

ANTON DUMITRIU

1905-1992

BIOGRAPHY



Anton DUMITRIU, born 19 March (old style) 1905 in Brăila, attends primary school and the N. Bălcescu sciences high school in the same town and takes his baccalaureate in 1925. While still in high school, he becomes the permanent chronicler on scientific matters of the newspaper *Curierul/The Courier* in Brăila and contributes articles to *Ziarul Științelor populare și al călătoriilor/Journal of Popular Sciences and Journeys* in Bucharest. ● He attends simultaneously the courses of the Faculty of Sciences and of the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy at the University of Bucharest. In 1929, he takes his degree in mathematics, and in 1930 also graduates in philosophy. Between 1929-1933, he is a mathematics teacher at the Pedagogical School and the Commercial High School in Brăila, and from 1933 (when he publishes *The Metaphysical Value of Knowledge*) until 1938, at the M. Eminescu and Gh. Lazăr high schools in Bucharest. In 1934, he is also a lecturer in the Department of Descriptive Geometry of the Polytechnic School in Bucharest. ● In 1938, he takes his Ph.D. in philosophy with the thesis *The Philosophical Bases of Science*, marked *Summa cum laude* by C. Rădulescu-Motru and P.P. Negulescu. The latter offered him to become his assistant at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy and teach the course in mathematical logic. ● He is editor-in-chief of the democratic weeklies *Lumea românească/The Romanian World* (1937-1939) and *Facla/The Torch* (1939-1940), headed by Z. Stancu and I. Vinea, respectively. Between 1942-1946 he heads the rationalistic group *Știință și cunoaștere/Science and Knowledge* and the review *Caiete de filosofie/Philosophy Notebooks*, having among his contributors O. Onicescu, Dan Barbilian, Gr.C. Moisil, Al. Mironescu, Camil Petrescu and Mircea Florian. In 1944, he signs (together with S. Stoilov, I. Iordan and others) the bold memorandum of the intelligentsia, addressed to the dictator I. Antonescu, in which they request that Romania should end the war against the allied powers. Between 1944-1945, he is the director of the weekly *Democrația/Democracy*. ● In 1943, he publishes the books *Orient and Occident* (a com-

parative study in the spirit of the two cultures) and *The Polyvalent Logic*, and in 1944, *The Logical Paradoxes*. The same year, he becomes full professor in the Department of Logic and History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy. He publishes *A Course in the History of Logic* and, in 1947, he receives the *V. Conta* Award of the *Gazeta matematică*/ *Mathematical Gazette* Society for his entire scientific activity. In 1948, he publishes the volume *The New Logic*, which receives the *Gh. Asachi* Award of the Romanian Academy, but in December the same year he is expelled from the university as a result of the communist political purges, is sued on political grounds and sentenced to 12 years of prison. ● He is set free in 1954 and has to resort to various expedients to make a living. In 1964, he becomes senior researcher and then the head of the classical logic section of the *Center for Logic* of the Romanian Academy, where he retires from at his own request in 1971. In 1969, he is appointed honorary professor of the Institute of Human Sciences in Urbino, and in 1972, of the Open Faculty of Comparative Philosophy in Paris. In 1975, he receives an invitation to deliver a series of lectures at the Sorbonne in Paris (at the Research Center for Ancient Thinking), but he is denied the right to leave the country. ● Between 1966-1990, he publishes 11 books on logic and philosophy (among which the monumental *History of Logic*, also translated into English, while [16] and [19] receive the Romanian Academy Award and the Romanian Writers' Union Award, respectively) and writes the entries on Hilbert, Lautman, Nicod and Poincaré in the *Dictionnaire des philosophes*, published in Paris. He publishes 57 scientific papers – 3 dealing with mathematics and 54 with logic and philosophy – in Romania (*Revista de filosofie*, *Acta Logica*, *Revue Roumaine des Sciences Sociales – serie Logique*), Italy (*Scienza*, *Il Dialogo*, *International Logic Review*, *Il Contributo*) and USA (*International Philosophical Quarterly*, *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, *The Journal of History of Philosophy*). The most important of them were reprinted, sometimes in an enlarged version, in the first part of [17]. He presented papers at the International Congress of Logic and the Methodology of Sciences in Amsterdam (1967) and Bucharest (1971), as well as at the International Congress on Philosophy in Vienna (1968) and Hannover (1979). ● In 1969, he was elected member of the Mediterranean Academy in Malta; in 1970, of the Higher Center for Logic and Comparative Sciences in Bologna; in 1980, of the Marchese Academy in Ancona; and, in 1989, corresponding member of the Philosophy Society in Toulouse. He was a member in the scientific boards of the Reviews: *International Logic Review* (Bologna), *Il Contributo* (Rome) and *Theoria* (Geneva, San Sebastian). ● He dies on 8 January 1992 in Bucharest.

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