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GENERATION '27

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Generation '27

ACTERIAN, Arşavir (18.IX.1907, Constanta - 17.IX.1997, Bucharest), journalist and memoirist. Arşavir's father, Aram Acterian accountant at a drapery store, had engaged in cereal trade. His mother, Haiganuş (born Benlian) had come in Dobrogea from Kayseri, a town in Turkey.

Due to less favorable conditions, both families, his father's and his mother's, chose to settle in our country. Haiganuş and Aram had three children: Haig, Arşavir and Jeni.

The stages of Arşavir's life

We distinguish several stages in his life.

The first step would be the formation that covers the years 1907- 1933.

He attended the evangelical school in his hometown. After graduating from primary school, he attended "Spiru Haret" school in Bucharest where his brother Acterian Haig was also a student, who initially had been enrolled at "Mircea cel Bătran" in Constanța. Hence we can assume that in 1917 the family moved to Bucharest.

Among his high school classmates include: Niculescu Radu-Mislea, Potra Gheorghe, Brezeanu (Brezianu) Barbu, Noica Constantin, Axente Nelu, Teodorescu Nicolae, Vasilescu-Valjean (Valjan), Nicu Ionescu Anton.

Some of his professors were: Nicodim Locusteanu – Latin, Dimitrie Papadopol – German, Iosif Frollo - French, D. Focşa - cosmography, Boian - gymnastics.

This talented group of high school students published in the school magazine. The leader of the magazine for a long time was Mircea Eliade. We need to take into account that Constantin Noica had his poems published in the school magazine. At the suggestion of Ion Barbu, the philosopher, he would not sign with his name, but with the pseudonym A.C. Ion.

In 1927 the "Spiritual Itinerary" written by Mircea Eliade is published, the manifesto of generation '27. A group that aims culturally lofty goals is formed, among them being Arşavir Acterian.

In 1928 at the age of 21 he debuted in the high school magazine "Spiru Haret" entitled "Vlăstarul", where Haig Acterian and Mircea Eliade collaborated.

In 1928, together with Barbu Brezianu and Noica, Arşavir collaborated with "Ultima Oră" newspaper.

The second page of the newspaper was devoted to culture and the coordinator was Petru Comarnescu. He gave credit to young people, giving them leeway in the newspaper. In one of the numbers, these young people reviewed the book "Craii de Curte Veche" by Mateiu Caragiale.

"When entrusted with this second page at "Ultima Oră" Comarnescu called to help in drafting it three fresh graduates with apprenticeship made at "Vlăstarul" Noica, Arșavir and me, giving us full freedom of action. Let me show you a picture that I love in particular: ee, here we are Noica and myself, showing that full page of "Ultima Oră" devoted to the recently published novel by Mateiu Caragiale, Craii de Curtea- Veche. "

In another issue of the newspaper, these young people who dealt with the cultural page interviewed Alexandru Davila and brought him to the forefront of cultural life. That year the National Prize for Literature was awarded to Alexandru Davila thanks to these young people who did not forget him for his cultural merits.

In 1929 he enrolled in the Faculty of Law that he would graduate in 1933. During this period he did not stray far from journalism. After graduating he became secretary of Professor of Law, Anibal Teodorescu, oscillating between law and journalism, but only for a short period, returning to the old passion, journalism.

After a while at "Ultima Oră" newspaper, he ends up at "Vremea" magazine.

The second stage includes 1933-1937.

Emil Botta, together with a few friends set up "Corabia cu rata□i". "In <<the war with the old>>, he sets the youth association<<beaus of the muses >> which lasted very little (1935-1936). Some adherents included: Arșavir Acterian (one of the best friends of the actor-poet), Luca Dumitrescu, Ovid Marinescu, Corneliu Temensky, Ghița Soare ... The clan was approved by Emil Cioran and Eugen Ionescu, but they were not part of "Corabia cu rata□i", initiated, named and led with the greeting <<O sive jeunesse>> by young Emil Botta. "

The third stage is the period from 1937 to 1949.

1937 was the year when his first legionnaire article appeared, we believe - under the "influence" of Vasile Marin's and Ion Moța's sacrifice on the Spanish battlefield.

On January 13, 1937 they were killed in Majadahonda (Spain). Ionel Moța and Vasile Marin fought alongside the forces of General Francisco Franco against socialists, communists and anarchists. The Spanish Civil War lasted from July 17, 1936 until April 1, 1939.

He became an iron guard. In 1937 he was part of the iron guard nest "Idea Rom□nească". With few periods when he was imprisoned, he stayed away from the nest. But every time he was released, he returned to his nest. The Iron Nest was active from 1937 until 1944, after which the meetings were no longer held.

In 1941 the Iron Guard wanted to take over the country trying to chase Ion Antonescu, thus the Iron Guard rebellion occurred between 21st and 23rd January. Arșavir was not involved in this uprising, being home with his mother who could not be left alone due to serious illness.

In 1946, the Iron guard nest is reactivated until 1949, when members of the nest - most likely, after a denunciation – were arrested.

The fourth stage encompassed the years 1949-1953.

It is the period when he was closed in communist prisons, period not talked about at all.

The fifth stage is represented by the years 1953-1959.

Arșavir lived a modest life, practicing various trades well below his potential. In the interval between the two detentions he earned his living as inlay aid, antiquarian bookseller, bookseller, statistician and file clerk at the Hematology Center in Bucharest.

The sixth stage was between 1959 to 1964, the prison years.

It is closed on the famous case Pillat-Noica released due to the general amnesty decree of 1964.

Interestingly, this lawsuit had a special feature. Many who were judged did not know each other.

5 months after his arrest, the criminal trial began on February 24, 1960 bringing together the people who see each other for the first time. It was a suit made in order to annihilate a group of intellectuals. The trial lasted for two days, but represented something typical for the justice system of those times. In total there were 23 defendants, their only fault was that they read forbidden books and distributed some of Cioran's and Mircea Eliade's.

So, the communist regime wanted to imprison intellectuals regardless of their options before, grouping them in the same batch. Although not all were iron guards, they were placed in the same court and introduced as "prominent members of the Legion." Everyone would have the same fate: conviction.

This process has a particularity: "Another paradox of this process was the hypocrisy of the communist regime in 1956 using the services of Marietta Sadova around Emil Cioran or Mircea Eliade, at the precise indications of the Constanța Crăciun, so that in 1959 she would be accused of "smuggling books of Iron Guard authors".

The process actually began on February 24th 1960. Aterian Arșavir was arrested on September 12th 1959. After questioning, in the final conclusions, Arșavir Aterian was put alongside Constantin Noica, Sandu Lăzărescu, Gh. Florian, Constantin Ranetti, Emanoil Vidrașcu, Marietta Sadova, Alexandru Paleologu, Nicu Steindhardt, Beatrice Strelisker.

The fact that Arșavir Aterian gave Dinu Pillat "banned books with an Iron Guard character" was a pretty big crime. Being an antiquarian books, Arșavir Aterian promoted Eliade's and Emil Cioran's books. Since he dialogued with others about the new regime in terms of opposition constituted an act was punishable with long prison years.

Arșavir Aterian received from Marietta Sadova in the summer of 1956 when he returned from France, the writings of Eliade and Cioran: "Ispita de a exista", "Pădurea interzisă", "Mituri și simboluri" and distributed them, although this constituted a crime at the time.

In 1958 through Alexander Paleologu, Arșavir Aterian was informed of the writings of Emil Cioran "Scrisoare către un prieten de departe" bringing eulogies to this piece.

The second time he was arrested on September 12th 1959, sentenced by Bucharest Military Court to 18 years of hard labor and released on July 30th 1964 as a result of Decree 411.

The seventh stage covered 1964 to 1989.

After being released from prison he was monitored by The Security, leading a simple life.

The eighth and final stage was represented by the period from 1990 to 1997.

He managed to publish his brothers' writings including "Cealaltă parte a vieții noastre" by Haig and "Jurnalul unei ființe greu de mulțumit" by Jeni, trying to bring them to the forefront of Romanian cultural life.

Finally some of his books appeared, such as "Jurnalul unui pseudo-filosof", "Cum am devenit creștin" and "Despre mirare". His value was finally acknowledged, but too late.

In 1997 he died.