

NICOLAE IORGA – THE UNIVERSAL ROMANIAN

Ioan SCURTU*

DOI <https://doi.org/10.56082/annalsarscihist.2021.1.61>

Abstract. Nicolae Iorga was endowed with outstanding intellectual qualities. It has carried out an intense activity on multiple levels: university professor, historian, head of institutes, newspapers and magazines. At the same time, he was an important political leader: party chief, deputy, senator, prime minister of Romania. Being a universal Romanian, he benefited from a wide international recognition: doctor *Honoris Causa* of several Universities around the world, vice president of the International Committee of Historians etc.

Keywords: studies, professor, director, political leader, doctor *Honoris Causa*

Nicolae Iorga was a “natural phenomenon”, a man gifted with an extraordinary intellectual capacity and an absolutely exceptional power to work. In his book entitled *My Horizons. A life of a man as it was*, published in 1934, N. Iorga declared: “I have not learned how to read and write: these are things that came to me naturally. I do not remember any «pedagogic» training course to discover letters and merge them into syllables, which then reveal me the word”¹. In the same book, N. Iorga wrote that French “wasn’t challenging for me when I was five years old”, language which he practiced without a dictionary, reading “the whole book, the book that a man writes for people, and not the reading for children made with a high-pitched voice by the systematic teacher”².

Born in 1871, N. Iorga graduated in record time from the primary school in Botoșani, from the High School and from the University of Iasi, afterwards he continued his studies in Paris and Berlin, and in 1893 he received his PhD in Leipzig.

N. Iorga returned to the country and became a professor at the University of Bucharest, where, in his inaugural lecture, held on 1st of September 1894, he raised an extremely complicated subject, which only a man with a rich scientific experience could address: *About the current conception of history and its genesis*.

He gained from the beginning the sympathy and trust of the students, thanks to the extremely rich and accurate information provided, as well as the oratory talent. His lectures were attended not only by students, but also by a very

* Founding Member of the Academy of Romanian Scientists.

¹ N. Iorga, *O viață de om. Așa cum a fost*. Ediție Valeriu și Sanda Râpeanu, București, Editura Minerva, 1972, p. 9.

² Ibid., pp. 9-10.