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***IDEAS AND SENTIMENTS OF THE TIME: THEORIZING  
THE TWENTIETH-CENTURY ROMANIAN LITERATURE***

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***Abstract:*** This essay proposes a critical examination of representative Romanian novels of the twentieth century and their intersection with the theoretical crosscurrents of the century's fiction. The unusual range of writers and texts selected, from Gellu Naum, Mihail Sadoveanu and Hortensia Papadat-Bengescu to Camil Petrescu and Ștefan Agopian, attest to the importance of and necessity for a critical vision of the Romanian novel and a commitment to uncovering its dynamic interactions that include elements of magic, the presence of detailed descriptions of the phenomenal world, and an unusual interaction between the reader and the text that disrupts our received ideas about time, space, and identity.