STUDIA JUDAICA

I

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In the fall of 1990, at the Faculty of History and Philosophy the “Babeș-Bolyai” University in Cluj—Napoca, the “Moshe Carmilly” Institute for Hebrew and Jewish History came into being.

This Institute aims at studying and revaluating the rich Jewish historical and cultural traditions in Romania, a very neglected field of research in the last 4—5 decades. These studies are meant to point out the importance of the Jewish communities in the Romanian historical and cultural evolution emphasizing the specificity of the cultural traditions, the interdependence and reciprocal influences with the Romanian, Hungarian, German cultures, with the Central—South—East European spirituality in the course of time.

These works of most various aspects from registering and publishing the sources to studies concerning the social and cultural background, the economy, the art, the history of mentalities, archeological researches, biblical exegeses etc. will reach the scientific communities and the public through “Studia Judaica”. We are glad to offer the first number of this review to the readers. It contains the lectures delivered at the inauguration of the Institute in October, 1990, as well as the scientific studies presented in the first international conference held in April, 1991. The review and its editors hope in enriching it in the future with valuable contributions of all those interested in these problems by opening a new heading capable of covering as much as possible of this fascinating cultural field strained with tradition and of an indeniable actuality.

The editors

I. INAUGURATION OF THE “MOSHE CARMILLY” INSTITUTE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH HISTORY

Cluj—Napoca, October 22, 1990.

Prof. ANDREI MARGA’S Address,
Dean of the Faculty of History and Philosophy

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here today to mark an exceptional scientific and cultural event — the opening of the Institute of Hebrew Studies and Jewish History in Cluj following the initiative of our faculty. Allow me to present to the audience and to the press some data regarding the Institute before inviting Professor Moshe Carmilly to take the floor.

The Faculty of History and Philosophy in Cluj, with its different departments of History, Philosophy, Psychology, Psychopedagogy, Sociology and Pedagogy, has started a rapid modernizing process of both research and academic activities. It also aims to increase the competitiveness of the qualifications it offers. The academic body deliberately has in view the integration into the scientific circuit of our times, to be achieved through personal performances. In order to reach this target our faculty, which today numbers more than 500 students, 150