

## The Contributions of the Economic Press from the Lower Danube to the Development of Romanian Culture and Literature during 1846 - 1915

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**Abstract:** This paper presents some of the research conducted on the Lower Danube Press. In its development it was intended to reveal important elements of the publication, in the economic domain, but also the contributions of the newspapers to the Romanian literature. The economic activity particularly intense in the Lower Danube area resulted in the release of a large number of magazines that supported this activity. The first magazine in Galati was published in 1846, called the *Dunărea/Danube*. Its content came in the support of the merchants, who dealt with trade, agriculture and navigation as *Mercur/Mercury* in Braila, following another publication in 1849 of economic from Galati, *Jurnalul de Galați/Galati Journal*. These first publications have in common their release in several European languages of interest to traders: Italian, it was preferred as it used the Latin alphabet and it was easier to print the publication, Greek or French. In this category of papers there were released newspapers of scholarships, commercial clubs, as an expression of the concerns of such members, among whom there were also the cultural ones. It was also highlighted the fact that these publications have contributed to the evolution of the Romanian language but also of literature, of course at a lower level than the literary publications. There have been discovered also publications that had nothing to do with literature or economic, financial or literary phenomena, their purpose being only publishing documents regulating the economic activities, one example being the *Semaphore de Brăila/Semaphore of Braila*. It was also noted the involvement of the authorities in the promotional activities of the economy through various publications with the title of calendars, monitors, or daily newspapers, which had a modest cultural contribution. Compared with other types of publications, the economic ones are the most numerous, as the ones from the political domain.

**Keywords:** economic press; Lower Danube; literary articles; literature; Danubian Press; Braila; Galati; Tulcea.

The first economic newspaper appeared in the Lower Danube area in Braila in 1839 and it was the subject of another article, given the importance of the

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publication, being the first in the country, where the articles were published of economic theory coupled to the European evolution of the domain. The following publications were not at the same level, and their description was, therefore, less extensive.

After *Mercur/Mercury*, the next economic journal that appeared in the Lower Danube area was the *Dunărea/Danube*, the first number was printed on December 29, 1846, in Galati. It was released for four years, the last number being indicated by the Romanian Academy in August 1850. It was a weekly journal with topics of trade, agriculture and navigation, being announced in the subtitle: *The Danube, navigation and trade journal*. The bilingual publication, Romanian-Italian, was released by the Italian Mario Pietro Cugino, merchant, journalist, teacher and lawyer who was appointed Judge at Galati receiving Romanian citizenship. He settled in Galati in 1843 and in 1847 he signed articles in *Curierul național/The national courier*. The newspaper used a transition Romanian language, the Latin letters being mixed with the Cyrillic alphabet, as it was at that time. It was released every Sunday and it had links with major publications in the country and from Constantinople. This was supported by the fact that the subscriptions were made in Iasi at the Bee/Albina Headquarters, and Bucharest at Zaharia Karkalecki, and at Constantinople, to the Byzantine Headquarters. In the program published in the first issue it was stated that between the end of June, when it was approved to be published, and the publication date received on behalf of the Romanians signals that there will be information about price fluctuations of agricultural products on foreign trade, which would contribute to the progress of the nation in Europe. The newspaper published the price of cereals in Braila, foreign news from Anver, Havre, Marseilles, Toulouse, London, Trieste, Corfu, Constantinople. It has four pages and medium format. The next issue, two, is just over a month, on January 26, 1847, although it was announced each week. In the next issues, it appeared to every two weeks, there are published only public business, agricultural information, on navigation, and also information about the evolution of the cholera epidemic in Europe offered by Dr. Verrollot and scientific information about the entering of the telegraph in Europe and America.

Only in issue 16, of 27 April 1848 literary articles also appeared in every newspaper, cultural, even if rarely amounted a newspaper page. Among these articles there were thoughts about the man, love, only in Romanian, Cyrillic alphabet, not Italian. There are also articles about religious dialectic, then, from June 22, 1848 stories in series, "La Contessa Welfort", "Memoirs of

Chateaubriand”, all unsigned. Also for the literary part there are also published poetries by G. Rozali, an obscure writer, unsurpassed in the histories of the Romanian literature, but whose works were published, according to Mihail Straje, in *Zimbrul/The Bison* – 1850, *Albina Românească/The Romanian Bee* – 1846, *Foaie pentru minte/Paper for the mind...* - 1844, 1847. There are also published laws, trade treaties, trade and transport conditions. Some articles were also published in Italian. There are articles also from the Academy of Moral and Political Science. The last number was in the 25 September 1849, although some researchers, including Ion Bianu at the Romanian Academy, said that it appeared until 1850. It should be noted that from January 9, 1849 the journal changes title into *Jurnalul Dunărea științificu, literaru și comercialu/The Scientific, literary and commercial Journal*. After September 25, 1849 Ion Bianu has seen some issues from the period July 16 to August 27, 1850, it was twice a week, being edited by the publicist, V. Vrabie who has signed VV in *The icon of the world/ Icoana lunei*, between 1845 and 1846. (Straje, 1973, p. 789)

Also in 1849, it appears, but in Braila, another economic journal, *Listino commerciale della piazza d'Ibraila*, written during August-September by Domenico Zerman. Of its existence it was noted in the *Journal de Bucarest /Journal of Bucharest*, the issue being of 19 to 31 August 1849 and out of the title it might infer that he has published only business information on Braila's market products, and not literary articles.

With just a few months before the disappearance of the *Danube* newspaper, in October 1849 it was released Journal of Galati, another economic journal, but contained in the feuilleton section texts with real literary meanings. The first issues were bilingual, Romanian, Cyrillic alphabet, Latin, and French. It has four pages, large format structured, as all newspapers of that time into two columns, with headings: *News from the Outside, Commercial Information, Notifications*. It appeared twice a week. Number 3 of 13 October 1849 contains an interesting story from the literature and history point of view of the installation of Prince Ghica. Starting with number 6, October 23, 1849, it is noted the feuilleton section, where there are still public historical texts such as “Romanians’ demands from the Austrian monarchy.” The section resumes other historical and literary texts. They are mostly unsigned, but sometimes there are under the the G. Verdo pseudonym, unassigned to any writer or publisher. There are also published poems by: Dimitrie Bolinteanu - “Stephen the Great and his mother Helen”, “A Night at the graves”, and more. Most other texts, information, reports, accounts were not signed, but

occasionally appeared signatures: G. Sion, G. Verdo. Gheorghe Sion was a writer who has published in the *Albina Românească/ The Romanian Bee* – 1847, *Foaie pentru minte/Paper for the mind* - 1848, *Literatorul, Revista Carpaților/ Carpathians' Magazine* - 1860, *Revista Română/The Romanian magazine*. He was a member of the Romanian Academy and had concerns in poetry, prose and drama domain. George Calinescu wrote in the history of Romanian literature ... that Sion as a poet is invalid, its works being copies of those achieved by CA Rossetti, the writer enrolling in the gathering of that time which was on the trails of Béranger. Instead, Calinescu appreciated him as memorialist, as novelist.

“The writer does not invent, but only deforms the reality, giving fantastic scenery, with great ardent of life, with a constant amazement for having lived. (...) Reality and invention are mixed so loudly, that all seems a fiction made in a biographical way. Sion has a gift of old novelists cutting narrative in stages, to delay the denouement, interposing digressions, then to depict places and fix physiognomy, without stopping the story. He read a lot and, having no ambitions of personal style, he just copied the classic narrative rhythm. With his Eastern imagination and his multicolored matter, the effect is interesting” (Calinescu, 1993, p. 257)

From these considerations it can be deduced that the writings of Sion had their contribution to the evolution of Romanian literature. An appeal to subscribers to pay the subscriptions allows us to see that they were scattered in many places in the county, but also in Moldova: Iasi, Galati Romania, Bacau, Husi, Mihaileni, Brârlad, Tecuci, Focsani. The newspaper had 109 subscribers. In the studied collections we found that the newspaper was published until 1850, but Iorga, in *The history of Romanian literature in the age of XIX<sup>th</sup>* even states that this publication has came up in 1851 with the promise that it will reappear in the fall of 1851 as *Patria/Homeland*. The latter newspaper had appeared only two months in February and March in 1851.

In 1856 and then in 1858 came two other publications, ephemeral, with economic profile, which were summarized by Ion Bianu, *Corriere Italiano/The Italian Courier* and *Libertatea Dunării/The Freedom of Danube*. *Tromba mercantile* was another trade newspaper printed at Braila, and it seems that is was released since April 1861. It is not held in collections, but it is mentioned in the *Istoricul preseii brăilene/The history of Braila's press* of Semilian, and in the catalog published by the Romanian Academy, which states that there is no copy in the mentioned collections. In the same year, 1861, it appears *Le Courier Galatz/The Courier of Galati*, which provides commercial and economic information, irregularly until

1863. From October 1864 to February 1866, another newspaper is released *Mercuriu/Mercury* that was not kept in collections either. *Anunțătorul commercial/The Commercial Announcer* appears in 1865, from March to December in Braila. It is a mercantile and industrial sheet, weekly, edited by Pericle Pestemalgioglu, it was not preserved any issue. What it is interesting is that its editor was the owner of one of the oldest printing in Braila, which had the most modern printing machines and where most of the regular periodicals appeared in Braila. Semilian, in *The history of Braila's press* in 1887 states that Pericles Pestemalgioglu received the gold medal for his typo-lithography work in the agricultural exhibition. The local media landscape was populated with several economic publications, but they appeared only a few weeks, ephemeris, which have not left behind significant elements, only by their number, showing the interest of the area for economic data, a natural interest given the development of the two cities, Braila and Galati.

A publication with articles mostly economic that proved its importance in that it has appeared for four years, was the *Urbanulu*. In October 1873 the first issue appeared in Braila, *jurnalu pentru interesele sociale/the journal for social interests*, having as responsible guarantor A. Savici. It announced that it will appear twice a week. The last issue of the year appeared on January 29, 1874, after which it began the second year on January 24, 1875 and it continued until July 20, 1875. The newspaper appeared until 1877, January 16, in the collection there is the last issue. As announced in the title, the paper pursues the economic interests, but in terms of policy, defending the liberal politicians. The newspaper also contains informative articles, utilities, education, and advertising. It becomes a duty to promote good morals, common sense, good education, pointing in one background article on the front of the page that the big evil of mankind come from selfishness and that people must fight with all means against it. There are presented also cultural news. A subject that is always present in each issue is the independence of the media, the opposition, but also the government. Various news is presented "*Various, From abroad*". Involvement in the social life and in the development of the country is presented also in the published poetry in page four, belonging Ecatherina Vassiloff. The Poem "Vocea liberă e vocea lui Dumnezeu /The free voice is the voice of God" is regarded as a meritorious work in special literature of the family, the foundation of the society.

"The work of Mrs Vassiloff has indubitable merit, because besides the excellent contemporaneousness, she also flows sublime feelings inspired by the noblest ideas

of liberty, which are the true thesaurus, nowadays especially when it is moving forward towards the emancipation of the poor subjugated people. The work "Philomusset Doamna Vassiloff" is complete in prose - which already was required by the National Theatre in order to help our suffering brothers - we reproduced only the poem as affection towards the work itself". (*Urbanulu*, IV<sup>th</sup> year 1877, no. 1 p. 4)

This was in the last issue that existed in collections. It is an important publication by the fact that at that time it was able to appear for four years, although with syncope due to the lack of money. From the literary point of view it can be considered to have contributed to the creation of prolific literary atmosphere.

In 1890 appeared then at Galati *Buletin de la Chambre de Commerce Francaise de Galatz/Buletin of the French Chamber of Commerce in Galati*. In the collection of the Library of Galati there is only no. 44 of the first year, in November. The publication contains the official documents of the Chamber, published the information strictly economic, utilitarian. Latest issue was no 50 in June-July 1891, then it came for eight months. *Mercuriu/Mercury* is an economic newspaper, which promised daily occurrence, but it was printed only for few weeks in February 1880 in Braila. It was in Romanian and Greek, for the Romanian language it was editor I. C. Lerescu and for the Greek, Sarassoglu. The articles are economic, information, opinion, even polemic with journalists from Galati, *Vocea Covurluiului/Covurlui Voice*. The economic or other nature articles do not bring new elements in the journalistic landscape in 1880. As regards the literary or cultural part, it is missing. *Mercuriu/Mercury* was an ephemeris of the local economic journalistics.

**Braila** was a newspaper of the Commercial Club, which occurred once a week from November 1883 following the Commercial Club's interest to promote the economic information, the financial resources necessary for businesses that were running along the river. It includes national, local, economic, financial news, stock exchange, on health. They do not miss the polemical newspaper articles with the **Danube** newspaper on the issue of communal loans, and those addressing the problems of Romanians in Transylvania, thus attesting the involvement of the newspaper in the Romanian politics. For the cultural side of the newspaper there was provided only information about various events in the city, reviews about the listed shows. Important to the history of Romanian literature and shaping the Romanian language of today were the articles on the life today of *Societății*

*Carpați/The Carpathians Society*, the establishment of the *Ateneu/Athenaeum*, the cultural life in Transylvania.

“It is welcome the idea of an Athenaeum and it is a happy moment its establishment. We congratulate the initiators and founders. You will be held next Câmpineanu, Lazar and Eliad. The literary battle is not inferior to the fight of bayonets. (...)The heroism in peacetime is the book and the morals; during the war, it is the rifle and the sword.” (Braila, I<sup>st</sup> Year, 1884, no. 14, February 3, p. 4)

Also remarkable is the fact that it gives generous space to the problem of the Romanians in Transylvania, in no. 14 of 3 February 1884, where it is published the article “The Persecution of Romanian language”, signed by a priest from Transylvania, Artimon Blășianu. And the next issue follows this subject of the Romanians in Transylvania, presenting the absurdities to which the Austro-Hungarian authorities have reached.

“From the Iancului Mountains it is announcing that without having it published anywhere what is the martial state that the Romanians from those lands endure, in fact, all the consequences of that state. A simple denunciation is enough, as a man to be lifted from his home and thrown into prison, where he lies weeks and months and until he receives the instruction for the suspicion of “agitation against the state. - Freedom of the person – as it concerns the Romanians – it can be considered as being broken “(Braila, I<sup>st</sup> 1884, no. 15, February 10, p. 2)

Also, another story across the mountains announces that to wear national costumes is a criminal matter. The last number in the first year, 27, appears in August 1884. The newspaper returns in 1887, in the third year, and this time the liberal membership is assumed from the first article.

“Old newspaper *Braila* founded by the former national liberal party of the county reappears. It will support the liberal beliefs and it will treat the issues of global and local interest. The Editorial Committee asks the subscribers of *Bomba /The Bombe* newspaper that it was no longer issued, to receive instead the ***Braila*** newspaper”. (Braila, III<sup>rd</sup> Year, 19-31 Jan., p.1).

The newspaper included many liberal speeches of political leaders, political and economic articles with political implications. The literature part is also well represented. The newspaper contained thoughts, a prose poem by Victor Hugo, Vasile Alecsandri poems, and stories of Rene Matzerov. It announces an Italian Opera in Braila, paying attention to the folk creations by ballads such as: “The

Plague”, “The rich and poor” or “Horea and Cloșca” which supported the ideal of Transylvania. The newspaper was involved in the literary life popularizing all the initiatives that they deem to be appropriate in Bucharest, as happened with the society *Revista Literară/ The Literary Magazine*, whose status was published. It was also published the literary magazine and content of the *Literary Magazine* which was released under the Directorate of Th. M. Stoenescu. Between the members of this committee of literary magazines there was also A.C. Bacalbașa, from Braila. The Newspaper also published in the feuilleton various stories signed by Mistral, Gr Ventura, literate, composer and journalist who has published in major periodicals in the capital. The latest issue of the newspaper appeared on March 30, 1888.

*Bursa de Galați/Stock Exchange of Galati* is a magazine founded to provide to the public regular notes and commercial, financial, industrial and maritime information, from both home and abroad, and to publish official documents from the meetings and decisions of the Chamber of Commerce Galati. It appears at 1 and 15 of each month, the owner director being P. Alexandrescu, organizer of the Stock Exchange and Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce. The first issue has appeared on February 1, 1888, the bilingual Romanian-French edition, and it had 12 pages, small format. In the Academy collection the next issue is in the second year, no. 1 of 15 January 1889. It had only 4 pages. In addition to commercial information it has information also of the European Danube Commission. In the third year, 1890, December 16, it announces that it will appear every Sunday, not at two weeks, but returns only after a break of one year. In addition it publishes public protest policies, notifications, seizures, joint stock companies, the stock market current prices. Since IV<sup>th</sup> year, 1891, September 8, it has six pages, and since the V<sup>th</sup>, 1892 it has four pages. Most articles were unsigned, and when they were signed, they were lawyers. The last seen number was in the V<sup>th</sup> year, no. 158, of August 23, 1892, having four pages and the same structure. Therefore, it can be concluded that the newspaper was published for five years; as for the literary point of view it has no importance.

*Monitorul intereselor materiale/The Monitor of material interests* is another publication of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the fifth Circumscription residing in Braila. The editor was the same BC Lerescu, the Secretary of the Chamber. It contains official reports, correspondence, information for merchants, workers, meetings, official documents, statutes, and statistics. Each issue is of small format and it contains 32 pages. The collections of the Academy Library



began in the second year, in April 1889 and the last issue was in March 1890, that appeared for two years. It is a strictly professional publication without having any literary importance.

*Cooperatorul brăilean/Co-operator from Braila*, an industrial and commercial journal, first appeared on September 1, 1888. Constantine S. Budeanu was the director that said in the program article that he will handle the interests of industrialists and craftsmen from the city. The foreignism seeking to lay the roots deep in the lungs of the land will ever and hard be fought in the newspaper's columns.

Although there is no mention of literature in the title or subtitle, in the very first issue it is published a two page unsigned literary text, and then there are published others signed by: Th. C. Mănescu, Polihroniade or Al. Radu. Last Issue was released on January 27, 1889.

After nearly two years, the economic media landscape in the Lower Danube is refreshed in March 1891 by a weekly publication entitled *Progresul comercial, industrial, politic și literar/The industrial, political and literary Progress* in Braila. C. Popescu was the owner-editor. In the first issue it was published the article-program where it announced its intentions.

“We want that all traders and industrialists to approach each other to see and decide what in the evident benefit of the Commerce and Industry, whose progress, unfortunately, we see it sloppy. And what could be less from the non-knowledge and more from the culpable carelessness, we have not wanted to make use of our political rights recognized and guaranteed by our fundamental pact, rights which are the best and effective means and even weapons, with which we can reach good regarding our state! Yes! We all must recognize we were, we stayed indifferent along the years and, through it, not only that we tolerated, but we have also helped the men of other professions to represent us in the gatherings of the Deputies and the Senate, just where our fate is decided. We send a wake-up call, and we would be criminals by extending the indifference – we have to work manly, to live up to our role as traders and industrialists and play the role as in every civilized State” (The Commercial Progress, 1<sup>st</sup> year 1891, no. 1, p. 1) The newspaper includes national, foreign news, and an original short story published in the Chronicle section, “Laundry to the Minute” but it was not signed. The following numbers were published in feuilleton stories: “A kiss” by Th Theodossiady, “In flagrante delicto”, “The man with horns”, “Iordache's Wedding”, “Incognito” - “The Legend

with sweet eyes” of Thee. Demetrescu-Joachim. The interest in literature is growing more and more, so that the number eight of 21 April 1891 is completely literary. There are published stories, poems by Th. Teodosiady. This number has been highly successful, it was edited the second time for the subscribers of Braila, had a circulation of 3,500 copies, matter stated in an article on the front page. Here there are shown that the literary materials are published by Hotărât, Theodossiadi and Teodoroff. Number nine on the first page even includes a literary text, and the following pages are published novels, poetry, practical advice. It begins to appear also materials that attract scandal: “Jack the Ripper in Bucharest”, “the Horrible murder from Braila”, “A terrible tragedy in Switzerland”. Newspaper structure remains the same, only that the sensational articles grow in importance, with literary texts signed with pseudonym Hotărât, Luculescu, Curtezana și Bojoc, but none of them could be identified. It is even published a comedy of Th Theodossiady, “Poesia Secuestrată”. Thus, in a newspaper aiming at being commercial, industrial, political and literary became firstly literary, then general information, of sensation. Among the approached topics there are: Customs Tariff, the capture of Jack the Ripper, the catch and death of Licinnsky, economic, local short news, articles about trade in Romania, and the conflict from the stock in Braila. Out of the printed element we may mention: riddles and news from Transylvania signed by the Romanian Telegraph. Each number has signed literary texts under pseudonym or not: “Wrong address” - Theo Demetrescu Joachim, original novel “Anteia” - the GT Numeanu, Poems in Prose – unsigned, Story “Why?”, “Drama of the Meyerling “, “Notes of a journalist”- the Thedosiade from Făliciu. Last seen number 31, is from October 1891. None of these names could ever be identified. The importance of the publication consists of the editorial policy, promotion of sensational articles and literary cultural articles that contributed to the development of culture and media in the area.

***Funcționarul comercial/Commercial officer*** emerged from October 6, 1891 in Braila, every Sunday as a commercial, industrial, financial and literary newspaper managed by a committee. The administration was in Bucharest, but it was drawn up also in Braila. First the program-article takes full-page and explains what the newspaper will follow, only after doing a review of the situation of trade and workers in this field. The issue is the lack of laws to provide resting on Sunday thus the purpose of the newspaper, the fight for the repose on Sunday to become obligatory in shops and in all sectors. As arguments, J.Aureliu Ciurea, who signed the article, said that resting on Sunday is necessary for several reasons. “1) as

necessary for religious, moral education and to honor our holy churches and ancient laws. 2) as absolutely essential to meet the needs of all kinds and the physical and intellectual development of the commercial and industrial youth. 3) as necessary and absolutely indispensable for the establishment and research of schools of repetition and complementary for those of us who are less than four grades as primary school, and supplementary schools of commerce, where we can all learn arithmetic, book keeping course, notions of law and other teachings and sciences, which we need in our beautiful career. 4) Having the Sunday free for resting does not harm the state or the owners, nor the national wealth and production, on the contrary it can strengthen it and use it by developing a distinguished and capable staff” (*Commercial officer*, 1<sup>st</sup> year, 1891, no. 1, October 6, p. 1)

The newspaper appeared in Braila until October 18, 1892, more than a year, then it remained only in Bucharest. The number two of the publication announced that they are commercial young officials seeking to sign in for people grouping in associations, to show employers the use that they can obtain after having a close connection with their officials, to provide business and trade information, to popularize laws, to show trade officials the way of instruction and culture, to establish libraries and reading clubs. The newspaper also contains, in addition to economic articles, historical sketches, maxims and thoughts. Articles are signed by N. Chicireanu, Corneliu I. Secoșianu. The literary texts at *Foileton* section are signed by Traian Dunăreanu, Georges Bostanopole. Here as well they were unable to identify any nickname, and the literary influence was minimal.

In December 1893 it appeared in a new newspaper in the publishing landscape in Braila that declared to be economic, *Călăuza Brăilei/Guide of Braila*, but it approached the issues differently in terms of proliberal views. It cannot be classified as political newspaper, although it has many articles on the politics of liberals that it supported, the questions that they struggled, they brought in the public debate were mainly economic. The newspaper began appearing in December 1893, with a declared weekly frequency, but in fact it occurred more rarely. Its first year of occurrence was not stored any issue, the only remaining first copy was the one of the November 12, 1894 and bears the number 76. On the first page of the newspaper is always an editorial, signed by Alfred Gross, where there are analyzed different political or economic topics on the agenda. Political articles were always pro liberal, and their revelations, economic investigations always targeted the conservatives’ corruption. The second page was all about opposition

political articles, and news from the court. On page three under the heading *News and facts* there were inserted various administrative, economic, cultural information. Sometimes it appeared also sections: *Commercial News, Local Police, The Theatrical Chronicle, Grains*. The last page contained advertising. This structure remained in the newspaper in all the three years of the publication. About its purpose it has been more in number 80 of December 21, 1895, when the board of the newspaper reported that in several days will come in the third year of its existence. It reaffirms its political independence, although political articles showed that there were at least sympathizers of the National Liberal Party. Among the topics on which they have accomplished the real media campaign were: the bridge over the Danube which will advantage Constanta against Braila, the Sunday issue for resting and, above all, it has campaigned against usury. The addressed political issues only insofar as it affected the economic life and then they supported the National Liberal Party position. They rarely entered into polemics with other newspapers. From the studied numbers we found one article on "*Calomniile Epocei/The Slanders of the age*". Most articles related to usury which they called gangrene of the commercial, to the bankruptcy law. Strictly from the literary point of view it had no contribution.

At the same time with the mentioned above newspaper it also appeared the *Semaphore de Brăila/Semaphore of Braila*. The first issue of the newspaper, which appeared for five years, was offered to Braila's people on May 2, 1895 as a daily diary for protecting the maritime and commercial interests of grain. Director was Conrad Garfen. *The Semaphore of Braila* was actually a commercial bulletin of Braila port. There was no program in the first published issue. It contained commercial telegrams on cereals and other foods, information on daily operations of the stock exchange of Braila and Galati, harbor movements. It had four pages and the last contained ads. The structure of the newspaper was maintained for a long time. Although facing the same problem, those receiving the newspaper did not pay for it and were in danger of being unable to appear, the publication was printed for five years. In the first year 169 numbers appeared until December 13, 1895. In the second year, 1896, the first number stored in collections is 182 April 14, between December 13, 1895 and April 14, 1896, in four months, occurred 13 numbers, so sometimes it occurred at a longer period than one week, not daily. Thereafter the collection of Braila's library demonstrated that it appeared daily. The last issue in the second year was 357 of November 25, 1896. Year III, 1897 there are stored in collections from no. 361 of 20 March 1897, again during winter

frequency of appearances was low. It ended the year with no. 552 of December 8, 1897. This time, the publication of the bulletin is not interrupted; the following numbers appear in January. It is published in the same formula, but weekly. The last no. 761 of 19 December 1898, is in the fourth year. The next issue no 762 is on May 13, 1899, except that it occurs daily only in the business season, April 1 to December 1. Last Issue of November 16, 1899 is 962. The publication was important in boosting trade in the ports of the Lower Danube, but has no contribution to the development of cultural and literary community, than indirectly through economic and commercial development and creating the necessary financial support.

*Calendar comercial și industrial/Commercial and Industrial Calendar* on the year 1895 includes charges, narratives and poems, addresses, commercials. Owner-Editor is P. Antoniadu Editor. The narrations and poems are signed by Al. Radu, but mostly are unsigned, however, and their literary value is not significant.

In September it appeared *Robul comercial/The commercial Slave* in Braila daily, a monthly publication of the trade officials. The aim was to make known all the injustices suffered by the commercial officials. Unfortunately, from this newspaper it was only kept a page from the published issue in September 1896.

*Curierul justiției și comerțului/Courier of justice and commerce* was an economic publication that has appeared for three years, from April 11, 1901 until February 20, 1906. It appeared every Sunday. Its director, Aurel Manolescu said in the first issue, in the publication program, that it aims at publishing information about the wealth of dishonest traders because they cannot fool anybody; it had four pages, medium format type, and articles were purely economic. There were no literary texts, so unimportant in this regard. *Monitorul Burselor/Monitor of Stock Exchanges*, daily newspaper of the grains trader, editor-owner Leo Margulies, first appeared on July 6, 1902. It was written in Braila and the newspaper *L'indépendance Roumaine/The Romanian Independence* in Bucharest. The program of the publication reasons the appearance in that publication in the recent years it has grown the grain exports and it is a need of information and sellers and buyers, and they will provide such information. The publication provides economic information: "Our market", "Foreign markets", "Foreign stock exchanges rate", "Official Journal of Braila Stock Exchange". The format was medium and the last number is in the year II no. 238, August 8, 1903. There were no literary contributions.

Among the magazines published in Braila in the early twentieth century it is included the *Lacu-Sărat/Salt Lake*, a weekly bulletin of the resort, body of the owners and operators from Salt Lake. The purpose of this paper was presented in the first issue of November 20, 1905. After the author presents the lake's history and its therapeutic properties, it deplores the indifference of the authorities towards the opportunities offered by the lake and presented the initiative of the owners and dealers from the Salt Lake. In order to support them, it was decided editing a weekly publication that has the perseverance to achieve the improvements required in order to raise baths in Salt Lake to the rank that it deserves in the list of curing resort. Basically the publication supports the economic interests in the area, bringing as argument the Lake's properties, and we considered it as an economic publication, although it was called watering publication. "Salt Lake, will deal with history, description of water and mud from the locality with the same name, it will publish statistics of the cures and which will be obtained in the future, and the resulting study concluded that the treatment with mud baths and applications, interest the health care a large contingent of residents, it will insist that those who do not leave to its fate the future of this resort do their duties. This body will help itself to the prosperity of Salt Lake, will serve as guiding visitors, will make, during the season, reports on all the circumstances of the resort, it will give visitors the list to indicate the shortcomings which can immediately and easily be put to an end. In short, it will endeavor to recall the country, the interest in the Salt Lake and to attract to these baths the public for the good of both sufferers and the resort. (Salt Lake, 1<sup>st</sup> year, 1905, no. 1, 20 November, p. 1)

From the number 5, of 18 December 1905, the magazine appears to have director and owner the engineer Hilari Giurescu, which also concerned the cultural side of the magazine. In addition to articles to promote water quality and sludge from Salt Lake, he drafted also very interesting articles about the history of the resort. Background articles on medical topics were supported by Professor Th Bastaki, PhD a graduate of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, external physician of the hospital and clinic of obstetrics and gynecology in Paris, professor at the Medical Faculty of Science of Iasi and head of maternity in Bucharest, he was a physician consultant at the Salt Lake resort. He participated in the Fifth International Congress of obstetrics and gynecology at St. Petersburg, was a member of the Society of Anatomy of Paris and the Society of Physicians and Naturalists of Iasi, Romania Officer of the Order of the Crown. The publication came up on March 12, 1906, announcing that the last number opens the season in the resort and it will

appear in the daily bulletin called *Ziua în Lacu-Sărat/ The Day in Salt Lake*. The publication had only 17 numbers, but it is important for traders and for physicians and historians because the information provided to the public.

Since autumn 1906 publication *Lacu-Sărat/Salt Lake*, is continued with another magazine, run by the same Hilarie Giurescu and who mentions at the beginning that it is continuing Salt Lake magazine. Magazine collection *Cura/The Cure* starts with no 18 of the 1<sup>st</sup> year. In this first number it is announced that the magazine is still a continuation of the previous title, but it was changed because, although they kept the line of the program, they wanted to broaden its scope. There will be a magazine dedicated not only to Salt Lake, but to all resorts and climate in Romania. It aims at publishing correspondences and reports about life in the country's main resorts, spas and illustrations of useful information for everyone who wants to walk or to see his health. The information about other resorts is not limited to the country but also abroad as Karlsbad or Nyssa. In no 46 of 22 October 1906 published the first scientific study of sludge from Salt Lake, made by doctor Bastaki. The last number is in the second year, on December 31, 1906. The Magazine does not appear in extra-season so that the termination of the publication was considered as normal. From the strictly literary point of view it has no contribution.

***Meseriaşul Brăilei/Braila's craftsman*** is a publication for protecting the craftsmen interests, weekly, led by a committee, which began to appear from January 1, 1906, at two years after the establishment of corporations. "***Meseriaşul Brăilei/Braila's craftsman*** is meant to be tribune where we will speak to the craftsmen, public and authorities. It will be an independent tribune, well thought out and instructive. (...) ***Meseriaşul Brăilei/Braila's craftsman*** still has one more task, and even one of the most important, to be instructive and educational. We shall not delay and we will not step aside from any sacrifice to give to this part of the ***Meseriaşul Brăilei/Braila's craftsman*** the largest development, both in the literary field, but especially in the technical domain of each guild". (*Braila's craftsman*, 1<sup>st</sup> year, 1906, no. 1, January 1, p. 1)

The articles about various guilds are signed by: CR – C. Racovski, Gh. Theodoru, Lop, Casca. There were published poems by Ving, a historical novel about Constantin Brancoveanu by ND Popescu, jokes Th. Speranță, or stories by Maurice Montegut - *Pata roşie/The red spot*.

*Revista Uniunii Comerciale și Industriale din Galatz/ The Commercial and Industrial Union Magazine of Galati*, appeared twice a month on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. NN Madgearu was the president of the Union. The first issue appeared on February 10, 1906, and the program article writes that the journal's purpose is to defend the interests of the port of Galati, addressing to traders and industrialists alike. The covered topics, as expected, are economic, industrial, and commercial. There is no controversy, the texts have no literary meanings. There are only texts for information and analysis: Convention with Johnston, with which is completed the media campaign, the Issue of Factories, Soap Industry, Import of Fish, National Bank role in various crises, Braila memo aimed at stopping the decline of the port, the movement of industrialists the Commission of European Danube. In issue of October 1906 it is analyzed the conflict with Greece and economic influence over the port of Galati, then, in April 1907 it is written about the organization of Commercial Navy, the Convention with Italy. The last issue appeared in April 1907. So it arose from February 1906 to April 1907, almost a year. As far as literature is concerned it is not very important.

*Dobrogea economică/ The Economic Dobrogea* is a newspaper of trade-finance-economy-industry-agriculture, published bimonthly in Tulcea, for two months, between July 1 and August 27, 1906. There are four numbers that included articles on economic, general and specific themes of Tulcea County. It sustained the need to develop communications, modernizing the agricultural economy in Dobrogea.

*Bursa colonialelor/The colonial Stock exchange* appeared on December 24, 1906 in Tulcea as commercial newspaper of similar colonial and branches, being printed out by the editor-owner Nic. Cosma. According to the program it is said that they will help the small retailer, will settle disputes between small retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers and commission will regulate the sale and purchase of goods, will intercede for free buying cheap goods, will combat unfair competition, protect indigenous industry, will propagate the formation of colonial traders corporations, the establishment of banks that can operate transactions of the colonial trade, to restore the colonial merchants credit. The newspaper had eight pages of which four are useful information for traders. Last number is on April 8, 1907, that is it was printed for four months. The materials are also signed by Peter P. Boroșiu.

*Curierul ampoaițiilor comerciali/ Commercial Courier of Employees*, an organ of commercial employers and employees interests, appears weekly in Galati, the first issue was printed on September 11, 1908. By The front page program announces that they will not only deal with the employees issues, but also other issues closely



related to their interests and employers; they will try to create links between the clerk and by rational argument will seek to obtain for the employers concessions in the favor of the employees, to ensure stability of the employee and to the employer a conscientious service. The director of the newspaper is announced as G. N. Georgiadi, signing articles under the pseudonym Genede.

It addresses topics such as strikes in factories of Braila, cholera, resting on Sunday, pleading for free healthcare and medicines. In one of the issues for which the newspaper was struggling, the resting on Sunday, it has been a small victory, that is a bank Marmorosch, has granted rest on Sunday to its employees. Last issue appeared on July 26, second year, 1909, that newspaper published ten months. From the strictly literary point of view it is irrelevant as it did not publish anything in this respect.

In June of 1909 in Braila it was a weekly publication specializing in legal and commercial issues, as it is highlighted in the title, *Gazeta juridico-comercială/The Legal and Commercial Gazette*. The directors-owners were Constantin T. Petrescu, Ion G. Alexe and M. Leo Margulies.

The first issue began with an article justifying their gesture of releasing the publication, an empty feeling in the district of the Court of Appeal Galati. Therefore, the publication was widespread in the cities: Braila, Galati, Tulcea, Constanta, R-Sărat, Tecuci and Focsani. The directors wanted to make a real legal service to the commercial world. Each issue had eight pages. The last number stored in the librarians' collections is issue 5 of 23 July 1909. So the magazine came out only a month and a week and it never had a literary text, only legal or commercial issues.

*Tribuna științifică/The Scientific Tribune*, the magazine of the agricultural officials, organ of the cooperative societies and philanthropic agricultural officials and craftsmen in Romania, came only in nine numbers with strictly professional articles. It then appeared at Iasi and then at Galati.

*Buletinul Camerei de comerț și industrie/ The Bulletin of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Tulcea*. It occurred during July 1909 - May 1916 and April 1923 - January 1944, that is it appeared for 26 years, with two big breaks: June 1916-March 1923 and August 1939-December 1942. Between 1909-1916, 1930-1934, 1938-1939 and 1943 appeared monthly. Between January 1925 - April 1929, September 1936-December 1937 appeared irregular. 196 numbers have been published. Between 1923 and 1928 it was director I. Comsa – Fulga, between

1929-1939 P. Penescu, and between 1943-1944, N. Uțanu. It has published economic articles on Tulcea County, official documents and records of meetings of chambers of commerce, laws and draft of laws of economic-social nature, statistical tables, commercial surveys, documents, opinions licenses, policies protested, bankruptcies, mortgage, new companies, prices, balance sheets. In January 1944, *Buletinul Camerei de comerț și industrie/ The Bulletin of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Tulcea*, year 34, no. 1 is a work done by Nichifor Uțanu, called “economic movement of Tulcea County”, a monograph, historical, organizational, economic forces, movement of trade and industry, Chamber of Commerce activity.

*Buletin judic/The judiciary bulletin*, a monthly publication of the district courts of the Court of Appeal in Galati. It occurred in 1910, of January 15, but it was kept starting from no. 3, from 15 March 1910, Director-owner being C.G. Popescu, lawyer. The editorial secretary was Șt. Chiriac, Deputy Registrar of the Court of Appeal of Galati. The appeared articles in the first issue were only of specialty. Magazine had a supplement with data and economic information, without having texts that could be considered literary.

Of *Patronajul/The Patronage*, the official bulletin of the general society of patronage, the Braila Branch had only appeared for two numbers, first in February 1910 and the second in April 1910. The magazine appeared after two years of existence of the patronage society to publicize the company's shares, especially charity for children physically or morally abandoned. The Magazine did not include literary or cultural items, but information about events, financial statements.

*Buletinul Camerei de comerț și industrie/The Bulletin of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Braila* appeared monthly under the leadership of CI Găgiulescu, the Secretary of the Chamber. It was written and administrated by the chamber of commerce. The first issue was not preserved, only number two in April 1911 can be seen in collections. There are presented the firms registered in court, regulations, information for farmers, traders, various statistics, prices of various products. There are also presented cultural information and the history of Chamber of Commerce, in series. The last issue appeared in May 1914 and then three numbers were published together, for March, April and May. The publication appeared for three years. Probably it ceased its publication following the entry of Romania into the war.

The first issue of *Avântul cooperativ/The Cooperative upsurge* newspaper appeared in October 1915 and wanted to support the cooperative movement in Braila County represented by 68 popular banks, 16 congregation of leasing and other companies who needed their own body committed to show progress, the found shortcomings, and ways to overcome difficulties ahead, to raise the rural or even urban status, called to help by association. It was the happiest means of cooperative propaganda, propaganda through the press. Number two, in November 1915, speaks of the near war, about what a worker loses and ignores danger of borrowing in order to purchase farming tools by signing blank policy to suppliers, due to those borrowing money from banks to repay the loans on time. In this issue there are published also two moralizing proverbs for peasants. It is advertising for the books with cooperative content. Starting with this issue it will also be published the news. Issue three, in December 1915 began with an overview of the agricultural cooperative development, started in 1864. It was published a summary of a lecture held at the school of accountants in Gemelele, “Socialism and Cooperation” – to draw the attention upon the danger of confusing the words corporate and socialist and it highlights the Marxist theory flaws with great precision:

“Then you wouldn’t be able to say: my pencil, my wife, but our wife, our child, our box, that all was to be of the state. - What a joy it was for the lazy? But, most especially the socialists were currently convinced that all their theories were soon soap blistered, which rise up, but quickly break. – they were utopia as some have said.” (*The Cooperative upsurge*, no. 3, p. 40)

Also in this issue it is a text that could be considered having literary meanings, entitled “Logos for the ending people of an uncooperative”, and they are published thoughts on various topics belonging to John Lubbock, Descartes, Seneca, sections that continue in the following numbers. The editors are members of cooperative associations, I. Voiculescu, Christopher Radulescu, T.V. Predescu, A. Galan, Grigore Găbreanu - Agronomist to popular banks, all being activists in the cooperative movement, not journalists or writers. This publication, although it appeared only a few months, it was important in the development of the movement and determining the differences between it and the socialists, the socialist movement being important in the area, as there were many workers.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the study of newspapers which were mainly of economic content and appeared before the First World War revealed that there was a constant concern for cultural and literary development. Many of the publications, even if they did not have specialized sections for the literary texts, there were published proverbs, thoughts, which helped developing people's cultural horizon. In drafting these publications there have been involved also writers, publicists known at that time, whose merit in the cultural development of the area cannot be disputed. The appearance of such publications determined the printing of another, thus the market place in publications will not remain vacant. It cannot be contested the importance of the first newspaper appearance at Galati in 1846 which supported the economic development of the area. An obscure poem published here G Rozali, but his poems have penetrated also in *Albina Românească / The Romanian Bee*, so if the paper is analyzed in its context it cannot even be considered unimportant. Then, also in Galati it appeared the Journal of Galati where it has been noted with a special activity Gheorghe Sion, member of the Romanian Academy, founder of the Carpathians magazine. Another important publisher that released magazines in Braila was Ioan C. Lerescu, noted as virulent and noisy journalist whose work has not gone unnoticed by critics. Also in the economic newspapers there were published literary works and poets Alexandru Polihroniade and Alexandru Radu. There were not leading poets, but their work has created a cultural area suitable for reception of what was happening in Romanian literature and culture in centers such as Iasi and Bucharest. Important to literary history is that Polihroniade's debut did not occur in 1890, but in the *Cooperatorul brăilean/The Co-operator from Braila* in 1888. The fact that these artists have agreed to publish their creations in cities such as Braila and Galati shows that the area was of interest in literature, and the publications, although minor, have played a role in cultural development because of the content of the text as Nicolae Iorga stated. He believed that a magazine is serious if it gives useful sermons in a good language. (Iorga, 1983, p. 114)

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