

**THE HOMAGE SESSION “MIRCEA MALIȚA
AT THE AGE OF 90”, AT THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY,
20TH FEBRUARY 2017**

The homage session “Mircea Malița at the age of 90”, organized by the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu” (ISPRI) and the Black Sea University Foundation (BSUF), under the auspices of the Romanian Academy, was held on the 20th February 2017, in the Aula Magna of the Romanian Academy. A Mathematics and Philosophy graduate, Professor and renowned mathematician, Director of the Romanian Academy Library, deputy of Foreign Affairs minister, Minister of Education, Ambassador, Member of the Romanian Academy and of various international organizations, Founding President of the BSUF, specialist in Futurology, creator of a new discipline, the *Cliomathematics*, author of numerous volumes in several scientific areas, essayist and memoirist, Mircea Augustin Malița is one of the most important personalities in the Romanian culture and diplomacy of the last century.

The solemn session was attended by numerous academicians, former colleagues, scientific researchers at the Romanian Academy’s Institutes, members of the family, friends and disciples, but also by His Excellency Kisaburo Ishii, Japan’s Ambassador in Romania, the former President of Romania Emil Constantinescu, the former Prime-minister Petre Roman, the former Foreign Affairs minister Lazăr Comănescu and the former Minister and current state advisor at the Presidential Administration, Constantin Duda Ionescu.

In the opening of the homage session, the Romanian Academy President, Ionel-Valentin Vlad, summarized the professional and diplomatic career, and also the most important books written by Mircea Malița, stressing the importance of his contribution in the realm of prospective research, which he introduced in Romania, and of his contribution in the realm of education. According to Academician Mircea Malița, reforms in education should not be perceived, and school should be primarily characterized by: seriousness, discipline and clarity of obligations.

Academician Dan Berindei, President of the Department of History and Archeology of the Romanian Academy, paid tribute to “the Romanian intelligence embodied in a special man – Mircea Malița”, “a true Renaissance man”, and highlighted his outstanding contributions to history, as well as the important role he played in Romanian history, as a man who belongs to those who “have not only just lived, but have forged history”, “a patriot devoted to his country, he, a universal man, shining on any meridian of this World”.

In continuation of the session, Academician Nicolae Manolescu pointed to the seriousness of the intellectual formation and to the encyclopedic of Mircea Malița. He also praised Mircea Malița’s constant concern for school, which he always considered in perspective, and not in its immediate dimension. He also dwelt on his outstanding activity in the realm of diplomacy, by which he has proved that “a true diplomat” could do his job even in “a world where everything was being decided in one place only”.

Academician Nicolae Panin’s speech, President of the Geonomic Sciences Department of the Romanian Academy, highlighted “the amplitude, the complexity and the versatility of academician Mircea Malița’s thought”, as well as his patriotism, demonstrated by the fact that “he always had in mind that Romania should be the

beneficiary of diplomatic and economic ties that he forged". Mircea Malița understood the special geopolitical importance of the Black Sea, and of Romania's position in this area, and he was one of the first personalities to initiate a series of actions in order to assert Romania's role in the region, the most important being the founding of the BSUF, which took place at his initiative.

In the panegyric dedicated to Mircea Malița, Ambassador Liviu-Aurelian Bota, President of the Board of Directors of the BSUF, lauded the one who "has been and still remains a role model", "a great personality of the Romanian diplomacy", who, with profound abnegation, "has devoted his talent and energy to serving the people to which he belongs".

Although not able to attend the proceedings of this session, Ambassador Emil Hurezeanu paid his homage to Academician Mircea Malița through a video footage recorded at the Romanian Embassy in Germany, in which he evoked his discoveries and his personal meetings with the celebrated Academician. He expressed his respect for the dignified attitude, for the qualities and the achievements of the writer, educator, memoirist Mircea Malița and especially for his diplomatic vision, as "a man of strategic vision and with intellectual, modern and profound support in his literary creation and in diplomacy, continuing [the activity of] Titulescu or Gafencu".

Professor Dan Dungaciu, Director of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations "Ion I. C. Brătianu", president of the BSUF, dedicated his allocution to the diplomat and academician Mircea Malița's propaedeutic heritage, by pointing out the lessons he has learned from him. The first lesson is that of the wide scope – as a diplomat, Mircea Malița has always thought big, as he was aware that small thinking would not benefit Romania. Among the most important actual results of his big thinking are the Colloquium held in Bucharest between the 26th and the 28th of June 1969, under the aegis of the Association of International Law and International Relations, one of the most important international events held in Romania, and the founding of the BSUF, "which put Romania on the regional map". Other lessons to be learned from Mircea Malița include his strategic vision, connected to his wide scope, and his Academic courage – that allowed him to call into question theses thoroughly grounded in the public space. Mircea Malița also hands down to his contemporaries and to posterity the lesson of a pragmatic institution builder, of a man of deeds, as well as that of the importance of culture in the diplomatic career, of moderation in judgment and values and of patriotism, which in his case is unobtrusive, manifested by deeds rather than words.

The session was closed by Academician Mircea Malița himself, who thanked the organizers of the event. He asserted, very modestly, that he is overwhelmed by all that was said about him, and that what gives this day a real significance is the presence in the Aula Magna of all those who have come to pay him homage. According to him, solidarity is very important, because it is the trait that we have to count on "in a World that seems to get darker and darker". Mircea Malița also expressed his constant preoccupation with "an anything but trivial topic", the definition of Man, and remembered three very different personalities that he had met during his life: the writer Mihail Sadoveanu, the professor and mathematician Grigore Moisil and the politician Ion Gheorghe Maurer.

On the occasion of this event, Professor Dan Dungaciu presented the latest releases of the ISPRI's Publishing House, which could be found during the session at the Publishing House's bookstall: a special issue of the "Revista de Științe Politice și Relații Internaționale", dedicated to Academician Mircea Malița, Mircea Malița's latest book, *În bătaia timpului*, and a special dossier about the Colloquium held in Bucharest in 1969, which has proved essential for the organization of the Helsinki Conference.

Ana-Maria Iancu

EVOCATIONS AT THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF MIRCEA MALIȚA: A DEDICATED THEMATIC JOURNAL ISSUE

The first 2017 issue of the *Revista de Științe Politice și Relații Internaționale* (Romanian Review of Political Sciences and International Relations) was a thematic issue approaching the personality and work of Mircea Malița, enhancing the *dedicated festivities* (the *Anniversary Session* took place in the Romanian Academy's Aula, exactly on the date of his 90th Anniversary – 20th February 2017), organized by the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations "Ion I. C. Brătianu".

This meritorious initiative addresses the complexity of Academician Mircea Malița's thought, work(s), activity and life, all inspiring achievements, difficult to be captured in words and fully conveyed through words. The entire action was placed by Professor Dan Dungaciu, the Director of the above-mentioned Institute, under the sign of thought development, overcoming the diagnosis of simple, formal and quantitative results, paying attention to the *traces*, the *heritage* and the particular *formation of fruitful and ample imprints that we are honored to witness today* (p. 5). *The working results* are illustrated (in the pages of the *Review*) through a unitary formula of *two mirroring reflections*: the first one, an *Evocation*, a *homage*, followed by an *Anniversary* register of thoughts and emotions (signed by distinguished Diplomats and Professors); and the second one, approaching Mircea Malița's *writings* and their *creative spirit*.

The Academician's spirit is formative. Mircea Malița represents an institutional constructor for *diverse topoi*: his scope engages a strategic vision (D. Dungaciu, p. 7), conserving the quality of a temperate man (*Ibidem*, p. 12), a supreme value acquired in his lifetime and transposed in his activity, reconfirming that the human element is tightly associated to his activity.

All of the aforementioned lines converge to a recomposing portrait of the Academician as *example, etalon, leading diplomat, impossible to be dissociated from the exceptional performances of the Romanian diplomacy* – Liviu Bota; as *one of the amplitude and polyvalent personalities of the Romanian culture* – Nicolae Panin; a *complex personality, impossible to be categorized* – Silviu Neguț; as an *architect of the Romanian politics in international organizations* – Traian Chebeleu; as a *thinker in perspective, preoccupied by the promotion of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, whose principal and active actor in the diplomacy formation he was* – Paraschiva Bădescu; as an *encyclopedic personality, an exceptional negotiator, Magister and school founder, initiator of structures, analysis and actions* – Ion Diaconu; as a *global thinker and exceptional diplomat* – Alexandru Niculescu; as an *intellectual with extensive openings, diplomat with superior intuition* – George Apostoiu; as a *model of high morality and professionalism for several generations of diplomats* – Ioan Voicu; and as a *monumental thinker, essayist, mathematician and logician, Professor and philosopher, diplomat and minister* – Marius Cristian Neacșu.

The aforementioned attributes are invested by a *special meaning* and a *defining purpose*, since nothing of Mircea Malița's prodigious and total commitment identifiable in his writings and in his activity, isn't random or unjustified, proving, according to Dan Dungaciu, the deep meaningful purport of an *enriched and exceptional existence* dedicated to the imperative: "Only for Romania!" (Dan Dungaciu, p. 14).

The second part of the journal opens with the recourse to Ulysses receiving Leukothea's veil (Viorella Manolache, p. 63), responding to the unitary structure of the

Anniversary issue, continuing Professor Dan Dungaciu's *final opening* remark – *Mircea Malița is not a Ulysses without Penelope* – by pointing out the symbolic value of the Wise Man, both as a promoter of the pragmatic diplomacy and a Socratic introspect (Manolache, p. 60). Mircea Malița's philosophy announces and predicts the changes, the reconfigurations and the significant contemporary evolutions (R. Cupcea, p. 89).

From the perspective opened by the intellectual harmony letter – spirit in a personality's work, the second chapter of the journal follows Mircea Malița's *letter* (*Mircea Malița on the Survival through History of the Romanian People* – Cristina Arvatu Vohn; *A Brief Treaty of Political Philosophy: Homo Fraudens* – Cristian-Ion Popa; *A Spirit Forever Young, Connected to the Current Problems of the World* – Lorena Stuparu); *Mircea Malița – "Between War and Peace"* – Theodor Florean Onea; *Good Bye, Machiavelli...?* – Ion Goian; *The Resorts and the Dangers of Populism* – Vasile Iuga; *Mircea Malița and the Great Strategy of the Opening Decade* – Lucian-Ștefan Dumitrescu) and illustrates also his momentous *spirit* in investigations such as *Science-like Activity vs. (Remarkable) Science-like-Results*, which illustrates, on the one hand, the complexities of the scientific endeavor and, on the other hand, the multi-faced relevance of the scientific outcomes with consequences in education, art, social communication and the very advancement of science itself (Henrieta Anișoara Șerban, pp. 138-139); *Prospects for a Common European Defence*, by Sanda Cincă; and *European Union – on the Past and Present Crisis. Some Considerations*, by Ruxandra Iordache. Petrișor Peiu points out as well Mircea Malița's actuality, especially in placing Romania on the cultural, intellectual and historical map, precisely from the perspective of the considered dichotomy immortal *letter* and immortal *spirit* in the major league printed and not printed works impacting the present times (p. 112).

The *Anniversary* issue of the journal re-engages the Academician and Professor Mircea Malița's ideational atmosphere with special affection, memories and unique confessions, re-affirming the *spirit* of a *lucid optimism*, a confirmation that there is an outside of the *labyrinth*, described by *powerful rationality* and *creative imagination*.

Mădălina Ignat