

THE PATRIOTISM OF MIND AND THE PATRIOTISM OF HEART AT MIHAI EMINESCU. MIHAI EMINESCU'S CONSERVATISM¹

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Abstract. The study addresses the issues of patriotism at Mihai Eminescu. It argues that too often and too superficially Mihai Eminescu's patriotism is dismissed as organic obsolete nationalism, sweetened romanticism, etc. In his times he was... before his time. During the communism, Mihai Eminescu was censured because it was considered that his works impeded good relations with USSR and Israel. Under the democratic European Union Mihai Eminescu is too much: too nationalistic, obsolete and too romantic and even too difficult to be promoted or taught. Nevertheless, the stand of the poet was, on the one hand, quite analytical and, on the other, quite up-to-date in his bio political perspective. At the same time, Eminescu's political thought is an interesting type of political conservatism with significant classical features and particularities, too.

Key words: Mihai Eminescu, patriotism, lyrics, Romanticism, bio politics, conservatism, ecophilia.

In our times, when Romanian values are hastily overlooked and dismissed it is refreshing to return to the soulful patriotism of *Mihai Eminescu, the national Romanian poet*. Eminescu is intrinsically linked with Romanian identity, as its bright morning star. Mircea Eliade captured exactly this aspect when he stated in the Foreword to "Errantry Edition" to the *Poems* of Mihai Eminescu: "Eminescu is all that remained untouched from our Romanian waters, skies and land".²

We have chosen this subject because it contradicts the contemporary, general, popular culture trend. Too often and too superficially Mihai Eminescu's patriotism is dismissed as organic obsolete nationalism, sweetened romanticism, etc. In his times he was... before his time. During the communism, Mihai Eminescu was censured because it was considered that his works impeded good relations with USSR and Israel. Under the democratic European Union Mihai Eminescu is too much: too nationalistic, obsolete and too romantic and even too difficult to be promoted or taught. Nevertheless, the stand of the poet was, on the one hand, quite analytical and, on the other, quite up-to-date in his bio political perspective.

In what it concerns the analytical perspective of Mihai Eminescu on patriotism, we shall discuss briefly Eminescu's definition of patriotism as combination of warm heart and cold mind. He said: "But especially because the Austrian influence presents itself as intricate fabric of causes and effects, and as consequence each individual in our country lives under this pressure, hence, the more we love our country and our people, the more we should endow our mind with a cold impartiality and not heat up and incite thought, because then we could easily falsify the sight of this faithful guide and get wind up with vehemence in the darkness, fighting phantoms. Very warm heart and very cold mind are required from a patriot, called to straighten his people and the

¹ This text is composed by a first part presented at the 2012 ASR conference Mihai Eminescu, the Complete Man of the Romanian Culture", followed by a second part, presenting other ideas characteristic for the Eminescian political thought.

² Mihai Eminescu, *Poesii. Editie de pribegie [Errantry Edition]*. Foreword by Mircea Eliade, edited by Mircea Eliade, Paris, 1949.