

"The Saint of Monparnasse" between Document and Myth: a Century of Constantin Brancusi
Scholarship.

Scientific Report

October to December 2011

In this period we proposed the initiation of organising and classification of Brezianu Barbu Archive, containing books, documents, notes, script, working drafts, letters, photos, videos and audiotapes.

For this purpose we've organised a meeting with the members of the research team, but also with other researchers, librarians and specialists in archiving to identify the best principles and solutions of classifying the archive.

A first public presentation and a discussion on the project and its issues took place at the Institute of Art History "G. Oprescu" attended by most part of researchers and where the project's director and part of the team members explained the main objectives, the individual tasks indicating the directions and their future research work themes. On this occasion took place and a presentation of the project to the Radio Cultural Channel.

At the second meeting were invited art historians from the Museum of contemporary art involved in activities of documentatation and archiving; they were discussed issues of methodology, bringing in discussion modalities of archiving at similar in large institutions of France, or the United States (for instance Ionel Jianou's Archive at the *Archives de l'art contemporain* in Rennes or Archive of the art historian Sidney Geist at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, both being incidentally among Barbu Brezianu's correspondents).

As a result of methodological clarification, started the proper activity of inventory and classification of the library and records. Irina Cărăbaș, Ruxandra Beldiman, Virginia Barbu, Corina Teacă, Olivia Nițiș, Ioana Vlasiu started the inventory of books and documents that attached to these books.

As regard the organisation of archive we succeeded to identify solutions for adequate conservation and store of library and archive. 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.

At this moment the researchers involved in project identified the main research lines on Brancusi's work and scholarship. In the further years the individual themes will be specified in parallel with the progresses the documentation and research of the archive documents, as well as the Brancusi's bibliography: reception of Brancusi's sculpture in the social, political, and cultural context in the interwar period, in Romania and not only (Ioana Vlasiu); the artistic background of Brancusi and the Romanian artistic education at the end of the century 19 (Ruxanda Beldiman); the literary representations of Brancusi's studio (Irina Carabas); celebrate international Brancusi, Bucharest, 1967 (Irina Carabas); Brancusi sculpture's impact on Romanian sculpture after 1960 (Corina Teaca); historiography of American art in the years 1970-1990 (Anna Chave, Rosalind Krauss) and new perspectives on Brancusi's work (Olivia Nitis); interpretations of Brancusi's work from the perspective of the poetics of the matter, as suggested and supported by the artist himself through his aphorisms (Virginia Barbu).

Project's Director

Ioana Vlasiu