Vasile Băncilă

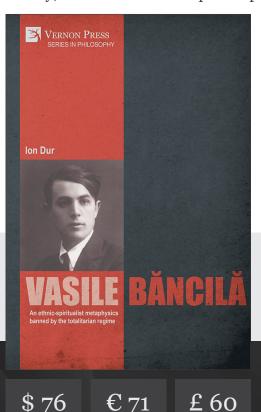
An ethnic-spiritualist metaphysics banned by the totalitarian regime

SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY

Summary

This book is a rediscovery and examination of the thinking of Vasile Băncilă, a philosopher forbidden by the totalitarian regime of Nicolae Ceaușescu. The philosopher Lucian Blaga saw Băncilă as a threat to the spirit of the highest Romanian culture. It is estimated that Băncilă's work extends to 32 volumes, 17 of which have been published so far. With such a significant opus, Vasile Băncilă is, indisputably, a key figure in contemporary Romanian culture, particularly in the sphere of philosophy.

The book has eleven chapters and is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the hermeneutics of the author's youthful works. His reflections on the purpose of philosophy for life are important, about the role of this discipline in the education of adolescents and students, the relationship between irony and education, his thoughts of one of the greatest Romanian poets, Mihai Eminescu, and the philosophy of Descartes and of Schopenhauer. In the second part, the book looks at Băncilă's aim of structuring a possible system of philosophy; more precisely, an ethnicspiritualist metaphysics which, when it was elaborated, contradicted the official ideology of the totalitarian regime. Finally, the book covers the philosopher's work, analysing



step-by-step the relation between the part and the whole (pars pro toto), as well as between existence and metaphysics, and the philosopher's conclusions about Romanian existence.

About the author

Ion Dur has written over twenty books of philosophical essays and monographs (Cioran, Constantin Noica, Vasile Băncilă, Horia Stamatu, Nae Ionescu) and collaborated in the translation of two works by Hannah Arendt: The Origins of Totalitarianism (with Mircea Ivănescu; Humanitas Publishing House, 1994) and Crises of the Republic (with D.-I. Cenuşer; Humanitas Publishing House, 1999). He has published essays, chronicles, studies and articles on philosophy, literature, aesthetics, literary criticism, and media criticism in various Romanian and international cultural publications. He has collaborated with the Romanian Radio Broadcasting Services and appeared on public and private television channels. He has also been an active participant in and organiser of national and international symposiums. Dur is currently a Scientific Advisor in the Faculty of Letters at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, University Centre North of Baia Mare. He is also a Professor at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu and Dean of the Faculty of Journalism at the same institution. He is a member of the Writers' Union of Romania, and the recipient of seven prizes awarded by its Sibiu subsidiary. He obtained the "Mircea Florian" award for Philosophy from the Romanian Academy.

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