

ALEXANDRU ZUB*

N. IORGA: BOOKS AND MEMORIAL HORIZON (Summary)

Keywords: Nicolae Iorga, autobiography, historiology, travel literature, theatre.

O viață de om așa cum a fost [A Human Life as It Was] is the title of an autobiographical work by N. Iorga (it also features an integrative heading): *Orizonturile mele [My Horizons]*. Maybe the author wanted to suggest that his chronotropic movement was to be understood as an extensive process where the scholar born in Botoșani in 1871 and deceased in 1940 went through different experiences and hypostases in Iași, Bucharest, Paris, Leipzig, etc, wherever the circumstances and his great literate and *urbs* man qualities carried him. From the limited *horizon* of the native *urbs*, he ended up visiting almost the entire Romanian ethnocultural space, then the adjacent spaces (at a European and global level). Hence, he became a historical eminent of his nation and the world in a continual extension of cognitive *horizon* (of course, the total coverage remains a perpetually unfulfilled aspiration of historiography). He wrote about the Romanian people, the European South-East, the Byzantium, the Ottoman Empire, the Balkan countries and those in the east of the continent, the Romance literatures, and the ethnic groups having produced them during the Middle Ages and later, up to the days when he was able to know them personally, in an unprecedented work of synthesis. The analogy with Titus Livius, Pico della Mirandola, Cantemir, Voltaire, Ranke should be understood as a homage to the polyvalent creator that was the Moldavian Romanian N. Iorga, whom Eliade placed on the “royal path” of our encyclopedism, after Cantemir, Hasdeu, and Eminescu, as a miraculous, improbable expression of the Carpato-Danubian creativity.

* Academician, Institutul de Istorie „A. D. Xenopol”, Academia Română – Filiala Iași.