

CULTURE

BANUS Maria was prominent among prewar left-wing writers. Soon after 1945 she became an official Communist poet. She created a new style of proletarian poetry in Rumania, and was the leader of the very small group of Communist poets. Through her ideological and personal association with STANCU Zaharia, she became an important official of the association of R.P.R. writers whose review is now "Viata Romanesca" the old well known left-wing publication taken over by the Communists.

Now, she is being attacked for losing contact with the reality. The paper "Scanteia" of 29 June 1951 denounces not merely one poem but all the latest works of BANU Maria as showing such tendency. In reply to a sergeant inquiring from a provincial town, why his favorite poetess is now indulging in vagueness and lack of creative optimism, the paper demands that measures be taken so that BANUS Maria returns to the healthier themes than her present melancholy and evocations of the old world represented in her poems in the person of her grandmother, who, the paper stresses, can only be a reactionary.

This conflict between the provincial sergeant and the grandmother causes much amusement in BUCHAREST circles, which indicate, however, that BANUS Maria indeed betrays, between lines, an extremely deep sadness and a hardly supportable moral weariness. The following lines are cited as evidence of her deviation from Communist themes:

"No, never shall I tire of praising lightning, love,
flight and the sun,
"No, I shall never give up entering this door."

DATE OF OBSERVATION : current period

EVAL. COMMENT : Source: reliable;
Information: apparently excerpts
from newspapers. -
Documentary evidence available.