

EMINESCU IN ELIADE'S VISION

VICTOR BOTEZ

Abstract. The investigation emphasizes the pro-Eminescian contribution of the world famous Mircea Eliade, the Romanian scientist, philosopher and writer, as famous as Constantin Brâncuși was, on the realm of visual arts. These two, Eliade and Brâncuși are most frequently quoted, commented and *present*. Eminescu deserves no less and Eliade understood that Eminescu legitimately occupies a unique place in Romanian culture, as the embodiment of the identity and soul of the Romanian nation, given the exceptional value of his work. Eliade was by no means alone in his appreciation. Titu Maiorescu, Garabet Ibrăileanu, Nicolae Iorga, George Călinescu, Eugen Lovinescu, Lucian Blaga, Perpessicius, Tudor Vianu, Constantin Noica, Tudor Arghezi, Zoe Dumitrescu Bușulenga, Dimitrie Vatamaniuc, Ioana Em. Petrescu, Edgar Papu, Alexandru Surdu, Nicolae Georgescu, Amita Bhowse, Ion Negoïtescu, Petru Creția, Alexandru Oprea and many more found multiple meanings of Eminescu's work, as well as interpretations of his value as a symbol within the national consciousness.

Key words: Mihai Eminescu, philosophy, spirituality, gnosis, embodiment of national identity.

Eminescu is the Romanian author who has enjoyed the most and consistent exegesis, along the modern Romanian culture. On the value of Eminescu's work and symbol in the national consciousness and as the emblem of the Romanian soul sometimes, many had written from Titu Maiorescu, Garabet Ibrăileanu, Nicolae Iorga, George Călinescu, Eugen Lovinescu, Lucian Blaga, Perpessicius, Tudor Vianu, Constantin Noica, Tudor Arghezi, and other prominent people of Romanian culture. From the post-war period we should mention Zoe Dumitrescu Bușulenga, Dimitrie Vatamaniuc, and Ioana Em. Petrescu, Edgar Papu, Alexandru Surdu, Amita Bhowse, Ion Negoïtescu, Petru Creția, Alexandru Oprea.

Less known is the pro-Eminescian contribution of Mircea Eliade, the scientist, philosopher and Romanian writer who had conquered global fame, remaining intact until today, alongside that, in the realm of fine arts, of Constantin Brâncuși. They are the most frequently cited, commented, and the most *present* of the Romanian personalities, Eliade in the congresses of the Oriental specialists, historians and philosophers of religions, literary critics, or on the shelves of bookstores and libraries, Brâncuși in museums, in aesthetics and art history, and in the top auctions of his works.

Our leading exegete of Eminescu, university professor Nicolae Georgescu, gave us a wonderful book for mind and soul in 1999, the critical edition of the poem *Luceafărul*, or *The Morning Star* in the English language, superbly illustrated with the *Hyperyonian* sculptures of Constantin Brâncuși, then recently discovered. It was further evidence of Eminescu-Brâncuși inter-connections, whose immortal works drawn their sap from the archaic spirituality, from the layer of mothers in Gaea, from the *dough* of Romanian people, as frequently named by Eliade, but also with influences from the ancient Indian culture, proof that national and universal elements can live very well together.

Eliade has dispelled aspects concerning the work, destiny, and cultural influence of Eminescu over a large part of Romanian readers in the country and in the Diaspora, by journalism, lectures, conferences, pertinent assessments and forecasts.