

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE GREAT UNION THROUGH THE ARA42 CONGRESS

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### **Abstract**

*The paper makes a short remember of the program and brings a statistics of the ARA42 Congress. It will highlight the basic success acknowledged to the high quality of the presentations, devotement of the participants and extraordinary involvement of the ARA contributors and sponsors.*

**Keywords:** Congress, Arts, Science, Centenary, Education, Research, Society.

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The American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences – ARA – combines international and Romanian intellectual traditions, encourages communications and serves as a joint chain, not only for Romanian academics and intellectuals, but for all having as unique ideal to contribute to the development on best direction of Romanian and its inhabitants. ARA is duly incorporated in the State of California, as a non-profit tax-exempt organization. It is organized in conformity with the pertinent laws and regulations of the state of California and the United States of America. ARA conducts and supports multidisciplinary studies and the necessary dissemination and publicity, in exact sciences, mathematics, natural sciences, and also supports the arts, linguistics, literature, political studies and sociology, by organizing congresses and publishing conference proceedings, high ranked books, catalogues and informative bulletins, not mentioning the special issues of the ARA Journals for Arts and Sciences. As an organization, ARA, with roots more than 42 years ago, and supported by famous and pioneering intellectuals, but all having Romanian origin or connections to the country, has as main goal the benefit of Romania, and to bringing to public the realizations and great ideas and perspectives of Romanians, from all over the word. ARA focuses to foster cultural exchanges between the American and Romanian cultures.

ARA was founded in California in 1975 by a group of American-Romanians, and it is the duty of the present active members (full or correspondent, or honorary) to build up a sustainable and up dated continuation of the ancient scope and identity of the academy, in terms of modern approach, recent development in science and art, and focusing of the present morals and strategic tendencies.

ARA is known as supporting specific research activities in the following areas: Anthropology, Applied Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Economy, Education, Engineering, Environment, History, Law, Linguistics, Literature, Informatics, Medicine, Political Science, Philosophy, Physics, and Theology.

The academy organizes educational events at various times in specific areas such as, for example: Mathematics, Fluid Mechanics, Economics, Romanian and American History, Comparative History of Religions, Romanian Folklore and American Literature correlates, Aesthetics, Folk Dancing, Folklore Quilting and Paintings.

The 42nd ARA Congress "ARA at the Great Union Centenary" was hosted by the University Babes-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, on May 23-26<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Cluj-Napoca is a symbolic city of the Romanian spirit, the pillar of the unity of the inhabitants of the Transylvanian lands that history and fate brought together. In this way we bring our gratitude to the host, represented by the academician Ioan-Aurel POP, the President of the Romanian Academy and the

Rector of the University, together with his colleagues in support of the congress, Prof. Ioan Chirilă, President of the Senate Prof and Prof. Ioan Bolovan, Vice-Rector of the same university.

A word of appreciation is also given to the sponsors of the congress: Technical University of Cluj Napoca, TESTO Romania from Cluj-Napoca, and last, but not least, individual sponsors such

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as Mr. Mihai Teodor Olteanu (Romania), a plastic artist who created for the event the Romanian Millenniums Exhibition, Mr. Nicholas Andronesco (USA), whose generosity supported the Moldavian delegation, as well as Mr Horia Gligor, who made a valuable donation with volumes prepared to be awarded as a prize to the young participants and the delegation of the Moldovan specialists. RADIO Romania was our media partner and one could therefore enjoy a virtual opening to the loving art and cherishing public of Romanian culture and traditions. One values the involvement of the dancing artists of the ensemble Românașul, the chamber choir Psalmodia Transylvanica of the Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Cluj-Napoca for the opening, the mezzo-soprano Aura Swarowska, with her impressive European record, and not at least the young and talented pianist Botond SZÖCS from the Transylvania University in Brasov. Also it is worth to mention that ARA and the Alexandru and Aristia Aman County Library from Craiova signed a treaty, and thus, an interesting exhibition was organized, with valuable results from the activity of the Romanian Diaspora worldwide.

The Congress was structured in plenary and special oral and poster sessions, supported by lectures offered through international and national personalities from Europe (Germany, Italy, Romania, Republic of Moldova), Canada and the United States. The target to cover more than 100 presentations was achieved, 30 of them being poster presentations. Thus the contribution of young people in poster sessions has not been neglected and a prize competition has been opened for the quality of the presentation and the content of the original researches. The debates and presentations covered a complex palette of fields, from art, culture, environmental protection [1], technology [2], sciences, architecture, natural sciences [3], history, theology, society [4], each participant having the opportunity to contribute to its field of activity.

The opening ceremony was totally special being offered by hudge personalities of the time: Radu Munteanu (presented “Values of Romanian engineers from Transylvania between the two WW”), Academician Octavian Popescu (presented “Alexandru Borza and the Great Union”), Academician Doru Pamfil (presented “Agronomic school from Cluj Napoca at the beginning of the XX century”), Ovidiu Pascu (presented “Special aspects concerning the Great Union at the Medical School of Cluj”) and others.

Attention was paid to a field of history and history of science in order to popularize the achievements of Romanian proponents, who at the time contributed to marking a step forward in their field of activity, where they were imposed.

Dr Fornade Dan, chair of the Congress, from Canada, launched one of his huge project “The Encyclopedia of Romanians”, with great success, and received as appreciation, from the City of Cluj Napoca, the title of honorary citizen. He was introduced by Academician Emil Burzo.

The Congress was also a suitable atmosphere to celebrate Dr Sabau Carmen, for her development over years to ARA, and great contributions achieved. Also Dr Cezar Stelian Vasiliu, who unfortunately could not attend the congress, but sent his valuable contributions, was celebrated.

The prize “Dr Sabau Mircea” was offered to Mihai Teodor Olteanu, for his outstanding spirit in arts, representing all the chemistry and physical effects in his paintings.

A novelty is also the ARA bookstore, meant to offer openness to writers and critics for presenting and reading recent and valuable passages from books published in the country and abroad.

All oral presentations (over 70) engage the creativity of over 140 authors, eager to expose their outcomes and trends. The three roundtables address thematic scales of major importance such as the issue and role of the Romanian Diaspora, the importance of intellectual protection and air quality in enclosed spaces.

All relevant presentations and actions at the ARA congress 42 contribute earnestly to the consolidation of the spiritual values assumed by ARA, without which it will not be possible to keep alive the "flame of the culture of Romanians everywhere"!

The Congress was organized with much passion and work, with the hope of raising the level of competence of the Romanian spirituality, but its success depends exclusively on the involvement of the participants and the general public, who is invited to participate in this cultural act, called the ARA

CONGRESS 42, from Cluj Napoca, May 23-36, 2018. The debates that were developed and the free engagement of the auditors in interdisciplinary themes generated a special spirit during the congress.

The spirit that dominated the atmosphere can not be described in any words. Only by organizing with dedication such event can be achieved, and only by being part such lessons can be learned, by enriching th personality of every participant.

May the spirit of our ancestors illuminate our right path and inspire us with impetus and power for a future, as they have wished, fight for and finally created, by action and power of mind, the modern Romania.



Opening Ceremony of the ARA42 Congress, in the Senate Hall of the Babeș Bolyai University in Cluj Napoca



Special event of the ARA42 Congress: Launching of the Transylvanian Encyclopedia by Dr Fornade Dan, and his valuable auditorium and guests, in the City Hall of Cluj Napoca

Group Photo of the participants at the end of an oral session, respectively during the Poster Session.

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