

The Cult for the Nation's Values in Romanian Literary Creations

Ludmila Balțatu¹

Abstract: Nowadays, the epoch being remarked by an intensive collaboration among nations, by a great exchange of experience among them, there rises a sharp necessity to preserve our identity as a nation. If we manifest love and fidelity for our ancestors' language, for the masterpieces of our folklore we will honour our duty. While pursuing the goal to provide arguments, based on literature's statements of romanian authors and folklore masterpieces, about the way the Danube is depicted, there was especially impressive the opinion of the naval officer, the romanian writer Jean Bart: "The Rhine is romantic, The Danube is classic, is eternal". And the great rhapsodist of our nation, Vasile Alecsandri, while being inspired by the folklore pieces, created an excellent poem "Ștefan and the Danube", in which there are described historical events of our long ago past. Another romanian author, Octavian Goga, laid the following impressions about the Danube: "If Romania had not another wonders but the Danube Delta, even so it would be able to claim from all nature – lovers a pilgrimage that always reveals unique charms".

Keywords: epoch; history; literature; nation; values; folk; dignity; seaport; opinion; artistic view

Nowadays, characterized by an intensive collaboration among nations, there more and more rises the necessity to preserve our identity as a nation, by manifesting first of all love and fidelity for our ancestors language, for our folklore pearls, and by protecting with maximal responsibility the natural resources of water, forests, mountains that feed us, quench our thirst and enjoy our eyes.

This is why that presently are also welcome the opinions of the good expert of our ancestors' customs and traditions Alecu Russo written in his arch – famous literary creation *Poezia poporală* (The people poetry): "Customs, fairy tales, music and poetry are the nations'archives. By their help there can be whenever reconstructed the dark historical past". From their examine we'll clarify such issues as the origin of our language, the formation of the romanian nation, the characteristic inner nature of our folk, and the battles held by the roman colonies before being transformed into the contemporary inhabitants of the ancient Dacia.

¹ State University "B.P. Hasdeu", Cahul, Republic of Moldova, Address: 1 Piața Independenței, Cahul, Republic of Moldova, Tel.: 0299 22481, Fax: 0299 24752, Corresponding author: ludmilabalta@yahoo.com.

Among the variety of nations spread along the banks of the Danube, there is no one who has, as the romanian nation, such an original, a various and beautiful folk poetry, being so tightly linked with the souvenirs of the antiquity..." (Russo, 1991, p. 217)

From their examine we'll clarify such issues as the origin of our language, the formation of the romanian nation, the characteristic inner nature of our folk, and the battles held by the roman colonies before being transformed into the contemporary inhabitants of the ancient Dacia.

In these statements the famous personality of our nation intends to remark the fact that on the Danube's banks there used to live various nations, who spoke various languages, were representatives of different customs and traditions, but the most precious for us is the culture of our folk, that must be protected with a holyly, and also our life values should correspond to it.

This way, the Danube is mentioned in literary creations of many romanian poets and prose writers throughout all historical times. It is confirmed by the statement of Jean Bart, a sea officer, a writer, who laid on the paper the following lines, expressing his love and admiration for this river: "This is, how is ending its flow, resembling a living being the old Danubius, that the antiquity used to treat like a divinity, considering it to be a sacred river. The Rhine is romantic, the Danube is classic, eternal". So, the Danube is the witness of many historical events.

The artistic expression of them by our rhapsodist V. Alecsandri convinces us about the glory of our nation that took place in these surroundings. He drew his inspiration from folklore resources creating the superb poem "Ştefan and the Danube". There are rendered in it historical events from our long ago past times, the period of reign of Ştefan the Great.

"On that bank beaten by waves,
Upwards on the horizon, upwards along the banks,
There are three troops of warriors
Turks, tatars and moldovans.
One is the troop of the khan,
One is of the sultan,
And one of Ştefan is..."

Similarly to the folklore genre, in this poem the nature offers more colouring to the described historical events.

The same phenomenon can be noticed in the writings of Octavian Goga. Let us remind within the given context, the poem "The Olt". According to the experts

“The biography of the Olt recalls symbolically the past realities of the Romanian nation.”¹ The biography of the Danube also contains important data about the historical past of the nation. This way, the Transilvanian writer exposed beautiful thoughts about the Delta of the Danube as well; which, he says, reveal unknown charm of the area. This truth can be also supported by the verses of N. Labiş:

“We adore this water,

A route without powder and smoke,

That knows the sufferings of dusks and now the present joy”

(The Danube)

Amazing facts about the Delta, about its geographical position, about the living beings of these surroundings, as well as about the daily lifestyle of the people of the area we'll find in the writings of M. Sadoveanu: “It is known that the spread of the mouths of the Danube covers vast and mysterious territories. The process of creation of the dry land is a perpetual going. The annual muds increase the new earth above the Pontic sea to such an extent, so that for example, Chilia, which in the period of Ștefan the Great used to be a sea port, nowadays it has extended for more than forty km inward. Many of our citizens, at Sulina, for about sixty years ago had the possibility to admire the games of dolphins on the waves in a zone where nowadays there already growing trees of the public garden. So that this river is a tireless stonemason and a hard – working gardener...”²

The foreigners who have visited these places, sustain that the Delta is an immense peace. An endless peace. A vast spread of water and reed, an inspiring quietness and an absolute calm.

There are realities confirmed by the writer Traian Cosovei who attributed a special attention in his writings to the description of the forest Letea. He depicts the area and expresses his feelings of adoration for the contemplated scenery. This is an extract from the writing of the above mentioned author: “On one side towards the sea, there were reed – beds, sands, on the other side there spread ponds, typhaceae, fields of sand. In the middle of the spread, in the middle of the sands heated by the sun, the forest Letea upraises dominating the distances, silent, motionless like a sphinx. It seemed a fantastic forest, a slight phantasm floating on the immensity of sands and reed – beds.

All around there kept maintaining a deep peacefulness of the forest; all over around, in far away distances, the sky was throwing back a green shadow, while reflecting the forest itself...”

¹ Balan, I.D., *Poezia lui O. Goga/Goga's poem* in (Goga, 1992, p. 12).

² Sadoveanu, M., *Delta* in (Sadoveanu, 1983).

The Delt of the Danube is considered among the unique in Europe for its scenaries. Its beauties havve attracted and will continue to attract plenty of foreign tourists. Our famous prose – writer, M. Sadoveanu states that all languages of the earth have sonded here. It has been mentioned above, that the writer created a series of works, dedicated wholly to these places. For exemple the followin lines from the literarey work “On the Old Danube” render the life – breathing on the Danube in the colours of the sun light of a summer afternoon. “In the heat of the afternoon, the fooded Danube was steaming from each side, from marshes, and from back waters, which spread now looking as a whole similar to an yellowish even cloth up to the small villages drowned on the bank ridges. The sun was hot, swarms of flies were sparkling in the light...” There is much delight rendered in the lines, selected from the same literary work: “At the very moment we started to step among flowers and water lianas; various insects, locusts, butterflies of all colours of the rainbow were sticking by a stem of typhaceae or shivered it glittering in the water; mayflies and dragonflies, some of them violet and others reddish – brown, were passing sparkling in the sun as some tiny aeroplanes. And the pond frog” the water nightingale, watwr rails could be seen quite frequently, were passing carefully, flying in a manner of short shifts here –there, leaning slightly a stem of marsh plants.¹

After having read the impressions about this fairy land by the above quoted writers, I will also refer to the shared impressions of other visitors. For exemple, the russian classical writer Vladimir Korolenko, seeing the Deilt of the Danube, stated that only here one can hear the vigorous breathing eternally alive of the nature. Nowadays, there can be selected enthusiastic ideas from the internet, where travellers use to write their impressions after having seen attractive places. For exemple, a french guest described the route of the Danube being a real ballad, he recognized his wish to be living such a day forever, endlessly. And a visitor from Norway exclaimed nostalgically that he will come for sure again to this corner where nature has a unique charm, where a new emotion surprises you each moment.

While refering to the Danube, to the Delt of the Danube it is not possible to omit the seaport Sulina. From the research of Tudose Tatu “Sulina. Bloody assaults 26.06 – 08.07 – 17.07 - 1854” the following extract captured my attention: “About this one, that is about the town itself, there is nothing known. Or what is worse, there is no any interest to know, for the reason that there would rather be accepted the lack of sensibility that it was set up as a consequence of the decree issued by Mihail Semionovici Voronțov, the general governor of the guberniya Novorossia and Basarabia... There is too little known about the establishment of the Quarantine from Sulina during the year of 1836 and its ulterior administrative activity, an

¹ Sadoveanu, M., *Pe Dunărea veche/On the Lower Danube* in (Sadoveanu, 1983, p. 389).

institution that would control the naval traffic of Europe... There is absolutely nothing known about the evolution of the settlement itself, about what it used to look like in the earlier period, neither who namely were its inhabitants, their occupations, the administration of the town etc... I have put a tick next to all these items, one by one, covering a historical period of 28 years old of the settlement, that is between the years of 1829 – 1857, this being the first attempt of a documentary presentation of the settlement which is situated at the ending of the Danube, in general in the Romanian historiography and, why not even the European one". (Tatu, 2009, p. 8)

Farther, the author adds that the exposed facts constitute just an extract of the future book that could be finished exclusively due to the willingness of possible sponsors. I express my hope that real patriots of these settings will be found and the book will see the light.

I have had the occasion to visit this enigmatic town. The travelling towards it lasted for about three hours along the Danube. It is so, all around as far as eyes can see, there is indescribable beauty. The town Sulina itself impresses being unique: by its old buildings, by the peal of churches' bells, by the route towards the seaside, by the cemetery that is situated next to the shore.

However, the most part of these buildings, witnesses of many events that took place in the past, necessitate to be renovated. May be for the accomplishment of these noble purposes there will be allocated necessary financial resources?

Many hands have indeed been inspired by the charming zone of the Danube and especially by its mouths, the Delt of the Danube. It is important that the future generations do not cause any damage to this piece of paradise. They should maintain with responsibility and specific knowledge the flora and fauna here, as well as value the customs and traditions, study the historical events of the period of hundred of years.

In consonance with the above statements are the opinions of our contemporary scientist Alexandru Bantuş: "It looks like other times, other epochs knock to the gate of our destiny. It's time to decipher with truth the core and the message by listening to the reasoning of the heart, and as well that of the intellect, we should be thankful to ancestors but also to God, and we should hope that may be this way we'll have enough strength to be chaste and enlightened for overcoming the tumultuous flow on our way of becoming and union as people species. Let us not forget that the nation similarly to the whole mankind were created due to the sacrifice of those who really endured and succeeded in long before our presence"¹.

¹ Bantuş, A. "*Dalbele noastre flori/ Our pure flowers* in (Cirimpei, 1990, p. 79).

It is worth being aware of these facts, we should take them into account in our fields of activity contributing by real actions so that the Danube, the Delt of the Danube – unique in Europe, do not undergo any damages after being visited by tourists, but on the contrary the river should be protected, admired and transmitted holyly to the next generations.

Bibliography

Balan, I.D. (1992). *Poezia lui O. Goga/Goga's Poem*. In: Goga O. *Ne chiamă pământul/The Earth is Calling us*. Chişinău: Hyperion.

Bantoş, A. (1990). *Dalbele noastre flori/Our pure flowers*. In: Cirimpei V. *Soare nou răsare/The new sun arises*. Chisinau: Hyperion.

Russo, A. (1991). *Piatra teiului/The stone of lime-tree*. Chisinau: Hyperion.

Sadoveanu, M. (1983). *Valea frumoasei/The valley of the beautiful woman*. Bucharest: Eminescu.

Tatu, T. (2009). *Sulina Bloody assaults. Sinteze*. Galati.