

G. Ibrăileanu's *Spiritul critic în cultura românească* (1909) Revisited
(Abstract)

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The article re-reviews and assesses G. Ibrăileanu's study of the appearance, evolution, and importance of the *spiritul critic* in Romanian civilization which stirred wide spread discussion and debate when it first appeared just before World War I. Ibrăileanu's work contended that this *spiritul critic* – which first appeared in Moldova – had been responsible for the essential shape of the modern Romanian language, literature, and state, but had been subordinated and then perverted in the late 19th century by political and cultural centralization in București. Frustrated with the impasse of Romanian politics and culture around the turn of the century, Ibrăileanu and his Poporanist colleagues argued that what Romania urgently needed was a return to Europeanization based on a synthesis of the Muntenian transforming spirit and the Moldovan *spiritul critic*, a healthy regionalism coupled with a genuine democratization of Romania society.