

One Century of.... Caragialism in Romanian Literature

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Abstract

The paper focuses on Caragiale's immense literary posterity that proves the perennial character of his work. Rather than dealing with the social and political present interest of Caragiale's plays and prose, the paper approaches the problem of their visible impact on Romanian literature. In the first part of the paper, possible explanations for Caragiale's survival are found in the way his characters are devised. In the second part, while defining the term "Caragialism" we specify its connection with the notion of time, since it maintains its essence through those components that are preferred in different periods of our literature. An inventory of Caragiale's possible literary heirs results from the second meaning of Caragialism, namely that of an attitudinal and aesthetic parentage of the Caragialian spirit and art. This type of tradition in Romanian literature has been present in three ways: an epigone-like imitation, a deliberate transformation, re-evaluation and recycling of specific types, themes and stylistic devices and an admitted taking over of certain intuitions that made Caragiale the forerunner of at least two universal literary trends, namely the Theatre of the Absurd and postmodernism.