

University of Bucharest

**Arab Studies
at the University of Bucharest:
50 years**

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ARABIC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST: 50 YEARS

1. General information on the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature

1.1. Teaching Arabic at the University of Bucharest

The Department of Arabic and Arab Literature was set up in 1957 within the University of Bucharest. From the very beginning, Arabic was taught as a major, together with a compulsory minor specialization. In the first years, the minor was Romanian; later, until well after 1990, that second language specialization had to be a language of wide international circulation (most often English). At present, undergraduates can choose a minor specialization in any of the languages available for study at the moment of his enrollment. In the '80s there were a few generations of students who had Arabic as a minor specialization.

The length of undergraduate study was five years in the early days of the department, after which a four-year study cycle was adopted. At present the department is switching to the three-year undergraduate system; the academic year 2007-2008 will see the last generation of four-year undergraduates take their B.A. exam. Admission in this department was always by competition; the number of seats was always a limited one, between 7 and 20 seats before 1990, and after 1990 about 15-20 tuition-free seats, plus a number of 15 to 20 full tuition seats. Before 1990, admission exams sometimes took place every other year rather than annually; however, after 1990 there has been a yearly admission exam.

In the academic year 2006-2007, an M.A. program was set up with the title: "The Middle East: Languages and Cultures in Contact". The teaching staff mostly consists of the teachers in the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature. Doctoral studies in the field of Arab Studies are supervised by Prof. Nadia Anghelescu.

The University of Bucharest is at present still the only state university where Arabic is a major specialization. Along time, the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature at the University of Bucharest has hosted students from Bulgaria, as well as from various Arab and African countries. Particularly after 1990, our students

benefited from study programs abroad, for part or all of their undergraduate study, in countries such as Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria etc.

As admission to the Department of Arabic and Arab literature consists of an exam for which there has always been a large number of candidates, the quality of our students has always been good or relatively good. By that we mean that they prove to be able to learn, in a relatively short period of time, a language which is generally assessed as „difficult”, in parallel with another language which they may or may not be already familiar with. Apart from that, an impressive number of them display their interest in dwelling on the theoretical aspects of linguistic and literary studies. Only a very small number of these students had any previous knowledge of the language.

The syllabus of the Arabic department loosely follows the structure of the curriculum of other foreign languages departments, whether the languages had been previously studied in school or not: the differences are minimal, since they mainly involve a larger number of hours allotted to the applied study of the respective language. Other than that, there are the same theoretical courses in contemporary language, civilization, the history of literature a.s.o. The so-called „optional” courses could not be taken as such: the students are not able to choose one or several out of a range of courses, as that would not add up to the necessary minimum number of students in each class. The already existing difficulties will multiply as a result of the shortening of the study cycle to three years, while the system of both a major and a minor field of study will be retained.

In the first years after the establishment of the department, the language manuals, the textbooks for linguistics and the history of literature, and the dictionaries used were either West-European (mostly French and British), or Russian. Books in Arabic, anthologies of texts etc., first came from Egypt. Many students were drawn to love classical Arab literature by the excellent anthologies of classical texts published in Egypt by authors like Shawqi Dayf and Omar al-Dasuqi.

In time, the manuals, textbooks and dictionaries necessary to the teaching activities came to be edited by the teaching staff of the Arabic department, most of them published by the University of Bucharest Press (the chapters on former and present members of the teaching staff will mention most of those).

As the teaching and research activities diversified and went into more depth, works by members of the teaching staff, many of them used for teaching as well, were

published by prestigious publishing houses in Romania and abroad. However, even to this day, manuals of Arabic as a foreign language published in the US, Italy, France, Germany and various Arab countries are still successfully used in the department.

The graduates of the Department of Arabic and Arab literature work in education and research, in diplomacy (nine of them were, or are, ambassadors in various Arab countries), as translators and interpreters in various state-owned and private companies, as experts, journalists etc. Some of our graduates end up working abroad; some have taken their Ph.D. in Romania or Western countries and work as teachers of Arabic or Arab literature in the U.S, in Canada, France etc.

Many of the graduates of the Arabic department, who have long since left the country, gladly remember their years of study in Bucharest. In November 2004, Simona Livescu (born Munteanu), a graduate of the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature at the University of Bucharest, later a Ph.D. student in comparative literature and a T.A. in Arab literature at the UCLA, wrote to us:

Thank you for the years spent together, for the education provided throughout the four years of undergraduate study, which enabled the graduates of the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature at the University of Bucharest to be successful all around the world (...) You can be proud of your former students: in 2004, only 8 Ph.D. students were admitted to the Comparative Literature graduate program at UCLA, out of approximately a hundred who had applied. Out of the 8 people admitted, I am the only one who is a graduate of a non-U.S. university. I am proud of having been a student in an elite university of Europe, as the University of Bucharest surely is. To all the teachers who admire my background in general culture and theoretical knowledge, I say that is the result of our outstanding Romanian education (...)

As an acknowledgement of the quality of Romanian teaching of Arabic at the University of Bucharest, an article of introduction was written by Prof. Nadia Anghelescu and published in a prestigious volume dedicated to the teaching of Arabic around the world, edited in the U.S. in 2006 ("The Arabic Language at the University of Bucharest", *A Handbook for Arabic Language Teaching Professionals in the 21st Century* ed. by Kassem M. Wahba, Zeinab A. Taha, Liz England, Mahwah, New

Jersey and London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 477 pp.). The volume refers, under various headings, to general issues concerning learning Arabic as a foreign language, programs, objectives, methods, in various countries around the world, at present and in the future; it also refers to the experience of teaching Arabic in universities especially in the United States and the Arab world. For Europe, there is a general presentation of the methods and manuals used in various European universities (Kees Versteegh, The Netherlands), as well as case studies in Great Britain and Belgium. The Department of Arabic and Arab literature at the University of Bucharest is the only one in Central and Eastern Europe whose teaching experience was presented in this volume. The presentation mentioned also provides information on the curriculum, syllabi and the general direction of our teaching activity.

Some of the information above, about the way we conceive the teaching of Arabic, is to be found in French in the article *L'Arabe: modèle de description et méthodes d'enseignement* by Nadia Anghelescu (*Kalimat al-Balamand*; 1996). A larger presentation can be found in Arabic, in Nadia Anghelescu's article "Al-dirasat al-'arabiyya fi Rumaniya", *Arab Journal of Culture*, ALECSO, Issue 42, March 2002.

The relations with the Arab-teaching centers in the Arab world and Europe, which had started before 1990, were reflected in invitations for our teaching staff to deliver conferences or teach in various universities in Europe and the Arab world.

1.2. Research; published work

The research conducted by the Department staff, as well as by all other Arabists in Romania, almost all of them graduates of the Department for Arabic and Arab Literature in the 50 years since its inception, can be found in the bibliography published by Ioana Feodorov in 2001 under the title *The Arab World in Romanian Culture. 1957-2001* (Biblioteca Bucurestilor Press). The bibliography comprises two parts. The first one deals with original contributions: books, studies, articles on Arabs and Arab civilization, as well as the cultural connections between Arabs and Romanians. The second part focuses on the translations from classical and modern literary philosophical, religious, mystical texts, etc.

Although it is difficult to make a general assessment of the research conducted in the time covered by this bibliography and after 2000, a few observations can be made:

1. The research conducted on the Arab and Arab-Islamic language, literature and civilization is almost entirely authored by the teaching staff of the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature and by its graduates.

2. The largest part of that research focuses on Arab linguistics: linguistic anthropology, the history of Arab linguistics, phonetics and phonology, grammar, lexicology and dialectology are approached in papers published in Romania and abroad, which papers contributed to the placing of the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature among those centers for linguistic research with a solid international reputation.

3. Research in the field of Arab studies (language, literature, cultural studies etc.) is placed within the tradition of Western Arab studies, from which we all had a lot to learn.

The teaching staff of the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature have always been a visible presence in the life of the University and of the country in general. In the '80s we initiated the first scientific study group of linguistic typology for the teaching staff of the Teaching staff of Foreign Languages and Literatures; we participated in the conferences and symposia of our university, in the activity of humane sciences societies (The Romanian Society for Linguistics, the Orientalists' Association etc.). We collaborated with linguistics publications and we edited a 1994 special issue of the *Revue Roumaine de Linguistique*, dedicated to Arab linguistics. The teaching staff of the Department for Arabic and Arab literature substantially contributed to a 1995 special issue of the quarterly *Secolul 20*, dedicated to Egyptian literature and culture.

The old-generation Arabists working in the field of linguistics have become well-known in the country and abroad, in some important fields which will be mentioned further on. The acknowledgement given to the contributions of our teaching staff in the field of Arab linguistics is evident in the many invitations extended for participation in colloquia and conferences around the world, in their many published works in journals, collective and individually-authored volumes in

the West and in the Arab world beginning with the 1970s, and in the participation of many reputed foreign specialists in the cultural events organized in Bucharest, etc.

Among the teaching staff with works published abroad:

Nadia Anghelescu, in the fields of Arab linguistics and the history of Arab linguistics, linguistic anthropology and linguistic typology, interests reflected, among others, in books published in Italy and France, studies and articles published in books in the Western and the Arab world.

Nicolae Dobrișan, in the fields of Arab linguistics (especially lexicology and dialectology) and classical and modern Arab literature, with studies and articles published in Arab countries, especially Egypt;

George Grigore, in the field of Arab linguistics, especially „peripheral Arabic” (articles and studies published in journals in the Western and Arab countries), and Islamology.

Aside from our participation in colloquia of Arab linguistics in various Western and Arab countries (mirrored in the published proceedings of these events), an important role in the development of Arab Studies in Romania was played by the organization, in Bucharest, in 1994 and 2003, of two colloquia of Arab linguistics with a prestigious international guest list: Ahmad Mukhtar Omar (Egypt), Kees Versteegh (The Netherlands), Michael Carter (SUA; Australia), Ramzi Baalbaki (Lebanon), Jean-Patrick Guillaume (France), Georges Bohas (France), Alain Kaye (USA), Shukri Mabkhout (Tunisia) and many others who have remained our friends. The proceedings published after these colloquia enjoyed a warm welcome in the Arab Studies centers around the world (the proceedings of the first colloquium were distributed by the Dutch Institute for Oriental Studies).

The first colloquium of Arab linguistics – 1994 – also provided a gateway for the new generation of Arabists (George Grigore, Rodica Firănescu, Ioana Feodorov) who had then started their Ph.D. programs under the supervision of Prof. Nadia Anghelescu. Their Ph.D. theses eventually enriched the Romanian collection of Arab studies: George Grigore, *Traducerea Coranului în limba română. Istorie și probleme actuale*, Bucharest: Ararat, 1997; Rodica Bburuzan-Firănescu, whose thesis was published in English under the title *Exclamation in Modern Literary Arabic. A pragmatic perspective*, University of Bucharest Press, 2003; Ioana Feodorov, *Exprimarea gradăției în limba arabă. Studiu comparativ (Expressing Gradation in*

Arabic. A Comparative Study), Bucharest: Romanian Academy Press, 2002; Monica Broșteanu, Ph.D, *Divine Names in the Qur'ān and in the Bible and Their Translation into Romanian* (Polirom 2005).

Also teaching in our Faculty, in the English Department, is Andrei A. Avram, a graduate of our Department (with Arabic as a minor), a linguist of international repute, especially known for his work in Creole languages. As for Arab linguistics, his studies mainly focused on Arabic-based pidgins. He is a member of the Center for Arab Studies, an active participant in the organization of our colloquia of Arab linguistics and in the editing of their proceedings.

A Ph.D. thesis in the field of Arab and Semitic linguistics (*Cauzativul arab în perspectivă semitică* [The Arabic Causative in a Semitic Perspective]) was delivered by Adrian Măcelaru, a graduate of the Department of Arabic and Arab literature at the University of Bucharest and a long-time collaborator of the Center for Arab Studies. Adrian Măcelaru is a diplomat with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at present the Romanian ambassador to Qatar.

Some of the best students of the Arabic Department have shown interest in research as early as their college years. Their papers in the students' research groups, some of them eventually developed into B.A. papers, were published in *Revue Roumaine de Linguistique* and other journals: such is the case of some former students in the 1990s like Oana Badiu, Adrian Măcelaru, Dana Urmă etc. A significant trajectory from this perspective was Ovidiu Pietrăreanu's: from an award-winning paper on metaphors based on body parts in Arabic and other Semitic languages to an in-depth B.A. thesis on the same topic and on to the present work toward a Ph.D. thesis, parts of which have already been published in journals.

There is at present, at the University of Bucharest, a school of Arab linguistics of international prestige, as well as young researchers capable of carrying forth with its work. In other fields of Arab Studies we do not have enough specialists yet, but those who are already there, in our Department and elsewhere, are highly qualified.

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Among the teaching staff, those specializing in the teaching and research of literature were Prof. Nicolae Dobrișan, also qualified by a remarkable number of studies and translations (see below); also Ilie Bădicuț, who besides teaching Arabic literature also wrote studies and translated Arab poetry into Romanian (unfortunately,

without ever collecting it into a volume). After 1991, Rodica Firănescu (Buburuzan) taught Arab literature, translated several works (see below) and published studies.

Outside the University of Bucharest, the best known specialist in Arab literature (especially classical Arabic literature) is Grete Tartler, a 1976 graduate of the Arabic Department at the University of Bucharest, an author of numerous works on Arab culture and literature .

Among the Arabists of the newer generations there are many eager to specialize in the field of Arab literature. Some of them studied or are studying abroad to specialize in this field, and we hope they come back to enrich our department with the knowledge they have accumulated.

As for the study of Islam, George Grigore is the best known specialist in our department: the translation of the Qu'ran, as well as the numerous studies and articles in the area, highly recommend his skills in the field. Nicolae Dobrișan translated the Qu'ran and a work on the prophet Muhammad (see the author's presentation). Nadia Anghelescu has published a few works in the field, among which we might mention *Introducere în islam* [An Introduction to Islam] (Editura Enciclopedică, 1993) and an article on Muslims in Romania („La minorité musulmane de Roumanie", *Islamochristiana*, 25, Roma, 1999)

1.3. Translations

The relatively large number of translations from Arab literature published after 1970 is to a large extent authored by the graduates of the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature at the University of Bucharest, some of them later to become teaching staff of the same department. The works of translation published between 1957-2001 are reflected in Ioana Feodorov's bibliography mentioned above (see <http://www.unibuc.ro/eBooks/filologie/arab/>). We shall only mention here some of the best known translators, former graduates of this Department, with the observation that there are many others who, though not working in fields favoring such preoccupations, have proved their commitment to Arab literature by publishing translations in various journals and magazines.

It is impressive to see today how much Arab literature was translated into Romanian before 1990, and the circulation figures of such translations, especially

those in the well-known series *Biblioteca pentru toți (Everybody's Library)*: between 10,000 and 20,000 copies.

The presentations of the teaching staff in our department with a remarkable activity as translators, i.e. Nicolae Dobrișan and George Grigore, also include some of the titles of works they translated. Among the translators outside the Department, graduates of the Arabic specialty, a special mention should be made of Grete Tartler, author of a large number of translations from classical Arabic poetry and prose. Herself a poet, Grete Tartler managed to find excellent renditions for the classical Arab verse, as well as for the rhymed and rhythmic prose of *Maqamat*. Among the more recently published works, we can mention the second edition, revised and improved, of the translations from sapiential literature of the 5-14th centuries (*Înțelepciunea arabă /Arab Wisdom/*: Polirom, 2002). Some mentions of other translators, graduates of the Arabic Department, can be found in the chapter dedicated to the history of our department.

At present we do have, as we wanted to, translations of the Quran, of Arab pre-Islamic poetry, of classical Arab poetry, of some important prose writers from the classical era, translations from well-known modern poets and prose writers of the Arab world.

2. The Center for Arab Studies

The activities of research, publishing, translation, our relations with various equivalent institutions in the Arab and Western worlds have substantially increased after the establishment of the Center for Arab Studies at the University of Bucharest.

The Center for Arab Studies at the University of Bucharest was set up in 1994. The opening festivity of the Center was held under the patronage of the then-rector of the University, Prof. Emil Constantinescu, later president of Romania. The festivity was honored by the attendance of the Secretary General of the Arab League, dr. Ismet Abdel Meguid, who delivered an address in which he emphasized the importance given by the Arab League to the development of Arab Studies, the contribution they bring to mutual knowledge, and to the development of the relations between Romania and the Arab states. His Excellency also acknowledged the impressive achievements

of the Department for Arabic and Arab Studies, the books and translations published by the Romanian Arabists which had on that occasion been arranged in an exhibition.

The Center functions in close connection with the Department of Arabic and Arab Studies, but its membership, apart from the teaching staff and researchers at the University of Bucharest, includes teaching staff from other universities, researchers in various institutes and civil servants in institutions working with the Arab space. The Center is not a legal person, and does not receive subsidies, apart from a small salary paid to the librarian of the Center. At the beginning of its activity, the Center for Arab Studies and the University of Bucharest benefited from a substantial donation of computers, TV sets, a telephone exchange system and two minibuses. Since that time, we have received equipment from the Council of Arab Ambassadors accredited in Bucharest, as well as private donations from Arab ambassadors. The deans of the Arab diplomatic Corps have always shown particular interest in both the activity of the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature and that of the Center for Arab Studies.

The library of the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature was a part of the library of the Teaching staff of Foreign Languages and Literatures, from its inception until 2006. Since 1994, the year the Center for Arab Studies was set up within the University of Bucharest and on the premises of the Teaching staff of Foreign Languages and Literatures, the library has been operational at the headquarters of the Center and operated by a librarian hired through the Center. In 2006, the library was donated to the University of Bucharest and is at present in the custody of the Center for Arab Studies. In the past years, the library has expanded mostly by private donations of the teaching staff.

The main objective of the Center is developing in Romania the studies in Arab language, culture, and civilization and promoting cooperation with European and Arab countries toward that goal. The Center for Arab Studies has organized nine national colloquia on topics related to Arab culture, Romania between East and West, translations from Arabic, travels to the Orient, Oriental Studies etc., as well as two international colloquia on Arab linguistics (1994 and 2003), both with a prestigious guest list. A third colloquium, again on Arab linguistics, will be organized in May 2007.

With the support of the Rector's Office at the University of Bucharest, the Center for Arab Studies has been publishing the annual *Romano-Arabica* beginning

with 2001 (new series: two issues of the old series were published in the '70s). The journal is circulated in many universities and libraries in Europe, the United States and the Arab world. The board of reviewers includes renowned specialists in Arab studies around the world: Ramzi Baalbaki (Beirut), Michael G. Carter (Sidney), Jean-Patrick Guillaume (Paris), Hilary Kilpatrick (Zurich), Chokri Mabkhout (Tunis), Yordan Peev (Sofia), Stephan Prochazka (Vienna), André Roman (Lyon). Five thematic issues have come out so far, whose contents is introduced at the end: *The Orient - Here, Discourses on Love in the Orient, Arabic Linguistics, Translation from/into Arabic, Orientalism – Past and Present*.

The articles are mostly written by our Arabists, but there are issues which included the contributions of reputed foreign specialists. For instance, the issue on Orientalism includes articles by Prof. J. Waardenburg (Lausanne) and Prof. M. Borrmans (Rome). The issue on Arab linguistics, which comprises papers presented at the second international colloquium on Arab linguistics held in Bucharest in 2003, comprises contributions by numerous Arab and Western specialists.

Renowned specialists from abroad were invited to deliver conferences. Among them were Prof. Michele Vallaro (Turin), Prof. Hilary Waardenburg-Kilpatrick (Zürich), Prof. Jacques Waardenburg (Lausanne), Prof. Jérôme Lentin (Aix-en-Provence), Prof. Maurice Borrmans (Rome), Prof. Gregor Schoeler (Basel), dr. Jean Fontaine (Tunis). Unfortunately we were only able to benefit from a rather low number of Readers from Arab countries, although we wanted to host them in Bucharest and took action in that sense.

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The Center for Arab Studies at the University of Bucharest constantly cooperates with the Arab League's Education, Culture and Sciences Organization (ALECSO). Under the aegis and with the support of this organization, the Center for Arab Studies organized in Bucharest, in February 2002, the reunion of the heads of Arab Studies departments in the Central and East-European universities. The proceedings of the reunion were published by ALECSO the following year.

The Center for Arab Studies actively participates in various events promoting the dialogue of cultures and religions, i.e. the Euro-Arab and Islamic-Christian dialogue. Members of the Center participated in numerous such events which took place in Europe or various Arab countries. At the invitation of ALECSO, Prof. Nadia

Anghelescu took part in the Euro-Arab Conference for Culture in Paris, in 2002. The proceedings of that conference were published by ALECSO in 2003.

The Center for Arab Studies has collaborated with numerous universities, cultural institutions, and personalities in Europe and the Arab world. Among these universities are those in Lyon (II and III), Torino, Basel, Sofia, Budapest, Tunis, Cairo, Damascus etc.

The Center has had a fruitful cooperation with the Council of Arab Ambassadors accredited in Bucharest (part of them delivered conferences to our students), as well as with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We are glad to note that our support is useful for bridging relations between Romania and the Arab states.

3. A brief history of the Department of Arabic and Arab literature

Before the Department of Arabic and Arab literature was set up at the University of Bucharest, there were no serious attempts at introducing the study of Arabic in any educational institutions in Romania. Likewise, there had been no cultural preoccupations of any consequence or consistency within an organized frame. When speaking about Arab Studies in Romania, we usually trace it back to Dimitrie Cantemir in the 18th century (a researcher of the Islam rather than an Arabist); in all fairness, however, it is only with Timotei Cipariu in the 19th century that we have an early Arabist here: he studied Arabic and Arab literature on his own and mastered them to a level that allowed him to recite Arab poetry before and after the Islam, and to consider publishing Arab authors in Romanian. After him, no one studies Arab letters with quite the same passion he had until the middle of the 20th century.

As with other departments of Oriental languages, that of Arabic and Arab literature first functioned under the administrative umbrella of the Department for Classical Languages and General Linguistics. Its teaching staff included renowned specialists in Indo-European studies and old Indo-European languages, most of them „Oriental”, among which the then head of department, Academy member **Alexandru Graur**, himself a classical and Indo-European studies scholar and linguist of international repute, who employed his cultural prestige, his intellectual openness, his interest in training young Orientalists for all fields, for furthering the teaching and

research of Oriental languages at the University of Bucharest. and the first motor force of Oriental studies in the University of Bucharest, the first head of the independent Department of Oriental Languages , **Cicerone Poghirc**.

The institutional framework in which the teaching staff of the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature carried its activity varied along time. At first there was a Department of Classical and Oriental Languages, then a Department of Oriental Studies, then a Department of Classical and Oriental Languages and General Linguistics, then it grew into a Department of Romance, Classical and Oriental Languages.

Although the size of such departments was dictated by reasons of an administrative and financial order, now we can say that placing the newly-established specializations, with no research experience, next to those with much a older tradition, was beneficial for the training and subsequent evolution of the teaching staff of the new specializations. The training of the first teaching staff members, as well as the entire activity of the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature, was positively influenced by the atmosphere of intellectual rigor created by the professors of the Department of Classical Philology and General Linguistics.

In all institutional frameworks so far, the Department of Arabic and Arab literature functioned next to other „Oriental” departments, especially Chinese and Turkish, which were set up at almost the same time as the Arab department; then next to others like Hindi, Japanese, Persian, Rromani etc. Although these are languages of different linguistic background, in general from different cultural areas, we always found a communication ground and possibilities for common action. These possibilities existed mainly because of our status as pioneers in introducing subjects and research topics, because of our common difficulties, and also because of the satisfactions granted by this status. We have always found common points of debate and research, born out of our condition as „Orientalists”. „Orientalism” itself, nowadays a ground for ideological confrontation, constituted a topic for debates in the colloquia organized by the Center for Arab Studies at the University of Bucharest. These and other topics, such as *Travels in the Orient*, *Romanian knowledge of the Orient*, *Oriental influences in Romanian language and culture*, *Love in the Orient*, were also the main topics for issues of *Romano-Arabica*, the journal published by the

Center for Arab Studies; some of the contributors were colleagues in other departments of Oriental languages and literatures.

On the other hand, the members of that department benefited from a high-quality study program and a research that was synchronic to that in western universities. This atmosphere existed in the Teaching staff of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Bucharest long before there was the real possibility for the teaching staff to travel to the West for specialization, conferences or events. Travels to the Orient were not easy for the student and teaching staff, either. We hope that the new generations will know how to make the best use of the universities and research centers in the West and in the Arab world, in order to train themselves and teach their students according to the exigencies of our European status.

3.1. Former teaching staff of the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature

When the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature was set up in 1957, it only had one professor who covered all the theoretical and practical courses and seminars: **Yves Goldenberg**. Born in Cairo in 1929, he studied in Arab schools, which was unusual in the francophone environment he lived in. This provided him with the opportunity of a deep knowledge of both literary Arabic, which he loved religiously, and classical and modern Arabic literature. His philological specialization was not done in Egypt (he was by training a chemical engineer), but after he had come to Romania; he was a graduate of the French department of our university. He died too soon (in 1977, at not even 50) to finish his Ph.D. in linguistics, which he had started with Prof. Al. Graur. His written work is not extensive, but what there is of it is of an exceptional quality. Most of his articles were published in *Revue Roumaine de Linguistique* between 1970-1976 and focus on the phonology, metrics and morphology of literary Arabic, as well as on Arab dialectology, especially the Egyptian dialect. He also dealt with the heritage of the famous Romanian 19th Arabist Timotei Cipariu, whose works he introduced in a number of articles published in Romania, as well as in a paper presented at the 29th Congress of Orientalists (Paris, 1973). Unfortunately, his research in this field was not carried on.

For years he worked on a Handbook of Arabic, which had not been finished at the time of his death. The volume was published posthumously in 1978, edited by Nadia Anghelescu, at the Copy Center of the University of Bucharest (reprinted by Spiru Haret University Press in 2000) and has to this day remained the only full and reliable handbook of Arabic for beginners, in Romanian.

His students, among which there are, in the department today, Nadia Anghelescu and Nicolae Dobri^oan, have fond memories of him. He had all the qualities of an ideal professor: an excellent knowledge of the topic, an exceptional communication ability, a warm voice, a sense of humor, love of the students. At a time when accessing western sources was not easy, he based his course and research on precisely such sources (especially French), thus conveying to his students a respect for European Orientalism and urging them to follow in its steps. By the motor spirit that moved his entire activity, Yves Goldenberg left an indelible print on the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature.

In 1960 **Olga Nagy** joined the Department. She was a citizen of the Soviet Union and had studied Arabic there, and she took over the teaching of Arab literature, beginning with pre-Islamic literature through the premodern one, until 1971, when she went back to the Soviet Union.

In 1966, after four years with the Romanian National Radio Station in the Arabic department, **Ilie Bădicuț** joins the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature at the University of Bucharest as a Reader. He was a 1962 graduate of the University of Leningrad, specialized in Arabic. Ilie Bădicuț, co-author of an Arab-Romanian dictionary and author of a collection of Arab proverbs (*Proverbe arabe*, Ars Longa, 2007), taught classical and modern Arab literature, and applied Arabic classes. He retired in 2000; his former students remember him for his erudition and his untiring willingness to share his knowledge.

In the 1980's, **Mioara Roman** joined the department as a Reader, specializing first in teaching Arabic civilization, then modern and premodern Arab literature. She taught in the department until 2001, when she retired and continued her activity in the same field, as a Reader with a private university. As Mioara Georgescu, she is the co-author, together with Rodica Georgescu, of *Dosarul problemei palestiniene* [The Palestinian Issue: A Case Study] (Politică, 1977).

Among those who worked with the department, but no longer employed there at present, are **Rodica Firănescu Buburuzan**, who joined the teaching staff as a TA in 1991. She is a Ph.D. in Arab linguistics. Her dissertation on linguistic pragmatics was written under the supervision of Prof. Nadia Anghelescu and published in English under the title *Exclamation in Modern Literary Arabic. A pragmatic perspective*. She published articles in the field of linguistic pragmatics and other fields of Arab linguistics and literature. She was also a very good translator of Arab poetry and prose – see, for instance, her translation of Jubran Khalil Jubran's *Aripile frânte* (Broken Wings), 1989.

Ioana Feodorov came to the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature in 1994, after having previously worked as a translator in commercial exporting companies and at the National Radio Broadcasting Company, and as a researcher with the Institute of Literary History and Theory and the Sergiu Al George Institute for Oriental Studies. She specialized in Arab linguistics, especially lexicology. That was also the topic of her Ph.D. thesis, under the supervision of Prof. Nadia Anghelescu, later published as *Exprimarea gradapiei în limba arabă. Studiu comparativ* [Expressing Gradation in Arabic. A Comparative Study. Academiei Române, 2003]. Especially in the later years she dealt with the Romanian-Arab cultural relations, Christian Arab literature, and works in Arabic on the history of Romania, of which she has translated a few. “La Chronique de Valachie (1292-1664). Tawarikh wa ‘akhbar mukhtasira ‘an efendiyyat al-‘Aflakh”, translated from Arabic into French, with an introduction, notes, index and glossary, in *Mélanges de l’Université SJ*, t.LII, Beirut, 1991-1992. Beginning with 2005 she no longer works in the Department.

In the years 1978-1980, **Gheorghe Țârlescu** taught Arabic in our Department. He had studied for a while at the University of Bagdad and was a graduate of the University of Bucharest, and later a diplomat with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ambassador. He published a few dictionaries and translations from Arabic.

Between 1995 and 1998, **Mihai Dat** was a Teaching Assistant at the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature. Later he pursued a Ph.D. program in Semitic studies in France, where he is still working at present.

Between 1993 and 2002, the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature benefited from the presence of two Egyptian Readers, Mahmud El-Masamir and Abdou El-Gom'a, who taught the applied classes of Arabic.

Short term collaborators of the Department, without being employed by the University, include Grete Tartler, Petre Buruiană, Doru Costea, Shafiq al-Beqa'i (Lebanon), Muhammad 'Abdullah.

4. Present-day teaching staff of the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature

Professor Nadia Anghelescu, Ph.D.

A. Teaching and scholarly activities

- Enrolled at the University of Bucharest, the Department of Arabic and Arab literature, between 1957-1962. Since 1962 she has been teaching within the same department.
- Ph.D. in linguistics, University of Bucharest (thesis defended in 1971). Professor at UB since 1991.
- Since 1962, she has been teaching Arab linguistics, Arabic syntax, Arabic semantics, Arab cultural anthropology etc. at the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature; a course of general linguistics at the the Department of Arabic and Arab Literature and other departments of Oriental languages; and a course on languages and cultural identities in the graduate school of the same university. Beginning with the academic year 2005-2006, she has been in charge of the M.A. program „The Middle East: Languages and Cultures in Contact”. Within the series, she has been delivering the course „Multiple identities in the Arab world: past and present”.
- She has been a doctoral advisor in the fields of general linguistics and Arab language and literature since 1983. Sixteen doctoral students, Romanian or from various Arab countries (Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Iraq, Morocco) concluded their doctoral papers under her supervision, and six more are at various stages of writing their doctoral theses.
- Head of the Department of Oriental Languages (at various points also the Department of Classical and Oriental Languages, and the Department of Romance and Oriental Languages) between 1977 and 1994.
- Head of the Center for Arab Studies from the moment it was established, in 1994.

- Guest Professor in Rome (Pontificio Istituto di Studi Arabi e d'Islamistica, 1991), and Paris (Collège de France, 1992; Ecole Normale Supérieure de Fontenay-Saint Cloud, 1999); Associate Professor at Université Jean Moulin in Lyon, France, 2001-2002.
- Conferences at the University of Damascus and the University of Alep, 1975; Lyon 1992, 2001, 2002; Kuwait and Qatar, 1993; Beirut and Tripoli, 1995; Genève, Bâle, Fribourg, 1996; Abu Dhabi, 1997; Oslo and Bergen, 2001, etc..
- Participation in scientific colloquia on Arabic linguistics and Arab culture (Nijmegen, Budapest, Berne, Edinburgh, Paris, Beirut, Tetouan, Damascus, Tunis etc.); organizer of international colloquia of Arab linguistics (Bucharest 1994; Bucharest 2003) and of a colloquium on Arab Studies in East-European countries, in collaboration with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) (Bucharest 2002).
- Participation in colloquia on the dialogue between Arab and European cultures, in Arab countries and Europe, the latest being the Euro-Arab Conference for the Dialogue of Cultures (*Pour un vivre ensemble fondé sur une meilleure connaissance de l'Autre*) organized by the Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) and Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris (July 2002).
- Editor of the new series of the yearly journal *Romano-Arabica*, published by the Center for Arab Studies at the University of Bucharest.
- Editor of the *Proceedings of the Colloquium on Arabic Linguistics, Bucharest, August 29-September 2, 1994*, Bucharest, UB Press, 1995., vol. I, with Andrei A. Avram; vol. II, with N. Dobrișan.
- Member of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic
- Member of the advisory board of the journals *Linguistique Arabe et Sémitique* (Paris and Lyon), *Kalimat* (Balamand, Lebanon), *Kervan* (on line, Torino).

B. Main published works

a. Books:

- *Curs de sintaxă a limbii arabe moderne* [Syntax of the Modern Arabic Language], Bucharest, UB Press, 1973;

- *Problemele limbii în cultura arabă* [Language Issues in Arab Culture], Bucharest, UB Press, 1983.
- *Semantica modalităților în limba arabă* [The Semantics of Modalities in Arabic], Bucharest, UB Press, 1981.
- *Limba și cultură în civilizația arabă* [Language and Culture in the Arab Civilization], Bucharest, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1986.
- *Introducere în islam* [Introduction to Islam], Bucharest, Ed. Enciclopedică, 1993.
- *Linguaggio e cultura nella civiltà araba* [Language and Culture in the Arab Civilization], Italian revised and enlarged version, transl. Michele Vallaro, Torino, Ed. Silvio Zamorani, 1993.
- *Langage et culture dans la civilisation arabe* [Language and Culture in the Arab Civilization], revised and enlarged version, transl. Viorel Vișan, *Forewords* by Jean-Louis Roy and Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Paris, L'Harmattan, 1995.
- *Al-'Istishraq wa al-hiwar al-thaqafiyy* [Orientalism and the Cultural Dialogue], Sharjah, Mansurat da'irat al-thaqafa wa al-'i'lam, 1999.
- *Limba arabă în perspectivă tipologică* [The Arabic Language in a Typological Perspective], Bucharest, EUE, 2000. (with an English abstract).
- *La langue arabe dans une perspective typologique*; Bucharest, UB Press, 2004 revised and enlarged version.
- *Introducere în studiul limbii* [Introduction to Language Studies], Bucharest, UB Press, 2007.

b. Contributions to collective volumes:

- *World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts*, ed. by Geoffrey Roper, London: Al Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, 1992, *Romania* (an inventory of Islamic manuscripts in Romania).
- *Arabic Grammar and Linguistics*, ed. by Yasir Suleiman, Richmond Surrey: Curzon Press, 1999.
- *Du dialogue euro-arabe: Exigences et perspectives*, Tunis, ALECSO 2003.
- *Handbook for Arabic Language Teaching Professionals in the 21st Century*, ed. by Kassem M. Wahba, Zeinab A. Taha, Liz England, Mawah, New Jersey and London: Lawrence Erlbaum, 2006

- *Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Literature*, Leiden: Brill, 2005-2007 (contributions to vol. III and IV).

B. Other works:

- 49 studies and articles on Arab and general linguistics published in collective volumes or journals, in Romania (*Revue Roumaine de linguistique*, *Cahiers de Linguistique théorique et appliquée*, *Limba Română*, *Studia et Acta Orientalia*, *Romano-Arabica*), and abroad (Lebanon, Hungary, Tunisia, Poland, The Netherlands, France, Germany), in the international journal of the history of linguistics *Historiographia Linguistica*; 28 articles on Arab culture, Islam, Arab literature published in journals in Romania and abroad.

Professor Nicolae Dobrișan, Ph.D.

A. Teaching and research

He studied Arabic and Romanian at the Teaching staff of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest, between 1958-1963. Ever since he graduated he has worked without interruption within the Department of Oriental Languages, going through all the stages of an academic career: junior teaching assistant (1963), teaching assistant (1965), Reader (1967), associate professor (1991), professor (1997). He became a Ph.D. in 1983.

- He has taught practical courses, then contemporary Arabic, Arabic civilization, Arab lexicology, dialectology, classical and modern Arab literature, in all years of study.

- His research has focused mainly on lexicology, dialectology, popular Arab literature, Romanian-Arab cultural contacts, classical and modern Arab literature. He has published 16 studies in specialized journals in Romania, and 20 studies in journals from Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, Morocco (15 of them were published in the journal of the Arabic Language Academy in Cairo).

- In 1996 he was elected a correspondent member of the Arabic Language Academy in Cairo. He participated with papers in all the sessions of this Academy between 1996-2007. In 2002 he was elected correspondent member of the Syrian Academy of Sciences.

- He participated in international colloquia organized in Bucharest, Morocco, Bahrain and Iraq.

- He published numerous articles, interviews, translations, comments in the Romanian press, especially in the weekly *România Literară* and the quarterly *Secolul XX*. Member of the Writers' Union of Romania.

B. Main published work:

a. Manuals, dictionaries

Curs de fonetica și morfologia limbii arabe contemporane [Phonetics and Morphology of the Contemporary Arabic Language], EUB, 1975.

Curs de lexicologie arabă [A Course in Arabic Lexicology], Bucharest, UB Press, 1984.

Vocabular român-arab. Arhitectură, construcții civile, drumuri și poduri [Romanian-Arabic Vocabulary for Architecture, Civil Engineering, Roads and Bridges], Bucharest, 1988; Bucharest, Teora, 1993; *Dicționar arab-român* [Arabic -Romanian Dictionary] (with George Grigore), Bucharest, Teora, 1998

b. Translations

Taha Hussein: *Zilele* [The Days], translation, preface and notes, Bucharest, ELU, 1969; *Proverbe, maxime și aforisme* [Proverbs, Maxims and Aphorisms], translation and notes, Bucharest, Albatros, 1976; *Antologia nuvelei arabe* [An Anthology of Arab Short Stories], translation, preface and notes, vol. 1-2, Buc., 1980; *Antologie de poezie arabă (perioada clasică)* [An Anthology of Arabic Poetry. The Classical Period], translation, anthology and notes (with Grete Tartler), vol. 1-2, Bucharest, Minerva, 1982; Naghib Mahfouz, the trilogy: *Bayna el-Qasrein*, 2 vol. (1984), *Qasr eș-Şawq*, 2 vol. (1987), *Es-Sukkariyya*, 2 vol.(1988); Bucharest, Minerva, and other novels by Naghib Mahfouz; *Basme arabe* [Arab Tales], translation, preface and notes, 2 vol., Bucharest, Minerva, 1991 and other anthologies of Arab tales; *Coranul cel Sfânt* [The Holy Qu'ran], Bucharest, Islamic Cultural Center, 1994; Muhammad Hussein Haykal , *Viața lui Muhammad* [The Life of Muhammad], Bucharest, Islamic Cultural Center.

Associate Professor George Grigore, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, joined the Department in 1997, after a time spent working as a translator of Arabic at the local branches in Libya and Iraq of the Romanian Company Rompetrol. Graduated the Teaching staff of Foreign Languages and Literatures of the

University of Bucharest in 1983 (Arabic and Chinese), and earned his Ph.D. degree, in 1997, from the same University with a dissertation published under the title *Problematica traducerii Coranului în limba română* [Translating the Qu'ran into Romanian. History and Present Issues], (Bucharest: Ararat, 1997), having Prof. Dr. Nadia Anghelescu as Academic Research Advisor.

Affiliations:

- Center for Arab Studies, University of Bucharest (1994);
- Association Internationale de Dialectologie Arabe (2000);
- Honorary Member of the Iraqi Writers' Union (2000);
- Writers' Union of Romania (2002);
- Romanian Association for Religious Studies (2005).

Other activities:

- In 2000, as project coordinator for the Kriterion Publishing House, he launched the *Bibliotheca Islamica* collection, where he edited numerous fundamental works of Islamic culture (translated from Arabic by himself, from Turkish and Persian by other specialists).
- Since 2001, he has been the associate editor of *Romano-Arabica*, the academic journal published by the Center for Arab Studies of the University of Bucharest.
- He held conferences at the University of Baghdad 1999; Casablanca 2003, Sharja 2003, Tripoli (Libya) 2006.
- He participated in colloquia on Arabic dialectology (Marrakech 2000, Cadiz 2002, Tunis 2004, Maryland 2006, and Vienna 2006) and on Islamic studies (Baghdad 1999, Istanbul 2000 and 2004, Tétouan 2001, Casablanca 2003, London 2005, Mardin 2006, Siirt 2006, etc.).

Main published works

a. Monographs:

- *Shujitorii Diavolului; Cartea Neagră, Cartea Dezvăluirii* [Worshippers of the Devil. The Black Book, The Book of Revelation], Călin, 1994;
- *Problematica traducerii Coranului în limba română* [Translating the Qu'ran into Romanian. History and Present Issues], Foreword by Nadia Anghelescu, Ararat, 1997;

- *L'arabe parlé à Mardin. Monographie d'un parler arabe "périphérique"*, Bucharest: UB Press, 2007;

b. Dictionaries and manuals:

- *Dicționar arab-român* [Arabic-Romanian Dictionary], with Nicolae Dobrișan, Teora, 1998, 2007;
- *Qāmūs ġumal wa 'ibārāt 'arabī-rūmānī* [Arabic-Romanian Dictionary if Idiomatic Phrases, a. o., Arkan (Baghdad), 1995;
- *Limba arabă – pronunție și scriere* [The Arabic Language – Pronunciation and Writing], "România de Mâine" Foundation, 2002, 2006.

c. Translated books:

1. from Arabic into Romanian:

- *Povești irakiene* [Iraqi Folk Tales], Coresi, 1993;
- *Coranul* [The Qur'an], Kriterion, 2000; 2002; Herald, 2005, 2006;
- Al-Ghazali, *Firida luminilor* [The Niche of Lights], in the volume *Călăuza dervişului – din mistica islamică* [The Dervish's Guide – Islamic Mysticism], with Luminița Munteanu, Kriterion, 2001;
- Ibn Tufayl, *Hayy bin Yaqzan*, Kriterion, 2001;
- Ibn Ru'ḍ, *Cuvânt hotărâtor* [The Decisive Word], Kriterion, 2001;
- Badiuzzaman Said Nursi, *Cuvinte* [Words], Nesil Yayınları, Istanbul, 2002;
- Ibn 'Arabi, *Geneza cercurilor* [The Genesis of Circles], in the volume *Geneza cercurilor, Filiația spirituală* [The Genesis of Circles, The Spiritual Filiation], with Rodica Firănescu, Kriterion, 2003;
- *Al-Qur'an – Coranul* [bilingual edition, Arabic-Romanian], Çağrı Yayınları, Istanbul, 2003;
- *Ochiul lăuntric – perspective islamice asupra divinității* [The Inner Eye. Islamic Perspectives on Divinity], Herald, 2005.

b. from Romanian to Arabic:

- *Kāna yağibu – Šu'ara' rūmāniyyūna mu'āsirūna* [It should have been – Romanian Contemporary Poets], with Kamel Oued Al-Amiri, Ibdā' (Baghdad), 1995;
- Marin Sorescu, *Al-mağrā* [The Mould], Dār aš-šu'ūn ath-thaqāfiyya al-'āmma, (Baghdad), 1997, 2000;

- Carolina Ilica, *Tughyān al-hulm* [The Tyranny of the Dream], Maison Naaman pour la Culture (Jounieh – Lebanon), 2002.

C. Other works

George Grigore published studies on the *Qur'an* and Islam, as well as on the Arabic dialects (with a special focus on the dialects of Mardin and Baghdad) in *Revue Roumaine de Linguistique*, *Romano-Arabica*, *Caietele Institutului Catolic "Sfânta Tereza"*, *Folia Orientalia*, *Middle Eastern Literatures*, *Babel*, *Balamand*, *AIDA's Proceedings* etc.

Beyond the field of Arabistics, he also undertook researches in Kurdish Studies.

He currently teaches courses in Arabic Grammar (morphology, syntax), Islamic studies, Baghdadi Arabic.

Associate Professor Monica Broșteanu, Ph.D

Associate Professor **Monica Broșteanu**, Ph.D., graduated from the Teaching staff of Foreign Languages and Literatures of the University of Bucharest in 1978 and worked as an interpreter and translator for two Romanian Companies having projects in Libya, Syria and Iraq. She acquired her Ph.D. degree in 2003 from the same University with the dissertation *The Divine Names in the Qur'ān and in the Bible and Their Translation into Romanian* (Polirom 2005), under the supervision of Prof. Nadia Anghelescu. She joined the Department in 2005. Previously her academic career had started at the Catholic Institute in Bucharest, from which she had graduated in 1996 and where she taught English Linguistics as well as Liturgy and Sacramental Theology. Now she teaches Arabic Morphology, a course in Specialized Vocabularies, a practical course in Business Arabic and she delivers a series of lectures about the Problems of Bible and Qur'ān translation within the M.A. program.

Ovidiu Pietrăreanu

Ovidiu Pietrăreanu, teaching assistant, doctoral student, has been working in the Department of Arabic and Arab literature since 2001, the year he graduated from the Teaching staff of Foreign Languages and Literatures with a specialization in Arabic and Latin. In 2003 he graduated from the M.A. program in Hebrew Culture and Civilization with the dissertation „Love and Debauchery in the Prophetic Writings of the Old Testament”, and since 2002 he has been a doctoral student under the

supervision of Prof. Nadia Anghelescu, writing a thesis entitled „The Metaphorization of Body Part Names in Arabic in a Semitic Context”. He has published articles in the journal *Romano-Arabica*. At present he is teaching practical courses in Arabic.

Laura Sitaru

Laura Sitaru, teaching assistant, doctoral student, has been working in the Department of Arabic and Arab literature since 2002, when she graduated from the Teaching staff of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Bucharest, with a specialization in Arabic and Italian. In 2004 she graduated from the M.A. program of The History of Ideas and Mentalities within the School of History at the same university; her M.A. thesis was on „Gabaliyya – A Problematic Origin”, and since 2005 she has been working under the supervision of Prof. Lucian Boia on a Ph.D. thesis on „Key Concepts in Arab Political Terminology. A Linguistic, Historical and Political Study”. She has published articles in the journals *Romano-Arabica*, *Revista de istorie sociala* [The Journal of Social History], *Revista Institutului Diplomatic Roman* [The Journal of the Romanian Diplomatic Institute] and *Revista de Politica Internationala* [The Journal of International Politics]. At present she is teaching practical courses in Arabic and courses in Arab-Islamic civilization.

Note: The list of publications up to 2001 can be found in Ioana Feodorov, *The Arab World in Romanian Culture*, Bucharest: Editura Biblioteca Bucureștilor, 2001.

No. 1 (2001): *The Orient-here*

- Nadia Anghelescu: *At the Gates of the Orient*
Nicolae Dobrișan: *Cuvintele de origine arabă în presa română actuală*
Ioana Feodorov: *Romanian translations of Arabic literature (1964-1994)*
Rodica Firănescu: *L'expression, Ce să facem?! Asta e! – réflexe de résignation
« orientale »?*
Oana Ghica; Mihai Pătru: *Muzica și instrumentele muzicale orientale în România*
George Grigore: *Manger « à l'orientale » en Roumanie*
Luminița Munteanu: *Orientaux ou Balkaniques? Difficultés et enjeux des définitions
identitaires dans l'espace sud-est européen*
Sorina Nae: *Ginnul ca personaj fantastic în O mie și una de nopți*
Ovidiu Pietrăreanu: *Prezența arabă în Spania: subiect de controversă în spațiul
european*
Irina Vainovski-Mihai: *Tradiții orientale în România: Cafea și cafenele*
Florentina Vișan: *China – limita maximă a alterității*

No. 2 (2002): *Discourses on love in the Orient*

- Nadia Anghelescu: *L'amour-passion et ses métaphores dans Le collier du pigeon
d'Ibn Hazm*
Madeea Axinciuc: *Folds of love (t)issue in Maimonides' Guide for the Perplexed*
Radu Bercea: *Kâma : le monde indien sous le signe du « désir »*
Nicolae Dobrișan: *Hypostases of Love in Najib Mahfuz's Trilogy*
Ioana Feodorov: *Is love gradable?*
Rodica Firănescu: *De l'amour et la coquetterie en Islam arabe médiéval : la
perspective d'as-Suyuti*
Simona Galațchi: *Eroticism or Pornography at the Indian Tantric Temples from the
tenth to twelfth centuries*
Delia Grigore: *Marriage's Rules of Purity in the Traditional Culture of Rroma from
Romania*
George Grigore: *Le concept d'amour chez Ibn 'Arabi*
Dinu Luca: *Love on a Jade Terrace: Xu Ling's Preface and the Poetics of Desire in
Medieval China*
Otilia Milutin: *The Rehabilitation of the Seductress in The Tale of Genji*
Luminița Munteanu: *Amour mystique et amour profane dans la littérature turque
d'inspiration soufique*
Ovidiu Pietrăreanu: *Métaphores et allégories liées à l'amour et à la débauche dans
les écrits prophétiques de l'Ancient Testament*
Rodica Pop: *Chamanes, astrologues et chants d'amour chez les Mongols*
Sabina Popârlan: *La polysémie discursive de la chrono-tropologie sélénienne dans la
poésie hindi d'amour*
Laura Sitaru: *L'amour dans la vision de la mystique Rabi'a*
Irina Vainovski-Mihai: *Putting Love on Stage: Tears in Imru'u-l Qays' Mu'allaqā*

Florentina Vișan: *Courtesan Love in Classical China*

No. 3 (2003): Arabic Linguistics

- Nadia Angheliescu: *Le rôle de la métaphore dans les explications d'Ibn Ğinnī*
Andrei A. Avram: *Arabic pidgins and creoles from a comparative perspective*
Ramzi Baalbaki: *Some considerations of word order in kāna constructions*
Monica Broșteanu: *Problèmes concernant la traduction en roumain de quelques « noms divins » coraniques*
Nicolae Dobrișan: *Al-mud}āf wa-l-mud}āf 'ilay-hi and genitive exponents in Arabic Dialects*
Ioana Feodorov: *Middle Arabic Elements in Two Texts from Macarius Ibn al-Za'īm's Maġmū' lat}īf*
Daniela Rodica Firănescu: *Ma'ānī al-kalām chez al-Zarkašī. Interrogation et performance*
George Grigore: *Quelques traces du contact linguistique dans le parler arabe de Mardin (Turquie)*
Jean-Patrick Guillaume: *'A tarfa'u Filast}īn? ou de quoi rient les grammairiens arabes?*
Alan S. Kaye: *Semantic Transparency and Number Marking in Arabic and Other Languages*
Pierre Larcher: *Du jussif au conditionnel en arabe classique: une hypothèse dérivationnelle*
Adrian Măcelaru: *Semantic parameters and Literary Arabic form II causatives*
Ovidiu Pietrăreanu: *Remarques sur le processus de métaphorisation de quelques noms de parties du corps en arabe*
Kees Versteegh: *Phonological constraints in Arabic grammatical theory: the iltiqā' as-sākinayn*

No. 4 (2004): Translation from/into Arabic

- Nadia Angheliescu: *L'Orient « exotique » dans la littérature traduite de l'arabe*
Monica Broșteanu: *Solutions offertes pour trois versets difficiles du Psaume XVI par quelques traductions arabes*
Nicolae Dobrișan: *Extratextuality and the Translation of Fictional Work from Arabic into Romanian*
George Grigore: *Les contraires – al-'ad}dād – dans le Coran et leur équivalence dans les traductions*
Ovidiu Pietrăreanu: *Les équivalents de quelques métaphores dans la version roumaine des maqāmāt d'al-H}arīrī*
Irina Vainovski-Mihai: *Cultural Determinations in Translating Al-Mu'allaqāt*

No. 5 (2005): Orientalism – Past and Present

Jacques Waardenburg: *La condition humaine des orientalistes. Une esquisse*

Nadia Anghelescu: *Orientalism seen from the East*

Maurice Borrmans: *L'orientalisme à la mesure du dialogue interculturel*

Florentina Vişan: *Orientalism and the teaching of Oriental languages in the University of Bucharest*