

ISSTA 2014

International Symposium
on
Science, Theology and Arts

Eucharist

&

Martyrdom

from the Ancient Catacombs
to the Communist Prisons

ALBA IULIA

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6 - 8 May 2014

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
on Science, Theology and Arts

Faculty of Orthodox Theology
ALBA IULIA

Partners

- “1 Decembrie 1918” University, **Alba Iulia**
- The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile, **Romania**
- State Secretariat for Religious Affairs, **Romania**
- Institute for Byzantine and Eastern Christian Studies, **Olomouc, Czech Republic**
- National School of Political and Administrative Studies, **Bucharest, Romania**
- University of Pitești, **Romania**
- L'Istituto di Studi Ecumenici “San Bernardino”, **Venice, Italy**
- “Petre Andrei” University, **Iași, Romania**
- Orthodox Archbishopric of Alba Iulia, **Romania**

Scientific committee

- Prof. H. Tristram Engelhardt jr., Rice University, Houston, SUA
- Prof. Emil Jurcan, “1 Decembrie 1918” University, Alba Iulia, Romania
- Dr. Iulian Rusu, European Journal of Science & Theology, Iași, Romania
- Prof. Doru Teompea, “Petre Andrei” University, Iași, Romania
- Prof. Mihai Himcinschi, “1 Decembrie 1918” University, Alba Iulia, Romania
- Dr. Dumitru Vanca, “1 Decembrie 1918” University, Alba Iulia, Romania
- Dr. Alin Albu, “1 Decembrie 1918” University, Alba Iulia, Romania

On behalf of the “1 Decembrie 1918” University (Alba Iulia, Romania), *The Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile* (Bucharest, Romania), *The Institute for Byzantine and Eastern Christian Studies* (Olomouc, Czech Republic), *National School of Political and Administrative Studies* (Bucharest, Romania), *The State Secretariat for Religious Affairs* (Bucharest, Romania), *L’Istituto di Studi Ecumenici “S. Bernardino”* (Venice, Italy), *the University of Pitești* (Iași, Romania) and the “Petre Andrei” University (Iași, Romania), the Organizing Committee is pleased to invite you to participate at the 13th *ISSTA Symposium* on the general topic:

Eucharist and Martyrdom

from the Ancient Catacombs
to the Communist Prisons

Alba Iulia, 6-8 May 2014, Romania

Argument:

“My children, let us be brave! We have lost everything we had in this world, at least we can save our souls by washing away our sins in our blood.” This was the exhortation given by the Romanian ruler Constantin Brâncoveanu to his sons before they all died together; the promise of earthly life in exchange for denying Christ was not sufficient to convince them, so they were slaughtered one by one in front of their father, who was killed after them.

Although warned by Christ on the coming tribulations (John 16:33) Christians could not anticipate the cruelty of the confrontation with secular political systems. Among these, Communism was the most insidious and probably the cruelest one. *How did Christians survive in that world of terror? How much of the essence of the faith could the Church defend in a world of systemic atheism?* and *Who are the new Martyrs of the faith?* These are questions on which the teaching staff of the Faculty of Theology in Alba Iulia invites you – scientists, theologians, sociologists and politicians – to reflect.

In order to reconcile ourselves with the past, we must know it and understand it.

General information:

Located in the heart of Transylvania, Alba Iulia has won the privilege of being “the soul capital of the Romanians”, place and seal of a historical moment consecrating the union of The

Romanian Principalities - Moldavia, Wallachia and Transylvania – into a single state: Romania.

An ancient Roman town and the medieval capital of the Transylvanian Principality, Alba Iulia is also a historical centre of Romanian culture and spirituality that produced some of the first books printed in Romanian language (The New Testament - 1648), and which also hosts one of the most famous codices in the world – *Codex Aureus* (9th century), preserved along with others manuscripts and rare incunabula in the *Batthyaneum* Library.

Looking for places and facts to enrich their minds and souls, the tireless researchers will not refuse the pleasure to meet history at home in Alba Iulia. The whole city is an open air museum inviting you to a simultaneous excursion to a Roman fortress and a medieval burg. The three fortifications, recently restored by the municipality, will provide lasting memories in a setting where nothing is missing in order to make one feel a witness of the past.

Topics:

- *Christian Life during the Communist Regime*; surviving into a hostile atheistic system;
- *In the Belly of the Beast*: Confessing Christ into the prison darkness;
- *What Choice for the Church?* Between Scylla and Charybdis;
- *The Chalice of hope*: The Eucharist as medicine and Christian energizer during political storms.

Call for papers:

We would like to request all those wishing to contribute to the conference to submit an abstract of their contribution before January 15th, 2014 (at least 500 words) to the symposium secretariat at: secretariat@issta.ro. All submitted texts must be prepared in English (UK) as an MS Word document, using 12 Times New Roman font, single spacing. In order to be presented at the symposium, all selected works will be reviewed by the scientific committee, which will send you an answer of acceptance until the 8th of February, 2014.

1. A *volume of works* presented will be published before the symposium opening, as a supplement to the *Altarul Reîntregirii Journal*. **The deadline for receipt of the full text manuscripts is March 1st, 2014.** Manuscript requirements and form of the symposium book can be downloaded from the *Altarul Reîntregirii Journal*'s website (<http://fto.ro/altarul-reintregirii>).
2. A *special issue* of *European Journal of Science and Theology* (ISI – Thomson Reuters) containing some selected works

will be published after the symposium closure. In order to prepare their works according to EJST norms, the authors will be contacted by the scientific committee after Symposium closure.

Registration fee

The registration fee is 100 Euro if the payment is made before April 1st, or 200 Euro if the payment is made after that date. The PhD students will pay half of the price. **Payment will be made in RON** to the rate at the date of bank transfer. Please specify “for ISSTA-2014”. Bank Transfer: *Universitatea “1 Decembrie 1918”, Alba Iulia. CIF: 5665935*

- RON: TREZORERIA Alba Iulia:
RO47 TREZ 002504601X000270
- EURO: BANCA COMERCIALA ROMANA (AB):
RO96 RNCB 0003037783550004,
[SWIFT code: RNCBROBUABO

The registration fee covers the conference documents, the conference volume, reception and coffee breaks.

Accommodation:

Accommodation for all interested participants will be arranged at special conference rates, which are expected to be up to 25 Euro/room/night (2-3*) and up to 75 Euro/room/night (4-5*). We also can provide accommodation up to 10 Euro on the University campus (twin room). Participants are free to arrange their own accommodation if they wish. The Organizers recommend: *Parc* Hotel, *Medieval* Hotel, *Cetate* Hotel.

Working language:

The *working languages* of the Symposium will be English and Romanian. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

Dates to remember:

- 15th January – deadline for abstract submission
- 8th February – acceptance of proposals
- 1st March – deadline for full text manuscripts
- 1st April – 50% reduced registration fee last date
- 1st May – final program

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Among your many responsibilities and engagements, we hope you can find enough time to fit this scientific meeting into your agenda for May 2014. We trust this opportunity will offer you a unique cultural and spiritual experience in the recently restored citadel of Alba Iulia.