

# Mihai Eminescu, Romania's national poet



And because all these  
Had to have a name,  
one name,  
they told them  
Eminescu .  
(Marin Sorescu - They had to have a name)

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained there in.

"Expanding boundaries" - COMENIUS Project  
05-PS-290-CL-UK  
BARBU STIRBEI COLLEGE  
Calarasi - Romania

## Mihai Eminescu 1850-1889



Poet, dramatist, journalist, a specialist in Romanian folk poetry, Eminescu was a man of wide intellectual interests.

He produced a vast body of work, but only published one volume of verse in his lifetime, under the title of Poezii (1883; "Poetry").

## Mihai Eminescu 1850-1889



Ipotesti, memorial house

Romania's greatest romantic poet, Mihai Eminescu, was born at Ipotesti, Botosani. He attended elementary and secondary school in Cernăuți.

He travelled all over Romania, in 1867, when he was employed as an actor and prompter in Iorgu Caragiale's theatrical company.

## Mihai Eminescu 1850-1889

**He attended lectures on philosophy, history, law, political economy and philology at Vienna University. There he was among the founders of "Romania Juna", a society of the Romanian students. He made his literary debut in "Familia".**

In 1872, the poet enrolled as a student at the University of Berlin; he wrote such famous poems: "Emperor and Proletarian", "Angel and Demon". Once back in Iasi, the poet became director of the Central Library. Towards the end of 1877, Eminescu went to Bucharest upon accepting Titu Maiorescu's invitation to work for "The Time" and publishes "Luceafarul", his masterpiece.



## Mihai Eminescu 1850-1889

**His poems span a large range of themes, from nature and love to history and social commentary.**

**His carefree early years were evoked in his later poetry with deep nostalgia.**



Eminescu's blue forests' lake, Ipotești



Eminovici's family church, built around 1780-1800

Eminescu's poems have been translated in over 60 languages. His life, work and poetry are a strong influence especially in the Romanian culture as studying his poems is a requirement in Romanian public schools.

Mihai Eminescu 1850-1889

### His most important poems are:

- ***Doina*** (the name is a traditional type of Romanian song)
- ***Lacul*** (*The Lake*)
- ***Luceafărul*** (*Lucifer* or *The Morning star*)
- ***Floare albastră*** (*Blue Flower*)
- ***Dorința*** (*Desire*)
- ***Sara pe deal*** (*Evening on the Hill*)
- ***O, rămii*** (*Oh, Linger On*)
- ***Epigonii*** (*Epigones*)
- ***Scrisori*** (*Letters*)
- ***Si dacă*** (***And if...***)
- ***Odă (în metru antic)*** (*Ode (in Ancient Meter)*)
- ***Mai am un singur dor*** (*I Have Yet One Desire*)



Mihai Eminescu 1850-1889

## **SI DACA...**

**Si daca ramuri bat în geam  
Si se cutremur plopii,  
E ca în minte sa te am  
Si-ncet sa te apropii.**

**Si daca stele bat în lac  
Adâncu-i luminându-l,  
E ca durerea mea s-o-mpac  
Inseninându-mi gândul.**

**Si daca norii desi se duc  
De iese-n luciul luna,  
E ca aminte sa-mi aduc  
De tine-ntotdeauna.**

*(1883, 13/15 noiembrie)*

Mihai Eminescu 1850-1889

### **And If...**

**And if the branches tap my pane  
And the poplars whisper nightly,  
It is to make me dream again  
I hold you to me tightly.**

**And if the stars shine on the pond  
And light its sombre shoal,  
It is to quench my mind's despond  
And flood with peace my soul.**

**And if the clouds their tresses part  
And does the moon out blaze,  
It is but to remind my heart  
I long for you always.**

*(Translated by Corneliu M. Popescu)*



## Mihai Eminescu 1850-1889

**For the first time, in 1930, Sylvia Pankhurst and I. O. Stefanovici gave voice in English to the verse of our greatest poet, Mihai Eminescu. The volume was prefaced by two titans of the time: Nicolae Iorga and George Bernard Shaw.**



Eminescu had only twenty years in which to fully accomplish his work, between 1864 and 1883, but in this short interval he deeply influenced Romanian consciousness, ardently promoting the ideals of social equity, of the preservation of our people's national unity, its independence and sovereignty, fighting for truth and beauty in life and in art.

## Mihai Eminescu 1850-1889

Eminescu is an absolute creator, his individual culture standing within the European culture. Eminescu's work is the monumental expression of the genius of our people, a synthesis of our own soul through the praise of national historical values, the interest for folklore and country's nature.



Romanian national poet

# "Expanding boundaries" - COMENIUS Project

05-PS-290-CL-UK

**Edited by students from 8<sup>th</sup> grade:**

**Oana Tanase  
Maria Saulea  
Evelina Arabagiu  
Veronica Vasile  
Catalin Sarbu  
George Stamu**

**Assisted by:**

Stela Anghel, Lucia Dumitru  
and  
Marinela Dincă, *COMENIUS Co-ordinator Project*

Published by Barbu Știrbei College  
Călărași - Romania      May, 2006