

THE COLLECTION OF SCIENTIFIC BOOKS IN TIMOTEI CIPARIU'S LIBRARY: A PROOF OF HIS SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS

SUMMARY

After some reflections on T. Cipariu's library and the fate of his books an attempt is made to evaluate his scientific collection from several points of view:

First the significance and bibliophilic value of the rare books is appreciated, then their origins and ownership are investigated. From archival documents and from the notes found on the books new sides of T. Cipariu's intellect are revealed: he was a passionate reader, a bibliophil, a skilful librarian and a man of science.

It is further inferred, from the presence in his collection of books from the field of natural history, medicine, geography and the philosophy of nature, and of authors like Aristotle and Lucretius, Dioscorides and Apuleius, Linnée, Darwin and Haeckel, that Cipariu was a scientist, a forerunner in several domains, such as ethnobotany and botanical lexicography, and a militant for the spread of scientific knowledge in the Roumanian language. He was a rationalistic thinker permeated by the ideas of the Enlightenment of the 18th century and all his activity was in accordance with these ideas. It is suggestive that in his library there are preserved books by J. O. La Mettrie, I. Kant, Chr. Wolff, Helvetius and others.