

A Review of Bucharest University Journal “ROMANO-ARABICA”:2001-2019

Nizar Kabibo*

(Received 20 / 1 / 2020. Accepted 30 / 8 / 2020)

□ ABSTRACT □

This paper is a review of the new series issues (2001-2019) of a very important Academic Journal, Romano-Arabica Journal, which is an annual, peer-reviewed, -international journal published by the Center for Arab Studies, University of Bucharest, both on paper and on-line. This journal played, and still playing, a very important role in introducing the Arabic and Islamic culture to the Romanian society, and the wider ones, through publishing articles by prominent authors from 29 countries, in six languages (including the Arabic one) about the Arabic language (classical and dialectal) and literature (classical and modern). Also, it introduces Islamic thought, Islamic societies and the interaction between the Arab civilization and other civilizations. It was classified as “A-Class” Academic Journal by the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes-Anvur, Italia. Also it was declared the best academic journal of the University of Bucharest in 2017.

Key words: Romania, Journal, Arabic Language, Literature, Bucharest University.

* PhD student - Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences - University of Bucharest - Romania

مراجعة للمجلة الصادرة عن جامعة بخارست "رومانو- آرابيكا": 2001 - 2019

نزار كيببو*

تاريخ الإيداع 20 / 1 / 2020. قبل للنشر في 30 / 8 / 2020

□ ملخص □

هذه الورقة هي مراجعة لإصدارات أعداد السلسلة الجديدة (2001-2019) من المجلة الأكاديمية الدولية السنوية "رومانو آرابيكا" والتي ينشرها مركز الدراسات العربية بجامعة بخارست، ورقياً وعلى الانترنت. لعبت هذه المجلة، ولا تزال، دوراً هاماً في تعريف المجتمع الروماني، والمجتمعات الأوسع، بالثقافة العربية والإسلامية من خلال نشر مقالات لمؤلفين بارزين من 29 دولة ، بست لغات (بما في ذلك العربية) حول اللغة العربية (الكلاسيكية والجدلية) والأدب العربي (الكلاسيكية والحديثة). كما أنها تنشر عن الفكر الإسلامي والمجتمعات الإسلامية وعن التفاعل بين الحضارة العربية والحضارات الأخرى. تم تصنيفها على أنها "A-Class" من قبل الوكالة الوطنية الإيطالية لتقييم الجامعات ومعاهد البحوث - Anvur ، إيطاليا. كما أنها نالت لقب أفضل مجلة أكاديمية لجامعة بخارست في عام 2017.

الكلمات المفتاحية: رومانيا، مجلة رومانو آرابيكا، اللغة، الأدب، العربية، جامعة بخارست

Introduction:

Romano-Arabica journal played, and still playing, a very important role in introducing the Arabic and Islamic culture to the Romanian society, and the wider ones, through publishing articles by prominent authors about the Arabic language (classical and dialectal) and literature (classical and modern). Also, it introduces Islamic thought, Islamic societies and the interaction between the Arab civilization and other civilizations, etc.¹ The policy of the journal is part of the policy of Bucharest University which aims at the opening to the other cultures².

To achieve its goals, the journal published (till 2019) articles in six languages by authors from 29 countries, and maybe this was one of the reasons that it was declared the best academic journal of the University of Bucharest, in 2017³ and it was classified as "A-class Academic Journal, according to the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes – Anvur, Italia: <http://www.anvur.it/en/homepage/>."⁴

The first issues of this journal were published in the years 1974-1976 by the Romanian Association for Oriental Studies where important names like C.C. Giurescu, Virgil Candea and Aurel Deciei published in these issues⁵.

From 2001 till now (2019) it became an annual, peer-reviewed, international journal published by the Center for Arab Studies, University of Bucharest, both on paper – ISSN: 1582-6953 – and on-line⁶.

Its Editorial and Advisory Board consists of the academic staff of the Center for Arab Studies of the University of Bucharest and leading scholars in Arab and Islamic studies from prestigious academic institutions around the world⁷.

It is available in numerous academic libraries such as University of Oxford, Library of Congress, University of Chicago, British Library, University of Cambridge, University of Basel, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Bavarian State Library, Pontifical Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London), Institute of Arab World, Dalhousie University – Killam Memorial Library, and many others. And it is listed in international databases such as: CEEOL (Central and Eastern European Online Library) ERIH PLUS, Index Islamicus, ISI, SJR-SCIMAGO JOURNAL&COUNTRY RANK, Cascadilla, wordcat.org⁸.

¹ Center for Arab Studies-University of Bucharest, *Romano Arabica*, [viewed on 14 Dec. 2019]. Available from: <https://romanoarabica.academy/>

² Romano-Arabica, *The Orient-Here*, New Series 1, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2001. The Forward page. ISSN 1582-6953.

³ *Ibidem*.

⁴ Romano-Arabica, *Curses and Profanity in the Languages and Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa*, New Series 19, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2019. ISSN 1582-6953.

⁵ *Ibidem*.

⁶ Center for Arab Studies-University of Bucharest, *Romano Arabica*, [viewed on 14 Dec. 2019]. Available from: <https://romanoarabica.academy/>

⁷ *Ibidem*.

⁸ Center for Arab Studies-University of Bucharest, *Romano Arabica*. Op.cit.

The partners of this journal are: University of Bucharest, Pontificio Istituto di Studi Arabi e d'Islamistica, Institut du monde Arabe, INALCO and SOAS.

The Importance of this Research:

The importance of this research lies in giving the Syrian academicians, and the Arab ones, a picture about the importance of this academic journal. The importance of this journal comes from many factors; first it has readers from all European countries in addition to its readers in the United States. Second, it won many significant prizes for its professionalism. Third, it's issued by the most important university in Romania, Bucharest University, and edited by very prominent names. One of its editors-since 2001 till now- is Prof. George Grigore who translated Quran into Romanian. Other important names are Prof. Nadia Anghelescu, Prof. Ioana Feodorov and many others who wrote tens of books and articles about the Arabic language, literature and culture.

Another importance for this research is to encourage Syrian writers and Academicians to be in contact with the editors of this journal, especially that we many academicians from the Arab world are either in the Editorial Board of this journal, or writers in it.

Bucharest University and this journal follows the strategy of "Openness" towards all other cultures, and this journal is specialized in the Arab and Islamic Culture, so it will be good for the Arabs and the Romanians to take this chance and work together.

In Syria we share the same values of openness towards other cultures, so this journal might be good example to follow. The editors of this journal are very open to cooperate with other universities and academicians.

The Research Methodology:

The methodology of this research is an analytical one; after reading all the journal issues and meeting with the editors of this journal we started analyzing these issues. The analysis was concentrated on the subjects of the articles of these issues, the writers of these articles, the books that had been reviewed in these issues.

This research was conducted in Bucharest in the period between July 2019 and December 2020.

The Journal Publications:

The first issue of this new series was in 2001. It carried the title *The Horient-Here*. Important authors published in this issue as Nadia Anghelescu (the editor), Nicolae Dobrisan (associate editor), Ioana Feodorov (editorial assistant), George Grigore (assistant to the editors), Luminita Munteanu, Ovidiu Pietroreanu and others. The total number of the authors worked on this issue was only six; editor: Naddia Anghelescu, associate editor: Nicolae Dobrisan, assistant to the editors: George Grigore. the editorial assistants: Ioana Feodorov, Rodica Firanescu and Irina Vainovski-Mihai. It contained 13 articles concentrated on the "Orient" and the "Arab language and literature", none of them were in Arabic. It didn't have an image on its cover. It was 141 pages.

The second issue carried the title *Discourses on love in the Orient*⁹, and it was published in 2002. It was published with efforts of two authors only; the editor: Nadia Angheliesco and the associate editor was Geoge Grigore. It contained a "Forward" by Nadia Angheliescu and 18 articles about the concept of "Love" in the Arabic literature and its concept in India, China, Romania and Turkey. None of these articles was in Arabic. The cover design is an image on one Arabic word الحب (LOVE) written or drawn as the shape of a heart. It was 177 pages.

The third one titled *Arabic Linguistics*¹⁰. It was published in 2003. It was edited by the same two names mentioned in the previous issue. It contained papers based on presentations given at or prepared for the Colloquium on Arabic Linguistics, held in Bucharest June 2-4, 2003, organized by the Center for Arab Studies of the University of Bucharest¹¹ As it's clear from the title, this issue concentrated on Arabic linguistics. This issue contained 14 articles, and as in the previous two issues no Arabic article published in this issue. Only one author from the Arab world published an article on this issue. He was Ramzi Baalbaki from Lebanon who wrote about some Arabic grammar. Important names like Nadia Angheliesco, George Grigore and Ioana Feodorov published articles on this issue. The cover design is an image of one letter of the Arabic alphabet which is ض (its pronunciation is close to the word dad. the Arabic language also called the language of ض because no other language on Earth has such a letter). This issue was 236 pages.

The fourth issue was published in 2004 with the title *Translation from/into Arabic*¹². Also, the same editor and associate editor of the previous issue. This issue concentrated on the translation movement from/into Arabic in literature works or the translations of the religious books. This issue concentrated on books review rather than publishing articles (this was the first issue that published book reviews); it included six articles and fourteen book reviews. None of the articles or the book reviews were written in Arabic, but five books of the books reviewed in this issue were by Arabic authors (Badawi, Elsaid- Boucherit, Aziza- Cheddadi, Abdesselam - Sammūd, Hammādī -Taine-Cheikh, Catherine) and one about IBLA (journal about Arabic letters) and one about Islamochristiana (Islamic-Christian Studies). There was no explanation of the image that appeared on the cover of this issue, but it looks like the Arabic word هو (which means "He") and the reflection of this word, maybe in a reference to "translation" which is a reflection of the original language. This issue was only 95 pages.

The fifth one carried the title *Orientalism: Past and Present*¹³, and it was published in 2005. This issue, as in the previous ones, edited by Nadia Angheliesco and the

⁹ Romano-Arabica, *Discourses on love in the Orient*, New Series 2, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2002. ISSN 1582-6953.

¹⁰ Romano-Arabica, *Arabic Linguistics*, New Series 3, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2003. ISSN 1582-6953

¹¹ *Ibidem*, the Forward.

¹² Romano-Arabica, *Translation from/into Arabic*, New Series 4, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2004. ISSN 1582-6953

¹³ Romano-Arabica, *Orientalism: Past and Present*, New Series 5, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2005. ISSN 1582-6953

associate editor was George Grigore, but this issue included-for the first time- an advisory board of 8 authors from eight countries, two of them were from the Arab world; Ramzi Baalbaki (Beirut) and Chokri Mabkhout (Tunis). It contained four articles about “Orientalism” and sixteen book reviews (four of them were by Arab authors). None of the articles or the book reviews were in Arabic. Four books out of these sixteen ones were reviewed by Nadia Anghelescu, three books by Nicolae Dobrișan, two books by George Grigore, two books by Ovidiu Pietrăreanu, two books by Monica Broșteanu. Also, in this issue, there was no explanation of the image that appeared on its cover. It was 110 pages.

The sixth and the seventh issue carried the title *Peripheral Arabic Dialects*¹⁴ It covered two years 2006 and 2007. Its editor, associate editor and the advisory board were the same mentioned in the previous issue. The editor in charge of this issue was George Grigore. It contained fifteen articles with no book review, none of them was in Arabic. The articles concentrated on Arabic dialects and phonetics. One of these articles was published in the German language by Jonathan Owens & Fadila Brahimi. Five articles were in French, and the rest were in English. Also, in this issue, there was no explanation of the image that appeared on its cover. It was 204 pages.

The next issue covered four years (from 2008 to 2011), and it was titled *Islamic Space: Linguistic and Cultural Diversity*¹⁵. The editors of this issue were George Grigore and Laura Sitaru in addition to an advisory board of 8 authors from 8 countries, one of them from Lebanon (Ramzi Baalbaki) and another one was from Washington D.C. (John O. Voll). The editor in charge of the Issue was Laura Sitaru. The cover designer of this issue was Gabriel Bițună. The cover design is the phrase- in Arabic- of “Center for Arab Studies”. The issue contained the proceedings of the International Colloquium Islamic Space: Linguistic and Cultural Diversity, organized by the Center for Arab Studies of the University of Bucharest, which was held in Bucharest, on May 21st, 2011¹⁶. It contained 15 articles about Arabic poetry, drama and language, and also about Islam, none of them was in Arabic. It contained also one book reviewed by George Grigore. It was 254 pages.

From the above last two issues, we find that only two issues issued in six years.

In 2012 another issue of the journal was issued with the title *55 Years of Arab Studies in Romania*¹⁷. It was edited by the same names and the same advisory board mentioned in the paragraph of the previous issue except for the absence of André Roman (Lyon). And the cover of this issue was designed by Gabriel Bițună also. It contained 18 articles, and two book reviews. Most of the articles were about Arabic language and verse, or studies about Arabic novels. One article was about Islam,

¹⁴ Romano-Arabica, *Peripheral Arabic Dialects*, New Series 6-7, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2006/2007. ISSN 1582-6953

¹⁵ Romano-Arabica, *Islamic Space: Linguistic and Cultural Diversity*, New Series 8-11, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2011. ISSN 1582-6953.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*. The Forward.

¹⁷ Romano-Arabica, *55 Years of Arab Studies in Romania*, New Series 12, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2012. ISSN 1582-6953.

and one article in Spanish by Jairo Guerrero about Rap Music in Morocco. None of the articles was in Arabic. It was 286 pages.

In 2013 the journal issued an issue titled *Arab Linguistic, Literary and Cultural Studies*¹⁸. Starting from this issue on the number of authors working on the journal doubled. Also, starting from this issue on Arabic articles started to appear in the issues of the journal. This issue was edited by George Grigore and Laura Sitaru (both from the University of Bucharest). The Assistant Editors were Gabriel Bituna, Georgiana Nicoarea and Ovidiu Pietareanu (all of them were from Bucharest University also). This issue had fourteen Editorial and Advisory Board; Two of them were Arabs: Ramzi Baalbaki and Sabry Hafez. There were editors from Spain, the USA, France, Norway, Austria, Ukraine, Italy, the UK and Romania). The Cover: Exhibit from the National Museum of Iraq, Baghdad (photo by G. Bituna). it contained one article in Arabic by Yousef Sh'hadeh, "السرد، الشخصيات واللغة في الفن الروائي الجديد في سوريا روايتنا "صلصال" لسمر يزبك و"لولو" لعبير اسبر" (The Modern Syrian Novel-Narration, Characters and Language in Samar Yazbik's Novel "Silsal" (Clay) and Abir Isbir's "lulu"). This was the first article in Arabic published in this journal. In this article, Sh'hadeh did a critical analysis of the two mentioned Syrian novels. He studied their literal elements (narration, plot, characters...) and he concluded that the new narration art reached an advanced stage. There was no book review in this issue. This issue concentrated on Iraq, and maybe this was the aim behind the choosing of a photo from the Iraq museum as a cover of this issue. The articles met the title of this issue in concentrating on Arabic language, literature and culture. It was 387 pages.

The next issue was in 2014. It was titled *Āmmiyya and Fuṣḥā in Linguistics and Literature*¹⁹. The title used Arabic words; "Āmmiyya" means "colloquial", and "Fuṣḥā" means "classical" or "eloquent". The editors, assistant editors and editorial and advisory board are the same in the previous issue. The cover was designed, also, by G. Biṭună. The cover expressed Wi'ām (Harmony). The first article was an article in Arabic by Yaşar Acat; Tayseer Mohammad al-Zyadat. it was titled: "القيم" ("Moral Values in Mhallami Proverbs"). Yaşar Acat is a Turkish professor, and Tayseer Mohammad al-Zyadat is a Jordanian academic. This article talked about the moral values of proverbs in 27 different cases. There were 22 articles in this issue, most of them concentrated on issues of the Arabic language. There was no book review in this issue. It was 387 pages (the same as the previous issue).

The issue of 2015 had the title *Graffiti, Writing and Street Art in the Arab World*²⁰. It was edited by the same editors above, but there were new names in the editorial and the advisory board (they were 16 people in this issue). The assistant editors

¹⁸ Romano-Arabica, *Arab Linguistic, Literary and Cultural Studies*, New Series 13, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2013. ISSN 1582-6953.

¹⁹ Romano-Arabica, *Āmmiyya and Fuṣḥā in Linguistics and Literature*, New Series 14, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2014. ISSN 1582-6953.

²⁰ Romano-Arabica, *Graffiti, Writing and Street Art in the Arab World*, New Series 15 Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2015. ISSN 1582-6953.

were the same in the previous issue but Gabriel Bituna had the title “associate editor” instead of “assistant editor”. The cover designed by G. Bituna also. It was about the Wall of the American University of Cairo, Tahrir Square, Egypt, September 24, 2012. This issue was divided into three parts; “Graffiti, Writing and Street Art in the Arab World,” and “Studia Varia” and “book reviews”. There were 7 articles in the first part, ten in the second (one of them in Arabic منتصر أمين عبد الرحيم. "المعجم ثنائي اللغة في التراث العربي: الإدراك للسان الأتراك لابي حيان الأندلسي Montaser Amin Abdul Rahim: "Bilingual Dictionary of Arab Heritage: the Perception of the Turkish Tongue of Abu Hayyan Al-Andalusi as a Model"). The third part contained six book reviews; one of them was in Arabic (د. علي القاسمي. (صناعة المعجم التاريخي للغة العربية. بيروت: مكتبة لبنان. 2014 Dr. Ali Qasimi: *Making the Historical Dictionary of the Arabic Language*). This book was reviewed by Montaser Amin Abdul Rahim. Dr. Ali Qasimi is an Iraqi professor. The first part contained articles about graffiti and photos on the walls of many Arab countries and cities like Libya, Yemen, Palestine, Iraq... The authors of these articles studied the writings on these walls concentrating on the period of conflicts inside these countries.

The article in Arabic mentioned above talked about *the Bilingual Dictionary of Arab Heritage*. It talked about this book by Abu Hayyan Al-Andalusi. The author said that this book was important because of the growing interest of the Arabs to learn the Turkish language. This book was divided into three parts; the first was the dictionary. The second was a morphologic study of the Turkish words. While the last was a study of the Turkish phrases and their rules. The article concentrated on the first part. Most of the articles in the second part concentrated on linguistic issues in the Arabic language. It was 333 pages.

The issue in 2016 was titled *Modalities in Arabic*²¹. It was edited by the same two important names mentioned above. The editorial and advisory board consisted of 17 authors. It had two associated editors and one editor in charge of this issue. The cover was designed, also, by Gabriel Biṭună. This issue was divided, as the previous one, into three parts; “Modality”, “Studia Varia” and “Book Reviews.” “Modality” contained ten articles, all of them were about modality. One of them by Nadia Anghelescu. “Studia Varia” contained 9 articles, one of them was in Arabic by Abir Husein Abid (Iraqi author): "عبير حسين عبد. الرمز اللغوي حسب نظرية الصورة الإجمالية للإشارة: اللغوية" (Linguistic Code According to the Theory of the Overall Picture of the Linguistic Reference”). Two other Arab writers in this part were Montasir Fayez Faris Al-Hamad who wrote an article (in English) “A New Model for Learning Arabic Script”, and Ward Aqil who wrote (in English also) “Saḥūri wala tbūri. Elative Structures in Colloquial Palestinian Arabic Proverbs”. The book “reviews” part contained reviews of four books, one of them was *Kalīla wa Dimna*. This issue was 293 pages. It was 293 pages.

²¹ Romano-Arabica, *Modalities in Arabic*, New Series 16, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2016. ISSN 1582-6953

In 2017 the journal issued an issue titled *Fictional Beings in Middle East Cultures*²². The editors, associate editors and editor in charge of this issue were the same in the previous issue. The editorial and advisory board consisted of 17 authors, two of them were Arabs (Montaser Amein, Ramzi Baalbaki and Bilal Orfali). Ioana Feodorov was one of the editorial and advisory board of this issue and the previous one. The cover design of this issue is by Dennis Ioniță (Cover picture: Shahmeran – Queen of the Serpents). This issue was divided into five parts; Notes, Fictional beings in Middle East cultures, Studia Varia, Book Reviews and Conference Reports. The note was by Gabriel Bițună in which he spoke- in English- about “Shahmeran – Queen of the Serpents”. He followed the origins of this mythology that combine serpent and feminine²³. According to him this combination between women and snakes was found in ancient Europe and the Turkish, Kurdish, Iranian and Indian mythologies. Even more, this combination was found in *the Arabian Nights* too. She is “the goddess of wisdom”, “the queen of the serpents”, “the guardian of secrets”, “the healer”, etc.

The second part Fictional Beings in Middle East Cultures contained five articles, one of them was in Arabic by Leyla Moussaoui "أصوات وضجيج الجان في الموروث العربي دراسة صوتية ودلالية" ("The Sounds and Noises of Elves in the Ancient Arab Heritage: A Phonetic and Semantic Study"). Leyla Moussaoui is from The Scientific and Technical Research Center for the Development of the Arabic Language - Research Unit Tlemcen – Algeria. Her research dealt with the sounds of the jinn in the ancient Arab heritage. the importance of this study is that it reveals the relationship of these sounds and their connection to the sounds of living creatures and inanimate objects, just as the Arabs drew for us the bodies of the jinn and their formation imagine it through vision, as well as recorded their voices to us as they imagined it through hearing.

The third part, Studia Varia, contained three articles, one of them by Ahmad Al-Jallad (“American author from Arabic origins”). He, with Marijn van Putten, published in this issue “The Case for Proto-Semitic and Proto-Arabic Case: A reply to Jonathan Owens”. The two other articles in this part were studies about “dialect”. The Book Review section contained reviews of six books. One of the book reviewers was Muhammad al-Sharkawi. Also, Ioana Feodorov, Nadia Anghelescu and Gabriel Bițună reviewed one book each. The books reviewed in this section were about Arabic language and culture and the Islamic culture.

The last part of this issue was Conference Reports in which it talked about *Insatiable Appetite: Food as a Cultural Signifier*. AGYA Conference Report. Beirut – 12-14 May 2016. It was 178 pages.

The issue in 2018 had the title *Geographies of Arab and Muslim Identity through the Eyes of Travelers*²⁴. It was edited by the same two editors; George Grigore and

²² Romano-Arabica, *Fictional Beings in Middle East Cultures*, New Series 17, Universității din București, Bucharest, 2017. ISSN 1582-6953

²³ Ibedim.

²⁴ Romano-Arabica, *Geographies of Arab and Muslim Identity through the Eyes of Travelers*, New Series 18, Universității din București, Bucharest, 2018. ISSN 1582-6953

Laura Sitaru. The associate editors were Gabriel Bițună and Ovidiu Pietrăreanu, while the editor in charge of this issue was Laura Sitaru. The editorial and advisory board was the same 17 authors as in the previous issue. The cover design was by Dennis Ioniță, it was about World map, by Abu Zaid Ahmed ibn Sahl al-Balkhi, d. 934.

This issue contained two parts in addition to the notes. The first part was Geographies of Arab and Muslim Identity Through the Eyes of Travelers, and the second one was Book Reviews. The first part contained 22 articles, five articles were written by Arabic authors (Mahmoud Al-Ashiri, Rasha Alkhatib, Yousef Sh'hadeh, Mustafa Switat and Samia Touati). Mahmoud Al-Ashiri (Georgetown University – Qatar, Fayoum University – Egypt) wrote an article in Arabic *عين على الصقالبية: الصقالبية عين على الذات*: "قراءة في "جنائن الشرق الملتهبة رحلة في بلاد الصقالبية" (*). ("An Eye on Slavs, an Eye on Self; A Reading Through Eastern Inflamed Gardens; A Journey to the Slavs' Countries"). Rasha Alkhatib (the Arab Open University-Jordan) wrote an article in Arabic *تمثلات الذات والآخر في ثلاث رحلات عربية من القرن السابع عشر* ("The Self and the Other Represent Three Arab Journeys from the Seventeenth Century") in which she spoke about three journeys; Afokai Al-Andalusi's Journey, the journey of Fakhr al-Dīn II and the journey of the priest (El Khoury) Elias Al-Mawsali. YOUSEF SH'HADEH (Jagiellonian University in Krakow) wrote his article in Arabic *غادة السمان في رحلاتها أو كيف يصبح الجسد حقيبة سفر* ("Journey of Gāda As-Sammān or How the Body Becomes a Suitcase"). In the abstract Sh'hadeh wrote "The Body is a Suitcase" Gāda as-Sammān publishes narratives from places visited by her in the years 1964-1976. In the form of essays and reportages, she describes European and Arab cities, including many capitals."²⁵ Mustafa Switat (Warsaw University) and Samia Touati

(Independent researcher) published their articles in English.

Laura Sitaru, coordinator of the current issue and Organizer of the international conference *Geographies of Arab and Muslim Identity Through the Eyes of Travelers* Bucharest, September 15-16, 2017 wrote in the note that the 18th issue of Romano-Arabica Journal contains a selection of papers presented at the international conference organized on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Arabic Department, University of Bucharest²⁶.

In the Book Reviews section, there were three books reviewed; the first one was reviewed by Mahmoud Al-Ashiri in Arabic. This book was *أميرة الزين. الإبداع*. 2016. *Creativity and Sacred* by Amira Az-Zen, 2016). The other two books were reviewed by Gabriel Bițună. It was 248 pages.

The issue in 2019 was titled *Curses and Profanity in the Languages and Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa*²⁷. It was edited by the same two authors in the previous issue. The associated editors were Gabriel Bițună and Ovidiu Pietrăreanu.

²⁵ Ibedim.

²⁶ Ibedim.

²⁷ Romano-Arabica, *Curses and Profanity in the Languages and Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa*, New Series 19, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2019. ISSN 1582-6953

The editor in charge of this issue was George Grigore & Gabriel Bițună. For the first time, the journal added: "website administrator" who was Ștefan Ionete. The editorial and advisory board was the same as in 2018 and 2017 issues. The cover design of this issue was by Dennis Bițună (Graffito in Tunis. Photo taken by the designer). It was 259 pages.

This issue mentioned that "Romano-Arabica Journal is an A-class Academic Journal, according to the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes – Anvur, Italia: <http://www.anvur.it/en/homepage/>²⁸"

This issue was divided into three parts; the first one contained 14 articles about Curses and Profanity in the Languages and Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa, three of them were in Arabic: "ابن ضعف الإنسان" عن التجديف من أجل فرح " "الوجود في شعر نزيه أبو عفش" ("God .. Son of Human Weakness". On Blasphemy for the Joy of Existence in the Poetry of Nazīh 'Abū 'Afash") by Basilius Bawardi (University of Bar Ilan-Ramat Gan). Nazih Abu Afash is a Syrian poet.

The second article in Arabic was "دلالات الاهانة عند الطوارق من خلال طقوس الأداء" ("Insult Indications in the Tuaregs' Society Through Ritual Performances") by Meriem Bouzid Sababou ("National Centre for Prehistoric, Anthropological and Historical Research, Algeria").

The third one was "بلاغة القبح في شعر ابن عُنين: دراسة في الرؤية والتشكيل" ("Rhetoric of Obscenity in Ibn 'Onain's Poetry: A Study of Content and Form") by Mufleh Hweitat (University of Jordan). The second part, MISCELLANEA, contained three articles about Arabic linguistic, Omani Arabic and "From Dobrudja to Ada-Kaleh: A Bridge between Empires".

The third part was Book Reviews which contained reviews of three books, one of them was in Italian: *Italiano, siciliano e arabo in contatto. Profilo sociolinguistico della comunità tunisina di Mazara del Vallo Centro di Studi Filologici e Linguistici siciliani, Palermo* (Cristiana Bozza). The second one was *Arik Sadan, Almog Kasher. 2018. A Critical Edition of the Grammatical treatise Mīzān al-carabiyya by Ibn al-'Anbārī* (d. 577/1181). Wiesbaden: Harassowitz Verlag (Ovidiu Pietrăreanu). The third book reviewed: Hela Ouardi. 2016. *Les derniers jours de Muhammad* (Laura Sitaru).

Conclusion:

The academic "Romano-Arabica" Journal gives good example of the culture of openness that Syria and Romania share; Bucharest University could make the policy of openness into action through publishing a special journal about a foreign important language and culture; i.e the Arabic ones.

During the period 2001-2019 the journal readers got rich knowledge of the Arabic and Islamic culture through the 15 issues (one issue for the years 2006 + 2007, and one issue for the years from 2008 till 2011) published in these 18 years.

In the period 2001-2019 it published 14 issues, two hundred and eighteen (218) articles were written by 139 writers from 29 countries, in six languages (English, French, Romanian, Arabic, German and Spanish).

²⁸ *Ibedim.*

This diversity in the languages of publications and the diversity of the cultures of the authors make this journal made it as important as mentioned in the introduction. There were other journals about the Arabic language and literature in Romania, but now this journal is the only one that is still at work.

The first article in Arabic published in this journal was in 2013. From 2013 to 2019 eight articles were published in Arabic (Yousef Sh'hadeh, Leyla Moussaoui, Abeer Hussein Abid, Montaser Amein and Tayseer Mohammad Al-Zyadat + Yasar Acac, Basilius Bawardi, Meriem Bouzid and Mufleh Hweitat).

During these 18 years, it published 149 articles in English. 52 articles in French. 7 articles in Romanian. 2 articles in German (one of these two articles were written by two authors) and 3 articles in Spanish.

As we saw, prominent names published in this journal. Most of these authors published in two languages. It was clear that this journal is becoming more important year by year, for this reason, we searched the authors who contributed more to this journal from 2001-2018 to find that George Grigore published ten articles, seven of them were in French and three in English. Ovidiu Pietr Ȃ Reanu published nine articles; six of them were in English and three in French. Nadia Anghelescu and Luminița M Unteanu published six articles each. All the articles by Unteanu were in French. Ioana Feodorov published five articles; four of them were in English, and one in French. Laura Sitaru published five articles; three in English and two in French. Andrei A. Avram published five articles in English. Georgiana N Icoarea published five articles in English. Pierre L Archer published five articles in French. Nicolae Dobrisan published four articles; three in English and one in the Romanian language.

During the period 2001- 2018 this journal reviewed 58 books (two of them were in Arabic), and one conference paper. The first book reviewed in the journal was in the issue of 2004 where fourteen book reviews were included in that issue.

From the growing number of its editorial board, we can estimate that more attention is being given to this journal, and it occupies more importance year by year.

It's highly recommended to start cooperation between Tishreen University and Bucharest University through publishing in this journal, especially that Tishreen University is rich with prominent professors whom deserve to be known more in Europe and the world.

References:

- . [1] Center for Arab Studies-University of Bucharest, *Romano Arabica*, [viewed on 14 Dec. 2019]. Available from: <https://romanoarabica.academy/>
- . [2] Center for Arab Studies-University of Bucharest, *Romano Arabica*,”. [viewed on 14 Dec. 2019]. Available from: <https://romanoarabica.academy/>
- . [3] Romano-Arabica, *The Orient-Here*, New Series 1, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2001. 141p. ISSN 1582-6953.
- . [4] Romano-Arabica, *Discourses on love in the Orient*, New Series 2, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2002. 177 p. ISSN 1582-6953.
- . [5] Romano-Arabica, *Arabic Linguistics*, New Series 3, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2003. 236 p. ISSN 1582-6953
- . [6] Romano-Arabica, *Translation from/into Arabic*, New Series 4, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2004. 95 p. ISSN 1582-6953
- . [7] Romano-Arabica, *Orientalism: Past and Present*, New Series 5, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2005. 110 p. ISSN 1582-6953
- . [8] Romano-Arabica, *Peripheral Arabic Dialects*, New Series 6-7, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2006/2007. 204 p. ISSN 1582-6953
- . [9] Romano-Arabica, *Islamic Space: Linguistic and Cultural Diversity*, New Series 8-11, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2011. 254 p. ISSN 1582-6953.
- . [10] Romano-Arabica, *55 Years of Arab Studies in Romania*, New Series 12, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2012. 286 p. ISSN 1582-6953.
- . [11] Romano-Arabica, *Arab Linguistic, Literary and Cultural Studies*, New Series 13, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2013. 387 p. ISSN 1582-6953.
- . [12] Romano-Arabica, *‘Āmmiyya and Fuṣḥā in Linguistics and Literature*, New Series 14, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2014. 387 p. ISSN 1582-6953.
- . [13] Romano-Arabica, *Graffiti, Writing and Street Art in the Arab World*, New Series 15, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2015. 333 p. ISSN 1582-6953.
- . [14] Romano-Arabica, *Modalities in Arabic*, New Series 16, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2016. 293 p. ISSN 1582-6953
- . [15] Romano-Arabica, *Fictional Beings in Middle East Cultures*, New Series 17, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2017. 178 p. ISSN 1582-6953
- . [16] Romano-Arabica, *Geographies of Arab and Muslim Identity through the Eyes of Travelers*, New Series 18, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2018. 248 p. ISSN 1582-6953
- . [17] Romano-Arabica, *Curses and Profanity in the Languages and Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa*, New Series 19, Universităţii din Bucureşti, Bucharest, 2019. 259 p. ISSN 1582-6953.