ABSTRACT

The present study is the result of a textual comparison between the Statute of the History, Archaeology and Natural Science Society of the Former Lower Alba County, adopted at Alba Iulia, on December 10th 1910, legalized by the Hungarian Royal Internal Affairs Ministry, in Budapest, on December 16th 1910 and the renewed Statute of remembered Society, which was renamed in the interwar period The History, Archaeology and Natural Science Society of the Alba County, approved on April 25th 1936 by the Management Committee as a result of the debate to which the new foundational act (although in many respects it remained in its original form) has been subjected at the General Assembly of the members of the Society that took place in the hall of the “I. L. Caragiale” Theatre from Alba Iulia, on April 23rd that same year. The evaluation of the changes made in the text of the Statute from 1910 mirrors the mentality of the major actors of the fore-mentioned assembly as well as the situation of the museum of Alba Iulia (founded in 1888) from 1935-1936, when the old Society and the Museum, which has become Museum of the Unification, through the fusion of the old collections from 1888 with the valuable documentary archive developed by Astra, have been taken into common administration, energetically, by the Romanian intellectuals who set the tone of the events; although in the old Management Committee of the Society, which was reelected as a result of the April 23rd 1936 reunion, based on the modifications to the Statute, the Magyar intellectuals were predominant. In the territory however, the number of the ordinary members suffered a spectacular growth, especially around the year 1936, through the massive entrance of the Romanians in the Society, and therefore this number reached the amount of approximately 800 members, which practically exceeded by 4 times the previous member count from before 1918. Altogether, the study has edited the Convening notice of the meeting of the Management Committee of the Scientific Society of the Alba County from January 20th 1935, which invited the 46 members of the
Management Committee to participate to the January 23rd meeting, whose agenda included the discussion of the modifications which were about to be made to the text of the old Statute, a fact that offers the whole event a certain importance. By publishing the two documents together, both the January 20th 1935 Convening Notice and the Romanian translation of the Statutes from 1910, by which the members of the new Committee elected on April 23rd, 1936 have operated on 25 April of the same year, the modifications approved by the barely held General Assembly, the current paper reveals in a concrete manner the way the museum of Alba Iulia has been reestablished between the years 1936-1938, a recreation which ended in 1938 when to the board of the institution was brought professor Ion Berciu, at Nicolae Iorga’s recommendation, who, through his personality and devotion to the new, energetically restored institution can be compared to Adalbert Cserni, the custodian and director of the early version of the museum of Alba Iulia. The purpose of the authors was to present the facts themselves as objectively as possible, highlighted by the events of 1935-1936 as they are reflected by the annexed document – inedited in the bibliography of the matter – without national exultation, by recognizing the important contributions of the involved parties and revealing, based on prior research, the moments of real cultural cooperation between the local Hungarians and Romanians and without any attempt to elude the influence of the social-economic and political factors on the political cultural actions, from different historical moments.

*Cuvinte-cheie*: cultură, istoria culturii, muzeologie, muzeografie, contribuții monografice, biografii, istoriografie aplicată, secolul al XIX-lea, secolul al XX-lea

*Keywords*: culture, history of culture, museology, monographic contributions, biographies, applied historiography, XIXth century, XXth century