

## SCIENTIFIC LIFE

### A CONFERENCE ON “THE NEW HUMAN OF EUROPE”

On May 23-24, in Chişinău, in the Conference Room of the Palace of Republic, took place the International Scientific Conference “The New Human of Europe: models, prototypes, ideals”, organized by the Chair of Universal Literature and the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures of the Moldova State University, in partnership with the Moldovan representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Romanian Cultural Institute. In the festive opening session of the conference (moderated by Mrs. Tatiana Ciocoi, PhD, Chief of the Chair of Universal Literature, MSU) a word of greeting was sent by Mr. Matthias Meyer, ambassador of Germany in Republic of Moldova, and Mr. Marius Lazurcă, ambassador of Romania in Republic of Moldova. In the second day of conference participants were joined by Mr. Valeriu Matei, academician, director of the “Mihai Eminescu” Romanian Cultural Institute from Chişinău. Words of greeting were uttered by all the guests of honor.

There followed the Session I with an exceptional lecture “The Recent Human” by Mr. Horia-Roman Patapievici, philosopher, writer, scientist from Romania. In his speech he opted for a European civilization returned to Christian values and affirmed that cultural, economic and political development is due to Christianity. (Right to) property, law and morality are those three pylons that resist in any times. However the human of today, the “recent” one, disposes freedom and democratic values as never in the past, he became conformist and indifferent to the intellectual, spiritual and educational values. Redefining relations with values would be the most important lesson that the “recent” human would have to learn. The mental device of the European civilization was born in 325 in Nicaea, and since then there were formed many automatisms of perception, behavioral circuits, associations, different ones from other civilizations. The Romanian philosopher talked also about the transcendence relation of the modern human with the reality, about the redignity of Europe, about coming of nihilism, destruction of values that are not more creditable, about historical fracture produced by the people, about the human eroded from inside etc. The end of the lecture gave the opportunity to return and to redefine: “We all are recent. But we can’t be satisfied with this”.

In the plenary of the Session II communications were held by: Mrs. Ana Selejan, university professor, PhD, “Lucian Blaga” University from Sibiu, referring to the “Destiny of the new human as a compulsory literary character”; Mr. Gheorghe Manolache, university professor, PhD, “Lucian Blaga” University from Sibiu, who spoke about the “Avatars of the new human in Romanian prose of the ’80s”; Mr. Lucian Chişu, professor, Romanian Academy (Bucharest), pointing the temptations, challenges and ripostes of literature in the informational society of knowledge and talking about the new kind of intelligence, artificial one, that becomes more significant in the economy of knowledge. In my communication I referred to the new human of the online space called *homo digitus / homo digitalis*, that adds to other features of post-modernity the feature of the virtual human, who presses the keys (charged by an easily decipherable symbolism) ctrl + alt + delete, i.e. the human controls, alternates / chooses and forgets / (be)comes again.

Communications from the Session III were noteworthy by Mr. Vasile Spiridon, professor at “Vasile Alecsandri” University from Bacău (“The new human after *Adio, Europa!* by D. Sârbu”); Mr. Sergiu Pavlicenco, university professor, PhD, vice president of the General and Comparative Literature Association from Moldova, MSU, who outlined an unusual image of the retired human in contemporary literature; Mrs. Viorella Manolache, PhD, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations of the Romanian Academy (Bucharest), who gave arguments for “the third citizen”. Mrs. Maria Sleahitişchi, PhD, Chief of the Department for Research and Innovation, MSU,

referred to the characters, mentalities and behaviors in the novel of the 80s and noted, citing Eminescu, that *all is old and all is new*.

The second day of the conference, Sessions IV and V, was marked by the Balkan human (Anatol Moraru, PhD, "A. Russo" University from Bălți, "Representations of the Balkan human in Romanian literature"); by the "post" syndrome (Ion Plămădeală, PhD, Institute of Philology, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, "Literature and phantasm of meaning: reflections on the "post" syndrome); by the concept of crisis (Mircea V. Ciobanu, editor-in-chief, "Știința" Publishing House, "Identity crisis in *Prague Cemetery* by Umberto Eco"); by the biblical message (Ioana Scherf, PhD, Humboldt University from Berlin, in a meditation "How new is the *new human*"); by the public reading and show (Alexandru Laszlo, PhD, "G. Barițiu" National College of Cluj-Napoca, "*Lectura Dantis* seen as a literary show"). Mrs. Emilia Taraburca, PhD, MSU, dissociated the image of the human of Enlightenment from that of the contemporary human; Alex Cosmescu, PhD, Institute of Philology of the ASM, spoke in terms of otherness and "self escape" from the perspective of Em. Levinas; Mrs. Natalia Sporiș, PhD, MSU, received a perfect and prompt translation of her communication from Russian in Romanian by the session moderator Ivan Pilchin, relating about amnesia as a syndrome of the contemporary culture, but Ivan Pilchin, lecturer, MSU, revealed to the audience the "new spirit" in literature from the perspective of Guillaume Apollinaire, illustrating his communication with a *calligrammes*-poem "The small car" in the dynamic electronic form.

Session VI was focused on such phenomena as "massiveness" in the modern society, citing *Revolt of the masses* by J. Ortega y Gasset (Raisa Ganea, PhD, MSU); mercantilism of the modern human being is seen by the Bessarabian novelists of the nowadays generation (Iulian Ciocan, PhD, journalist, Radio Free Europe); *Homo sacer* ("the slaughtered human and simultaneously the human excluded from the sacred rite of society") (Maria Pilchin, lecturer, MSU). Dumitru Crudu, writer, director of the "Ștefan cel Mare" Library from Chișinău, brought up the image of the "new Moldovans", the post-Soviet ones, an eloquent case being that of Vasile Ernu. Ioana Petcu, PhD, "George Enescu" University of Arts from Iași, has developed to the audience the image of the new human from the Eastern European film of the '70s and 80s of the '20<sup>th</sup> century.

In the summary meeting the guests of the conference have reviewed the perspectives of the approaching to such a challenging topic with its endless openings. Mrs. Elena Prus, university professor, PhD, director of the Institute of Philology and Intercultural Researches (Moldova Free International University), spoke about the hypermodern individual and the world where everything becomes hyper. The conference was closed with an impressive speech by the event's moderator Mrs. Tatiana Ciocoi, "Under the sign of *pietas: The Red Human's Death* by Svetlana Alexievitch" – a pleading for freedom and equality in the modern world, a communication about the neurosis, crisis and great questions of the humanity, about the ungrateful *second-hand* times, about the technical destiny of the mankind in Heidegger's view, about the author's death and the death of the text, about the kitchen dissent, about books that became a cultural surrogate, about differences and diversity.

All communications that were presented live will be published in a volume of conference materials. The event was held in a collegial atmosphere, overflowing with ideas and proposals. Thanks of the organizers were expressed to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, to the Romanian Cultural Institute and to all who accepted the invitation to answer the question of the conference title.

Definition of what is European (*homo europeus*), Karl Schmidt as the first mayor of Chișinău, an old new human or a new old human, hyper-citizen, *homo oeconomicus*, discovering the Other and through the Other, *homo digitalis*, digital / technical Humanities, literature as a space that creates identity and includes multiple identities, labyrinth human, cultural marketing, strategies of the vulgarization of high texts, intertextuality as a gift... – all the subjects have had a point of convergence: "the human of Europe is doomed to progress".

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