

Valeriu Literat - contributions to the cultural development of Făgăraș County

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The doctoral thesis „Valeriu Literat - contributions to the cultural development of Făgăraș County” aims to bring to the forefront Valeriu Literat, a leading cultural personality of Făgăraș in the first half of the twentieth century, in a comprehensive research with the desire to emphasize his effort and involvement in social life, but especially in the cultural life of Făgăraș.

Historiography has not recorded important steps to recover and place in its proper place this complex personality of Făgăraș, the research being limited to only two studies, which are well documented. Since their appearance, the published, but especially unpublished documentary base (manuscripts, correspondence, memorial fragments) has been enlarged, constituting essential elements in our approach to the life and activity of Valeriu Literat.

Structured in four chapters, the doctoral thesis aims to outline a comprehensive picture of Valeriu Literat's life - as a priest he was concerned with raising the cultural and material level of the faithful he was ministering to, he channeled all his efforts into the creation of an ethnographic museum of the Făgăraș area, being aware of the cultural and identity potential of a museum, its modernizing role. Therefore he supported the establishment and development of this institution for the promotion of local and national cultural values - he was president of the ASTRA Făgăraș Branch (1922-1925, 1934-1938) from this position campaigning for the establishment of the museum in the area. The two decades of suffering and pain (from 1951 onwards), the years spent in detention, compulsory residence, played a significant role in this thesis.

Last but not least, it was analyzed the work of the historian from Făgăraș, being highlighted his major research themes.

Valeriu Literat was a representative of the Făgăraș elite around the time of the First World War and during the interwar period, who dedicated his qualities and energies, including his private life, to the research of history and Făgăraș civilization. This thesis traces his life, the events he experienced and the work he accomplished; through his historiographical contribution, he became a symbol of Făgăraș's identity.

