

# THE REFLEXION OF ENCYCLOPEDIA ESPRIT IN OVIDIU DRIMBA'S WRITINGS

---

  
MARIA-LAURA MILIAN (DULUȘ)

[mldulus20@yahoo.com](mailto:mldulus20@yahoo.com)

Doctoral School, University of Oradea  
Universitatii Street no 1, Oradea, Romania  
Article code 597-213

**Abstract:** *Ovidiu Drimba was a distinguished scholar, a personality who updated something of the dimensions of the "uomo universale". He is a "spirit enciclopedic" ("encyclopedic esprit"), master of a vast and rich universal culture, in its variety in time and space, with a great willingness to decipher the intimate, original, specific resorts of the various literary works of mankind heritage. Ovidiu Drimba's explorations, based on extensive, high scholarship documentation, follow aspects of literature, culture and civilization, from Antiquity to the end of the nineteenth-century. Their presentation is objective, in an academic, elegant, essayistic style, addressing both specialist and regular reader.*

**Key words:** encyclopedic spirit, history, literature, culture, civilization

Among the great Romanian scholars, who have ennobled the national spirituality and creativity, Ovidiu Drimba is placed at the forefront. Since the initial period of his literary researches, concurrently with the incursions in Romanian literature of the interwar period – for example "*Preliminarii la o critică a lui I. Agârbiceanu*" ("*Preliminaries to a Critique of I. Agârbiceanu*"), appeared in "*Revista Fundațiilor Regale*" ("*The Journal of Royal Foundations*"), no. 1, 1943, as well as the study about "*Filozofia lui Blaga*" ("*Blaga's Philosophy*") in 1944 – Ovidiu Drimba entered the world of universal literature and was also concerned about connections with Romanian literature.

---

<sup>1</sup> Teodor Vargolici, *Spiritul enciclopedic al lui Ovidiu Drimba*, <http://zenoviecarlucea1950.files.wordpress.com/2010/11/maiastra-nr-5-dec.pdf> (accessed October 10, 2019)

Firstly appears the volume *"Pagini despre cultura europeană"* (*"Pages about European Culture"*), and later, summaries such as *"Leonardo da Vinci"* (1957), *"Ovidiu, poetul Romei și al Tomisului"* (*"Ovidiu, the Poet of Rome and Tomis"*) (1960), *"Rabelais"* (1963), *"Eseuri de literatură străină"* (*"Essays of Foreign Literature"*) (1976), *"Scriitori scandinavi și alte eseuri"* (*"Scandinavian Writers and Others Essays"*) (1980), *"Federico Garcia Lorca. Rapsodul"* (*Federico Garcia Lorca. The Rhapsode*) (1981), *"Eseiști spanioli"* (*"Spanish Essayists"*) (1982), *"Incursiuni în civilizația omemirii"* (*"Incursions Into the Civilization of Mankind"*) (1996). Other works, of great importance, written by Ovidiu Drimba are *"Istoria culturii și civilizației"* (*The History of Culture and Civilization*), in 13 volumes (second edition), *"Istoria literaturii universale"* (*"The History of Universal Literature"*), in 2 volumes, *"Istoria teatrului universal"* (*"The History of Universal Theater"*), *"Cărți, autori, personaje. Dicționar de literatură universală"* (*"Books, Authors, Characters. Dictionary of Universal Literature"*), as well as the revised editions of two monographs: *"Ovidiu, marele exilat la Tomis"* (*"Ovidiu, the Great Exiled at Tomis"*) and *"Rabelais și Renașterea europeană"* (*"Rabelais and the European Renaissance"*).

Since ancient times, the scholars were always present in our country. Between the Two World Wars, their number increased in different fields: literature, history, linguistics, folklore, pedagogy, sociology, law, science, etc. After World War II, there remained fewer, including Ovidiu Drimba, through his encyclopedic state. From the very beginning, he has pursued the history of universal art, human civilization, following its evolution in a thorough manner, with rich examples. During his time in Italy, visiting libraries, museums, churches, cathedrals, he managed to gather various materials (including slides made personally, photographs reproduced from the monumental walls of Renaissance works) for his masterpiece, *"Istoria culturii și civilizației"* (*"The History of Culture and Civilization"*). Knowing several international languages, Ovidiu Drimba has managed to reach directly to sources, not through intermediaries. He managed to create a unique work in our country, in the 21st century, which can be likened to a *"puzzle creativ, provenit din mâna și mintea omului de*