

I do not think Professor Mircea Martin is 70 years old

Essay

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Date: November 12th 2010

When I first entered the literary circle *Universitas* and met Professor Mircea Martin, he was 45 years old, my age today when he is on the shady side of 70. In other words, I was a very young student who was looking admiringly at somebody who was my age now. When I told the Professor about that, during a pleasant meeting at his new house at the mountains (so, we are neighbors), we both smiled with nostalgia. Naturally, different nostalgia. It is not the similar age that made me sentimental, when I realized it, but the memory of that Professor Martin's maturity that I would call classical. If there was something essential in the literary circle he patronized, that was exactly this that stayed exemplary further. The Professor would not only moderate the literary circle discussions, often excessive, but would also weight the tone and, probably, the effects. If we wanted something, after reading, was not to hear our peers executing us with unbounded eyes, as it usually happened when some of the bloody courts intervened, Horia Gârbea type. Somehow, I knew this prelude tendered us for the peak moment of the evening, which was Professor's comment. Calmly, uttered rarely and cautiously, the verdict would come and was equally well received by those who had praised, but also those who had criticized – I told you both were excessive – the poor victim. If I analyze the presentation made to my first and smallest book (*Gestica*, 1987), I did not produce any impression on him during the two years of sporadic participation. The text of the preface is - how else? - elegant, weighted, benevolent. But as far as becoming known to him, I had the honor and the joy to become known to the Professor in time.

After he came back from abroad, I had the joy to start again the cooperation with Mister Mircea Martin, this time in his position as director of Univers Publishing House. This is how I had the opportunity to make the first book covers in my life, cooperating with the publishing house until Professor's team left, under known conditions. I am still proud of some of them in spite of the fact that they show the age (and the still low technology level): *Prima Verba* and *Cosmopolis*. But there have also been others; afterwards, I have conceived covers for other smaller publishing houses. I had made even the entire image of *corporate identity* for a future publishing house, which did not appear, unfortunately.



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I had the joy to cooperate with Professor Martin at a few editorial projects. Well weighted, of duration, they are, usually, extremely balanced and, consequently, likely to be invoked academically much after the date of their publication. I was recently rereading the number of the magazine *Euresis* dedicated to Romanian Postmodernism and I saw there were few different things to add to our interpretations then. Somehow, the right balance of critical judgments of Professor Martin reflected on us, of his cooperations, making us, perhaps, more cautious in their statements than we were, we are – in brief, then we would have been – usually, without him. Now we cooperate at a large cultural dictionary where, also, we discovered that, influenced by the federal personality of Professor Martin, I can work on some cultural pluri- or trans-disciplinary terms from my profession. I have even requested to think about the terms of the following volumes, in order to find, in my turn, those formulations and those sentences that resemble those written or spoken by Mircea Martin.

I conclude by saying that to this affectionate admiration I have for Professor Martin I have to add just a few words. Properly speaking, I can not believe he is really 70 years old, since I myself do not believe I am his age then. But, since we got here together, for those who are, like him, in academic education, it is possible in the same to be following and the followers of Professor Martin, as well as to other mentors we were lucky to have along our training. Of course, we can not give back to them what they have granted to us. But we can add to the position we met, the last ring of its chain for transmitting the knowledge. To the discovery I confessed from the very beginning I add now, still under the form of tribute to Professor Mircea Martin, the acknowledgement of the enormous burden I gladly receive, the fact that, here, I am also, for my students, now, what he was for me, exactly 25 year ago. Yet, if I succeed the performance to become, in time, not only – institutionally – a professor, but also – morally – a teacher, as he has always been and is even more now Professor Phd. Mircea Martin, then, in my turn, I shall consider it mission accomplished.

Happy new and fulgent years, dear Professor! And a question: when do we start to work on the second volume of the dictionary?

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