
**IULIU-MARIUS MORARIU, RELIGIONS AND COMMUNISM.
ANDRE SCRIMA'S ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES REFLECTED IN
SECURITATE ARCHIVES, COLL. „PATHWAYS FOR
ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE”, SPRINGER
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Iuliu-Marius Morariu is already a notorious name in the field of theological, historical and sociological scholarship. Author, translator, editor or coordinator of 65 books and more than 400 studies and articles, he published valuable research in fields like ecumenism, spiritual autobiography, Virgil Gheorghiu and his sociological relevance or ecumenism.¹ Among the recent ones there must be surely mentioned the one entitled: *Religions and Communism. Andre Scrima's Ecumenical Activities Reflected in Securitate Archives* (Springer Nature, Zurich, 2025).

It must be said that the topic represented also previously one of the concerns of the aforementioned author. Thus, in journals like *Review of Ecumenical Studies* from Sibiu, *Religion* from Zurich, *European Journal for the Study of Religion and Theology* from Iassy, or *Symposium* from New

¹ See, for example: Iuliu-Marius Morariu, *Repere ale autobiografiei spirituale din spațiul ortodox în secolele XIX și XX: Ioan de Kronstadt, Siluan Athonitul și Nicolae Berdiaev* (Landmarks of the spiritual autobiography from the Orthodox space in the XIXth and the XXth centuries: John of Kronstadt, Silouane the Athonite and Nicolae Berdyaev, Lumen Publishing House, Iași, 2019; Iuliu-Marius Morariu, *The "CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM" of Nichifor Crainic reflected in his work from the 4th decade of the 20th century*, Cluj University Press, Cluj-Napoca, 2020; Iuliu-Marius Morariu, *Self-knowledge and Theology – studies in spiritual autobiography*, translation and revision of texts by Anca-Ioana Rus, Argonaut Publishing House and Symphologic Publishing, Cluj-Napoca (RO) and Gatineau (Canada), 2020; Iuliu-Marius Morariu, *Virgil Gheorghiu on Communism, Capitalism and National-Socialism*, Peter Lang GmbH, Berlin, 2022.



York,² or in books edited by publishing houses like Cerf in Paris,³ he published articles and studies about Andre Scrima and the way how his work is reflected in Securitate Archives. With this monograph he comes to fulfill his background and to prove his expertise in the field. Segmented into three big parts and accompanied by a rich appendix consisting in documents extracted from the Securitate Archives where there is emphasized the way how his ecumenical activity has been perceived by the representatives of the repressive machine between 1956 (the moment of his departure in India) and 1989, the book brings into attention a topic that has not been enough investigated by the contemporary scholarship, despite of the interest for the personality and heritage of Andre Scrima that already exists.⁴

After presenting the literature and the methodological question, but also other methodological aspects in the introduction, the author emphasizes in the first chapter the bio-bibliographical landmarks of Andre Scrima.

Later, in the second one, he insists on the way how his image is reflected in Securitate Archives, presenting the aspects that define his image before his departure to India and after this moment. As expected, the main chapter of the research is dedicated to the way how his ecumenical activity is reflected in Securitate Archives. The author speaks there about his role and activity in the ecumenical field, offering a complex perspective on the way how the representatives of the ancient Securitate understood and accepted it and on the way how his work was perceived by them.

Well written and bringing into attention a rich bibliography, mostly unpublished previously, Iuliu-Marius Morariu's work entitled: *Religions and Communism. Andre Scrima's Ecumenical Activities Reflected in Securitate Archives* published by Springer Nature in 2025 is for sure a valuable contribution to the contemporary scholarship and deserves to be studied both by the researchers in the theological, historical, philosophical or philological field.

² See: Iuliu-Marius Morariu, „Elements of Father Andrei Scrima's Ecumenical Activity as Reflected in File No. 0005468 from the "Securitate" Archives", in *Review of Ecumenical Studies*, 12 (2020), issue 3: 497-511; Iuliu Marius Morariu, „The Indian correspondence of Father André Scrima with Father Benedict Ghiuș reflected in the Securitate Archives", in *Revista Teologică*, New Series, 115 (2022), no. 2, 19-40; Iuliu-Marius Morariu, „Corespondența părintelui Andrei Scrima cu Patriarhul Justinian reflectată în arhivele Securității (Fr. André Scrima's correspondence with the Patriarch Justinian reflected in Securitate archives)", in *Tabor*, 14 (2020), no. 10, 79-85; Iuliu-Marius Morariu, „Fr. André Scrima's Activity from France Reflected in Securitate Dossiers", in *Symposium*, XXIX (2022), no. 1: 85-102; Flavius-Cristian Mărcău, Iuliu-Marius Morariu, „Ecumenism and Communism: priests Virgil Gheorghiu and André Scrima in the dossiers of the Securitate", in *European Journal of Science and Theology*, 19 (2023), no. 1: 21-28; Iuliu Marius Morariu, „Spirituality, Hesychasm and Monastic Life - the Vision of Father André Scrima (1925-2000)", in *Studia Monastica*, 64 (2024), no. 1: 225-235.

³ See: Iuliu-Marius Morariu, „André Scrima's Openness to Dialogue as Reflected in the Romanian Securitate Archives", in Viorel Coman, Ioan Alexandru Tofan (eds.), *Eastern Orthodox Christianity and the Culture of Dialogue: The Legacy of André Scrima (1925-2000)*, (Paris: Cerf, 2024), 293-307.

⁴ See, for example: Alexandru Tofan, *Omul lăuntric - André Scrima și fizionomia experienței spirituale (The inside man - André Scrima and the profile of the spiritual experience)*, (Bucharest: Humanitas, 2019); Lucian Zenoviu Bot, „André Scrima's Christology and Its Practical Implications", in *Religion*, 13 (2022), no. 12: 1160, 1-11; Ioan Alexandru Tofan, *André Scrima, un „gentleman creștin”. Portret biografic (André Scrima, a „Christian gentleman”. A biographic portrait)*, (Bucharest: Humanitas, 2021); Viorel Coman, The Holy Spirit and Scripture: André Scrima's Contribution to Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation Dei Verbum in *Religions*, year 22 (2023), no. 14, 1454: 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel14121454>; Viorel Coman, „André Scrima's Contribution to the Ecumenical Breakthrough in Orthodox-Catholic Relationships: A Historical Reconstruction (1957-1967)", in *Orientalia Christiana Periodica*, 86 (2020), no. 1-2: 571-595; Viorel Coman, „André Scrima's Ecumenical Vision and Its Relevance for the Post-Conciliar Orthodox Church", in *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, 64 (2020), no. 3 4: 181-210.