

Association of Canadian Romanian University Professors
ONTARIO
Canada



***Mihai Eminescu* section of the York University library in Toronto.**

We are suggesting the establishment of a comprehensive collection of Romanian books and periodicals to be hosted in a special section of the York University library in Toronto that will be named after Romania's national poet. Such a collection is urgently needed for the following reasons:

- a. At present no Canadian library possesses a comprehensive and up-to-date collection of Romanian books and periodicals. The University of Toronto which was in the past the only Canadian library to collect Romanian books decided twenty years ago to stop acquiring books from Romania. Nevertheless, it did continue to develop its Hungarian, Polish, Ukrainian, Serbian, Bulgarian, etc. collections. Romania and Albania are the only East and South-East European countries that do not have their own book collections at either at the University of Toronto, or anywhere else in Canada.
- b. All other major East-European communities in Canada have impressive book collections not only at the University of Toronto but also at other Canadian universities. These collections reflect the history and culture of the countries of origin of those communities. They help maintain the ties between the various communities and their countries of origin and also stimulate interest, and in many cases research, in the history and culture of those countries.
- c. Given the size and importance of Romania in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and the growing size of the Romanian-Canadian community the present situation constitute an abnormality that runs counter to the interest not only of the Romanians in Canada but of all Romanians.

- d. The building of the proposed Romanian collection at York University should begin as soon as possible through substantial book donations from Romania in key areas such as history, language and literature and current economic, political and social issues. The collections should be methodically developed and kept up-to-date.
- e. Several local specialists in Romanian history, language and literature and others members of the Romanian academic community have already volunteered to take an active part in establishing of a special section at the York University library to host Romanian books and periodicals (e.g. Prof. Dov Lungu, Judith Dimitriu, Eugene Roventa, etc.). **We hope that the Romanian Cultural Institute and the Cultural Section of the Romanian External Affairs will support the establishment of the Romanian section of the York University library.** Professor Dov Lungu, from the ACRUPO executive will be in charge with this Romanian section library.
- f. Once the Romanian collection is established, it will be available not only to students and others in the Toronto area but also to all students and researchers in Canada who will be able to borrow those books through the existing Inter-Library loan services.
- g. We envisage the establishment of the *Mihai Eminescu* section of Romanian books and periodicals at York University as the first step towards the introduction of courses in Romanian history and culture leading eventually to a full university degree program in Romanian Studies. Such a program would be the first of its kind in Canada and only the second on both the North and South American continents. Already discussions have been initiated by Prof. Roventa and are progressing well to introduce a Romanian Civilization and Language course at Glendon Campus in the context of Glendon Extended Learning program