

THE FOUNDING AND FIRST YEARS OF ACTIVITY OF THE FOUNDATION OF ROMANIAN JOURNALISTS IN HUNGARY (1910-1914)*

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Abstract: *The present study proposes to approach both a history matter of the Romanian press in the Habsburg Monarchy, and a theme that incorporates the social history of editor groups and their validation as distinct socio-professional entities in 19th century and beginning of 20th century Transylvania. This paper, put forward for debate and historiographic interpretation, proposes the presentation of the historical context and the ensemble of endeavors that led to the creation of this foundation, as well as its first years of activity. The aspects described within this work have as main purpose to demonstrate the professionalization of journalists in Hungary by assuming a veritable modern profession, as well as the social validation attributed to these Romanian intellectuals and journalists, highlighted through their daily editorial activity. We are trying to observe the manner in which this institutionalization and professionalization of Romanian journalists evolved throughout time, analyzed at political-administrative and socio-professional level, in the era of nationalities and national states. We are starting our excursus with the primary, initial journalism stage, a stage of initiatives and attempts, in which poets, writers and men of letters practiced their writing styles within the pages of newspapers, serials and magazines, reaching up to the beginning of the 19th century, when Romanian journalists were hired in well-defined professional entities, hierarchically structured and internationally recognized, such as press offices, professional foundations and syndicates. All of these were possible through the creation, at the beginning of the 20th century, of The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary.*

Keywords: press, journalism, foundation, professionalization, intellectuality, gazetteers.

The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary was created on December 30th 1910, through the initiative of Ioan Mișu, land owner in Vinerea, who donated 25.000 Crowns¹ in order to create this foundation. The creation document for *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary* wore the seal of its founder, Dr. Ioan Mișu, who established a committee of trustees composed of the following

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¹ „Analele fundațiunii pentru ajutorarea zăriștilor români din Ungaria” (Sibiu), I, 1912, p. 7.

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Romanian intellectuals: Vasile Goldiș, who had to renounce the title because of personal reasons, Dr. Valeriu Braniște, Dr. Ioan Lupaș, Octavian Goga and Ioan Agârbiceanu.² We can remark that this committee's members were representatives of the Romanian elite, with a renowned political and journalistic activity. On February 6th 1912, following a reunion of the Romanian representatives at Vinerea, the Trusteeship that was going to manage the foundations funds was created, and Ioan Lapedatu was elected for the seat left vacant after Vasile Goldiș's departure. The recently created Trusteeship started its activity with Valeriu Braniște as president, Ioan Lupaș as vice-president, and Ioan I. Lapedatu as cashier.³

The name of this journalism association was going to be: *The Foundation for the Support of the Romanian Journalists in Hungary*, and its purpose, according to its statutes, consisted in: a) providing support for the Romanian journalists in Hungary, who, after an activity of 10 years in Romanian journalism, could not support themselves, because of old age or other kinds of sufferings (illnesses, accidents, etc.); b) support to the journalists' widows or orphaned children, and c) support for journalists who wished to study abroad or for study trips.⁴

The activity of *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary*, created through private initiative, was advertised through the press, public and private debates and endeavors, informing and promoting articles about its role, incentives and calls to the Romanian elite to help the foundation, so that in 1912, its wealth reached 14,983.15 Crowns, gathered through the following means: a) dividend shares and equity interests 1,567.20; b) heirs of Dr. Aurel Mureșianu 3,587.28; c) contributions of Romanian banks 3,879.44; d) public conferences and publications sold in favor of the foundation 2,039.86; e) different contributions on different occasions 3,909.37.⁵

At the end of 1912, the Trusteeship at Sibiu addressed thanks to those who understood the foundation's role – to ensure the future of Romanian journalists in Hungary – and donated money in this respect.

The initiative of the editorial group of *Gazeta Transilvaniei* (*The Transylvanian Gazette*) was appreciated and admired, as, at their 70th anniversary of editorial activity, they donated 3,587.28 Crowns⁶ to *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary*. Other sums of money were gathered through contributions from banks, but especially worth mentioning are the public conferences in different cities in Transylvania (Sibiu, Arad, Brașov), organized by Romanian leaders through the representatives of the Trusteeship and Foundation in the territory. These were held with the purpose of raising money for the support of *The Foundation*. The

² *Ibidem*, p. 4.

³ *Ibidem*.

⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 7.

⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 3.

⁶ *Ibidem*.

following gatherings and public debates are worth mentioning: public conferences in Sibiu, through Dr. I. Lupaș (332 Crowns) and O. Goga (188.80 Crowns); in Arad, through I. Lăpedatu (237 Crowns); in Brașov, through S. Moldovan (Barițiu festival, 313 Crowns) and in Caransebeș, through Dr. V. Braniște (470 Crowns). Ioan Lupaș's conference, *The Mission of Bishops Bob and Adamovici at the Court in Viena in 1792*, was later published and donated to the foundation. Out of the sales of this publication, 499.06 Crowns were raised.⁷

Also worth mentioning, in the same registry of fund raising, are the initiatives of two Romanian patrons: M. Bragadiru, manufacturer, who donated 950 Crowns to the foundation, and Nina of Csergedi, who had 600 Crowns worth of stock at the Arieșana Bank of Turda, which she donated to support the foundation.⁸ Other sources of income were the over-taxes on the subscriptions to some newspapers in Transylvania. Out of all the publications in Transylvania, only *Gazeta Transilvaniei*, *Revista Economică (The Economical Gazette)* and *Drapelul (The Flag)* applied this over tax on subscriptions.⁹ In order to support *The Foundation*, a call was made to a series of public and private institutions, merchants, traders, people involved in the banking system, who responded financially. They followed the example in Hungary, where a substantial amount of donations was made for the Hungarian journalists' pension fund during 1911, a total amount of 200,000 crowns. This example of best practices was later adopted in the Romanian case¹⁰. *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary* started its activity with a capital of 25,000 Crowns, and when it reached the amount of 50,000, it could start providing support for the Romanian journalists in Hungary.¹¹

Help from the foundation was provided for the Romanian journalists in Hungary, their widows and their orphaned children.¹² The journalists who opted for this kind of support from the foundation had to fulfill some requirements stipulated in the Support Regulations: a) be a citizen of Hungary; b) be a professional journalist; c) to have proof that his activity as journalist took place at a Romanian newspaper or magazine in Hungary; d) his activity as professional journalist had to sum up to between 5 and 10 years of editorial work; e) prove that, because of old age, illness or accident, he was no longer apt, temporarily or permanently, to continue the activity of professional journalist; f) prove that, since he has limited material means, he could not support his family, thus, having a poor financial state that requires the

⁷ *Ibidem.*

⁸ *Ibidem.*

⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 4.

¹⁰ *Ibidem.*

¹¹ *Ibidem.*

¹² „Cultura Creștină”, III, 1913, nr. 11, 10 iunie, p. 349-350.

foundation's support; g) that he or she is the widow or legitimate orphan child of a journalist.¹³

The help from *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary* was divided into multiple categories: a) temporary/occasional aids; b) support for study trips; c) permanent support - these were offered to Romanian journalists who had a contract with the help of the *Foundation* for a life insurance at a Hungarian Credit Institute; d) life support - given to widows and orphans of Romanian journalists until they reached the adult age and could support themselves.¹⁴

The journalists who had a seniority of over 5 years of constant work in Romanian journalism in Hungary could benefit from the first three categories of support (occasional, study trips and life insurance). Life support was given to those who had accumulated ten years of editorial work at a Romanian newspaper. Along with this seniority rule, the Romanian journalist who wanted access to this kind of support also had to annually donate 60 Crowns or make a total donation for the foundation of 1000 Crowns.¹⁵

The aids given by the foundation could be suspended by the Trusteeship in the following conditions: a) the receiver was no longer a citizen of Hungary; b) moved the residence outside of Hungary; c) committed a crime; d) demonstrated inappropriate behavior; e) reached a certain wealth that the foundation's aid was no longer necessary; f) the widow got remarried; g) the orphans who didn't show proof of good education or demonstrated inappropriate behavior, weren't considered by the Trusteeship worthy of the provided support.¹⁶

Beside charity and support, *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary* also took on it the important role of helping the professionalization of the journalists. We support this claim since, in the reports of the Sibiu Trusteeship, it was accounted that they wanted to form professional journalists, *true journalists that would support the Romanian culture and press in Transylvania, in the future*.¹⁷ The information identified in the press about the existence of this foundation helped us uncover relevant aspects of the professional organization of this guild, which slowly gained its autonomy. It was that shift from writer-editor, specific to the 19th century, to journalist in a professional way, with the beginning of the 20th century. *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary* was supported through the donations of different culturally involved and interested people in Transylvania (the most relevant example is that of the Mocioni family, who donated substantial amounts of money to support Romanian journalists) and through the over taxes on

¹³ „Analele fundațiunii pentru ajutorarea ziaristilor români din Ungaria” (Sibiu), I, 1912, p. 9.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*.

¹⁵ *Ibidem*.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 10.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*.

subscriptions for newspapers in Transylvania. This professionalization could be seen both in Transylvania and Hungary, and in Romania, through the creation of the Journalist Syndicate in Bucharest.¹⁸ It can be stated that the interstice between 1909 and 1910 represented a landmark for a much clearer shaping and defining of the Romanian journalist statute.¹⁹

Throughout 1913, the wealth of *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary* registered a considerable increase. Whereas in 1912, the foundation's wealth summed up to 14,175.1 Crowns, in 1913, its capital increased by 27,742.11 Crowns. On December 31st 1913, it had a total wealth of 68,130.36 Crowns.²⁰ The foundation registered this budget increase from the following income sources: donations from different patrons and people of culture in Transylvania and Banat, bank contributions, conferences and events with the purpose of promoting the foundation, over taxes on newspaper subscriptions, public events, the selling of publications in the foundation's favor, etc. We can observe that the incoming amount of money came from different forms of civic involvement of the Romanian elite in Transylvania, all related to the context of a European evolution of the journalists' professionalization.²¹

Out of the more relevant sources of income in 1913 we mention: a) the donation of Anton Mocsonyi of Foen of 10,000 Crowns; b) the donation of Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Teodor Mihali 5,000; c) the selling of New Year's greeting cards, 1913, 1,646.50; d) public conferences and sold publications 1,023.10; e) over taxes on subscriptions and insertions 688.90; f) donations from Romanian banks 1,213; g) income from events and parties 801.40; h) different contributions 4,862.88; i) dividend shares and equity interests 2,733.12. Total: 27,968.90; expenses: 226.79; Capital: 27,742.11 Crowns.²²

The Foundation thanked Anton Mocioni for the donation of 10,000 crowns and Teodor Mihali for the donation of 5,000 Crowns, but also the editors of *Gazeta Transilvaniei* and *Revista Economică*, which had applied over taxes on subscriptions. Thus, *Gazeta Transilvaniei* had raised 601.90 Crowns, and *Revista Economică* had raised 87 Crowns. The foundation's capital was composed of the

¹⁸ For the description of the first associative forms of journalists in Romania, see: Ilie Rad, *Incursiuni în istoria presei românești*, Cluj-Napoca, Accent 2008, p. 70-71.

¹⁹ See: „Gazeta Transilvaniei”, LXXVI, 1914, no. 44, 25 February / 10 March, p. 2-3; Idem, LXXVI, 1914, no. 45, 26 February / 11 March, p. 2; Idem, LXXVI, 1914, no. 46, 27 February / 12 March, p. 3.

²⁰ „Analele fundațiunii pentru ajutorarea ziariștilor români din Ungaria” (Sibiu), II, 1913, p. 3.

²¹ *Fundația Ziariștilor Români din Ungaria. Donație făcută pentru sprijinirea Fundațiunii pentru ajutorarea ziariștilor români din Ungaria. Darea de seamă generală a Epitropiei administrative asupra anului 1913*, „Gazeta Transilvaniei”, LXXVI, 1914, no. 44, 25 February / 10 March, p. 2-3; Idem, LXXVI, 1914, no. 45, 26 February / 11 March, p. 2.

²² „Analele fundațiunii pentru ajutorarea ziariștilor români din Ungaria” (Sibiu), II, 1913, p. 3.

following funds: the Ioan Mihi Fund (initially consisting of 25,000 Crowns, reaching 27,926.16 Crowns in 1913), the Aurel Mureșianu Fund (initially consisting of 3,587.28 Crowns, reaching 3,893.80 Crowns in 1913), the Different Contributions Fund (at the end of 1912, it registered a total amount of 10,260.29 Crowns, reaching 21,310.40 Crowns in 1913), the Anton Mocsony of Foen Fund (10,000 Crowns) and the Eleftera and Teodor Mihali Fund (5,000 Crowns).²³ In the report of the Sibiu Trusteeship, it was mentioned that they shall also create a Fund for the greeting cards that had been sold.²⁴

Other relevant events and moments of this year also significantly contribute to the reconstruction of the monographic puzzle of *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary*. Thus, the association was recognized and approved by the Hungarian royal ministry of internal affairs on December 4th 1913, with the amendment that article 11 of the Support Regulations had to be modified, in order to state that support for a journalist would be suspended if he committed a crime or his actions took the form of an embezzlement. From that moment on, the Foundation was recognized by the Hungarian state's authorities and registered in official documents under the number 188678-913, IX. In the context of judicial recognition, the foundation was ready to commence its activity, and the Trusteeship encouraged the Romanian journalists to join this association. At the same time, it was desired to institutionalize and ensure the future of professional journalists, all correlated with the connection that was being created between these journalists, as representatives of *The Foundation*, the press reading public and the general public.²⁵

In the *Support Procedure Regulations*, article 7 stipulated that journalists that were members of the foundation should contribute to this fund. The program of the foundation appealed to the solidarity of journalists, so that such financial contributions might support them in the future. Donations in money would be made both at newspaper editing houses, and at the Ardeleana Bank in Orăștie, where the wealth of the foundation was kept.²⁶ Worth mentioning is the fact that these contributions, donations and benefaction rates were made in different places where funds were collected. Thus, those who wished to contribute to the Romanian Journalists Fund could go to: the editing house of several newspapers (*Gazeta Transilvaniei*, *Revista Economică*, *Românul*); the Trusteeship Administration in Sibiu and the Ardeleana Bank in Orăștie, which managed the foundation's wealth, free of charge.

We can observe that these economic contributions were made in a somewhat dissipated manner at that time. Given the disseminated ones, it was difficult for the Trusteeship in Sibiu to hold a concrete account of the inbound and outbound money

²³ *Ibidem*, p. 4.

²⁴ *Fundația Ziaristilor Români din Ungaria. Donație făcută...*, in loc. cit.

²⁵ „Analele fundațiunii pentru ajutorarea ziaristilor români din Ungaria” (Sibiu), II, 1913, p. 4.

²⁶ *Fundația Ziaristilor Români din Ungaria. Donație făcută...*, in loc. cit.

from the foundation's treasury. To reach a much safer statistical account and more efficient centralization of the foundation's treasury, the Trusteeship requested the more important papers (*Gazeta Transilvaniei*, *Revista Economică*, *Românul*, *Biserica și Școala*) to keep an account of the money, and these balance sheets with the incoming money for the foundation from these three institutions (the editing houses of the mentioned newspapers, the Trusteeship and the Ardeleana Bank), to be centralized as a concrete balance sheet at the headquarters of the Ardeleana Bank in Orăștie.²⁷

Gazeta Transilvaniei, *Drapelul*, *Românul*, *Revista Economică și Biserica și Școala* would donate a free issue to the Trusteeship. *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary* was looking for *trustworthy men* who would represent their interests and solve any problems concerning the foundation. In 1913, an attempt was made to institutionalize these men, so that the readers could know the foundation's representatives. The aim was for these men to represent the foundation and for them to be the connection between this press association and the reading public.²⁸

For the collection of money, the Foundation of Journalists applied an over tax on Romanian newspapers and magazines subscriptions. *Gazeta Transilvaniei* charged this over tax on subscriptions for the foundation. Its example was followed by *Libertatea* in Orăștie. It was estimated around that time that, should all important newspapers apply this over tax on subscriptions, a total of 5-6,000 Crowns would be raised, annually. The foundation was financially supported through the selling of New Year's greeting cards, donations, conferences and publications sold in favor of the foundation. In the Trusteeship's report it is mentioned that 120 issues of the *Monography of Ardeleana*, by Ioan I. Lăpădatu, were sold, raising the sum of 834.38 crowns, and that same year, two conferences were held: one in Brasov, held by Ioan Lupaș, vice-president of the Trusteeship, and another with the Association's department in Beiuș. The amount raised for the foundation from these conferences was of 1,023.10 Crowns. Out of parties and events, 801.40 Crowns were raised.²⁹

Other contributions came from banks, but also from private people who manifested an intense spirit of national and trade solidarity with the foundation's representatives. From the latter, 5,000 Crowns were raised. The Greek-Catholics in Sibiu and the Romanians from Vîrșeț and Budapest donated to *The Foundation*. Other contributions were made by state public servants, people from the military and other professional categories. Through all of its activity, the foundation wished to

²⁷ „Analele fundațiunii pentru ajutorarea ziariștilor români din Ungaria” (Sibiu), II, 1913, p. 4-5.

²⁸ „Gazeta Transilvaniei”, LXXVI, 1914, no. 44, 25 February /10 March, p. 2-3; Idem, LXXVI, 1914, no. 45, 26 February /11 March, p. 2.

²⁹ *Ibidem*.

ensure the future of Romanian journalists.³⁰ All of these were mentioned in the administrative meeting of the Trusteeship of *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary*, held at Sibiu on March 1st 1914.³¹ In the foundation's next report, it was mentioned that in January, February and March 1913, the income of the foundation increased, and the total amounts donated to the foundation by different people, banks and newspapers were mentioned. In this meeting, thanks were given to those who had donated money, asking them to keep economically supporting the *Foundation*.³²

In a letter of the *Solidarity* bank union to Romanian banks,³³ signed by Partenie Cosma in 1912, it was mentioned that, ever since 1910, the Romanian intellectuality realized the importance of the press for the Romanian society in Transylvania, wishing to assure the status in the Transylvanian *Agora* of those who represent the public stage through the press. In the context of financial support for this professional organization in Hungary, an appeal was made to the Romanian banks in Transylvania to support the Romanian journalists' foundation. Through this letter, banks were being informed of the importance of the present foundation, wishing that the banking institutions would support them in their journalistic endeavors. It also stated that the banks had an obligation to support the foundation, through the creation of a well prepared journalistic intellectuality, a veritable professional group.³⁴ The purpose was to assure the future of journalists, for them to turn the press into a main occupation, professionally speaking, a career in press. They also mention the fact that the banks have a duty to support the Romanian press, since papers do advertising for and defend the economic interests of banks.

After all the donations from Romanian banks were raised, the money was transferred to the Ardeleana Bank in Orăștie.³⁵ An important element for the professional institutionalization of Romanian journalists was the creation of a pension system for journalists who were members of *The Foundation*. Thus, Romanian journalists could retire after a career in journalism and after having contributed to this fund. Relevant to this would be the case of Silvestru Moldovan, who asked, before his death and after a career in journalism, to retire with the support of the journalists' fund. This is already proof that the status of the Romanian

³⁰ „Gazeta Transilvaniei”, LXXVI, 1914, no. 46, 27 February /12 March, p. 3.

³¹ *Ibidem*.

³² *De la fundațiunea pentru ajutorarea ziariștilor români din Ungaria*, „Gazeta Transilvaniei”, LXXVI, 1914, no. 77, 6/19 April, p. 3.

³³ *Solidaritatea - The Solidarity*, association of financial institutions, created in 1907. Cf. „Revista Economică”, XIV, 1912, no. 1, 7 January, p. 1.

³⁴ „Gazeta Transilvaniei”, LXXVI, 1914, no. 77, 6/19 April, p. 3.

³⁵ *Pentru Fondul Ziariștilor. De la Solidaritatea*, „Tribuna”, XVI, 1912, no. 31, 9/22 February, p. 5.

journalist was being perfected and institutionalized, and their journalistic activity was being assured through pensions with this fund.³⁶

The circumstances created by the outbreak of World War I in Europe, with obvious repercussions upon the fall of historical empires, also affected the proper development of the cultural activity and patron spirit with the purpose of Romanian affirmation within the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy. The context of the start of the Great War³⁷ caused some moments of incertitude in the activity of the administrative Trusteeship and *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary*. The report regarding the activity of the foundation for 1914 was delayed given the circumstances, and the administrative Trusteeship in Sibiu, which dealt with the annual wealth reports and activity of the foundation, faced interruptions in its activity during this period of time, which brought upon a slower accounting of the foundation's wealth and activity.³⁸

Despite all these, the wealth of the foundation registered a capital increase in 1912 of 14,917.51 Crowns, and in 1913 it registered 27,742.11 Crowns, with a total for the two years of activity of 42,659.66 Crowns.³⁹

In 1914, the Trusteeship in Sibiu was managing an income for the *Foundation* of 13,823.37 crowns, obtained from the following sources and material means: a) dividends and interest 4,127.57 Crowns; b) the selling of 1914 New Year's greetings 3,637.28; c) donation for the Ioan Russu-Șirianul fund 1,400 Crowns; d) the amount of money raised from the newspapers' editing houses 1,221.89 Crowns; e) various contributions 1,094.08 Crowns; f) over taxes on subscriptions and insertions 814.55; g) anonymous donations 858 Crowns; h) contributions from banks 670 Crowns. Out of the above mentioned total, expenses of 1,448.48 Crowns were registered, leaving a capital of 12,374.89 Crowns.⁴⁰

As a conclusions, the creation of *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary* fits into the ensemble of initiatives and attempts to create a Syndicate of the Romanian press in Transylvania. This associative institution of Romanian gazetteers has a well-organized structure, with Ioan Lupaș as vice-president and Ioan I. Lăpedatu as president. *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary* can be registered in the series of associations and cultural societies that were created around the time of World War I. At the same time, the journalists' foundation subscribes to the category of Romanian national and cultural association initiatives,

³⁶ See: *Telegramă despre moartea lui Silvestru Moldovan*, „Gazeta Transilvaniei”, LXXVII, 1915, no. 107, 20 May / 2 June, p. 2.

³⁷ Vasile Vesa, *Transilvania în timpul Primului Război Mondial (1914-1918)*, in Ioan Aurel Pop, Thomas Năgler, Magyari András (coord.), *Istoria Transilvaniei (De la 1711 până la 1918)*, vol. III, Cluj-Napoca, Academia Română. Centrul de Studii Transilvane, 2008, p. 467-468.

³⁸ „Analele fundațiunii pentru ajutorarea ziariștilor români din Ungaria” (Sibiu), III, 1914, p. 3.

³⁹ *Ibidem*.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*.

which perpetuated and kept alive the Romanian national consciousness in a period of time when Transylvania was under foreign administration. The *Foundation* was the legacy of the spirit of cultural association in the parameters of cultural nationalism and a tradition of Romanian associationism in 19th century Transylvania and, throughout its entire existence, it wore the seal of people of culture, journalists and patrons such as: Ioan Mișu, Valeriu Braniște, Ioan I. Lăpedatu, Vasile Goldiș, Emanuil Ungureanu, George Pop of Băsești, Anton Mocioni of Foen, Teodor Mihali, Ioan Lupaș, Ioan Agârbiceanu, and Octavian Goga.

From the perspective of unrolling of events, the 1910-1914 period fits in the outcome of the foundation's creation and the first years of activity of this professional organizational structure. Out of the Sibiu Trusteeship's reports and press releases, we can observe the fact that the journalists' foundation had an intense activity during its first years of administrative and journalistic operation, aiding the initiatives to support the Romanian press and to institutionalize Romanian journalists in the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy.

We believe that the professionalization of Romanian journalists in Transylvania was a long lasting process, started in the 1860s, through the expansion of editing houses and newspaper columns, and culminating with the creation of *The Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary* in 1910 and the *Romanian Press Syndicate in Transylvania and Banat*, created in 1921. Throughout the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, we can observe a materialization of a process of perfecting and professionalizing the journalists' status. During this stage, we can observe an advance of editorial technique, of the work in editing houses, of the recruitment of internal and external collaborators, of the manifestation in the press of the national movement militancy, all these leading to the perfecting of the professional journalist, institutionalized through the two essential stages in journalists' professionalization.

This foundation, through its activity in its first years, had a significant role in the institutionalization of Romanian journalists in Hungary. Through the support provided throughout the years, it made an essential contribution to the professional development of Romanian journalists. The sums of money given to those who were members of the *Foundation of Romanian Journalists in Hungary* in order to study at universities abroad, training stages at faculties in the West, support for life insurance, financial aid given to widows or legitimate orphans of journalists and the pension system created within the foundation for Romanian journalists, all equally contributed to the perfecting of modern journalism and professional journalists.