsch and Martin Ryle, eds., *Encyclopedia of the World's Minorities* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

The **38th National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies** will be held in Washington, DC, on 16-19 November 2006, headquartered at the Omni Sheraton. For details on registration and hotels, see the AAASS website at [www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/). The preliminary program will be available sometime this summer. There will be a number of Romania-interest panels and the Society for Romanian Studies will have a meeting during the convention at a date to be finalized soon.

# IREX UPDATE

IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development. Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of \$50 million and a staff of over 500 professionals worldwide. IREX and its partner IREX Europe deliver cross-cutting programs and consulting expertise in more than 50 countries.



**IREX Europe**, IREX's French-registered partner organization, has a website at [www.europe.irex.org](http://www.europe.irex.org). IREX Europe's mission is to assist in the development of nations and peoples by providing services, programs, infrastructure and technologies that strengthen civil society, independent media, education and the functioning of democracy. IREX Europe shares with IREX, its founder, a dedication to developing the capacity of individuals and institutions to contribute to their societies.

## **IREX INDIVIDUAL ADVANCES RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES (IARO) PROGRAM**

The IARO Program provides fellowships to US scholars and professionals for overseas research on contemporary political, economic, historical, or cultural developments relevant to US foreign policy. Limited funding is available for non-policy-relevant topics. IARO is funded by the United States Department of State Title VIII Program and the IREX Scholar Support Fund.

For more information on the activities of IARO, you can read participant highlights or browse IARO research reports at the IREX site: [www.irex.org/programs/iaro](http://www.irex.org/programs/iaro).

## **FELLOWSHIP CATEGORIES**

Fellowships will be awarded in EACH of the four categories: Master's students; predoctoral students enrolled in a Ph.D program; professionals holding an MA, MS, MFA, MBA, MPA, MLIS, MPH, JD, MD, but not currently be enrolled in a Ph. D program; and Postdoctoral scholars. Grants range from one to nine months, depending on category.

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES OF RESEARCH FOCUS include Moldova and Romania. Applications are due November 15 and can be completed online at [www.irex.org](http://www.irex.org).

## **SHORT-TERM TRAVEL GRANTS PROGRAM**

The Short-Term Travel Grants program provides fellowships for up to eight weeks to US post-doctoral scholars and holders of other graduate degrees for independent or collaborative research pro-

jects in Europe and Eurasia. Fellowships are available to applicants who demonstrate how their research will make a substantive contribution to knowledge of the contemporary political, economic, historical, or cultural developments in the region and how such knowledge is relevant to US foreign policy. The US Department of State Title VIII Program, the primary source of support for the STG Program, supports research topics that strengthen the fields of Eurasian and East European studies, and that address US foreign policy interests in the region, broadly defined. Historical or cultural research that promotes understanding of current events in the region is acceptable if an explicit connection is made to policy relevant issues, broadly defined.

Countries Eligible for Research include Moldova and Romania. Grants are available up to \$5,000. For application requirements, see the IREX site: [www.irex.org/programs/stg/](http://www.irex.org/programs/stg/). The application deadline is February 1.

### **POLICY-CONNECT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM**

IREX's Policy-Connect program seeks to attract, select, and support advanced research by US experts in policy-relevant subject areas related to Southeast Europe and Eurasia, facilitate collaboration among and between US and international scholars, and disseminate knowledge about Europe and Eurasia to a wide network of constituents in the United States and abroad.

It provides American scholars with the means and support necessary to conduct research, particularly on lesser-studied regions such as the Balkans, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, where issues central to the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States must be studied. The knowledge and expertise gained by the grant recipients become a valuable resource for the policymaking community, as the scholars share the results of their research through research briefs, policy fora, and individual meetings.

The Policy-Connect Program provides fellowships to US scholars and professionals for overseas research on contemporary political, economic, historical, or cultural developments relevant to US foreign policy. Fellowships support collaborative teams of two or three US scholars and professionals for up to 12 months. The grant award is up to \$30,000. Upon completion of the project, scholars will be requested to present their research findings at a Policy Forum at the US Department of State and to write a short policy paper.

The Application Deadline: April 1. See [www.irex.org/programs/policy-connect](http://www.irex.org/programs/policy-connect) for details.

# The Society For Romanian Studies

The Society for Romanian Studies (SRS) is an inter-disciplinary academic organization, founded in 1973 to promote professional study, criticism, and research on all aspects of Romanian culture and civilization. It holds meetings to promote Romanian studies, publishes newsletters to keep its membership informed, and carries out other activities designed to foster advancement of the field of Romanian studies. The SRS Home Page is located at: [www.huntington.edu/SRS](http://www.huntington.edu/SRS)

The SRS is generally recognized as the premier professional organization for North American scholars concerned with Romania. It is affiliated with the South East European Studies Association (SEESA), the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), the American Historical Association (AHA), and the American Political Science Association (APSA).

## 2006 NATIONAL OFFICERS

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Margaret Beissinger, University of Wisconsin WI; Maria Bucur, Indiana University IN; and Bill Crowther, University of North Carolina-Greensboro NC.

# SRS Membership Application/Renewal

You are cordially invited to join the Society for Romanian Studies. Or if you are already a member, be sure that you have renewed your dues for 2006. Please complete the following form (please type or print) and send it along with the appropriate dues payment to Jim Augerot.

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$33 Joint-SRS/SEESA Membership, which includes membership in both the Society for Romanian Studies and the South East European Studies Association (separate memberships are \$45). Joint members get the SRS newsletter and the SEESA journal, BALKANISTICA.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$19 for Joint SRS-SEESA student membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 for Regular, Vanilla SRS membership only
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 for Regular SRS student membership only
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 LIFETIME SRS Membership (for the big spenders in the crowd or people who want to get it over with in one fell swoop).

----->NOTE that owing to expense and postal complications, paid memberships and the mailing of the NEWSLETTER are now restricted to North American addresses only. Interested persons outside of North America are welcome to supply an eMail address if they wish to receive the SRS NEWS LETTER and other SRS bulletins in electronic form free of charge. Back issues of the NEWSLETTER may also be found on SRS web site. Dues should be sent with this form to:

Jim Augerot, University of Washington  
Slavic Department, Box 353580  
Seattle WA 98195

**Last Name:**

**First Name:**

**Institution:**

**eMail:**

**Mailing Address:**

(City, State, ZIP)

Home Phone:

Office Phone:

**Position (circle):**

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**Field(s) of Interest**

Please indicate below your main professional interest(s) in order of priority. Choose no more than three fields. (Examples: General, Anthropology, Arts/Music, History, Linguistics, Literature, Urban Studies)