TEODOR NEŞ – HIS JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITY

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Abstract: The current paper presents the beginnings and some of the most important moments of Neş Teodor's journalistic activity and several of his most significant writings, articles published in the newspapers, literary magazines, journals and other publications of the period.

Keywords: publicist, linguist, writer, national identity, historical facts.

The Romanian literary critic Gabriel Dimisianu says in an article entitled "Localismul creator" that "Alexandru Dima is the one who launched the suggestive formula, desiring to define the capacity of the provinces to provide and deliver cultural values, to generate culture (...) not only the capital city of the country was the one which could generate durable creative cultural goods, but also the Romanian province."[1] He is presenting a few notable landmarks of cultural and literary Romanian life from the province such as "Viaţa românească", "Convorbiri literare", "Familia" from Oradea, "Ramuri" from Craiova etc., which are "the institutions through which Romanians can prove the national continuity in culture."[2]

According to Alexandru Dima, the theorist and father of the concept mentioned above, "*the localism theorizes and militates based on the vivid and specific place of the geographic and social reality*," and the epithet "*creator*" helps to clearly distinguish "*between the work and the creative spirit of generous dissemination of the culture"*.[3] *Localismul creator* (n.a. Creative Localism) was considered by Alexandru Dima "another expression of the same contemporary aspiration of a deeper anchorage in reality, in concrete, in the immediate and authentic life, a wave of sincerity that sweeps most of the compartments of today's culture."[4] The central idea of the *Creative Localism* says Alexander Dima is "knowing the reality and harnessing it into creation of the specific and picturesque latencies of the place (...) it proposes to undertake the process of knowing the local specificities."[5] As a theorist of this concept, Alexandru Dima claims that the *Creative Localism* "also aims to create - in urban centres - a high cultural environment in order to keep alive the interest for general and contemporary values of the creative spirit, to save provincial intellectuals from a terrible shipwreck of the daily professionalization."[6] Literature is comprehended as "*an expression of the authentic, of the real soul immediateness, of the vivid and fruitful contact with the adjacent ground* (...) which is rooted *in a particular psycho-social structure of the place*."[7] In the social, multicultural and politically distinct context of Transylvania marked by the offensive of literary and cultural creations of the minorities,

[1] Gabriel Dimisianu, *„Localismul creator"*, published in the culture magazine "Ramuri" no. 12/2010, in Craiova.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Alexandru Dima, *„Localismul creator"* published in "Familia", no. 2, Series III/Year II/April-May/1935, p. 3.
[4] Alexandru Dima, *op.cit.*, p. 3.
[5] Ibid., p. 4.
[6] Ibid., p. 5.
[7] Ibid., p. 5.

Alexandru Dima, through the *localismul creator (n.a. creative localism)*, is campaigning for "an increase in length and depth of our literary production."[8]

The innovative ideas and arguments embedded in the concept of "localism creator" released by the aesthetician Alexandru Dima are mainly rejected, ignored and marginalized by "our squeamish intellectuals"[9]. As the critic and literary historian, Ion Dodu Balan says in his article "Localismul creator. O lucrare de referință" about the innovative concept of Alexandru Dima - "The problem, from a theoretical perspective, was considered anachronistic, being ignored right from its forthcoming in Alexandru Dima's study in "Blaj" newspaper in 1935."[10] (Alexandru Dima's article was also published in "Familia" literary magazine no. 2 Series III Year II, April-May 1935, pp. 3-8, Oradea).

In his periplus as a teacher of Romanian language, literature and civilization at the University of Toulouse 1967-1970, Ion Dodu Bălan is pleasantly surprised as he discovers the interests of university teachers and researchers towards the *creative localism*. The professors from University of Toulouse sought to exploit to the maximum the concept. Though at the same time, the same concept says Ion Dodu Balan, within the Romanian cultural, literary and academic setting "was even more fervently avoided in the past three decades by those at power and by the central institutions, for them, "the universalists", not to be suspected of provincialism."[11] The interest in preserving and passing on to posterity the distinctive cultural, artistic and literary style of each peculiar area from Romania should be a major concern of both the local authorities, intellectuals, artists and those who dare to express and materialize the creative energies in artistic or literary works, which remain as testimony to the wealth of spirituality of each geographical Romanian area.

Teodor Neș through his book *Oameni din Bihor, 1848-1918* sought to highlight for posterity values created and bequeathed to future generations of Romanians from Bihor. What he succeeded to achieve in Crişana in the interwar period (papers, articles, conferences, cultural activities etc.) fits well into the concept of *localism creator* set in 1935 by the critic and literary historian Alexandru Dima in the literary magazine "Familia" from Oradea. Through its publications, through his cultural, artistic and patriotic actions undertaken by Teodor Neș (in collaboration with renowned intellectuals of the country, with students from Oradea) has evidenced that the province and provincialists can be and they are creators and generators of perennial national values.

Teodor Neș was tireless in his work as a publicist, author of books and essayist. Throughout his life, he wrote and managed to publish hundreds of articles, editorials and essays from areas as diverse as education, pedagogy, literature, culture etc. He published papers containing national, social, educational and cultural substance and information in local newspapers in the cities where he lived and worked. He wrote scientific, social, national writings. He completely supported the national cause and rights of Transylvanian Romanians to have their own culture and education in the Romanian language, to benefit from freedom of expression, creation as Romanians (because of these beliefs he was imprisoned). The historical period in which Teodor Neș worked as a publicist and writer was a tough one. Two world wars, social convulsions with major political changes, ideological restrictions and political censorship marked

[8] Ibid., p. 6.
[9] Ion Dodu Bălan, *Localismul creator. O lucrare de referință*, article published in "Tribuna" no. 281, from May 16-31, Cluj-Napoca, 2014.
[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid.

this period. The restrictive-oppressive political system form Vienna and later on from Budapest - the Romanians from Transylvania were subject of forced magyarization policy which defined the period. Post-war Romania was subject to the communist system. Overall, these current and political ideologies have imposed tough censorship in the press of the time.

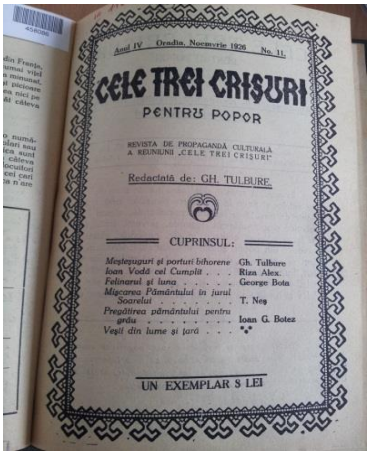
During the interwar period, Teodor Neș will continue the publicists work started and supported by Iosif Vulcan in Bihor County through the literary magazine 'Familia' through his work and articles published in the literary magazine and beyond. As Constantin Mălinaș asserts in the preface of Stelian Vasilescu's book - *Oameni din Bihor, 1940-2000 – dicționar sentimental* (*People from Bihor, 1940-2000 – a sentimental dictionary* "It is motivated to talk about the triad Iosif Vulcan - Teodor Neș - Stelian Vasilescu, in terms of modelling personalities, with the scope of public media and cultural action".[12] The three, even if they worked in different periods, they had shared passion for literature, culture, and discovery and fosterage of Bihor's young talents. If Iosif Vulcan was the pioneer and path breaker Teodor Neș and Stelian Vasilescu were followers of the noble literary pursuits as cultural animators from the lands of Crișana. Although Stelian Vasilescu was not born and bred in Bihor like Teodor Neș was, both Stelian Vasilescu and Teodor Neș worked hard in order to fill in this task in a difficult era, marked by restrictions and privations of all sorts.

Teodore Neș's debut in journalism is due to the two colleagues and friends - Axente Baciu and Ilie Cristea - he made during his work as a teacher at "Andrei Șaguna" High School from Brașov. Both of them were respected by fellow teachers, students and the community in which they live. They supported and encouragesd Teodore Neș to try writing articles in the local press. The first article published by Teodore Neș occurs on January 1, 1922 and has the title "Moral education." („Educația morală").[13] While working at Brașov continues writing a series of other several articles on education, morality and science. Among which we can mention „Inconștientul și educația" (February 17, 1922 - "Unconscious and education"), „Criza morală" (May 14, 1922 -"The moral crisis"), „Criza științei" (no. 18, July 25, 1922 - "The crisis of science"), „Temeiurile biologice ale moralei" (no. 18, February 25, 1923 - "Biological bases of morality") and „Inconsecvența științei" (no. September 2, 1923 - "The inconsistency of science").[14]

[12] Stelian Vasilescu, *Oameni din Bihor - dicționar sentimental (1940-2000)*, Ed "Iosif Vulcan", Oradea, 2002, p. VIII.

[13] „Gazeta Transilvaniei" from Brașov 01.01.1922, cited by Teodor Neș, *A doua carte despre Oameni din Bihor*, Comitetul pentru Cultură și Educație Socialistă al Județului Bihor, p. 21 (*A second book about people from Bihor County*, The Socialist Committee on Culture and Education of Bihor County, p. 21).

[14] Teodor Neș, *A doua carte despre Oameni din Bihor*, Comitetul pentru Cultură și Educație Socialistă al Județului Bihor, p. 21-22. (Teodor Neș *A second book about people from Bihor County*,The Socialist Committee on Culture and Education of Bihor County, pp. 21-22).


Anul IV Oradia, Noemvrie 1926 No. 11.

CELE TREI CRIȘURI

PENTRU POPOR

REVISTA DE PROPAGANDĂ CULTURALĂ A REUNIUNII „CELE TREI CRIȘURI"

Redactată de: GH. TULBURE

CUPRINSUL:

Meșteșugurî și porturi bihorene . . . Gh. Tulbure
Ioan Vodă cel Cumplit . . . . . Rim. Alex.
Fulgerul și luna . . . . . George Bota
Mișcarea Pământului în jurul Soarelui . . . . . T. Neș
Pregătirea pământului pentru grâu . . . . . Ioan G. Botez
Vegii din lume și țară . . . . .

UN EXEMPLAR 8 LEI

In the cultural magazine "Cele trei Crișuri" Teodor Neș has its own column in which he addresses to the public. He writes articles of scientific interest, well received, appreciated and followed with interest and expected by the readers. Among the articles published, we can remember the following: „Relativitatea specială" ("Special Relativity") - appearing in 1923 (pp. 143-144); „Fizica relativă și eterul" ("Relative Physics and The Ether") - appeared in 1923 (pp. 125-126); „Materia în știință" ("Matter in science") - published the same year in 1923 (pp. 95-96); „Tainele cerului. Astronomie pentru popor" ("The mysteries of heaven. Astronomy for common people").[15] In the cultural magazine "Cele Trei Crișuri pentru popor" no. 1, 2, 3, 11 from 1925 and no. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 from 1923 and 4, 5, 11 from 1926, Teodor Neș published a series of articles with scientific character, which wanted to help readers know more concrete data about our solar system.[16] Teodor Neș wrote „Mișcarea stelelor" ("The movement of the stars") in no. 3/Third year in March, 1925, „Mișcarea pământului în jurul soarelui" ("The movement of the earth around the sun") in no. 11/Year IV in November, 1926, „Drumul soarelui" (" The way of the sun") in no. 3/Year III November 1925, „Mișcarea stelelor" ("The movement of the stars") in no. 3/Third year in March 1925 etc.

Fóia enciclopedica si beletristica cu ilustratiuni.

PEST'A 25 faurn 9 martiu

Ese in fie-care luna de trei ori adeca in 5. 15. si 25. dupa c. v. contienendu doue cole.

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pe Oct.—Jun. . . . . 6 fl. — cr.
Pentru Romania

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II cursu anualu.

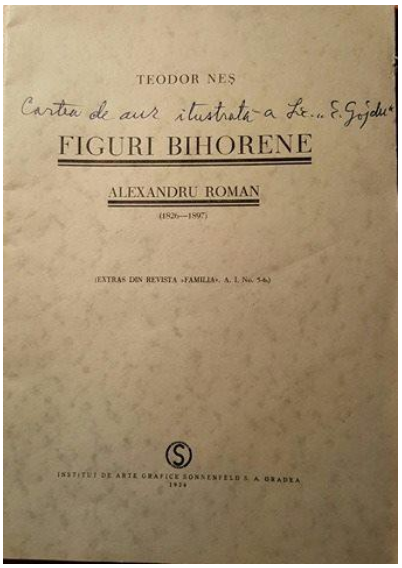
The cultural magazine "Școala românească" published Teodor Neș's numerous articles that originate in the work from the department and from the practical observations made by him among students that he prepared and encouraged to become future writers, cultural personalities, ideologists or trainers. Here are some titles published here: "Theory and Practice" (no. 1 in May 1941); "The pace of the lesson" (no. 5 November 1941); "Syntheses" (published March 3, 1943); "School and family," published work during the months of January to March 1946 etc.[17]

The literary and cultural magazine "Familia" from Oradea under the remarkable guiding leadership of scholar Mihail G. Samarineanu (photo) is an important milestone of Teodor Neș's journalistic career. His collaboration with this prestigious literary magazine from the western part of the country divides into two distinct periods. Teodor Neș works in the editorial magazine "Familia" series II (numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10 in 1926 and 1, 2, 3, 4 in 1927).

This is the first period, which covers the years in which he writes articles in advocating for the enlightenment of the Romanians from Bihor County because of the political system and governance, strongly nationalistic and limitative of Budapest did not allow Romanians access to education in the Romanian language or access to good Romanian publications. The articles

[15] Ibid, p. 22.
[16] Stelian Vasilescu, *op.cit.*, p. 375.
[17] Teodor Neș, Iosif Sălăgean și Emil I. Roșescu , *Liceul "Emanuil Gojdu" la 50 de ani* –Monografie, pag. 120.

written in this time were marked by intense fieldwork carried out by Teodor Neș. During this period initiates, animates and supports the establishment of various means of educating and informing the Romanians from Bihor County (high school magazine - „Țara visurilor noastre", choirs of students supervised by teachers – touring the villages from Biharia, conferences for teachers, professors and the public of Oradea, as to name a few). Among the articles in this period we can mention the following: „Matinee școlare" ("School Matinee") - appeared in no. 2 of 1926; „Propaganda culturală" ("Cultural propaganda") in no. 3 of 1926; "Dumitru Lascu" no. 3-4 of 1928; "Universitatea Liberă *Emanuil Gojdu"* ("*Emanuil Gojdu* Free University") no. 1 of 1926 and No. 1 of 1927; and so on.



The second period of collaboration in the cultural and literary magazine "Familia" series III (e.g. no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of 1934; no. 2-3 in 1936), this time, and start in 1934 when he wrote a series of articles entitled "Figuri bihorene". In no. 1 of 1934, Teodor Neș writes and presents historical information of the time. In no. 2 presents in detail the iconic Romanian patron Emanuil Gojdu. In no. 3, Teodor Neș talks about life and the work of another important figure from Bihor County - Alois Vlad. In the no. five and six writes about the great scholar and patriot Alexander Roman, born and bred in Bihor County.

During 1936 articles, present the life, work and exploits of important public figures from Bihor County - Iosif Vulcan, Lucreția Suciu, Partenie Cosma, Iustin Popfiu. Articles written and published in the literary magazine "Familia" will be the basis for his book *People from Bihor County - 1848-1918.* The editorials he wrote in the literary magazine "Familia" series II and III are the result of years when he played an important role as a cultural animator in Bihor County. He constantly sustained and enhanced the cultural and educational level of the Romanians from Bihor County in different ways. He was the initiator, diligent and fervent supporter of the *"Emanuil Gojdu" Free University* in Oradea. An active member of the "Familia" literary magazine worked with distinguished Romanian writers - Ion Agârbiceanu, Alexandru Dima, Victor Eftimiu, Emil Isac, Ovidiu Papadima, Octav Şuluţiu and so on.[18]

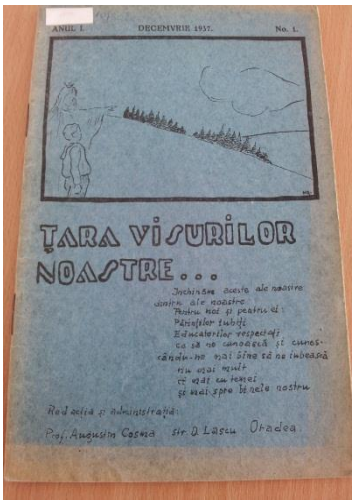
Another major activity undertaken by the publicist Teodor Neș is the cooperation in 1928-1937 with newspaper articles in „Gazeta de Vest" from Oradea.[19] Under his signature, come out editorials with a scientific, historical, literary and cultural content. Teodor Neș is one of the writers and editors that highlight the struggles of the Romanians from Bihor County telling about the fewer Romanian cultural and economic associations in Bihor and about the different activities undertaken by them to assist and inform the Romanians. Through his articles, he informs the public opinion, upholds the problem of *The Ethnographic Museum,* supports the issue of the schools for peasants and workers, advocates for the Romanian culture and literature in general from Crișana and Transylvania. It also supports

[18] Stelian Vasilesc, *op.cit.,* p. 375.
[19] Teodor Neș, Iosif Sălăgean și Emil I. Roșescu, *op.cit.,* p. 120.

"Gazeta de Vest" newspaper because, at the time, it was the only Romanian journal in Oradea, as against the seven Hungarian dailies "secretly in the service of Horthy's revisionism and mussolinism".[20]

Creative mind and entrepreneurial spirit, publicist Teodor Neș inaugurated in 1935 in the pages of "Gazeta de Vest" an innovative column entitled: "What should we know? Here are some reference pieces bearing the signature of Teodor Neș in the pages of this magazine - „Muzeul etnografic" ("The Ethnographic Museum") in no. 15, November, 1929; "Emanuil Gojdu" no. 21, February, 1930; „Scrisoare deschisă către Scotus Viator (Seston Watson)" - ("Open letter to Scotus Viator - Seston Watson)" and „Ungurii și românii din Bihor"- ("Hungarians and Romanians from Bihor County") in no. 9, October 1934, "Universitatea muncitorească", no. 26, October, 1934, "La catafalcul prof. dr. Iosif Pogan" no. 7, November, 1934, "Pentru muzeul etnografic al Bihariei" no. 26, January 1935, "April 1919", no. 21, April, 1935; "Învățământul Bihorului", no. 5, September 1937 and so on. Some of the materials, cultural, philosophical and scientific information, signed by Teodor Neș have sparked disputes among readers, especially among the conservative community of theologians from Oradea.

„Țara visurilor noastre" – the "Emanuil Gojdu" High School literary magazine under the guidance of Augustin Cosma, hosts a series of articles written by the Principle of the high-school from Oradea - Teodor Neș. In the first number of the literary magazine from 1937, as director and patron of the high-school magazine, Teodor Nes writes the editorial " Un cuvânt lămuritor" which talks about puberty and adolescence. It followed articles written by the same author: "Resurrection" in no. 5 / First Year in April, 1938; "In memoriam" in no. 3-4 / First Year in February-March, 1938 - praising the great Mecena Emanuil Gojdu; "On 8 June," in no. 6-7 / First year in May-June 1938; "The meaning of work" in no. 16-17 / Year III of May-June 1939; and so on.



Teodor Neș published countless other articles in different journals. Here are some of them - "Concepția cosmică de la Thales până la Albert Einstein" appeared in "Transilvania" magazine, no. 2 of 1922; "Albert Einstein's General Relativity," published in "Transilvania" magazine, no. 10 of 1922; "Știința popularizată: materie, energie, lumină, cvante" printed by "Cele Trei Crișuri pentru popor" journal, no. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 in 1923; " Cinematograful în culori" published in "Transilvania" journal no. 10.11 1925 and no. 2 of 1923, no. 11-12 of 1926.[21] Teodor Neș has published articles in other magazines and newspapers like " Gazeta Transilvaniei" from Brașov; "Sentinela de Vest" from Oradea; "Legea Românească" also from Oradea; "Societatea de mâine", "Gazeta Învățământului", "Astra Bihariei" - here Teodor Neș writes the editorial entitled "One for all and all for one"[22], „Școala Bihorului - Revistă pedagogică-culturală. Organ al Asociației învățătorilor din Bihor"[23], „Almanahul Crișana".

[20] Stelian Vasilescu, *op.cit.*, p. 376.
[21] Teodor Neș, Iosif Sălăgean și Emil I. Roșescu, *op.cit.*, p. 120.
[22] Stelian Vasilescu, *op.cit.*, p. 376.
[23] Teodor Neș, *„Învăţătorul Bihariei vechi"* published in „Școala Bihorului" - Revistă pedagogică-culturală. Organ al Asociației învățătorilor din Bihor. Nr. 12-14/oct.–dec.1937, anul IX, Oradea.

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