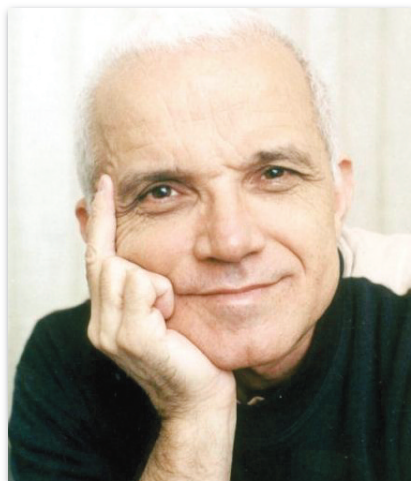


# Romanian Book Review

ISSUED MONTHLY • No. 1 • FEBRUARY 2013 • DISTRIBUTED FOR FREE

## Superlatives of 2012 Literary Year



**LIVIU IOAN  
STOICIU**

At the third edition of the Young Writers' Gala, the Romanian Cultural Institute awarded the **2012 Poetry Book of the Year** prize to Liviu Ioan Stoiciu for *Forbidden Substances* published at Tracus Arte Publishing House.



**NICOLAE  
PRELIPCEANU**

He is the laureate of the 2012 edition of the "**Mihai Eminescu**" **National Poetry Prize** for *Opera Omnia*. The prize was awarded to Nicolae Prelipceanu in a festivity held in Botoșani.



**ANDREI  
PLEȘU**

The volume *The Parables of Jesus. Truth as a Story* by Andrei Pleșu, published by the Humanitas Publishing House, was awarded the **2012 Book of the Year** title by the România literară magazine.

### In this issue:

#### BOOKS AUTHORED BY:

Constantin Abăluță • Gabriela Adameșteanu • Radu Aldulescu • Ștefan Bolea • Cosmin Budeancă • Mihai Chiper • Marius Chivu • Dan Mircea Cipariu • Magda Cârneci • Nicolae Coande • Vasile Sebastian Dâncu • Gellu Dorian • Horia Dulvac • Marius Ghilezan • Daniel Ilea • Solomon Marcus • Horia C. Matei • Mircea Mihăieș • Dan C. Mihăilescu • Anca Mizumschi • Silviu Neguț • Ion Nicolae • Octavian Pantiș • Irina Petraș • Andrei Pleșu • Nicolae Prelipceanu • Constanța Roșoiu • Constantin Schifirneț • Bogdan Suceavă • Matei Vișniec • Vlad Zografi.

In the next issue: PARIS BOOK FAIR, 2013

## Editorial



by  
**ANDREI  
MARGA**

### A Beginning

Einstein said, in an inspired fashion – like many other times – that if you want to reach different goals, then you cannot afford to do the same thing all the time. Our major goal today, at the Romanian Cultural Institute, is to carry out the mission entrusted to us by the law – that of making Romanian culture known, to ensure its visibility and bring prestige to it – in a way which is ampler, more efficient and more lasting in its effects. The very activities intended for this purpose had to be reconsidered and still need reevaluation. This is the reason we drew up the framework program of the overseas subsidiaries, we reset the selection of the authors that request subsidized translations, we adopted a wider, synchronized concept of culture, we diversified the range of scholarships and conceived new programs, we sought a better junction with what is done in the country, and we organized the series of political debates and took many other initiatives.

One of the present concerns of the Romanian Cultural Institute is displaying the major books published in Romania, organizing, in adequate forms, traveling exhibitions with current arts in our country or with technical innovations in Romania, as well as concerts relevant for the Romanian music and performance arts. For exhibiting the books, one of the appropriate means, according to our experience, is publishing a review, with at least a monthly appearance, which will draw attention, in major international languages, to what is printed by our publishing houses.

This review is launched with the current issue. We connect to its appearance at least four exigencies. The first is to select the truly relevant books for Romanian culture and to avoid giving way to pressure other than merit. The second is the exigency of synchronization – to select and present, as conclusively as possible, publications synchronous with what is being done in their field in the European space. The third is the comparative exigency – to present the books as credibly as possible by comparison with what is happening in the international community of the respective field. The fourth and last exigency is to practice the pluralism of approaches that represents the fertilizer of any cultural affluence.

A well-known dilemma, but too little heeded, is this: if one brings changes in an institution, one inevitably disturbs certain people, who react, but if one does not change the situation, then God is discontent. I believe that, just like not using reason is against the will of God, not being keen on the criterion of value is against God in Heaven. With the assurance that the work, the book, the idea or the new outlook are what we should be interested in and guided by when we insert ourselves into culture, I wish wholeheartedly to the review which begins its history with the current issue to be able to carry out, from the start and onward, the exigencies under which its inauguration occurred.