

**THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY – THE ACADEMY
OF ALL THE ROMANIANS**

All the scientific and academic productions of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu” of the Romanian Academy shall be dedicated this year to the 150th anniversary since the founding of Romanian Academy. Be they articles, journals edited at our institute, books published at our publishing house, summer schools organized by the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu” – all these activities shall be conducted under the aegis of this unique event.

And this is not just a formality. We are entertaining the clear consciousness of the importance of this moment and of the profound designation that the Academy of All the Romanians – for this is what the Romanian Academy should be – has or should have within the subtle, immutable equation of the becoming and continuity of a people. The observation of the great Italian philologist Angelo de Gubernatis, honorary member (nominated at the 21st of February 1897) of the highest Romanian academic forum, that “in the Romanian Academy pervaded the very soul of the Romanian nation” has unparalleled hermeneutical value. For beyond the cultural and scientific performance, beyond the institutes and the accredited publications, beyond its branches or the international conferences – an Academy is the bearer of an *ethos*. It is the depositary of a past that should remain *alive*, that is, fruitful for the present. From this perspective, the Academy illustrates in the most ample manner what the Anglo-Saxon research calls “moral innovators”. The phrase indicates those instances that, having the profound legitimacy to accomplish a renewalrenewing moral task, set the mirror of the past before our times and show to the responsible factors how dramatic is the compass of the present rendered askew. The appeal to the past and its heritage is not past-ridden but dynamic, irrepressible and admonitory. This is a curative function for a society, and this function is not reserved only to the paramount personalities – Eminescu, Iorga or Ion I. C. Brătianu –, but the institutions, too. And the Romanian Academy is entitled the most to this function. A report, be it summary, of the evolution of Romanian Academy reveals a single fact: the performances of this national institution were, each time, *directly proportional to the level of its public involvement*.

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This is the reason why, when we are celebrating 150 years since the founding of the Romanian Academy, is not an exercise in complaisance. For we pay homage to 150 years since this institution was founded with a purpose and a mission that no other Romanian institution could assume. This is an excellent opportunity, as any anniversary is, for the quantitative, eloquent and imposing reports. But this is an admirable occasion to understand, contemplating 150 years of activity, that no scientific, academic or cultural production of the Romanian Academy could be a kind of purpose *in itself*, as paradoxical as this may sound. The academic accomplishments are purposes *for themselves*, respectively for the fulfillment of the primordial mission of this scientific, cultural and moral forum, a mission illustrated maybe in a best succinct manner by King Ferdinand I “The Loyal” and “head of victorious army” (Nicolae Iorga): “the victory of the country is also its ascendancy”.

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