

**A NEW EUROPEAN CULTURAL SERIES:
FROM "SANCTA MASSERIZZIA" TO THE "HOLY CITY"**

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Beginning with the 14th century up to the 16th century, Western Europe is shattered by a profound and complex crisis, which generalized and gradually seized all the layers of the society. It reached the population, the material and spiritual culture. Turn by turn, the agents of the old world – empire, kings, papacy, and knights – fail in their attempt to save the structures of the old Europe. A state of interregnum strikes root in the world, and the horizons of prediction grow dark. In order for Europe to get out of this crisis, new historical agents will have to emerge. They will not only raise a new material culture (new productions), but also a new spiritual culture – a new paradigm, a new type of rationality.

Who are these "agents", which is the new type of rationality that they bring in the history of Europe, which are the mechanisms of the genesis and of the socialization of the new patterns and values, in a word, which is the new cultural paradigm that is now being born? And moreover, which will be the destiny of the various European areas in relation to the movement of culture? Will culture follow the economies' pattern of change or will it develop its own pattern of historical movement? As we have demonstrated, economies have developed through desynchronization: some of them, namely the metropolitan (Western) ones evolved progressively towards the industrial Revolution; the others, the Southeastern European ones, moved regressively towards a peripheral, stagnating state.

The second situation is typical for Romanian society in the 19th century, more precisely between 1821 and 1921, when an economy that was weakly developed in an European context was correlated with a culture that was in a very precipitated process of affirmation, so that, after about 50 years of synchronization with the great culture of capitalist Europe, it becomes (along with the Polish culture) one of the first European critical cultures (beginning appreciatively with the year 1870). This is why we will try to derive the directions of culture movement especially in relation to the defining features of its new paradigm, typical for the modern epoch. The task of our thesis will be that of reading into the parsimoniously selected documents the elements of the modern cultural paradigm that is built in our area by the creators of the "heroic culture" and of the "critical culture". These elements refer, obviously, to "exemplary images", guide ideas, social types, motives, symbols, which become, in our view, the elementary phenomenological "stratum" of the modern Romanian consciousness, crystallized, as we consider, into two moments: that of the "heroic culture" (approximately overlapping the 1848 period) and that of the "critical culture" which, although having its germs in the "heroic culture", will reach its climax with the Eminescu "moment".

"Sancta masserizzia" and the dawn of the modern European man. The human type in the Florentine Mediterranean area, in 16th century England, and in the 1848 Bucharest.