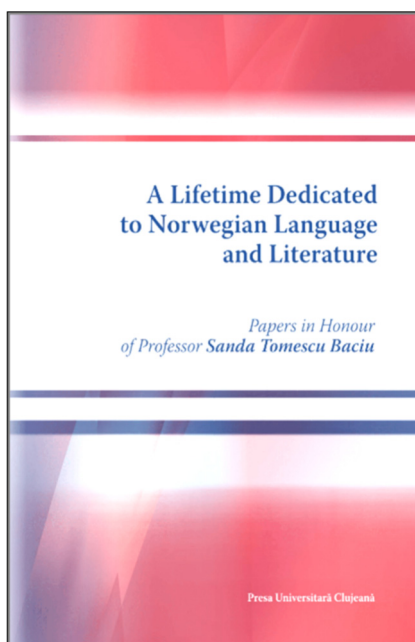


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Roxana-Ema Dreve, Raluca-Daniela Duinea, Raluca Pop, Fartein Th. Øverland (eds.), *A Lifetime Dedicated to Norwegian Language and Literature — Papers in Honour of Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu*, Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2021, 317 p.

Published in 2021 by Presa Universitară Clujeană, "*A Lifetime Dedicated to Norwegian Language and Literature*" is a celebratory scholarly work compiled and edited by the members of the Department of Scandinavian Languages and Literature at the Faculty of Letters in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in honour of Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu, founder of The Norwegian Language and Literature BA program (1991), of the Department of Scandinavian Languages and Literature (2001) and disseminator of Norwegian culture, language and literature for over thirty years. Throughout her entire career, Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu has never ceased to raise interest in Norwegian studies, and strive to offer her students the best academic resources, a warm and welcoming learning environment and also countless scholarship opportunities. Her contribution to



the popularization and the increasing fascination with the North is immeasurably valuable to the academic community, not only in Romania, but also internationally. Her colleagues and editors of this volume have carefully selected and arranged a collection of congratulatory messages and academic essays from various fields encompassed in the Scandinavian studies.

The volume consists of 317 pages and it is structured into twelve parts. At the beginning of the volume, there is a foreword written by the editors, along with the *tabula gratulatoria*. These two are followed by four sections designated for: messages from Babeş-Bolyai University (10-17), messages from former Norwegian ambassadors to Ms. Sanda Tomescu Baciu (18-25), messages from foreign institutions (26-32), and messages from Norwegian writers and translators (34-39).

The next sections of the volume appear in the following order: analysis and different perspectives on the works of Henrik Ibsen (41-75), 17th to 20th century literature in Romania, Norway and England (80-125), Norse studies, arctic literature, tradition and history (129-186).

The next part is allocated for personal messages from foreign collaborators (193-199), followed by a new section concentrating on today's cinema and literature (200-256).

Respecting the same structural symmetry, the following section is dedicated to messages from colleagues and former students (264-279). The last two parts of the volume are focused on methods of teaching Norwegian (280-303) and messages from the editors (309-317).

The foreword is written by all four editors and highlights some of the most notable moments in Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu's career – the inauguration of the Norwegian Language and Literature Specialization at Babeş-Bolyai University in 1991, the defence of her doctoral dissertation, *“Nordic Mythology and its Reflections in Norwegian Literature”*, in 1999; founding and becoming head of the Department of Scandinavian Languages and Literature in 2001, creating the Library of Nordic Studies, and being awarded the Norwegian Royal Order of Merit with the rank of Knight. Some of her critical volumes are also presented, but also translations from the Scandinavian languages into Romanian. The editors then offer information about Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu's activity over the years as translator, partnerships with publishing houses, awards won by her and a brief summary of the subchapters which are going to be introduced. The *tabula gratulatoria* reveals many remarkable, distinguished

names showing their gratitude for Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu and congratulating her on her achievements: former ambassadors, colleagues, former students, scholars and professors, writers and collaborators.

The first messages for Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu are sent by the current and former rector of Babeş-Bolyai University, Professor Daniel David and, respectively, Professor Andrei Marga. The Faculty of Letters also praises Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu for her great contributions to the development and internationalization of the faculty through Associate Professor and Dean Rareş Moldovan. The next section is dedicated to messages written by former Norwegian ambassadors in Romania. There are also messages sent by Norwegian institutions with which Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu has collaborated with throughout the years, such as Diku, SNU, International Summer Schools in Norway (representatives from both Oslo and Bergen) and NORLA. Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu also receives messages from famous names in Norwegian literature, namely writers Lars Saabye Christensen, who has visited Cluj-Napoca on several occasions, Hanne Ørstavik, Kari Fredrikke Brænne, and Norwegian translator Steinar Lone.

The next section presents a series of academic essays and articles belonging to the sphere of Ibsen studies which tackle various cultural and literary themes along with contemporary perspectives on the works of renowned Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. The articles are written by Astrid Margrethe Sæther (theme: new digital opportunities of discovering and studying the works of Ibsen), Helge Rønning (dispute and issues of power in Ibsen's works), Lisbeth P.

Wærp (Shakespearian elements in Ibsen's plays), and other papers written by Sven Arntzen, Errol Durbach, and Gianina Druță. The next subchapter concentrates on 17th to 20th century literature in Romania, Norway and England, and includes thematics such as criticism in the Norwegian literature of 1890, an essay on the complexity of the poet Petter Dass by Nils Magne Knutsen, the Old Norse mythological influences on Mihai Eminescu's poetry presented by Ioana Bot, an in-depth analysis of G. M. Hopkins' *"Rhetoric of verse"* by Adrian Radu, and other essays concentrating on the individual's connection with the Self, the balance between the physical body and the spiritual existence, and also man in relation to the divinity.

The next section is dedicated to Norse studies, arctic literature, tradition and history, and includes titles such as *"Stavkyrkjebreika i gammalnorsk homiliebok"* by Odd Einar Haugen (who presents Norwegian architecture of the Dark Ages), a brief immersion into arctic literature by Henning Howlid Wærp, and the role of tradition and folktales in creating a national identity by Gudleiv Bø.

A new part integrates personal gratulatory messages from foreign Scandinavian collaborators, such as Svetla Kovatcheva (lecturer for Oslo's International Summer School), Lennart Grape, Björn Apelkvist and Åsa Apelkvist (former Swedish lecturers in Bucharest).

The following subchapter introduces today's cinema and literature with thematics such as Jon Fosse's dramatic works by Drude von Der Fehr, the experi-

ences of the Jewish people during the Second World War by Unni Langås and the role and impact of the father on his children's lives by Ștefana Popa.

The next section brings together messages from important public figures, colleagues and former students of Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu, among which Virgil Stanciu, Ivona Berceanu, Cristina Vișovan and Ioana-Andreea Mureșan.

Then, there is another collection of articles focused on methods of teaching Norwegian by Marthe Berg Andresen Reffhaug and Crina Leon, which tackle subjects such as language teaching through contemporary literature, the close relationship between pedagogy and language, and useful methods of learning Norwegian.

The last part of the volume includes messages sent by the editors of the book, and, at the same time, colleagues and close friends of Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu: Roxana-Ema Dreve (now head of the department), Raluca-Daniela Duinea, Raluca Pop and Norwegian lecturer Fartein Thorsen Øverland.

Needless to say, *"A Lifetime Dedicated to Norwegian Language and Literature"* is a compendium of gratitude. Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu has indeed dedicated all of her life to discovering the North, inspiring others to walk on this path under her guidance, revealing the true beauty of the Nordic civilization to our culture. The complexity and length of this volume, written by so many people who find a role model and an inspiration in her, mirror exactly the greatness of Professor Sanda Tomescu Baciu's career and, last but not least, her solar aura and personality.

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