

EMINESCU AND ROMANIAN NATION

VASILE CÂNDEA

Abstract. This opening speech emphasizes the plurality of preoccupations of a complex Romanian personality, the Romanian national poet, journalist, philosopher and publicist, and among these the manner of conceiving the evolution of Romanian nationality in relation to the western European civilisation of the time. Eminescu meditated at the status of the Romanian nation and at the Romanian civilisation, with attention for the affirmation of the national values, for the consolidation of the cultural unity of all Romanians and for the accomplishment of the Romanian national state, within its ethnical borders.

Key words: Eminescu, Romanian nation, Romanian civilisation.

This is the opening of the symposium on Eminescu of the Department of Philosophy, Theology, Psychology and Journalism of the Academy of Romanian Scientists at the occasion of the commemoration of 122 years since the death of the “unpaired poet” another great poet, Nichita Stănescu titled him.

For me, of an entirely different trade, seems an impiety to express authorised opinions concerning the work of this giant of the Romanian literature and culture.

Eminescu’s work was the subject of numerous studies, commentaries, analyses and interpretations signed by various personalities with resonance in the history of Romanian culture such as: Titu Maiorescu, Garabet Ibrăileanu, Nicolae Iorga, Eugen Lovinescu, Perpessicius, I. Negoïtescu, Petru Creția, Acad. Dan Berindei, Acad. Alexandru Surdu, Ilie Bădescu, Svetlana Paleologu-Matta, C. Schifirneț, etc.

It seems that once he was labelled as a “genius poet”, the rest of his work slipped into the shadows, as it happened for instance with his journalistic work, expressing a manner of thinking and understanding the world through particular ideas and visions, entirely original.

From the multitude of his preoccupations, we shall stop at his interest for the status of the Romanian nation. During his university formation at Vienna, living in that medium of Western civilisation, Eminescu entered in deep contact with the civilisation of the west, with its particularities, with its main currents of opinion and fashionable doctrines. All these influenced Eminescu and determined him to think modern evolution of Romania, as European country, especially through its Latin origin.

For Romanians, this type of civilisation was the direction of affirmation for the national Romanian values, for the consolidation of the cultural unity of Romanian for establishing the Romanian unitary national state, within its ethnical borders.

According to C. Schifirneț (1996), Eminescu, as a poet not only had a global manner of thinking the world, but also a profound knowledge of the universe. Thus, his poetry, playwriting, prose and journalism are results of this paradigmatic manner of thinking. In his work there is not only a practical, scientific, historical, sociological, economic thought, but also an original perspective of the world in its entirety and in the reality of his times.

His vision of state and nation is as well the expression of his paradigmatic thought. In this respect, Eminescu appears today as an evolutionist thinker, as Aristotle, Plato, Descartes and others, who conceived the world in its cumulative becoming and