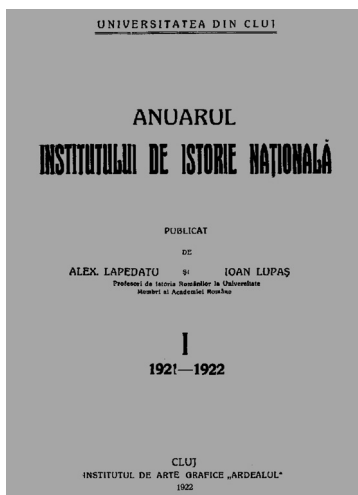


# Major Contributions of the Formative Era of The Institute of National History of Cluj, 1920–1945 A Centennial Appreciation

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*Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională  
(1921–1922) 1 (Cluj 1922).*

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## 1. Introduction

FEBRUARY 1, 2020, marked the centennial of the Institute of National History of Cluj. One hundred years ago on this date, King Ferdinand I of Romania gave the keynote address at ceremonies officially inaugurating the newly established Romanian University of Cluj.<sup>1</sup> The king concluded his surprisingly brief speech<sup>2</sup> with an announcement that warmed historians' hearts: he was establishing a 400,000 lei endowment at the university for an institute for the study of Transylvanian Romanian history. The Romanian past in Transylvania was a subject, Ferdinand I emphasized, that had been treated like

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an unwelcome stepchild under the Habsburg Monarchy. In addition, the king stressed, knowledge of the Romanian past was essential for the future of the newly unified Romanian lands.<sup>3</sup>

Responding to Ferdinand I's speech, the dean of the diplomatic corps, American Ambassador Charles J. Vopicka saluted the opening of the university as "a victory as great as the victory won on the battlefield."<sup>4</sup> He was pleased to report that he was given a five minute ovation even before he spoke.<sup>5</sup>

It is this event that we look back upon in 2020. From the vantage point of a century later, it is fair to ask whether this is just another occasion for a pious commemoration or is there more to it than that? It is the thesis of this paper that three things stand out which make the founding of the Institute of National History of Cluj in 1920 noteworthy.

The first was the creation of the institute itself, the first of its kind for historical study in Romania.

The second was the establishment of the Cluj bibliographical tradition which became an integral and indispensable part of "doing history" in Romania ever since.

The third was the initiation and carrying out of an extensive and ambitious publications program, which included a world-class scholarly journal, the *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională* (The Institute of National History's Yearbook), and several book series.

The history of the Institute of National History of Cluj can be divided into three periods: the Founding and Affirmation stage, 1920–1945; the Marxist-Leninist stage, 1945–1989; and the Contemporary stage, 1989–present.<sup>6</sup> What they achieved in the interwar years was remarkable since they not only had to deal initially with the usual impediments involved in launching any innovative program,<sup>7</sup> but also had to function in addition in a very unstable post-World War I "new normal."<sup>8</sup> The Cluj historians were soon confronted with even greater problems, including the most massive economic depression and crisis of modern times, the dislocation and destruction of the Second World War, followed by the hideous five decade long experience of communization and Stalinization. The tradition was kept alive—with many interruptions and many zig and zags.<sup>9</sup> And here we are celebrating the beginning of a second century in the life of the Institute... and "Mulți înainte" (Many happy returns) as they say.

What made this possible? The late director of the Cluj Institute Nicolae Edroiu suggested two words to explain the success and persistence of the Cluj School:<sup>10</sup> *work* and *hope*.<sup>11</sup> Whether in good times or bad, in spite of storms and tempests, work and hope saw them through. Whether provided with adequate resources and other support or not, hard work and hope prevailed.<sup>12</sup> To work and hope, two other factors contributed to the collegial bond of the Cluj school:

one was “a patriotism structured around ethnicity and ethnic tradition,”<sup>13</sup> and other was deeply-felt religious conviction, namely Romanian Orthodoxy.<sup>14</sup>

Ioan Lupaș’ valedictory lecture at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary session of the Institute sounded all four of these notes, summarizing the work accomplished between 1920 and 1945, hailing the resultant “harnessing of these spiritual powers in the service of the homeland and the nation,” and underlining the obligations fulfilled and his hopes for the future.<sup>15</sup> These four factors were especially important in the first three decades of existence of the Institute of National History of Cluj, and do much to explain the key role in Romanian culture and in the study of the Romanian past played by the Institute between 1920 and 1945.

## 2. Contributions of the Institute of National History of Cluj<sup>16</sup>

**T**HE PURPOSE of this paper will be to highlight three key contributions of the Institute of National History of Cluj that originated during the initial period of its existence, 1920–1945, and which had a long run impact on Romanian historiography and culture.

King Ferdinand I’s endowment had not fallen on barren ground. The leaders of the Transylvanian historians—Alexandru Lapedatu and Ioan Lupaș<sup>17</sup>—had already set forth in the fall of 1919 rigorous program statements for their respective chairs of Medieval Romanian History (Lapedatu)<sup>18</sup> and the History of Transylvania (Lupaș).<sup>19</sup> Now they enthusiastically responded to the king’s gift with the creation of the Institute of National History of Cluj. Their agenda set forth four principal objectives:<sup>20</sup>

- funding the development of a hitherto lacking comprehensive specialized research library in Cluj for the study of Transylvanian Romanian history;
- creating and compiling on an ongoing basis a modern bibliography of Romanian history; this was a critical instrument and prerequisite for the future of Romanian studies;
- the publication of a journal and eventually other publications concerned with the history of the Romanians, particularly in the former Hungarian Kingdom and especially works by younger scholars; and
- stimulating historical study and general public interest in history by awarding prizes, providing subventions for publications of specialists, sponsoring commemorative celebrations and excursions, and supporting societies concerned with the subject interests of the Institute.

In all of these areas, a certain degree of success was achieved.<sup>21</sup> However, three aspects stand out as long-run contributions to Romanian historiography and culture.

The first significant contribution of the Cluj historians also known as the Cluj School led by Alexandru Lapedatu and Ioan Lupaș between the wars was the creation, survival, and persistence of what is today Romania's oldest existing historical institute.<sup>22</sup> The interwar period is now recognized as the pivotal era in Romanian historiography.<sup>23</sup> Owing to the unification of Transylvania, Bukovina, and Bessarabia with the pre-war Romanian kingdom (the *Vechiul Regat*, Old Kingdom) as a result of the Great War, Romanian scholars for the first time in the modern era were able to mobilize their intellectual resources in a coherent fashion toward mostly academic ends. The sense of being part of a new era and new generation energized Romanian intellectuals.<sup>24</sup> This contributed to the coming of age of historical scholarship in Romania as well.<sup>25</sup>

The accomplishment of the Transylvanians in the first instance, thus, was the establishment of the institute and of a vibrant historiographical school that concentrated means, resources, and individuals toward the emergence of a world-class historiography in Transylvania and has persisted down to the present.<sup>26</sup>

The Institute was able to set in motion the integration of Transylvanian history into the history of Romania generally while maintaining a research focus generated by a number of healthy regional traditions and tributary to a number of unique regional perspectives or “creative localisms.”<sup>27</sup> These trends would persist into the future.<sup>28</sup>

At the same time, Transylvanian historical scholarship began to make important strides toward dealing with neglected areas, aspects, and types of Transylvanian history, such as social history, economic history, and institutional history—in fact, in most of the areas identified by Lupaș in 1919 as “principal factors” in the Romanian past—as well as in the publication of documents and sources.<sup>29</sup> In addition, the Institute promoted what we would now call interdisciplinary studies, a distinctive that Sextil Pușcariu had envisioned for the University of Cluj from the start.<sup>30</sup>

On the deficit side, it was the case that Romanian historiography in Transylvania remained for a longer period of time tributary to the activist currents of Enlightenment and Romantic historical perspectives than it did in the Romanian kingdom. As Ioan Moga noted in 1945: “Transylvanian Romanian historiography . . . was in too great a measure dominated by the political struggles of the Romanians for rights and liberty.”<sup>31</sup> The “historian militant” proved to be an enduring and mixed blessing for the Cluj School.<sup>32</sup> Though it did not in the end, escape from its militantist heritage, this was at least partly the fault of the times in which they had to develop.

A second outstanding achievement of the Institute of National History of Cluj was the establishment of an important ongoing bibliographical tradition.<sup>33</sup> The Academy Library had functioned as the primary bibliographical center in Romania, but in the 1920s, the University of Cluj, with the encouragement of Sextil Pușcariu and through the work of Ioachim Crăciun and the Institute of National History of Cluj, became a leading bibliographical force.<sup>34</sup> As already noted, Lapedatu and Lupaș had set forth as a goal the establishment of a bibliography for Romanian history. This was implemented in the second volume<sup>35</sup> of the Institute's journal, which appeared in 1924, with Ioachim Crăciun and Ioan Lupu, "Istoriografia română în 1921 și 1922, repertoriu bibliografic"<sup>36</sup> (Romanian historiography in 1921 and 1922: Bibliographical repertoire). In Crăciun—a young man barely in his twenties—the Institute had struck pay dirt: Ioachim Crăciun became one of the superstars of Romanian bibliography.<sup>37</sup> The "Repertoire" began with an introduction to the bibliography, Al.-Sadi Ionescu of the Academy Library underlined the long-felt need for an historical bibliography on a modern basis and credits Lapedatu with sponsoring the initiative now brought to fruition.<sup>38</sup> This first bibliography included 972 items as well as several indices. The staffing and resource obstacles had been overcome by doing most of the work at the Academy Library, a not very common example of collaboration between Cluj and Bucharest.

This was followed in 1926 by the second installment of the bibliography, edited by Ioachim Crăciun, "Istoriografia română în 1923 și 1924, repertoriu bibliografic" (Romanian historiography in 1923 and 1924: Bibliographical repertoire) which was comprised of 1785 items plus another 87 items in a supplement for 1921–1922 and the usual indices.<sup>39</sup> The same volume included a separate "Bibliografia operele separate și articole istorico-filologice, cari au apărut de la 1919–1924 în limbă germană și se referă la teritoriul și locuitorii României" (Bibliography of the separate works and historical-philological articles published from 1919–1924 in German which deal with the territory and the inhabitants of Romania) with 930 items, edited by Hermann Hienz. (The hope was that a similar bibliography for Magyar language works would be forthcoming.) The editorial work of Crăciun was specifically applauded.

Vol. IV of the *Yearbook* for 1926–1927, appeared in 1929, with the third in the series, edited once more by Ioachim Crăciun, "Istoriografia română în 1925 și 1926, repertoriu bibliografic" (Romanian historiography in 1925 and 1926: Bibliographical repertoire) with some 2,135 items as well as supplemental material for the first two installments.<sup>40</sup> The introduction was a much-needed study by Crăciun of "Bibliografia la Români" (pp. 483–513). The bibliography proper opened with "Câteva lămuriri preliminare" (A few preliminary clarifications), which evaluated the six years (1921–1926) now covered by this bibliographical

repertoire. Crăciun believed that such contemporary bibliography was now well established in Romania, and that it was time to do some retrospective work dealing with the pre-1921 era. He further discussed the problems related to periodization, on which there appeared to be little consensus among Romanian historians, and presented the rationale for scheme adopted by the bibliography.

It was also apparent from this discussion that the bibliography was verging on getting out of hand. It now occupied 33% of the volume (compared to 19% of vol. 2 and 15% of vol. 3). Vol. 4 was the last to appear before the world economic crisis struck, sending budgets into a tailspin everywhere.

Bad news was not long in coming. Vol. 5 (1928–1930) appeared in 1930 with the information that because of financial problems (and costs associated with the acquisition of the Institute's new quarters on Iorga St.), the bibliographical repertoire—comprised of ten signatures and ready to go to press—had to be omitted. On the other hand, the review section more than tripled length from the previous volumes (vol. 1 = 58 pp.; vol. 2 = 16 pp.; vol. 3 = 70 pp.; vol. 4 = 24 pp.; vol. 5 = 214 pp.).

Ioachim Crăciun, who was now head of a new department at the University of Cluj dealing specifically with bibliography and librarianship, moved to partially fill the gap with the inauguration of a book/pamphlet series entitled *Bibliotheca Bibliologica*, of which 19 volumes appeared between 1933 and 1946.<sup>41</sup> Among these was Crăciun's inaugural address, "O știință nouă: Bibliologia în învățământul universitar din România: Lecție de deschidere ținută la Facultatea de Litere și Filosofie a Universității din Cluj în ziua de 12 Noiembrie 1932" (A new science: Bibliology in Romanian higher education: Inaugural lecture held at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of Cluj University on 12 November 1932)<sup>42</sup> which introduced the *Bibliotheca Bibliologica* (pp. 3–5), and then set forth his vision for the development of the new, unified science of books in Romania based on a careful survey of European precedents.

In the 1931–1935 issue of the *Yearbook*, vol. 6 published in 1937, the bibliography remained missing in action. Lapedatu and Lupaș hoped that the bibliography would be continued once the financial situation improved (p. v). In exchange, this volume carried another abundance of reviews: 217 pp. Crăciun's *Bibliotheca Bibliologica* again partially filled the gap by publishing its 15<sup>th</sup> number.<sup>43</sup> Crăciun also played a role in making Romanian historiography known on an international level as a collaborator in the *International Bibliography of Historical Sciences*, for vol. 1 (1926), which appeared in 1930, through vol. 14 (1939), published in 1939.<sup>44</sup>

A third important contribution of the Institute of National History of Cluj was to produce a journal and eventually other publications concerned with the history of the Romanians, particularly in the former Hungarian Kingdom and

especially by younger scholars. In 1922, the Institute was able to publish the first volume of its flagship journal, the *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională*. This impressive work boded well for the future, spanning some 434 pages including a comprehensive index, and dealing with a broad range of subjects. Even more impressive were vols. 2–3–4, which carried the three installments of the bibliography. Financially unable to continue the bibliography, the vastly expanded review section provided one of the most useful guides to interwar Romanian historiography. By 1945, the *Yearbook* had published ten volumes comprising over 7,450 pages written by over 80 authors.<sup>45</sup>

In other publication realms, the Institute of National History of Cluj inaugurated and carried out several book series: 1) Biblioteca Institutului de Istorie Națională, which published 20 volumes, beginning in 1928, totaling 3,700 pages; Biblioteca Astra, beginning in 1928, with three titles and 700 pages; Bibliotheca Bibliologica, beginning in 1933, 18 numbers, 1,700 pages; a volume of *Documente istorice transilvane* (Transylvanian historical documents), 1940, 538 pages; and nine miscellaneous volumes, 5,600 pages. In sum, the publications of the Institute of National History of Cluj between 1920 and 1945 totaled nearly 19,000 pages, an impressive result, especially under the circumstances in which Transylvanian Romanian historiography had to function. While it is also true, as Ovidiu Pecican has cautioned us, that merely counting contributors, contributions, and page lengths is insufficient for an historiographical evaluation, it is also the case that a more penetrating global analysis is difficult if not impossible, so we shall be happy with a more modest assessment.<sup>46</sup>

### 3. Some Conclusions

**T**HIS PAPER has argued that three achievements stand out that make the creation of the Institute of National History of Cluj worthy of commemoration on the centennial of its 1920 founding. These included the creation of the first standing institute for historical study in Romania; the establishment of the Cluj bibliographical tradition; and the compilation of a noteworthy publications record.

The Institute of National History of Cluj is today George Barițiu Institute of History of Cluj-Napoca and has been located in excellent quarters since 2010 at 12–14 M. Kogălniceanu St. It publishes three journals: the successor to the *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională din Cluj*, entitled since 2003 *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie “George Barițiu” din Cluj-Napoca: Series Historica*;<sup>47</sup> an *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie “George Barițiu” din Cluj-Napoca: Series Humanis-*

*tica*, which was founded in 2003; and the *International Journal on Humanistic Ideology*, founded in 2008.<sup>48</sup> The international journal of the Romanian Academy, the *Revue Roumaine d'Histoire*, is also edited at the Cluj Institute.

During the interwar period, the journal of the Institute became a pace setter in Romanian historical scholarship, its bibliographical work was crucial to the advance of Romanian historiography and a model for others, and the numerous publications series edited by the Institute created a whole library of new and promising work.<sup>49</sup>

The momentum and spirit created in the interwar era by the Institute carried on after 1945, despite the incarceration of its key leaders.<sup>50</sup> One subsequent product was the multi-volume *Bibliografia istorică a României* (The historical bibliography of Romania), which covered 1944 to 2010 (volumes 1–13),<sup>51</sup> now succeeded by the *Anuarul istoriografic al României* (Historiographical Yearbook of Romania) (4 vols., 2011–2014), edited at Lucian Blaga Central University Library, Cluj-Napoca and Argonaut Publ. House.

Ioan Lupaș declared in his 1919 inaugural lecture: “If in the past many of our national failures, shortcomings, and imperfections were easily excusable . . . From here on out we can no longer invoke such excuses. We alone now bear the responsibility” for the future. The duty of historians at the new Romanian university, Lupaș argued, was to graft new branches on the tree of national culture. “Let us not,” he stressed, “be lacking in patience, hard effort, prudence, or daring.”<sup>52</sup>

The Institute made good on correcting the shortcomings of the past and gained considerable scholarly credibility for Transylvanian historians, which had been a major concern in 1920.<sup>53</sup> All in all, a significant achievement, made even more impressive when one takes into account the difficulties under which the Cluj historians labored from the start. In terms of the goals and research agenda set forth in 1919–1920, the Institute’s record of success was high and constituted one of the major successes of interwar Romanian culture. Unfortunately, there were relatively few such successes. Though it did not, in the end, escape from its militantist heritage, this was at least partly the fault of the times in which they had to function.

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## Notes

1. For the cultural and political context of the founding of the Romanian University of Cluj in 1919, see Irina Livezeanu, *Cultural Politics and Greater Romania: Regionalism, Nation Building, and Ethnic Struggle, 1918–1930* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1995), 218–227. For the history of the University of Cluj, see



- Vasile Pușcaș, ed., *University and Society: A History of Cluj Higher Education in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (Cluj-Napoca: Cluj University Press, 1999); and Ovidiu Ghitta, ed., *Istoria Universității Babeș-Bolyai* (Cluj-Napoca: Mega, 2012). See also Vasile Pușcaș, “Însemnătatea și semnificația înființării Universității românești din Cluj și opinia internațională,” *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai: Historia* (Cluj-Napoca) 25, 1 (1980): 39–63, and “Universitatea din Cluj în serviciul națiunii (1919–1940, Cluj-Sibiu, 1940–1944),” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie A. D. Xenopol* (Iași) 25, 2 (1988): 129–138. For a parallel West European case, see John E. Craig, *Scholarship and Nation Building: The University of Strasbourg and Alsatian Society, 1870–1939* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984).
2. “Cuvântarea M. S. Regele” was reprinted in *Serbările pentru inaugurarea Universității din Cluj: 31 ianuarie–2 februarie 1920* (Bucharest: Cartea Românească, 1920), 14–17.
  3. On Ferdinand I and the Institute, see Ioan Lupaș, “Regele Ferdinand I—citor și binefăcător al instituțiilor culturale-științifice,” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională* 10 (1945): 615–619. See also Ioan Lupaș, “Regele Ferdinand I: Discurs comemorativ rostit în Sibiu la 4 Decembrie 1927 cu prilejul adunării generale a ‘Asociațiunii,’” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională* 4 (1926–1927): ix–xxxii.
  4. “Discursul Exc. Dlui Wopicka (sic),” in *Serbările Cluj*, 35–36.
  5. Charles Vopicka to US Secretary of State, 10 February 1920, published in Gh. Iancu and Gelu Neamțu, “Contribuții documentare cu privire la organizarea și inaugurarea Universității românești din Cluj (1919–1920),” *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai: Historia* 30 (1985): 45–46. On Vopicka, see Glenn E. Torrey, “The Diplomatic Career of Charles J. Vopicka in Romania, 1913–1920,” in *Romania between East and West: Historical Essays in Memory of Constantin C. Giurescu*, eds. Stephen A. Fischer-Galati, Radu R. Florescu, and George R. Ursul (Boulder: East European Monographs, 1982), 319–335.
  6. Nicolae Edroiu, “Locul Institutului de Istorie din Cluj în istoriografia română,” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie “George Barițiu” din Cluj-Napoca: Series Historica* 49 (2010): 16. Edroiu’s boundary line between periods 1 and 2 differs slightly, opting for 1920–1948 and 1948–1989. The retirement of Lupaș as director in 1945 (the other founding director, Alexandru Lapedatu, had retired as co-director in 1938) and the end of the war (which brought about dramatic and drastic change in Romanian life) argue for 1945 as the turn. On the other hand, Ioan Moga, the new director in 1945, had been associated with the Institute since 1923 and the Institute continued to function until 1948. Ovidiu Pecican, “Identitate și strategii: Istoricii transilvăneni interbelici (1918–1945),” in Ovidiu Pecican, ed., *România interbelică: Istorie și istoriografie: Analize istorice* (Cluj-Napoca: Limes, 2010), 259–276, argues for 1945.
  7. For a discussion of the origins and creation of the Institute, see my essay “The Founding of the Cluj School of History, 1919–1922,” *Transylvanian Review* 17, 4 (2008): 68–86.
  8. See my “Greater Romania and the Post-World War New Normal,” in *Lucrările conferinței internaționale România și evenimentele istorice din perioada 1914–1920:*

*Desăvârșirea Marii Uniri și întregirea României, Ateneul Român, 18 septembrie 2018*, ed. Victor Voicu (Bucharest: Editura Academiei Române, 2018), 83–124.

9. See Aurel Răduțiu, “Din istoria Institutului de Istorie din Cluj: Anul 1948,” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj-Napoca* 34 (1995): 63–67; Lidia Gross, “Istoria interzisă,” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj-Napoca* 34 (1995): 69–72; Stelian Mândruț, “Istorici clujeni epurați în anul 1948,” in *Analele Sighet 6: Anul 1948—Instituționalizarea comunismului: Comunicări prezentate la Simpozionul de la Sighetul Marmăției (19–21 iunie 1998)*, ed. Romulus Rusan (Bucharest: Fundația Academia Civică, 1998): 565–570; and Edroiu, “Locul Institutului de Istorie din Cluj în istoriografia română,” 17.
10. The phrase “school” is used here advisedly and loosely to mean people who worked and published together on similar problems, with enough in common historiographically to foster a sense of unified purpose and direction, and who felt a strong collegial bond and *esprit* among themselves. Cf. Al. Zub, *Istorie și istorici în România interbelică*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Iași: Junimea, 2003), 213 ff.
11. Edroiu, “Locul Institutului de Istorie din Cluj în istoriografia română,” 17–18.
12. The editors’ prefaces to the *Yearbook* revolve around statements of hopes and details of the hard work accomplished, and the word “speranță” appears frequently, especially during the dark days of exile in Sibiu, 1940–1945.
13. Pecican, 268.
14. Ioan Lupaș was an ordained Romanian Orthodox priest, and had taught at the Orthodox Seminary prior to World War I, as had several others associated with the Cluj School, such as Silviu Dragomir. Al. Lapedatu was a five time minister of religion in the 1920s and 1930s. The combination of patriotism and Christianity was both the glue and the fuel for much of the militantism of the Transylvanians with the Church as a pillar of Romanian national culture. Cf. Olimpiu Boitoș, “Le progrès culturel en Transylvanie de 1918 à 1940,” *Revue de Transylvanie* 7–9, 3–4 (1941–1943): 116 ff. Lupaș and Dragomir both get entries in Mircea Păcurariu’s definitive *Dicționarul teologilor români* (Bucharest: Univers Enciclopedic, 1996).
15. Ioan Lupaș, “Cuvânt de încheiere,” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională* 10 (1945): 721–723. This event took place while the Institute was still in exile in Sibiu.
16. On the history of the Institute, see *Institutul de Istorie Națională din Cluj-Sibiu 1920–1945: Activitatea științifică prezentată în ședința comemorativă din 4 februarie 1945* (Sibiu: Cartea Românească din Cluj, 1945), especially Ioan Moga, “Contribuția membrilor Institutului de Istorie Națională la istoriografia română în primul sfert de veac (1920–1945),” 12–45, Ioachim Crăciun, “Publicațiunile Institutului de Istoria Națională din Cluj-Sibiu și colaboratorii lor de la 1920–1945: Cu o bibliografie a publicațiunilor,” 26–98, Ștefan Pascu, “Metoda de muncă științifică la Institutul de Istorie Națională din Cluj-Sibiu în primul sfert de veac (1920–1945),” 99–105, and Septimiu Martin, “Organizarea Institutului de Istorie Națională din Cluj-Sibiu în cel dintâi sfert de veac, 1920–1945,” 106–112. These were extracts from vol. 10 (1945) of the *Anuarul*. See also Nicolae Edroiu, “The Institute for History in Cluj and its *Yearbook* (1920–2008),” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie “George Barițiu” din Cluj-Napoca: Series Historia* 46 (2009): 15–23; id., ed., *Institutul de Istorie “George*

- Barițiu*” din Cluj-Napoca: 90 de ani de existență 1920–2010 (Cluj-Napoca: Mega, 2010).
17. For brief biographies of the academics mentioned in this paper, see Mihai Teodor Nicoară, *Dicționarul universitarilor clujeni (1919–1947)*, vol. 1 (Cluj-Napoca: Accent, 2016).
  18. Al. Lapedatu, “Nouă împrejurări de desvoltare ale istoriografiei naționale,” delivered on 6 November 1919 and subsequently published in *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională 1 (1921–1922)*: 1–18.
  19. Ioan Lupaș, “Factorii istorici ai vieții naționale românești,” delivered on 11 November 1919 and published in *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională 1 (1921–1922)*: 19–45.
  20. These were spelled out in Lapedatu and Lupaș’s prefatory statement to vol. 1 of the *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională 1 (1921–1922)*: vii–ix.
  21. See Stelian Mândruș, “Istorici clujeni, membri al Academiei Române: Cercetători și universitari în epoca interbelică,” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie “George Barițiu” din Cluj-Napoca: Series Historica 46 (2007)*: 49–64.
  22. For a discussion of the origins and creation of the Institute, see my “The Founding of the Cluj School of History,” 68–86; and Stelian Mândruș, “‘Prolegomena’ sau ‘file’ din trecutul unei instituții,” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie “George Barițiu” din Cluj-Napoca: Series Historia 49 (2010)*: 369–392; 50 (2011): 357–384.
  23. Consult Pompiliu Teodor, *Introducere în istoria istoriografiei din România* (Cluj-Napoca: Accent, 2002), 186–192. On interwar Transylvanian historiography on the whole, see Ștefan Pascu, “L’École historique de Cluj pendant l’entre-deux-guerres,” in *Études d’historiographie*, ed. Lucian Boia (Bucharest: Universitățile de Bucarest, Faculté d’Histoire et de Philosophie, 1985), 217–226; Pompiliu Teodor, “Rolul Institutului de Istorie din Cluj în dezvoltarea istoriografiei românești,” in *Institutul de Istorie Cluj-Napoca 1920–1995: Sărbătorirea împlinirii a 75 de ani de activitate*, ed. Ioan Bolovan (Cluj-Napoca: Biblioteca Institutului de Istorie, 1995), 19–31; and Pecican, 259–276.
  24. For “new generation” statements from the era, see Mihai Ralea, “Misiunea unei generații” (1928) and “Misiunea generației tinere” (1930), in Mihai Ralea, *Fenomenul românesc*, ed. Constantin Schifirneț (Bucharest: Albatros, 1997), 114–124, 172–175; and Iuliu Hațieganu, “Generații vechi și nouă,” *Gând românesc* (Cluj) 1, 1 (1933): 13–16. Cf. Mândruș, “Istorici clujeni,” *passim*.
  25. For interwar Romanian historiography, see Lucian Boia, *Evoluția istoriografiei române* (Bucharest: Universitatea din București, Facultatea de Istorie, 1976), 231–367; Pompiliu Teodor, “Noi orientări în istoriografia română în deceniul trei al secolului XX,” *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai: Historia 26, 2 (1981)*: 46–62; Frederick Kellogg, *O istorie a istoriografiei române*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, transl. Laura Cuțitaru, foreword by Al. Zub (Iași: Institutul European, 1996), 66–74; Teodor, *Introducere*, 186–221. The most comprehensive treatment of modern Romanian historiography is found in the rich and exhaustive work of Al. Zub, *De la istoria critică la criticism: Istoriografia română sub semnul modernității*, rev. edition (Bucharest: Editura Enciclopedică, 2000), and *Istorie și istorici în România interbelică*.

26. Cf. Ioan-Aurel Pop, “Structura învățământului istoriei la Universitatea din Cluj în perioada interbelică,” *Revista de istorie* (Bucharest) 36, 2 (1983): 169–177; and Zub, *Istorie și istorici în România interbelică*, 179–181.
27. See Mândruț, “Istorici clujeni,” 51–52.
28. The bibliographical resources for this are rich: Aurel Decei, “Istoriografia română transilvană în cei douăzeci de ani de la Unire: O caracterizare bibliografică,” *Gând românesc* 7, 7–9 (1939): 191–208; N. Georgescu-Tistu, “Wissenschaftliches Schaffen in Siebenbürgen im Bereiche der humanistischen Disziplinen von 1918–1940,” in *Siebenbürgen*, ed. C. C. Giurescu, vol. 2 (Bucharest: s.n. [Institut für rumänische Geschichte in Bukarest], 1943), 499–517; and Moga, 12–25. For a comprehensive bibliography relating to Transylvanian scholarship, see Ioachim Crăciun, “Bibliographie de la Transylvanie roumaine, 1916–1936,” *Revue de Transylvanie* 3, 4 (1937): 429–792. This was extended up to 1944 by Lucia Turc, *Bibliografia istorică a Transilvaniei (1936–1944): Bibliografie selectivă* (Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitară Clujeană, 1998).
29. See Moga, 12 ff. for details.
30. Sextil Pușcariu, *Memorii*, ed. Magdalena Vulpe, foreword by Ion Bulei (Bucharest: Minerva, 1978), 407. Pușcariu’s *Dacoromania* carried a wealth of bibliographical information.
31. Moga, 13.
32. See my “Silviu Dragomir, the Historian-Militant, and the *Revue de Transylvanie*,” in *Călător prin istorie: Omagiu profesorului Liviu Maior la împlinirea vârstei de 70 de ani*, eds. Ioan-Aurel Pop and Ioan Bolovan (Cluj-Napoca: Academia Română, Centrul de Studii Transilvane, 2010), 261–276; and Liviu Zgârciu, “Ioachim Crăciun și militantismul istoriografiei clujene interbelice,” *Annales Universitatis Apulensis: Historia* (Alba Iulia) 13 (2009): 171–181. Pálffy argues that the Old Kingdom came to dominate the new Romania through ruthless centralization and transplantation of political corruption to Transylvania. The result was a re-politicization of the Cluj professoriate, more or less in self defense. Zoltán Pálffy, *National Controversy in the Transylvanian Academe: The Cluj/Kolozsvár University in the First Half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 2005), 151–152. See also Mândruț, “Istorici clujeni,” *passim*.
33. For a survey, see Gheorghe Hristodol, “Bibliografia istorică a României la Institutul de Istorie din Cluj,” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj-Napoca* 35 (1996): 360–372. Not so incidentally, thanks to this tradition, the work of the Cluj historians is the best documented by far of all the interwar historiographical schools.
34. Barbu Theodorescu, *Istoria bibliografiei române* (Bucharest: Fundația Regele Mihai I, 1945), 11 ff.; and id., *Istoria bibliografiei române* (Bucharest: Editura Enciclopedică Română, 1972), 124 ff. Theodorescu regrets that there wasn’t more coordination between Cluj and Bucharest (p. 125).
35. In vol. 1, it was reported that this project was underway, but was slow going because of lack of trained personnel and lack of access to complete runs of relevant periodicals (p. viii).
36. *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională* 2 (1923): 405–506.

37. See Ioachim Crăciun's memoirs, "Câteva amintiri și precizări despre începuturile bibliologiei la Cluj," *Studia Bibliologica* (Bucharest) 2 (1965–1966): 31–147; Nicolae Edroiu, *Ioachim Crăciun și bibliologia românească: Studiu și bibliografia operei* (Cluj-Napoca: Philobiblon, 1994); Liviu Zgârciu, "Locul lui Ioachim Crăciun, întemeietorul școlii bibliologice clujene, în istoriografia română," *Apulum* (Alba Iulia) 47, 1 (2010): 395–409.
38. Al.-Sadi Ionescu, "Introducere," *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională* 2 (1923): 407.
39. *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională* 3 (1924–1925): 773–929.
40. *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională* 4 (1926–1927): 481–730.
41. See Gh. Pavelescu, "Bibliotheca Bibliologica, Cluj, Nr. 1–15, 1933–1937," *Scriptum* 1 (1943): 200–203; and Edroiu, *Ioachim Crăciun și bibliologia românească*, 6 ff.
42. Cluj: Cartea Românească, 1933.
43. Ioachim Crăciun, *Activitatea științifică la Universitatea "Regele Ferdinand I" din Cluj în primul deceniu, 1920–1930* (Cluj: Cartea Românească, 1935); id., *Bio-bibliografia d-lui Sextil Pușcariu, cu ocazia împlinirii vârstei de 60 de ani, 1877–1937* (Cluj: Cartea Românească, 1937); and the monumental Crăciun, "Bibliografia Transilvaniei românești, 1916–1936."
44. Vol. 15 (1940) did not appear; publication was suspended between 1941 and 1946.
45. On the *Anuarul*, see Ștefan Pascu, "Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională din Cluj: La 50 de ani de la apariție," *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj-Napoca* 15 (1972): 9–11; id., "Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională din Cluj: La 60 de ani de la apariție," *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj-Napoca* 24 (1981): 129–133; Doina Dițu, Ioana Mateiu, Stelian Mândruț, Lăcrămioara Nimu, and Adrian A. Rusu, "Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională." "Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj-Napoca" (1921–1981): *Indice bibliografic*, introduction by Acad. Prof. Ștefan Pascu (Cluj-Napoca: Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, Biblioteca Centrală Universitară, 1984); Iolanda Károlyi and Stelian Mândruț, "Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie din Cluj-Napoca. Anuarul Institutului de Istorie din Cluj-Napoca (1982–1995): *Indice bibliografic*," *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj-Napoca* 34 (1995): 25–62; Mihaela Bedecan and Stelian Mândruț, "Anuarul Institutului de Istorie din Cluj-Napoca. Anuarul Institutului de Istorie 'George Bariț' din Cluj-Napoca, Series Historica (1995–2005): *Indice bibliografic*," *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie "George Barițiu" din Cluj-Napoca. Series Historica* 45 (2006): 487–527. The *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională din Cluj* included vols. 1 (1921–1922), published in 1922; 2 (1923), published in 1924; 3 (1924–1925), published in 1926; 4 (1926–1927), published in 1929; 5 (1928–1930), published in 1930; 6 (1931–1935), published in 1936; 7 (1936–1938), published in 1939; 8 (1939–1942), published in 1942; 9 (1943–1944), published in 1944; and 10 (1945), published in 1945. Lapedatu and Lupaș were co-editors of volumes 1–8; Lupaș edited vols. 9–10. Vol. 11 was in press under the editorship of Ioan Moga when the Institute was disbanded. It has been reconstituted by Veronica Tîrcuș as *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională* 11 (1946–1947), 415 pp.
46. Pecican, 260 ff.

47. Between 1958 and 1970, the new series of *Anuarul* was entitled *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie din Cluj*; between 1971 and 1973, the title was modified to *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj*; from 1974 to 2000, it was *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj-Napoca*; and from 2001 under the present title. Its current contents are usefully made available in pdf form from the Institute's website at [http://www.historica-cluj.ro/menu/arhiva\\_anuar.php](http://www.historica-cluj.ro/menu/arhiva_anuar.php), accessed 11 Febr. 2020.
48. Source: Wikipedia, "Institutul de Istorie George Barițiu," [https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institutul\\_de\\_Istorie\\_George\\_Barițiu](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institutul_de_Istorie_George_Barițiu)," accessed 6 Feb. 2020.
49. For bibliographical accounts of the work of the Institute, see note 45 above, as well as Veronica Turcuș, Felicia Hristodol, and Gheorghe Hristodol, eds., *Bibliografia lucrărilor științifice ale membrilor Institutului de Istorie din Cluj-Napoca, 1920–2005* (Bucharest: Editura Academiei Române, 2008) and the supplement "Bibliografia lucrărilor științifice ale membrilor Institutului pe anii 2005–2009," in *Institutul de Istorie George Barițiu din Cluj-Napoca: 90 de ani de existență 1920–2010*, 151–238. Also useful is Ștefan Pascu and Camil Mureșan, eds., *Activitatea științifică a Universității din Cluj-Napoca 1919–1973: Bibliografie selectivă*, fasc. *Istorie* (Cluj-Napoca: Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, Biblioteca Centrală Universitară, 1974).
50. The Institute operated somewhat under the radar until the boom was lowered in 1953 with a direct (but anonymous) attack in *Scântea*, "Despre activitatea Institutului de Istorie din Cluj al Academiei R.P.R.," 15 May 1953, reprinted in *Studii: Revistă de istorie și filosofie* (Bucharest) 6, 2 (1953): 31–39, with a follow-up piece "Să îndeplinim cu cinste sarcinile ce ne revin în domniul cercetărilor istorice," 6, 3 (1953): 28–31. From a growing literature on 1945–1953, see Ana Selejan, *România în timpul primului război cultural (1944–1948)*, 2 vols. (Sibiu: Thausib, 1992–1993), Dănuț Doboș, "Epurări la Universitatea din Iași: 1949–1960," *Arhivele totalitarismului* (Bucharest) 2, 1–2 (1994): 44–59; Claudiu Secașiu, "Noaptea demnitarilor: Contribuții privind distrugerea elitei politice românești," *Analele Sighet* 6: 894–921; Gabriel Catalan, "Institutul de Istorie și Filozofie al Academiei R.P.R. (1947–1951)," *Xenopoliana* (Iași) 6, 3–4 (1998): 141–152; id., "Rezistență și compromis în istoriografia anilor 1944–1948," *Anuarul Institutului Român de Istorie Recentă* (Bucharest) 2 (2003): 71–98; id., "Instituții, practici și personalități la începuturile sovietizării culturii și istoriografiei românești," *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie din Cluj-Napoca* 44 (2005): 439–462; id., "Istoriografia română sub impactul modelului sovietic (1947–1955)," *Anuarul Institutului de Investigare a Crimelor Comunismului în România* (Bucharest) 4 (2009): 19–38; Al. Zub, *Orizont închis: Istoriografia română sub dictatură* (Iași: Institutul European, 2000); Toader Buculei, *Clio încarcerată: Mărturii și opinii privind destinul istoriografiei românești în epoca totalitarismului comunist* (Brăila: Libertatea, 2000); Florin Müller, *Politică și istoriografie în România 1948–1964* (Cluj-Napoca: Nereamia Napocae, 2003); Maria Someșan, *Universitate și politică în deceniile 4–6 ale secolului XX: Episoade și documente* (Bucharest: Editura Universității din București, 2004); Liviu Pleșa, "Istoricii clujeni urmăriți de Securitate (1945–1965)," *Historia* (Bucharest) 9, 89 (2009): 20–25; id., *Istoriografia clujeană sub supravegherea Securității (1945–1965)* (Târgoviște: Cetatea de Scaun, 2017); Lucian Boia, *Capcanele istoriei: Elita intelectuală românească între*

1930 și 1950, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Bucharest: Humanitas, 2012); Stelian Mândruț, “Destinul unei instituții,” in *România comunistă: Istorie și istoriografie: Analize istorice*, ed. Ovidiu Pecican (Cluj-Napoca: Limes, 2012), 19–29; Păun Ion Otiman, ed., *1948: Marea dramă a Academiei Române* (Bucharest: Editura Academiei Române, 2013); and Valentin Săndulescu, “Convertiri și reconvertiri: Elite academice și culturale și schimbare politică în România anilor 1930–1960,” in “*Ne trebuie oameni!*” *Elite intelectuale și transformări istorice în România modernă și contemporană*, ed. Cristian Vasile (Târgoviște: Cetatea de Scaun, 2017), 141–180. Three illustrative cases are Ioan Lupaș, discussed by Liviu Pleșa, “Istoricul Ioan Lupaș în timpul regimului comunist,” *Caietele CNSAS* (Bucharest) 1, 2 (2008): 165–198; Silviu Dragomir, discussed by Liviu Pleșa, “Dosarul de Securitate al istoricului Silviu Dragomir,” *Annales Universitatis Apulensis: Historia* 9, 1 (2005): 217–229, Sorin Șipoș, “Historian Silviu Dragomir in the Communist Prisons,” *Transylvanian Review* 15, 1 (2006): 38–59, and id., “Silviu Dragomir și Securitatea (1957–1962),” in *Pe urmele trecutului: Profesorului Nicolae Edroiu la 70 de ani*, eds. Susana Andea and Ioan-Aurel Pop (Cluj-Napoca: Academia Română, Centrul de Studii Transilvane, 2009), 629–652; and Ioachim Crăciun, discussed by Liviu Zgârciu, “Istorici în perioada regimului comunist: Ioachim Crăciun,” *Apulum* 43, 2 (2006): 393–404, and id., “Raporturile istoricului Ioachim Crăciun cu Securitatea,” *Terra Sebus* (Sebeș) 2 (2010): 511–537. The trio gets chapters in Ioan Oprea, *Istoricii și Securitatea*, 2 vols. (Bucharest: Editura Enciclopedică, 2004–2006).

51. See Hristodol, *passim*.

52. Lupaș, “Factorii istorici,” 19–27.

53. See Petre Sergescu, “L’Université de Cluj et ses relations avec l’étranger,” *Revue de Transylvanie* 10, 3–4 (1944): 33–51; Stelian Mândruț, “Considerații privind relațiile internaționale interbelice ale Universității din Cluj,” *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie Cluj-Napoca* 35 (1996): 382–388.

## Abstract

Major Contributions of the Formative Era of the Institute of National History of Cluj, 1920–1945: A Centennial Appreciation

The paper identifies and discusses three important contributions to Romanian historiography that emerged from the work of the Institute of National History between 1920 and 1945: the creation of Romania’s first institute of historical study; the promotion of professional bibliographic work; and the initiation of a model publications program, including a first rate scholarly journal and several book series.

## Keywords

Institute of National History of Cluj, the Cluj School of history, Ioan Lupaș, Alexandru Lapedatu, Ioachim Crăciun, historiography