

LUCIAN BLAGA AND RICHARD RORTY. THE HISTORICAL BEING AND THE IRONIST*

Henrieta Anișoara ȘERBAN and Eric GILDER**

Abstract. The question to pose in this comparative approach of two philosophical concepts that at the first glance have nothing in common is the following: “Is ironism an awakening from the ‘infinite sleep where our being floats’”? And the entire study struggles to sustain a positive answer for this question. I consider that Blaga’s architectural complex is a celebration of ironism *avant-la-lettre*. The parallel between the historical being and the “ironist” has its importance in the very contemporary relevance as in the hope it brings about: life brings about the opportunity to be exposed to different vocabularies, to so interesting vocabularies (read “worlds”, “ideas”) as either Blaga’s or Rorty’s. Both their thought and lives speak volumes about ironism. Approaching the parallel between ironism and the historical being one understands that the tragic nature of the historical being is therefore counter-balanced, in a very complex and tensioned way, by the chances to live authentically as a (liberal) ironist and as an inherently creative being.

Keywords: Blaga, historical being, Rorty, ironism, vocabularies.

1. Ironism avant-la-lettre

1.1. Lucian Blaga – a fugitive biography of a great being

Lucian Blaga (1895-1961), the Romanian philosopher who has had his debut as a poet, has obtained his Ph.D. title in philosophy and biology at Vienna (1916-1920). He continued to be a “complete” writer all his life, at once poet and dramatist and philosopher and journalist¹. Meanwhile he was as well a professor², a researcher³ and a librarian⁴. He gets inscribed into this great intellectual tradition of connecting and reconnecting Romanian culture to the world as a press attaché

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** PhD, Correspondent Member ARS; PhD, *visiting professor*, “Lucian Blaga” University, Sibiu.

¹ For instance at the newspaper *Voința* where his first theater play *Zamolxe* (Adamachi Prize for debut, granted by the Romanian Academy), was published in 1921, or, for example he has published in the publications *Patria*, *Gândirea*, *Adevărul literar și artistic*, *Cuvântul*.

² At the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy, Cluj University (1946-1948).

³ At the Institute of History and Philosophy, Cluj (1949-1951).

⁴ Actually, he was the librarian-in-chief, at the Library of the Romanian Academy, Cluj section (1951-1954).