Eliade’s Romanian Past: Religion and Politics

Mihaela Gligor

Mircea Eliade’s works now attract more critical attention than they did during his lifetime. This is evidenced by the volumes being published in different countries on Eliade’s literary and scientific works, his journalistic works from the inter-war period, and his political shift towards the extreme right. Eliade’s oeuvre and personal life remain controversial for specialists as well as the public. In this examination of Mircea Eliade’s Romanian past, we will analyze his intellectual evolution from 1934 to 1938, focusing especially on the two constants which have marked his religious and political development.

KEYWORDS: Mircea Eliade, History of Religions, Philosophy, Political Involvement, Literary Work.

1 A preliminary version of this material was presented at the International Seminar on History of Religions to mark the centenary of Mircea Eliade (1907-1986), 8-10 October 2007, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

2 Mihaela Gligor, Ph.D., studied Philosophy at the “Babeș-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca, where she also received her M.A. in Philosophy of Human and her Ph.D. in Philosophy in 2006 with a thesis about Mircea Eliade and Romanian Right Extreme. In 2001-2002 she taught seminars on The Philosophy of Religions. In 2005-2006 she taught a course about Philosophy and Politics in interwar Europe at Faculty of European Studies at “Babeș-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca. She is the author of many reviews and studies about life and work of Mircea Eliade in Romanian Journals. She is co-translator, in Romanian, of Mac Linscott Ricketts's monumental work, Mircea Eliade. The Romanian Roots. 1907-1945 (Bucharest, CriterionPublishing,2004). She coordinated, together with Mac Linscott Ricketts, the following volumes: Întâlniri cu / Encounters with Mircea Eliade (Cluj-Napoca, „Casa Cărții de Știință” Publishing House, 2005) and Întâlniri cu Mircea Eliade (Bucharest, Humanitas Publishing House, 2007). Author of volume Mircea Eliade. Anii tulburări. 1932-1938 (Mircea Eliade. His political involvement. 1932-1938), published in Bucharest, Editura Fundației Culturale Ideea Europeană, 2007. She coordinated, together with Mac Linscott Ricketts, Professor Mircea Eliade: Reminiscences (Kolkata, Codex Publishing House, 2008). She is a Scientific Researcher in the field of Philosophy at The Romanian Academy, “George Bariț” Institute of History Cluj-Napoca, Department of Humanities. Address correspondence to: Mihaela Gligor, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, ”George Baritiu" History Institute Department of Humanities, No. 8, M. Kogalniceanu Street, 400084 Cluj-Napoca, Romania; e-mail: mihaelagligor@gmail.com.