

Rev. Ph.D. Pavel Vesa, *Învățămintul Teologic de la Arad (1822-1948)*, Editura Episcopiei Devei și Hunedoarei, Deva, 2013, 531 pages + 48 photos

The book was published by the Diocese of Deva and Hunedoara, in 2013 and printed with the blessing of His Grace Ph.D. Gurie Georgiu, Bishop of Deva and Hunedoara. The scientific reviewers were the erudite professors: Academician Priest Ph.D. Mircea Păcurariu and Ph.D. Nicolae Bocșan.

Father Ph.D. Pavel Vesa is par excellence the historian of the Church life in Arad Diocese. His name became well-known and his voice the most authorized in this field, known to festive occasions, scientific symposia, and conferences and by his publishing work, i.e. 85 studies published in professional journals and volumes of studies, 12 books, totalling approx. 4500 pages, three volumes as a co-author and two books as a co-publisher. Of these volumes we highlight *Episcopia Aradului. Istorie. Cultură. Mentalități (1706-1918)*, Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca, 2006, 740 pages, which was the work he promoted doctoral examination in 2003 at the Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, appreciated as „magna cum laude” and having as scientific coordinator the distinguished professor Ph.D. Nicolae Bocșan.

This volume in 14 chapters renders an exhaustive presentation of multiple and various aspects of theological education in Arad in its historical continuity, even before its establishment in 1822 and until the abusive dissolution of the Theological Academy by the communist regime in 1948. Thus, the manner of teaching and religious, moral and spiritual education in Arad theological education for a period of 126 years is exposed and analyzed with scientific rigour and exactness.

Of course, over time many evocations, articles and relevant studies and representative synthesis papers were written about the theological education from Arad. Some of them are due primarily to **Ph.D. Teodor Botiș**, such as *Istoria Școalei normale (Preparandia) și a Institutului teologic ortodox român din Arad* (Arad, 1922, 741 pages), covering a period of

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100 years (1822-1922). However, being planned to appear in the centenary year of the Theological Institute (1922), the author had few documentary opportunities and short time available, therefore the possibility of writing a complete work was somewhat stopped.

The second representative work is due to Rev. Prof. Ph.D. Mihai Săsăujan, that is *Academia de Teologie Ortodoxă din Arad în perioada interbelică. Contribuții la istoria învățământului teologic românesc*, Arad, 2004, 382 pages + 12 photos. Based on documents in the archives of Arad Archdiocese this is the first monograph of the Theological Academy, covering the period from 1922 to 1948, and it was long awaited by the religious historiography.

The present paper of Rev. Ph.D. Pavel Vesa, dedicated to the theological education from Arad, presents its history from another dimension and a different conceptual and methodological perspective.

Using a well-structured plan in chapters and subchapters, this book complements the two previously published works, bringing more news, of which the most obvious as follows: chapter I: *Repere istoriografice* (p. 17-29); chapter II: *Modalități de pregătire intelectuală a clerului ortodox până în 1822* (p. 30-47); chapter III: *Institutul pedagogic-teologic (1876-1927): Unificarea preparandiei cu institutul teologic (1876); Programă de învățământ* (p. 92-102; 120-125); *Centenarul secției pedagogice și teologice* (p. 133-138); *Școala de aplicație* (p. 128-129); *Manuale școlare* (p. 102-106; 125-128); chapter VII: *Duhovnicii de la Academia teologică* (p. 191-195); chapter VIII, 3-5: *Absolvenți de seamă* (p. 214-231); chapter IX: *Profesori în mișcarea națională* (p. 249-258); chapter X: *Profesori, preoți și studenți teologi în închisorile comuniste* (p. 258-277); chapter XI: *Biblioteca* (p. 277-293); *Revista „Catehetul” (1940-1942)* (p. 146-148); chapter XII: *Societatea de lectură* (p. 293-308); *Edificiul școlar* (p. 308-323); chapter XIV: *Bio-bibliografia profesorilor* (p. 323-402); appendices: 1. *Lista cadrelor didactice (1822-1948)*, 2. *Lista absolvenților (1822-1948)* (p. 416-421).

In conclusion we can say this paper is a significant contribution and provides a model because of the new perspective of approaching the subject, the special qualities of substance and form, the richness of ideas, the suggested implications and the rigorous research method.

Rev. Ph.D. Sorin Cosma