

**ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF GEORGE BARIȚ TOWARDS THE PROBLEM OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE STATE INDEPENDENCE  
OF ROMANIA (1878—1881)**

SUMMARY

In the year 1877, George Bariț, as editor of *Gazeta Transilvaniei* (Brașov), was one of the main leaders of the Transylvanian Romanians in their endeavours to support their brothers from the other side of the Carpathians in their struggle for the proclamation and the defence of the state independence; Bariț continued this activity in Sibiu where, since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1878, he edited the paper *Observatorul*. An important space was reserved in the columns of this paper to the problems of Romania towards which all Romanian Transylvanian felt attracted by sympathy and natural emotion. The new publication of the great patriot and scholar tackled, among others, the extremely complex and difficult undertaking of the Bucharest government for the recognition of the country's independence by the European powers. These articles written in *Observatorul*, as well as those concerning the national problems or other subjects specific to the times, are mostly inspired by Bariț, a fact which turned the paper into a tribune where the unity of will and ideals of all Romanians could assert itself.

The attitude of this outstanding Transylvanian figure towards the recognition of the independence of Romania expresses the feeling of deep love of those Romanians who were submitted to the Austro-Hungarian domination, for the „mother country“. While giving vent to his indignation against the brutal interference of the great powers in the affairs of Romania, as well as in those of other Balkan states, Bariț expresses at the same time his belief in the triumph of the right cause of the young Danubian state. The successes obtained by Romania through the recognition of its independence by Austro-Hungaria, Russia, Turkey, Italy, Germany, England, France, Belgium, Holland, Spain, Portugal etc., were met by *Observatorul* with great satisfaction and they were interpreted as the premises of the future national and social achievement of the whole Romanian nation.

The conclusion which can be drawn from this study is that the attitude of George Bariț towards the problem of the recognition of Romania's independence — expression of the entire Romanian public opinion — goes alongside the line of complete solidarity which united our people during its whole history, in spite of the hostility of the times and the opposed interests of the external reactionary forces.