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JOINT EMBASSY STATEMENT

Re: U.S. Visa Waiver Program Modernization

August 9, 2007

The Embassies of the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia appreciate the bipartisan efforts of the U.S. Administration and Members of both chambers of Congress to modernize and expand the United States Visa Waiver Program through provisions in H.R. 1, "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007," recently signed by President Bush.

We will continue to work for a visa policy that recognizes our common security, economic, and foreign policy goals. As members of the European Union and firm allies of the United States, we believe that success in this endeavor is a critical tool in strengthening our transatlantic alliance without differentiating between EU member states. We are committed to working with the U.S. Administration and Congress to achieve a solution that will allow for visa-free travel to the U.S. for our citizens.

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Celebration of National Day of Romania

November 27, 2007

General Consul in Los Angeles Mr. Catalin Ghenea hosted the celebration of National Day of Romania. U&L President Daniela Istrate participated at the event among distinguished guests from Romanian Community.



U&L President Daniela Istrate and General Consul Catalin Ghenea



Fr. Rev. Mihai Carpiniseanu, Mrs. Laura Pieptea, Mr. Radu Pieptea, Mrs. Daniela Istrate, Mr and Mrs. Rosenthal

Winter Anniversaries

IOAN SLAVICI (1848- 1925)



Ioan Slavici, one of the most important Romanian writers, was born on January 18, 1848 in a small village near Arad, being the second child of the furrier Sava and Elena Slavici. He attended to the Greek-Orthodox school from his village, and high school in Arad. In 1868 he enrolled the University of Budapest, but one year later he moved to the Law University in Vienna, where he met Mihai Eminescu, also a student in the Austrian capital. He took his state examination in 1870.

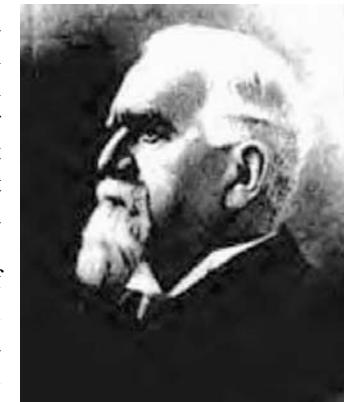
His debut in 1871 was a comedy published in "Convorbiri literare", followed by his first story "Zana zorilor". In the summer he organized together with Eminescu the Pan-Romanian festivities in Putna City. In 1872 he published short stories "Ileana cea sireata", "Florita de codru", "Doi feti cu stea în frunte". He settled down in Bucharest in 1874 and one year later he married Ecaterina Szöke Magyarosy. In the autumn of 1875 Slavici was named teacher at "Matei Basarab" highschool in Bucharest. Also he entered the editorial staff of the newspaper "Timpul".

Between 1878 and 1881 he published a volume of novels "Novele din popor" and his masterpiece "Moara cu noroc". In 1885, because of some articles in which he claims the right of Romanians, the Hungarian authorities imprisoned him but the Court of assizes freed him. The same year he divorced his first wife Ecaterina. In 1886 Slavici married Eleonora Tanasescu, and in the autumn his son, Titu Liviu was born. His second child, Lavinia Ioana Iosefina, was born in 1889. Between 1891 and 1897 four more children were born: Ion Marcel, Fulvia, Elena and Lavinia.

He was awarded by the Romanian Academy for the novel "Din batrani", in 1902. In 1914, running the "Ziua" newspaper, he pleaded the neutrality of Romania in the First World War. After the peace treaty and the return of the King Ferdinand in 1919, Slavici was arrested again, judged and convicted to 5 years in prison, but he was released in the same year.

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TITU MAIORESCU (1840- 1917)



Titu-Liviu Maiorescu s-a născut la 15 februarie 1840 în Craiova, fiind fiul lui Ion Maiorescu, un cunoscut profesor transilvănean. Si-a început studiile la Craiova, le-a continuat la Brașov și apoi s-a mutat la Academia Theresiana din Viena, pe care a absolvit-o în 1858 ca sef de promovare. Dupa studii superioare la Berlin și Paris, si-a luat doctoratul în filosofie și licenta în litere și drept.

În 1861 s-a reîntors în țară, activând până în 1874 la Iași. Aici a fost director al Colegiului Național, director al scolii Normale, unde învăța și Ion Creangă, rector al Universității din Iași, profesor de filozofie, întemeietor al societății literare "Junimea" și al revistei "Convorbiri literare".

Între 1874-1917 a trăit la București fiind avocat, profesor universitar, deputat, ministru. A publicat studii de filosofie, de estetică, de limbă și literatură. Între 1910-1912 a fost prim-ministru și ministru de interne. Titu Maiorescu a murit în 1917, fiind înmormântat la cimitirul Bellu.

Titu Maiorescu a fost unul din cei dintâi oameni de cultură români care a înțeles că, după înfăptuirea Unirii din 1859, o primă cale de consolidare a unității naționale trebuie să fie limba română. Toate studiile sale au militat pentru unificarea limbii române literare prin omogenizarea scrierii, prin punerea la punct a unei grămatice unitare, prin adaptarea principiului îmbogățirii vocabularului cu neologisme și prin promovarea unei atitudini de combatere a oricărei tendințe de stricare a limbii.

Titu Maiorescu a fost un veritabil critic literar al timpului său. Pentru el critica era o datorie de cetățean pe care a îndeplinit-o cu multă hotărâre și cu mult talent. Toată estetica maioresciană se învârteste în jurul principiilor ca, ideea poetului trebuie să fie cât mai înaltă, deci metafizică, accesibilă numai în momentul contemplării, iar limba, izvorul "farmecului" se cuvine să se ferească de prada unui "exotism neadaptabil", să fie "curată" și mai cu seamă națională..."

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