

"The Saint of Monparnasse" between Document and Myth: a Century of Constantin Brancusi
Scholarship. Project PN - II - ID - PCE - 2011 - 3 - 0200, contract no. 20 / 5/10/2011
Compressed scientific report October 2011 - October 2013

Under the patronage of Center for Constantin Brancusi Studies, in the year 2011 was launched the project "The Saint of Monparnasse" between Document and Myth: a Century of Constantin Brancusi Scholarship which it having as main goals the research and organization of the archive Barbu Brezianu, donated to The Art History Institute "G. Oprescu" by his son, Andrei Brezianu.

Organization and classification of the archive Barbu Brezianu, containing books, files of documents - cuts, notes, scripts, working drafts, letters, photos, videos and audiotapes was initiated immediately after the signing of the contract starting with series of meetings with specialists in biblioteconomy and archiving from institutions with experience in the field and identifying appropriate solutions of the corpus od archive which the project aimed to investigate.

After clarifications of methodological nature the activity of enumeration and classification of the library and files with documents was started. Previously the project's director designated the individual tasks to team members. Irina Carabas, Ruxandra Beldiman, Virginia Barbu, Corina Teaca, Olivia Nitis, Ioana Vlasiu started an inventory of files. Maria Anghelescu, Antoaneta Alexandru and Marina Aposteanu started the inventory of the library and the documents which accompany these books. The process of archiving continued and was completed in 2012. Have been counted 172 files and has been carried out a list of contents for each one. They have also been processed at published on-line in library's catalogue of Art History Institute.

The research materials from files bring to the light the diversity of research lines pursued by Barbu in order to edify his subject: relations with its predecessors, for instance with Auguste Rodin, relations with Romanians friends (Victor Popp, Ion Gheorghian) maintained also by correspondence that revealed Brancusi's personality, detailed study of Brancusi's works, starting with their materiality (see the dossier about Pietrari and correspondence regarding the stone used in the assembly in Targu-Jiu) up to cultural context in which has developed his work.

Another large chapter includes documents relating to the relationship by Barbu Brezianu with various institutions and officials - National Museum of Modern Art, the Center Georges Pompidou's in Paris on the occasion of the first retrospective Brancusi in 1995. The correspondence with Margit Rowell, one of organizers, for instance, revealed much the appreciation of his colleague.

Another category of files is dedicated to the Barbu Brezianu's research related to other artists than Brancusi), Nicolae Grigorescu (interesting documents on mural on wall of the church in Puchenii Mari, her state of conservation and its successive restorations), Constantin Lecca at Nicolae by Tonitza, Cornel Medrea, Stefan Luchian, which indicates the interest of the art historian in other major figures of the Romanian art.

The letters received by Barbu Brezianu (around 500) have been counted and classified alphabetically. It has been identified most contacted of his correspondances. Have been scanned over 1,700 pages of correspondence with numerous personalities, including with important Romanian and foreign historians of art, (Friedrich Teja Bach, Ionel Jianu, Sydney Geist, Margit Rowell, Doina Lemny) specialists in Constantin Brancusi's sculpture.

In 2013 the correspondance of Barbu Brezianu with Ionel Jianu was transcribed and annotated it partially. The rich documentary sources was presented in a few workshops (Intalnirile de miercuri) at the Institute of art history "G. Oprescu". In parallel, it was be counted the fund to photograph (500 pieces).

In respects of the organisation of archive we succeeded to identify solutions for adequate conservation and store of library and archive. The documentary material were stored in boxes. A difficulty occurred in respect of the purchase of furniture because the current legislation does not allow this. We are waiting for positive resolutions in the following year, for the time being suiting us with provisional solutions.

Colloquia, and conferences have been organised in the years 2012 and 2013 to the ART History Institute or in various partnerships with the purpose to present the project and the progress of research on the archive. Also, team members have participated in a series of national and international conferences dedicated to sculpture, to Constantin Brancusi's or to subjects of wider interest as the Avant-garde and the European modernism. The most important event organized by team members which involved a joint effort supported from the beginning of the year 2013 has been the international conference after Brancusi which took place in October 2013.

In Romania:

2012

- The Center Of Studies "Barbu Brezianu", a project of the Institute of Art history "G. Oprescu", communication presented by Ioana Vlasiu at the commemorative conference dedicated to Constantin Brancusi. "New documentation sources, the Romanian Academy, 16 February 2012.

- Brancusi Colloquium - photo, film, organised by the Institute of art history in collaboration with University of Arts Bucharest, October 31 - have participated Ioana Vlasiu Elena Dumitrescu, Irina Carabas, Virginia Barbu, Alexandra Croitoru, Olivia Nitis, Corina sheath, Ruxanda Beldiman.

- Brancusi's our contemporary Conference held by Dr. Doina Lemny from The Museum of Modern Art, the Center Georges Pompidou's, Paris - November 22

2013

After Brancusi. International Conference, Bucharest, Targu Jiu, October 4 organized in in partnership with The National University of Arts, Bucharest - 16 participants of which 5 from abroad France (Doina Lemny, the Center Pompidou's, Paris; Adriana Sotropa, universit  de Bordeaux 3), England (Jonathan Wood, Henry Moore Institute, Leeds; Alexandra Parigoris, Leeds University) and Germany (Christian Fuhrmeister, Zentralinstitut fuer Kunstgeschichte, Munich) but also from university centers in Romania - Timisoara (Ileana Pintilie, University West), Iasi (Cristian Nae). From Romania: Ruxandra Demetrescu, Cristian Velescu (National University of the Arts), Magda Predescu, Magda Radu (National Museum of Contemporary Art), Alexandra Croitoru (artist), Peter Jacobi (artist).

- The meetings of Wednesday (workshop), the Institute of art history "G. Oprescu"
- Ioana Vlasu, Out of correspondence of Barbu Brezianu. The letters of the art historian Eric Shanes and dispute around The Endless Column's restoration from Targu Jiu
- Corina-Teaca, the correspondence of Barbu Brezianu with London Publishing House Thames/Hudson
- Virginia Barbu, George Enescu in the Archive Barbu Brezianu
- Olivia Nitis, Brancusi in correspondence: the importance of the source
- Ruxanda Beldiman, The Correspondence of Barbu Brezianu with outstanding figures of exile and the backstage of the publication of Brezianu's monograph by The Publishing House Thames/Hudson

Other lectures

- Ioana Vlasu, The Center for Constantin Brancusi Studies Barbu Brezianu, a project of the Institute of art history "G. Oprescu", held by Ioana Vlasu at 2013, Targu Jiu, 17 March
- Ioana Vlasu, Vida Geza - popular ethos, style and craftsmanship, the Romanian Academy, may
- Virginia Barbu, Barbu Brezianu and the historiography of art, Targu Jiu, October 27

Abroad:

Irina Carabas participated at the Third Conference of European Network for the Study Vanguard and modernism, *Material meanings*, organized from the University of Kent in Canterbury, September 7 2012. Network conferences established four years ago have become the most important events in Europe to meet researchers of vanguard and modernism. Her presentation was related Constantin Brancusi's reception in Romania of the 1960s both in political discourse, as well as in the art history and contemporary art in practice (the wooden Avant-Garde and the reception of Brancusi in Romania). The junction of the three areas forms her individual area of her research as part of the project that will develop in the next step. **Within the same conference Irina Carabas organised a panel debating the conditions and forms of existence of vanguard of the 1960s in Romania (Elusive Avant-Garde . Materials, practices, Connections to post-war Romania), inviting three researchers from Romania who investigate the topic in independent surveys or related to their PhD thesis.**

Research on archive as well as to other matters of Romanian and international sculpture have been published at all stages of the progress of the project.

Articles

Ioana Vlasiu

De ce sculptura în lemn? în Arhetipuri sculpturale. Sculptura în lemn. Opere din patrimoniul Galeriei Naționale. 1918-1999, Muzeul Național de Artă al României, 2012.

- *Centrul de Studii Brâncușiene „Barbu Brezianu”, un proiect al Institutului de Istoria Artei „G.Oprescu”, in Academica, nr.6-7, iunie-iulie, 2012.*
- *Noguchi /Brâncuși. Date noi din corespondența dintre Isamu Noguchi și Barbu Brezianu, in Studii și cercetări de istoria artei, 2012 .*
- *Despărțiri: Maitec, Gorduz, Vasilescu, Spătaru, in Arta, nr.8-9, 2013.*
- *Sculptura românească după Constantin Brâncuși (interviu de Adriana Oprea), in Arta, nr.8-9, 2013.*
- *Vida Geza, Etos popular, stil și tehnicitate, in Academica, nr. 7, 2013 (în curs de publicare, articol acceptat)*

Irina Cărăbaș

- *Literary Representations of Brancusi's Studio, in Revue Roumaine d'Histoire de l'Art, 2012.*

Olivia Nițiș

- *Istoriografia de artă americană despre Brâncuși după 1990: contribuția Annei Chave, in Studii și cercetări de istoria artei, 2012.*

Reviews, cronicle

Ioana Vlasiu, Doina Lemny, *Brancusi&Gaudier-Brzeska. Points de convergence*, L'Echoppe, Paris, 2009 și Sorana Georgescu Gorjan, *Așa grăit-a Brâncuși*, in *Studii și cercetări de istoria artei*, 2012.

Corina Teacă, Doina Lemny, Cristian-Robert Velescu, *Brâncuși inedit*, in *Revue Roumaine d'Histoire de l'Art*, 2012.

Virginia Barbu, *Paul Rezeanu, Brâncuși. Tatăl nostru și Greg Dickinson*, Carole Blair, Brian L. Ott (Ed.), Corina Teaca, *Places of Public Memory. The Rhetoric of Museums and Memorials*, The University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa, 2010, 282p. cu il. (recenzie), in *Studii și Cercetări de Istoria Artei*, 2013.

Ruxanda Beldiman, *Cronica Conferinței After Brâncuși*, 4-6 octombrie, in *Studii și Cercetări de Istoria Artei*, 2014.

The correspondance of Barbu Brezianu, preserved in Barbu Brezianu Archive will be the core of a research file (work in progress) The file will be published under the title David Irving Revue d'histoire

révisionniste de l'art (quoted Erih (B), in the number of 2014 under the title Barbu Brezianu's International Research Network: Selected Correspondence with Art Historians and Institutions. in Roumaine d'histoire de l'Art (Erih B) issue 2014.

The project's website www.arhiva-brezianu.ro launched in June 30 2013 structured the results of the inventory and research displaying lists of files, a list of Barbu Brezianu's correspondents as well as a series of documents and photos from the archive. It has been designed in order to open the archive to new research projects and to institutional collaborations. It was also created to put into light the personality and research of Barbu Brezianu by means biography and an exhaustive bibliography. In 2013, a range of activities were carried out before site's launching:

The design of site's structure

2. The gathering of the documentary material presented on site:

- the lists of files and their thematical classification
- the selection of scanned documents
- inventory of letters sent and received by Barbu Brezianu (around 700 letters)
- the research of biography and professional path of Barbu Brezianu in order to edify an exhaustive bio-bibliography
- the bibliography of the writings of Barbu Brezianu with a scanned selection of items
- translations into English of the documents

Artistic projects:

initially, in phase for the application, the project aimed not to limit the research on Barbu Brezianu archive to the field of history of art, understood in traditional terms. The opening to artistic practice and to artists interested in Brancusi's figure has created an interesting dialog between domains. Thus, the project converted into an opportunity to promote research art, important orientation of contemporary art, still little known in the Romanian space.

A minutious research regarding the Ecorche and its beginnings, also Brancusi's collaboration with the professor of anatomy, Dr. Dimitrie Gerota, was developed by Elena Dumitrescu, lecturer at Sculpture Department of the University of National Arts Bucharest, by examining each copy (Bucharest, Craiova, Cluj, Iasi, and considering their current condition from the point of view of the conservation status. Her study *Ecorșeul Brâncuși/Gerota. Cercetări recente* has to be printed at UNARTE Publishing House. Alexandra Croitoru, assistant at Foto-Video Department of The University of Arts Bucharest took at starting point Brancusi's aphorisms and meditations, the fiction texts and plays dedicated to him, various files from Barbu Brezianu Archive to initiate 2 artistic projects. Beginning with the poetry dedicated to Brancusi, she conceived an performance within the frame of International Conference After Brancusi in 2013.

Documentation journeys abroad

Virginia Barbu, Ruxanda Beldiman, Corina Teacă travelled to Paris, France. During their visit, they investigated Brancusi's sculpture and the cultural and artistic environment where the Romanian artist completed his artistic education. The main instituions providing an important information were firstly the museums: Musée national d'art moderne-Centre Georges Pompidou, Bourdelle, Rodin, Orsay, Gustave Moreau, Musée de l'Orangerie, Musée de la vie romantique, with their libraries and

archives. A special attention was paid to Brancusi Archive from Bibliothèque Kandinsky, containing a large correspondence significant for the intellectual ambiance, artist's friendships and relationships, his exhibitions. Musée Bourdelle and its archive, important for its collection of letters received by Bourdelle from his Romanian pupils, was also visited. The French sculptor had many admirers in Romania, among them, Anastase Simu, the founder of an important museum in Romania. The documentation will be used in further studies.

Acquisitions

It was bought in accordance with the schedule of project electronic equipment, supplies, and the web site. Due to the limits imposed by law, we were restricted to buy shelves absolutely necessary to a proper conservation of the archive.

Dissemination in media:

- on project's web site
- presentations of various stages of the project and of the conferences in the Radio Programm Cu minte de...Duminică (Portia de arta).
- Radio România Cultural Channel was also a media partner of the International Conference After Brancusi.

Conclusions:

From the beginning to the present moment the team members fulfilled with their tasks assumed by contract. Despite of significant budget adjustments in 2013 and in enormous delays in payments, that drastic affected both the organisation of the conference as well as the salaries of the whole team, all members were made efforts that all chapters in the contract to be realised. We expect that in 2014 all these accidents to be corrected and to have the possibility to finalize the objectives of the project. The publication of the volume of the conference After Brancusi as well the volume of Barbu Brezianu's annotated correspondence could have a great impact among the local and foreign researchers and could open to a better collaboration between institutions in and outside the country already initiated in this project.

