

Book Reviews

Mircea-Gheorghe Abrudan, *Mitropolitul Andrei Șaguna. O biografie culturală. Prefață de Ioan Bolovan* [Metropolitan Andrei Șaguna. A Cultural Biography. Preface by Ioan Bolovan] (Academia Română – Centrul de Studii Transilvane), Editura Școala Ardeleană, Cluj-Napoca, 2023, 366 pp.; ill. ISBN978-606-797-994-7

Three years ago, on occasion of a century and a half since the fall into the Lord of the learned and national fighter Metropolitan Andrei Șaguna – enthroned in 2011 by the Holy Synod among the Saints of the Romanian Nation –, the Cluj historian Mircea-Gheorghe Abrudan published a precious volume with the above title.

With the following structure: *Prefață* de [Preface by] Ioan Bolovan (pp. 7-10), *Cuvânt-înainte* [al autorului] [Foreword [by the Author]] (pp. 11-13), *Andrei Baron de Șaguna, o biografie culturală* [Andrei Baron de Șaguna, A Cultural Biography] (pp. 15-63), *Ierarhul baron: decorațiile, nobilitatea și heraldica șaguniană* [The Baron Hierarch: Decorations, Nobility, and Șaguna Heraldry] (pp. 65-86), *Activitatea editorială și opera publicistică* [Editorial Activity and Journalistic Work] (pp. 87-109), *Ziditor al unității românești prin Biserică* [Builder of Romanian Unity Through the Church] (pp. 111-136), *Cofondator și prim președinte al „Asociațiunii ASTRA”* [Co-founder and First President of the ‘ASTRA Association’] (pp. 137-184), *Andrei Șaguna și profesorii Academiei de Drept din Sibiu* [Andrei Șaguna and the Professors of the Sibiu Academy of Law] (pp. 185-210), *Ierarhul și Împăratul, o corespondență inedită* [Tshe Hierarch and the Emperor, An Unpublished Correspondence] (211-227), *Episcopul Andrei Șaguna și ministrul Alexander Bach* [Bishop Andrei Șaguna and Minister Alexander Bach] (pp. 229-258), *Un vis neîmplinit: ridicarea unei biserici-catedrale în Sibiu* [An Unfulfilled Dream: The Construction of A Cathedral Churches in Sibiu] (pp. 259-291), *Efigiile ierarhului, douăsprezece portret* [Effigies of the Hierarch, Twelve Portraits] (pp. 293-327), *Bibliografie selectivă* [Selective Bibliography] (pp. 329-356), *Indice* [Index] (357-363).

The signatory of the relevant op, in the motivational argument, reveals to the reader that “in the context of the round homage, of the 150th anniversary of Andrei Șaguna's passing to the eternal, I considered it my duty to offer historians, theologians and Romanian readers, in general, a new book about the great archbishop, a work written not in the genre of a classic monograph, but comprising ten chapters that particularly thematize his intellectual biography and cultural work, as the title of the volume indicates. With the exception the second chapter, written for the first time, all the others were originally published in various volumes and specialized periodicals, as I mentioned at the end of each chapter. All of them, however, were revised and added, based on sources and information discovered after their initial editing, striving to give the volume a structure, but also a coherent form” (pp. 12-13).

And the Professor-prefacer, historian – also from Cluj-Napoca – Ioan Bolovan (corresponding member of the Romanian Academy) explains, in turn: “The author entitles this volume «A cultural biography» because he wanted to illustrate, through

the selection of the nine studies, the intellectual profile and broad cultural horizon of the great hierarch. Starting from this intentionality assumed and recognized even at the beginning of the volume, the included materials reveal Andrei Șaguna as a founder of cultural institutions that ensured the Romanians in Transylvania not only the survival of their identity, but also the cultural and even material progress of the nation" (p. 8). Indeed, the new book contribution of the prolific scientific researcher from the 'George Barițiu' Institute of History in Cluj-Napoca – "author, co-author and coordinator of over 20 books and volumes, of over 130 specialized studies, of approximately 270 popularization articles, evocations, reviews and reading notes in specialized magazines, of spirituality and culture, in books and collective volumes published in Romania and abroad" (as shown in the introductory note accompanying the volume) – aims, and succeeds with more than enough, to outline the (national-)cultural dimension of the great Transylvanian Romanian; with certain and known origins, nota bene, Aromanian; he himself – the prototype of the plenary Romanian - did not, however, mention his ancestry from the layers of Balkan Romanity. The author reveals, however, in the subchapter Origin, family and education, that "Andrei Șaguna's personality bore the deep seal of his origin and the family in which he was formed. Born in Miskolc in northeastern Hungary, on January 1, 1809, Anastasiu was the third child of the Aromanian merchant Naum and Anastasia Șaguna. His ancestors, both on the maternal and paternal lines, are part of the South-Danubian or Balkan Romanity spread in the mountainous regions of Pindus, Gramosta [*Sic!* – in text: Gramatos] and Olympus, in the geographical space of today's Greece, Albania, [Northern] Macedonia, and Bulgaria. In history they are known as Macedonian-Romanians, Aromanians" (pp. 15-16).

A 'cultural' dimension, here, outlined not in a monographic volume as such, but in a structure emerging from the perspective of the author's Șagunian preoccupations, spread over several years; thus thematically ordered, the studies contribute to a monographic vision (and it is not excluded that the tenacious author (in full creative maturity: born in the sign of Gemini, in A.D. 1986) will give us, in years, an integrative monograph of this overwhelming personality of Romanians/Romanity.

Fully mastering the science of revealing the essential from a sea of – apparently – arid documentary testimonies, the author accurately revives circumstances, institutions and people from the era of Șaguna, reveals the visionaryism and national-political pragmatism put at the service of his congeners of Nation, Language and Faith in the midst of the affirmation of the Century of Nationalities. At the same time, the author also has the science of synthetic description, so difficult in the case of great and complex representative figures of a nation and era: "In the light of the biographical details presented (in the study Andrei Baron de Șaguna, a cultural biography, which opens the volume – our note), the personality of the great hierarch of the Orthodox Romanians in Transylvania and Hungary, the metropolitan of happy memory Andrei Baron de Șaguna, is revealed

to us in a different perspective than the classical one, in which he was portrayed by those who focused on his life, activity and work. Jurist and philosopher by academic training, Orthodox priest by spiritual vocation, profound theologian and hierarch by divine grace, polyglot scholar, leader of the Romanian nation and head of the Orthodox Church in Transylvania and Hungary, true politician and skillful diplomat, Andrei Șaguna embodied all these hypostases, without being able to be circumscribed to just one of them. His intellectual and cultural profile presents him as a true homo europaeus, with a horizon that was both national, ecumenical and imperial, as few of his Romanian, Hungarian, Serbian, German or other Central-Eastern European contemporaries had since the mid-19th century” (p. 63).

The studies themselves – twinned in this op (and) chosen presentation and graphic design – are also accompanied by a selective Bibliography, sub-segmented in accordance with the usual scientific requirements. Naturally, the author carried out a ‘selective’ operation, fatally limited (not included, among others – for example – is the beautiful and exemplary “story” of the father-history professor Ioan Lupaș about Anastasia Șaguna, published in several editions, the princeps edition: 1912; in 1943, in Sibiu it was reprinted in the collection of *Biblioteca „Anastasia Șaguna”*. Nr. [the ‘Anastasia Șaguna’ Library. No. 1], with the subtitle *Viața unei mame credincioase* [The Life of a Faithful Mother]); Șaguna deserves, however, to have a Bibliography as complete as possible – in which all the volumes relating to her life and activity, including all the studies – published in various places in the country – and, no less, press articles (including materials relating to the various cultural-scientific manifestations and related memorials) would be listed.

For example, three (at least) volumes were published in Constanta – Justin Tambozi, Justinian George Tambozi, *Andrei Șaguna, apostol al românilor ortodocși din Ungaria și Transilvania* [Andrei Șaguna, Apostle of the Orthodox Romanians in Hungary and Transylvania] (Andrei Șaguna University), Andrei Șaguna Foundation Publishing House, Constanța, 1996 /62 pp./; Justin Tambozi, Atena Tambozi, Justinian George Tambozi *Andrei Șaguna. ▪Apostol al românilor ortodocși din Ungaria și Transilvania. ▪Scrisoare privind oportunitatea sanctificării primului mitropolit ortodox Andrei Șaguna (1809-1873) adresată Patriarhiei Române* [Andrei Șaguna. ▪Apostle of the Orthodox Romanians in Hungary and Transylvania. ▪Letter on the Opportunity of Sanctifying the First Orthodox Metropolitan Andrei Șaguna (1809-1873) Addressed to the Romanian Patriarchate] (Moscopolitan Academic Foundation), Justin & George Justinian Tambozi Publishing House, *Andrei Șaguna, contemporanul nostru* [Andrei Șaguna, Our Contemporary], “Andrei Șaguna” Foundation Publishing House, Constanta, 2000 /321 pp./. (And I myself, at the beginning of the 1990s, highlighted – with the informational-scientific means of that time, without having priority concerns about Șaguna – the personality of the great Transylvanian (a)Romanian, in the Iași magazine “Contact internațional” (no. 27-28 of 1993): *Andrei Șaguna. Repere biografice* [Andrei Șaguna. Biographical Landmarks] (pp. 2-6), *Apărarea drepturilor naționale. O dimensiune politică* [The Defense of National

Rights. A Political Dimension] [Andrei Șaguna] (pp. 12-14), respectively *Starea culturală a aromânilor în vremea „îvirii” lui Andrei Șaguna* [The Cultural State of the Aromanians at the Time of Andrei Șaguna's 'Emergence'] (pp. 15-19).

The valuable volume ends with a useful *Index* (also selective – but without the author indicating it as such) – constituting a reference point for Șaguna's bibliography, the fruit of the scientific and ideological efforts of a young representative of our Historiography today.

Oltea Rășcanu Gramaticu (coord. [Ed.]), *România de la război la pace* [Romania from War to Peace]. [Cuvânt înainte /Foreword by/ Dr. Florian Banu], Editura Pim, Iași, 2023, 506 pp.; ill., facs. ISBN 978-606-13-7944-6

The initiator and coordinator of this volume of studies is one of the most well-known, appreciated and prolific – in terms of editorial work and the organization of cultural events with a memorial-historical character – teachers in Romania (with professional activity in her hometown: born November 24, 1942, Bârlad).

President for decades (1974-2020) of the Bârlad Branch of the Romanian Historical Sciences Society, the industrious servant of the Clio Museum is the author of several volumes of history – especially of her native lands in a national context;

Such as – *Istoria Bârladului* [History of Bârlad], 2 Vols. (Vaslui, 1998: 436+462 pp.; and 2 more editions, augmented: 2002, 2015), *Războiul și jertfa datoriei. Bătălia pentru Basarabia și nordul Bucovinei* [The War and the Sacrifice of Duty. The Battle for Bessarabia and Northern Bucovina] (Iași, 2006: 454 pp.), *Posteritatea lui Alexandru Ioan Cuza* (co-editor) (Bârlad, 2008: 254 pp.), *Societatea de Științe Istorice Bârlad între trecut și viitor* [The Bârlad Society of Historical Sciences between the Past and the Future] (Iași, 2011: 510 pp.), *Alexandru Ioan Cuza și demnitatea națională* (ed.) (Bârlad, 2011: 442 pp.; ed.) *Personalități bârlădene* [Personalities from Bârlad], 2 Vols. (Iași, 2012: 481+483 pp.), *Bârladul și gloria militară* [The Bârlad /City/ and Military Glory] (Iași, 2013: 604 pp.), *Războiul pentru Țară* [The War for the Country] (ed.) (Iași, 2018: 574 pp.), *Eroism și jertfă pentru Țară* [Heroism and Sacrifice for the Country] (ed.) (Iași, 2018: 609 pp.), *Alexandru Ioan Cuza și România Modernă. 200* [Alexandru Ioan Cuza and Modern Romania. 200] (Iași, 2020: 567 pp.), *România în război* [Romania at War] (ed.) (Iași, 2022: 487 pp.), *Memoria culturală a Bârladului* [The Cultural Memory of Bârlad] [Cuvânt înainte /Foreword by/ de Laurențiu Chiriac], 2 Vols. (Iași, 2023: 1.062+872 pp.); and about which a well-known historian of our time said: “The 3 volumes provide a comprehensive insight into of the evolution of Bârlad – from ancient times until contemporaneity – the contribution of the city and its personalities representative, to the material and cultural life of the Country of Moldova and especially Romania. The effort of documentation, analysis and synthesis – continued for many years by teacher Oltea Rășcanu Gramaticu – it should emphasized appreciated and above all remembered. And the work itself constitutes the stable basis of future research” – Acad. Dinu C. Giurescu, *Cuvânt înainte* [Foreword], in *Istoria Bârladului*, vol. 1, Editura Pim, Iași, 2015, pp. 7-8;

But also of some thrilling travel volumes, the octogenarian teacher being also a tireless globe-trotter: *Amurgul zeilor* [Twilight of the Gods] (Iași, 2006: 682 pp.), *Trezirea dragonului* [The Awakening of the Dragon] (Iași, 2007: 720 pp.), *Paradisul Pierdut* [The Lost Paradise] (Iași, 2007), *Nemurirea Mogulului* [The Mogul's Immortality] (Iași, 2009: 680 pp.), *Asaltul Tigrilor* [The Tiger Assault] (Iași, 2010: 707 pp.), *Cavalcada Destinului* [The Cavalcade of Destiny], Iași, 2011: 700 pp.), *Hoinărind Pământul* [Wandering on Earth] (Iași, 2012: 706 pp.), *Unde zboară condorii* [Where the Condors Fly] (Iași, 2017: 450 pp.), *Sabia focului* [The Fire Sword] (Iași, 2016: 525 pp.), *Tsunami în Arhipelag* [Tsunami in the Archipelago] (Iași, 2020: 517 pp.); referring to this part of the activity of Clío's distinguished servant, the late Professor Gheorghe Buzatu (the day before his death, in his office in Iași, he had participated in a scientific session in Bârlad, on May 19, 2013...) wrote about Oltea-Elena Gramaticu-Răcșanu: "The Professor collaborated intensively and consistently in the media local and central, but especially, in recent years, benefiting from the information and impressions collected following the trips undertaken persistent and systematic, in Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and of the South, Australia and New Zealand, used to divide us impressions and beliefs, in several suggestively titled volumes: *Amurgul zeilor* (Iași, Editura Pim, 2006, 680 p.), *Trezirea dragonului* (ibidem, 2007, 720 p.), *Paradisul pierdut* (ibidem, 2009); *Nemurirea Mogulului* (ibidem, 2009, 680 p.), *Asaltul tigrilor* (ibidem, 2010, 707 p.), *Cavalcada destinului* (ibidem, 2011). These volumes enjoyed an excellent reception from the part of the readers and commentators".

The content of this thematic volume is as follows: Florian Banu, *Cuvânt înainte* [Foreword] (pp. 9-12). Mircea Tănase, *Tratatul României cu Tripla Alianță. O alianță politico-militară conjuncturală, necesară, secretă și... caducă (140 de ani)* [Romania's Triple Alliance Treaty. A Conjunctural Political-Military Alliance, Necessary, Secret and... Caducous (140 Years)] (pp. 13-24); Alin Spânu, *Pregătirea informativă/contrainformativă a armatei române înaintea marilor bătălii din vara anului 1917* [The Informative/Contrainformative Preparation of the Romanian Army Before the Great Battles of the Summer of 1917] (pp. 25-36); Alin Spânu, *Un strigăt de onoare. Scrisoarea lui Nicolae Iorga către regele Ferdinand (19 februarie 1918)* [A Shout of Honor. Nicolae Iorga's Letter to King Ferdinand (February 19, 1918)] (pp. 37-45); Corneliu Ciucanu, *Basarabia în cadrul relațiilor româno-ruso-sovietice. Înainte și după Conferința Păcii de la Paris (1919-1920)* [Bessarabia Within Romanian-Russian-Soviet Relations. Before and after the Paris Peace Conference (1919-1920)] (pp. 46-97); Oltea Răcșanu Gramaticu, *Nicolae Iorga, militant consecvent al demnității naționale* [Nicolae Iorga, Consistent Militant of National Dignity] (pp. 98-114); Ion Giurcă, *O controversă. Rezistență sau cedare în anul 1940* [A Controversy. Resistance or surrender in 1940] (pp. 115-129); Stoica Lascu, *110 ani de la reîntregirea Dobrogei. Modernizare, întărire a românității, conviețuire multiethnică în județele sud-dobrogene Durostor și Caliacra* [110 Years Since the Reunification of Dobrudja. Modernization, Strengthening of Romanianness, and Multi-Ethnic Coexistence in the Southern Dobrudja Counties of Durostor and Caliacra] (pp. 130-155); Stoica Lascu, *În urma /Sic! – anul/dramei naționale 1940 – cedarea*

și a sudului Dobrogei/Cadrilaterul [After /Sic! – In the Year of / National Drama 1940 – The Ceding of Southern Dobrudja/Quadrilateral] (pp. 156-181); Oltea Rășcanu Gramaticu, *Orgolii și speranțe pe Frontul de Est (1941-1944)* [Conceits and Hopes on the Eastern Front (1941-1944)] (pp. 182-207); Ion Giurcă, *Cooperare militară româno-germană în prima parte a campaniei din anul 1941* [Romanian-German Military Cooperation in the First Part of the 1941 Campaign] (pp. 208-222); Nicolae Ionescu, *România alături de Axă în infernul de la Stalingrad* [Romania Alongside the Axis in the Inferno of Stalingrad] (pp. 223-246); Laurențiu Chiriac, *Tratative secrete de ieșire a României din războiul cu Națiunile Unite (1943-1944)* [Secret Negotiations for the Exit of Romania from the War with the United Nations (1943-1944)] (pp. 247-262); Gheorghe Mârzencu, *Orașul Bârlad în război, august 1944, din perspectiva documentelor sovietice de arhive militare* [The Town of Bârlad at War, August 1944, from the Perspective of Soviet Military Archive Documents] (pp. 263-276); Gheorghe Mârzencu, *Răpirea marelui Ion Antonescu din București și expedierea la Moscova (31 august 1944)* [The Kidnapping of Marshal Ion Antonescu from Bucharest and the Shipment to Moscow (August 31, 1944)] (pp. 277-287); Oltea Rășcanu Gramaticu, *Procesul și execuția marelui Ion Antonescu* [The Trial and Execution of Marshal Ion Antonescu] (pp. 288-300); Florian Banu, *Economia României – de la povara Convenției de Armistițiu la nedreptățile Tratatului de Pace (1944-1947)* [Romania's Economy – from the Burden of the Armistice Convention to the Injustices of the Peace Treaty (1944-1947)] (pp. 301-328); Anatol Petrencu, *Conferința de Pace de la Paris (1946). Poziția U.R.S.S. față de România* [The Paris Peace Conference (1946). The Position of the U.S.S.R. Towards Romania] (pp. 329-336); Oltea Rășcanu Gramaticu, *România la Conferința Păcii de la Paris (1946-1947)* [Romania at the Paris Peace Conference (1946-1947)] (pp. 337-350); Oltea Rășcanu Gramaticu, *Who's Who* (pp. 351-451); Oltea Rășcanu Gramaticu, *Anexe* (pp. 452-502); *Lucrări semnate de autor* [Works Signed by the Author /Coordinator/ (pp. 503-504).

As shown in *Foreword*, “An exciting title for an extremely current volume, given that polemology – the branch of political science that studies war as a sociological phenomenon – tends to accredit, through a series of recent volumes, the idea that war is a true «natural state» of to mankind! In other words, we are condemned to live permanently *Bellum omnium contra omnes*. Well, that pernicious idea is disproved by the studies gathered in this new volume, which fully demonstrate that mankind has been permanently concerned with the prevention of wars, through deployment, and with their conclusion as quickly as possible, when prevention failed, through more treaties more or less secret” (p. 9).

Indeed, the themes addressed – which belong to established historians, well-known in the national scientific environment – bring documentary and interpretative novelties, thereby placing the volume on the first floor of our today's Historiography.

Iosif Bencze, Marius Marian Olteanu (coord. [Eds.]), Cosmina-Adela Lăzărescu, Iulia Adriana Brașov (authors), Casa Regală a României în cronicile „neoficiale” ale Monitorului Oficial” 1886-1894. Carol I [The Royal House of Romania in the

“Unofficial” Chronicles of the ‘Monitorul Oficial’ 1886-1894. Carol I], Volumul 7, Volumul 8, Editura Centrul tehnic-editorial al armatei, București, 2024, 966 pp. + 982 pp. [doc. 1-618, 619-1.107]. ISBN 978-606-524-091-9

The meritorious authors – under the coordination of Commander Iosif Bencze and Col. Eng. Marius Marian Olteanu –, archivists at the General Archive Depository “General Grigore Costandache” in Pitești, have carried out, over several years, a Sisyphean task of tracing in thousands of pages of the “Official Monitor” the activity of the Royal House, namely of the sovereigns Carol I (1839-1914; Prince: 1866-1881; King: 1881-1914) and Ferdinand I (1865-1927; King: 1914-1927). The result, to date, is a number 12 volumes – published between 2010 and 2025 – totaling almost 10,000 pages, summing up 5,500 documents (this year, 2026, the last two volumes are to be printed).

Two years ago, in 2024, volumes 7 and 8 were published – which we propose for the awards; in fact, the entirety of this monumental documentary reconstruction, through the prism of the activities of the Royal House, bears witness to the motivation for awarding one of the Section’s awards.

Referring to the two volumes, it should be emphasized that the over 1,100 documents – dated over a period of 8 years, between January 2, 1886 and December 30, 1894 – offer, like the other volumes, an overview of the political, cultural and social, ecclesiastical, military life, of the daily activities of the Royal House, which contribute to a more applied knowledge of the history of the Old Kingdom:

participation in events of the Romanian Orthodox Church, in annual religious ceremonies; attendance at various school ceremonies, participation in charity evenings and balls and celebrations, visits to exhibitions, visits to various regions of the country (Sinaia, Slatina, Iași, Constanța, Brăila, Galați, Craiova, Călărași, Bușteni, Tulcea, Târgu Ocna, Buzău, Focșani, Mizil, Ploiești, Câmpulung, Curtea de Argeș); receptions in audiences, various congratulatory telegrams, humanitarian aid for disaster victims;

detailing visits abroad;

historical anniversary events (Fall of Plevna, May 10, March 14, “anniversary of the proclamation of the Kingdom”, etc.); receptions of delegations of the Parliament and some County Councils; receptions of diplomatic representatives and representatives of royal houses, participation in cultural events (at various schools, at the University of Iași – Crown Prince Ferdinand assisted, on May 23, 1893, at the laying of the foundation stone –, at the Conservatory of Music, at the Athenaeum, at the inauguration of the “new Colțea Hospital” and the “inspection of the new Central Military Hospital”, at the Romanian Geographical Society, the Jockey Club – including assistants at horse races –, at the Normal School of Teachers, etc.) and of the Romanian Academy (including the Sovereign’s chairmanship of the general assemblies), conference hearings;

receptions at the Royal Palace of student delegations, the presence of the Sovereign and the Crown Prince at various schools, including to assist “the students’ exam”;

participation of the Sovereigns in the laying of the foundation stones of the Palace of Justice (October 8, 1890), respectively of the Bridge over the Danube (October 9, 1890);

inaugurations of various social-cultural establishments, health bulletins of the Sovereign and other members of the Royal House, royal balls, various messages, presences of Sovereigns abroad, presences of crowned heads or members of European royal houses in Bucharest, receptions in audiences of members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited in Romania, establishment of states of mourning at the Royal Palace and the Royal Family;

inspections of military units, presences at military maneuvers at the Army Arsenal, inspections at the Cotroceni military camp and the fortified belt of the Capital; inspections at various military units – the 3rd, 5th, 6th, 9th, 21st, 28th Infantry Regiments, the 8th Călărași Regiment, the 2nd and 3rd Roșiori Regiments, the 2nd and 6th Artillery Regiments, the 7th Line Regiment, the 1st Engineer Regiment, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Hunters Battalions; at the Officers’ School, the Military School of Infantry and Cavalry, the Artillery and Engineer Application School, the Cavalry Division, the War School.

The excerpts from the precious documentary source that is the ‘Monitorul Oficial’ are accurately reproduced; both volumes benefit – at the beginning of each: vol. 7, on pp. 3-62; vol. 8, on pp. 3-57 – from extensive summaries of each document.

The determination of the two authors, to put at the service of historical research, such a precious documentary tool – which is difficult to reach, otherwise – deserves to be recognized, they represent valuable documentary tools of our Historiography today.

Octavian Buda, *Privirea lui Thanatos. Epidemii, războaie, asasinat, masacre în șase istorii medicale locale și globale*. Ediție ilustrată [Thanatos’s Gaze. Epidemics, Wars, Assassinations, and Massacres in Six Local and Global Medical Histories. Illustrated Edition], Polirom, Iași, 2024, 464 pp.; ill., facs., map. ISBN 978-630-344-017-0

Here is a volume of a completely different kind – of history and essays of a specific compartment of medicine and society; it belongs to a primary care physician psychiatrist, doctor of Medical Sciences (but also a graduate in Philosophy from the University of Bucharest, in 1997), holder of the Course on the History of Medicine and Medical Culture from the specialized university in Bucharest (the ‘Carol Davila’ University of Medicine and Pharmacy) – the physician-historian who overwhelms us, in this volume, through the vastness of his humanistic culture, through his thorough knowledge of historical sources; and no less through the assertions that outline a coherent vision of such a specific theme; as summarized by Professor Vladimir Beliş, the book is “A true epic, passionate, of great erudition, written with extraordinary attention to each detail narrated. Proof that the

history of a complex science such as forensic medicine is part of the important endowment of medical, social and cultural knowledge”.

The ample and profound volume belongs to an author who, until its conception and printing, had numerous and precious other contributions embodied in independent works – *Iresponsabilitatea* [Irresponsibility] (2006), *Criminalitatea, o istorie medico-legală românească* [Criminality, a Romanian Forensic History] (2007), *O antropologie a marginalului. Psihiatria judiciară românească: 1860-1940* [An Anthropology of the Marginal. Romanian Forensic Psychiatry: 1860-1940] (2007), *Despre regenerarea și... degenerarea unei națiuni* [On the Regeneration and... Degeneration of a Nation] (2009), *Medicină socială și identitate națională. Antropologie culturală, psihiatrie și eugenism în România: 1800-1945* [Social Medicine and National Identity. Cultural Anthropology, Psychiatry and Eugenics in Romania: 1800-1945] (2013), *România fără anestezie. Discurs medical și modernitate în vremea lui Carol I* [Romania Without Anesthesia. Medical Discourse and Modernity in the Time of Carol I] (2013), *Alte capitole din istoria psihiatriei românești* (co-editor) [Other Chapters in the History of Romanian Psychiatry (co-editor)] (2014), *Scurtă istorie a revanșei. Duel sau crimă?* (coautor) [A Short History of Revenge. Duel or Crime?] (2016), *Minovici, o sută de ani de pionierat* (coautor) [Minovici, One Hundred Years of Pioneering] (2017), *Giudețul nebuniei. Expertize psihiatrice în trecutul românesc: 1646-1940* [The *Giudețul* to Madness. Psychiatric Expertise in the Romanian Past: 1646-1940] (2021).

But here is the thematic content of the volume – “a fascinating book that integrates within a unitary reflection several grim exemplary stories, from us and from the world, in which – to remain in the symbolism of the title – the almighty Zeus (or at least Asklepios, the god of medicine) faces the sagacity of the god of death, Thanatos” (Sorin Antohi) – Prolog. *Et in Arcadia ego. Cele șase părți ale dramei* [Prologue. Et in Arcadia ego. The Six Parts of the Drama] (pp. 9-15).

PARTEA ÎNTÂI [Part One]. *De la Ciurma lui Iustinian la Ciurma lui Caragea: o istorie a Morții Negre* [From the Plague of Justinian to the Plague of Caragea: a History of the Black Death] (pp. 17-93 – *De ce epidemiile (ne) schimbă istoria?* [Why Do Epidemics Change History (Us)?], *Ave Mors Nigra, morituri te salutant!*, *De la Basarab I la Marea Molimă bucureșteană, 1813* [From Basarab I to the Great Bucharest Plague, 1813], *Un secol mai târziu... La grippe à la Roumanie, 1918* [A Century Later... La grippe à la Roumanie, 1918], Epilog []). PARTEA A DOUA. *Decapitarea ca simbol național: reconstituirea chipului lui Mihai Viteazul* [The Decapitation as a National Symbol: Reconstructing the Face of Michael the Brave] (pp. 95-145 – *Între istorie și medicină: cum arătau oamenii în trecut?* [Between History and Medicine: How Did People Look in the Past?], *Craniologie „mistică”* [‘Mystical’ Craniology], *Francisc Rainer: anatomie, antropologie și fotografie* [Francisc Rainer: Anatomy, Anthropology, and Photography], *Reconstrucția facială a craniului lui Mihai Viteazul* [Facial Reconstruction of the Skull of Michael the Brave], Epilog). PARTEA A TREIA. *Autopsia unui asasinat politic: Barbu Catargiu* [Autopsy of a Political Assassination: Barbu Catargiu] (pp. 147-200 – *Asasinatul, vector de modernizare?* [The Assassination,

Vector of Modernization?], *O zi furtunoasă: 1862, 8 iunie, București* [A Stormy Day: 1862, June 8, Bucharest], *Necropsia medico-legală efectuată de Iacob Felix & Co.* [Forensic Necropsy Performed by Iacob Felix & Co.], *Perfectul asasin, prefectul asasin și vizitiul fantomatic* [The Perfect Assassin, the Assassin Prefect, and the Ghostly Coachman], Epilog). PARTEA A PATRA. *Mina Minovici: știința din spatele morții* [Mina Minovici: the Science Behind Death] (pp. 201-255 – *Istории crepusculare: cadavrul, nebunul și medicina legală* [Twilight Histories: the Corpse, the Madman, and Legal Medicine], *Asistentul lui Carol Davila* [The Carol Davila's Assistant], *Acolo unde moartea slujește vieții: Morga orașului, 1892* [Where Death Serves Life: The City Morgue, 1892], *Despre crime și criminali: contrazicându-l pe Lombroso* [On Crimes and Criminals: Contradicting Lombroso], Epilog). PARTEA A CINCEA. *Moartea unui laureat Nobel la Mărășești: Eduard Buchner, chimiștii și Primul Război Mondial* [The Death of a Nobel Laureate in Mărășești: Eduard Buchner, Chemists, and the First World War] (pp. 257-314 – *Toți pentru kaizerul Wilhelm al II-lea! Manifestul celor 93* [All for Kaiser Wilhelm II! *The Manifesto of the 93*], *Elixirul vieții și fermentul: frații Buchner și nașterea biochimiei* [The Elixir of Life and Ferment: the Buchner Brothers and the Birth of Biochemistry], *În apărarea „onoarei germane”: pe ambele fronturi ale Marelui Război* [In Defense of ‘German Honor’: on Both Fronts of the Great War], *Armele „invizibile” ale Primului Război Mondial: gazele de luptă* [The ‘Invisible’ Weapons of the First World War: Combat Gases], Epilog). PARTEA A ȘASEA. *Pădurea ororilor: Katyń și medicii legiști din România* [Forest of Horrors: Katyń and the Romanian Forensic Doctors] (pp. 315-374 – *Pactul Molotov-Ribbentrop și „execuția” unei națiuni* [The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and the ‘Execution’ of a Nation], *Adevărul din pământ, 1943: legiști din toate țările, uniți-vă!* [The Truth from the Ground, 1943: Forensic Doctors from All Countries, Unite!], *Soarta unui medic legist imparțial: Alexandru Birkle* [The Fate of an Impartial Forensic Doctor: Alexandru Birkle], *Intermezzo medico-legal: Mihail Kernbach și Ioan Moraru. Confuzii și deformări* [Forensic Intermezzo: Mihail Kernbach and Ioan Moraru. Confusions and Distortions], Epilog). *Note și referințe bibliografice* [Notes and Bibliographic References] (pp. 375-438), *Lista ilustrațiilor și credite* [List of Illustrations and Credits] (pp. 439-452), *Indice selectiv de nume proprii* [Selective Index of Proper Names] (pp. 453-463).

The first of the “stories”, *De la Ciuma lui Iustinian la Ciuma lui Caragea: o istorie a Morții Negre*, presents a history pigmented with numerous examples of the evolution/involution of contagious diseases, so that in the second part the author undertakes a reconstruction of the face, in our days, of the voivode Michael the Brave, by recreating the physiognomy starting from a skull, “a technique as meticulous as it is fascinating in its results” (dr. Mihail Mihailide). The third part presents the autopsy of the first political assassination at the dawn of the modern history of the young Romanian State – of Prime Minister Barbu Catargiu (1807-1862; he sleeps his eternal sleep in the tomb located in the commune of Maia, Ialomița county), the first Prime Minister of the United Principalities (January 22, 1862-June 8, 1862) –, the author framing him in the context and history of several such acts of

assassination with a political character; today's reader – less familiar with the historical context of the era – is presented with fragments of the political testament and the speech on the Agrarian Law (which could have motivated the “order” of the assassination), delivered on his last day of life, June 8, 1862. Next, the chapter on *Mina Minovici: știința din spatele morții*, reveals aspects of the personality of the founder of Forensic Medicine in Romania, and other members of the Minovici medical dynasty”. The last two “stories” introduce little-debated historical persons and processes into our historiography, the author's merit being relevant.

A book with a unique theme and approach, pioneering in our Historiography, enriched, here, with a volume that deserves to be known beyond the borders of the country and the Romanian language. A translation into English (or even French) would give the fully justified measure of its place in European historiography (and, no less, of the talented and prolific author).

Dan Cătănuș, Vasile Buga, Mihai Burcea (coordonatori [Eds.]), 23 August 1944. O istorie așa cum a fost [August 23, 1944. A History as It Was]. **Argument de prof. univ. dr. Ioan Scurtu. Autori: Constantin Hlihor, Ioan Scurtu, Gheorghe Onișoru, Dan Cătănuș, Alesandru Duțu, Cristian Troncotă, Mihai Burcea, Ottmar Trașcă, Constantin Corneanu, Vasile Buga, Alina Ilinca, Liviu Marius Bejenaru, Tudor Vișan-Miu, Ștefan Bosomitu, Bogdan Jitea, Elena Negru, Gheorghe Negru, Liubomir Ognianov, Tatiana Volokitina, Editura Cetatea de Scaun, Târgoviște, 2024, 628 pp.; ill., facs. ISBN 978-606-537-729-5**

The completion two years ago of eight decades since Romania's separation from the alliance with Nazi Germany and its joining the United Nations, in August 1944, gave rise to the appearance of several volumes analyzing the era, based on new documentary evidence and new interpretations, mainly from historians who have emerged in the last two or three decades (but also alongside established historians).

As Professor Ioan Scurtu pointed out in *Argument*, “It was natural that on the 80th anniversary of August 23, 1944, several books and studies dedicated to this important event in the history of Romania, of the Second World War and the geostrategic evolution of Europe would be published. The present volume is part of a new approach, based on archival documents brought to light in recent years and on the use of other sources, on a broad vision of the whole of international life – primarily the mutations that occurred in the balance of power –, as well as on the establishment of new connections between the military, political and diplomatic events against the background of which Romania's ‘change of direction’ took place on August 23, 1944.

It is well known that, over the eight decades, August 23 was strongly politicized, to the point that the main actors were marginalized and even arrested (three of them – Iuliu Maniu, Constantin I.C. Brătianu, Lucrețiu Pătrășcanu dying in prison), and in the foreground were propelled people who then had a marginal role, or even none at all.

The present volume – coordinated by historians Dan Cătănuș, Vasile Buga and Mihai Burcea – includes 17 studies, with a broad theme, which promotes a new vision, based on documents and a deep reflection, specific to scientists, on what August 23, 1944, represented.

All of this constitutes an ARGUMENT to present this volume, but also to allow me some personal considerations, being one of the few living historians who have covered the 80 years after August 23, 1944” (p. 11).

And Professor Ioan Scurtu, the most representative historian of the era, concluded, quoting one of the authors of the studies, “The connection with the past is inherent. After all, why do we study history?” (p. 20).

And the initiator of the volume, the researcher Dan Cătănuș would record in *Note on the Edition*: “The initial proposal belonged to the signatory of these lines and was based on a series of personal observations regarding the increasingly obvious disinterest manifested in the public environment towards the act of August 23, 1944, especially after the death of King Michael I (December 5, 2017), the last great protagonist of those historical events. A similar trend, even if not as radical, was also observed in academic historiography, in which the subject of August 23, 1944, became increasingly marginal, appearing to be ‘tired’. The trend is explainable, in part, by the excessive, distorted exploitation of the subject before 1989 and then in the ‘revisionist’ period of the 1990s-2000s, as well as by the emergence in the foreground of new themes, specific to the times we live in.

And yet, the events that led to the change of regime on August 23, 1944, constitute one of the most important episodes of contemporary Romanian history, which further present – as will be seen in this volume – numerous undeciphered or controversial aspects” (p. 21); and also: “Although they address distinct themes, the articles are often complementary. At the same time, they inevitably contain overlapping aspects. Readers will also notice that there are events on which the authors in the volume have different interpretations. But this is precisely the true science of history, in which the authors have the freedom to form and express their own opinions. And the diversity of opinions ensures scientific progress. And, why not admit it, it also ensures the attractiveness of scientific works, as we hope will happen in the case of the present one.

A preliminary confrontation of points of view took place on occasion the conference “Romania at the crossroads: August 23, 1944. New assessments 80 years after the events”, organized by the Center for Russian and Soviet Studies within the I.N.S.T., on June 20, 2024, at the House of the Romanian Academy”.

The real test for the authors, however, will remain the reaction, once the book is published, of the demanding history public in Romania. The real test for the authors, however, will be the reaction, once the book is published, of the demanding history reading public in Romania” (p. 23).

The 17 studies that make up the volume are: prof. univ. dr. Ioan Scurtu, *Argument* (pp. 11-20, *Notă asupra ediției* [Note on the Edition] (Dan Cătănuș) (pp. 21-

24), Constantin Hlihor, *Rivalități geopolitice și interes național în spațiul românesc în timpul celui de-Al Doilea Război Mondial. Cazul evenimentelor de la 23 august 1944* [Geopolitical Rivalries and National Interest in Romanian Space During World War II. The Case of the Events of August 23, 1944] (pp. 25-46 – Operațiunea Bodyguard în România, Actanții evenimentelor de la 23 august 1944 în „ceața” creată de operațiunea Bodyguard, Câteva concluzii [Operation Bodyguard in Romania, The Actors of the Events of August 23, 1944, in the ‘Fog’ Created by Operation Bodyguard, Some Conclusions]). Ioan Scurtu, *Relațiile „partidelor istorice” cu mareșalul Antonescu* [The Relations of ‘Historical Parties’ with Marshal Antonescu] (pp. 47-59). Gheorghe Onișoru, *O controversă istorică? Rolul Regelui Mihai la 23 august 1944* [A Historical Controversy? The Role of King Michael on August 23, 1944] pp. 60-78). Dan Cătănuș, *Rolul P.C.R. în răsturnarea regimului Antonescu, 22 iunie 1941-23 august 1944* [The Role of the R.C.R. in the Overthrow of the Antonescu Regime, June 22, 1941-August 23, 1944] (pp. 79-152 – P.C.d.R. după 22 iunie 1941. Pierderea legăturilor cu Moscova, Reorientarea spre o politică de Front Unic Național, Lupta pentru supraviețuirea Partidului, Sabotajele și lupta de partizani, Frontul Unic Național, Frontul Patriotic Antihitlerist, 4 aprilie-22 august 1944, Realizarea Frontului Unic Muncitoresc, Realizarea Blocului Național-Democratic, Participarea P.C.R. la „conspirația” condusă de Regele Mihai, Variante de încheiere a Armistițiului, P.C.R. la 23 August 1944, Concluzii [C.P. from R. After June 22, 1941. Loss of Ties with Moscow, Reorientation Towards a Policy of a United National Front, The Struggle for the Survival of the Party, Sabotage and Partisan Struggle, United National Front, Anti-Hitler Patriotic Front, April 4-August 22, 1944, Creation of the United Workers’ Front, Creation of the National-Democratic Bloc, Participation of the R.C.P. in the ‘Conspiracy’ Led by King Michael, Variants of Concluding the Armistice, R.C.P. on August 23, 1944, Conclusions]). Alexandru Duțu, *Implicarea unor cadre militare în pregătirea loviturii de stat de la 23 august 1944* [Involvement of Military Cadres in the Preparation of the Coup d’État of August 23, 1944] (pp. 153-165). Cristian Troncotă, *Percepția actului de la 23 august 1944 după 80 de ani. Rolul lui Eugen Cristescu și al S.S.I. în desfășurarea evenimentelor* [The Perception of the Act of August 23, 1944 After 80 Years. The Role of Eugen Cristescu and the S.S.I. in the Unfolding of Events] (pp. 166-193 – Obiectivul strategic, Accesul la documente, Rolul principalilor actori, Liderii Blocului Național-Democratic, Mareșalul Ion Antonescu, Rolul S.S.I. – contactele cu aliații anglo-americani, Nu a fost nici o conspirație sovietică, Două decizii complementare [The Perception of the Act of August 23, 1944, After 80 years. The Role of Eugen Cristescu and the S.S.I. in Course of Events, Strategic Objective, Access to Documents, Role of the Main Actors, Leaders of the National-Democratic Bloc, Marshal Ion Antonescu, Role of the S.S.I. – Contacts with the Anglo-American Allies, There Was no Soviet Conspiracy, Two Complementary Decisions]). Mihai Burcea, *Conjurația ignorată. Rolul Comitetului Militar la înfăptuirea Actului de la 23 August 1944* [The Conspiracy Ignored. The role of the Military Committee in the Execution of the Act of 23 August 1944] (pp. 194-281). Ottmar Trașcă, *Germania nazistă și actului de la 23 august 1944. Percepții, reacții și consecințe* [Nazi Germany and the act of August 23, 1944.

Perceptions, Reactions, and Consequences] (pp. 281-323). Constantin Corneanu, *Armistițiul României cu Națiunile Unite (12 septembrie 1944) și interesele geopolitice ale marilor puteri* [The Armistice of Romania with the United Nations (September 12, 1944) and the Geopolitical Interests of the Great Powers] (pp. 324-367 – În capcana unui „joc murdar”, Stockholm, capitala tuturor speranțelor, Eșecuri militare, alternative strategice și geopolitice, Amăgiri și deziluzii, Cereri inacceptabile, perspective îngrijorătoare [Trapped in a ‘Dirty Game’, Stockholm, the Capital of All Hopes, Military Failures, Strategic, and Geopolitical Alternatives, Deceptions and Disillusions, Unacceptable Demands, Worrying Prospects]). Vasile Buga, *Reflectarea în istoriografia sovietică/rusă a rolului Regelui Mihai I al României în înfăptuirea actului de la 23 august 1944* [Reflection in Soviet/Russian Historiography of the Role of King Michael I of Romania in the Execution of the Act of August 23, 1944] (pp. 368-393 – Reflectarea actului de la 23 august 1944 în memorialistica sovietică, Reflectarea în istoriografia rusă a rolului jucat de Regele Mihai în înfăptuirea actului de la 23 august 1944, Destinul monarhiei după lovitura de stat din 23 august 1944 în viziunea istoriografiei ruse, Concluzii [Reflection of the Act of August 23, 1944 in Soviet Memorialist, Reflection in Russian Historiography of the Role Played by King Michael in the Act of August 23, 1944, The Destiny of the Monarchy After the Coup d’État of August 23, 1944 in the Vision of Russian Historiography, Conclusions]). Alina Ilinca, Liviu Marius Bejenaru, *Baronul Mocionyi-Stârcea: Povestea personală și povestea lui 23 august 1944 în documentele fostei Securități* [Baron Mocionyi-Starcea: Personal Story and the Story of August 23, 1944 in the Documents of the Former Securitate (pp. 394-418 – Povestea personală, Povestea actului de la 23 august 1944, În loc de final [Personal Story, The Story of the Act of August 23, 1944, Instead of the End]). Tudor Vișan-Miu, *„Din zilele lui august 1944...”: Istorie și propagandă în memoriile generalului Dumitru Dămăceanu* [‘From the Days of August 1944...’: History and Propaganda in the Memoirs of General Dumitru Dămăceanu] (pp. 419-464 – Dumitru Dămăceanu – ofițerul, Dumitru Dămăceanu – memorialistul, „Insurecția armată” din august 1944 în memoriile generalului Dămăceanu, „Fapte, amintiri, considerații”: de ce memoriile nu au putut fi publicate? [Dumitru Dămăceanu – the officer, Dumitru Dămăceanu – the Memoirist, ‘The Armed Uprising’ of August 1944 in the Memoirs of General Dămăceanu, ‘Facts, Memories, Considerations’: Why Could the Memoirs not be Published?]). Ștefan Bosomitu, *„Lumini și umbre”. 23 august 1944 în memoriile foștilor ilegaliști ai partidului* [‘Lights and Shadows’. August 23, 1944, in the Memoirs of Former Illegalists of the Party] (pp. 465-523 – Introducere, „Ilegalitate” – „ilegalist”. Clarificări conceptuale, „Eliberarea” – comuniștii din închisori, „Contactul dur cu realitatea” – comuniștii „ilegalizați”, „Învingători și învinși” – cadrele internaționale, În loc de concluzii: memoria personală vs. Memoria partidului [Introduction, ‘Illegality’ – ‘Illegalist’. Conceptual Clarifications, ‘Liberation’ – Communists from Prisons, ‘Hard Contact with Reality’ – ‘Illegalized’ Communists, ‘Victors and Losers’ – the International Cadres, Instead of Conclusions: Personal Memory vs. the Memory of Party]). Bogdan Jitea, *23 august 1944 pe marile ecrane comuniste* [August 23, 1944 on the

Big Communist Screens] (pp. 493-523 – Filmografia lui 23 august 1944, Străinul (1964), Serata (1971), Stejar – extremă urgență (1974), Ziua „Z” (1985), Concluzii [The Filmography of August 23, 1944, The Stranger (1964), The Evening Party (1971), Oak – Extreme Urgency (1974), ‘Z’ Day (1985), Conclusions]). Elena Negru, Gheorghe Negru, Acțiunile regimului bolșevic de „deromânizare” a Basarabiei (primăvara-vara anului 1944) [The Bolshevik Regime’s Actions to ‘de-Românize’ Bessarabia (Spring-Summer 1944)] (pp. 524-546 – Reinstaurarea regimului sovietic și rolul represiei, Reeducarea populației, Reorganizarea sistemului școlar, Concluzii [The Reinstatement of the Soviet Regime and the Role of Repression, Re-Education of the Population, Reorganization of the School System, Conclusions]). Liubomir Ognianov, 9 septembrie 1944 și mutațiile politice din Bulgaria [September 9, 1944, and Political Changes in Bulgaria] (pp. 547-564). Tatiana Volokitina, În pragul păcii. Pregătirea și semnarea Convenției de Armistițiu cu Bulgaria [On the Threshold of Peace. Preparation and Signing of the Armistice Convention with Bulgaria] (pp. 565-580). *Addenda* – Grupaj de fotografii [„în cea mai mare parte”] inedite și legende descriptive [Group of /‘mostly’/ unpublished Photographs and descriptive captions] (pp. 581-608). *Abrevieri* (pp. 609-611). *Indice de nume* (612-626).

Here are some conclusions and assertions from the authors: *Constantin Hlihor*: [In June-July 1944, “The objectives of the Bodyguard mission in Romania were achieved for the Allies, and the Soviet offensive was coming over Romania like a roller. Thus, *August 23 was a purely Romanian solution in an atmosphere of maximum uncertainty and constraint generated by geostrategic and geopolitical developments* (our emphasis), which the Romanians were unable to influence or use to save national interests” (pp. 44-45).

Gheorghe Onișoru: “Therefore, analyzing the evolution of the relations between King Michael and Marshal Antonescu, one can clearly see a gradual but certain degradation of them, starting from January 1942, a phenomenon that accelerated in part in 1944. Despite his youth, the Sovereign understood exploiting the experience of his close collaborators, but also of politicians of the stature of Iuliu Maniu, he being the de facto leader of the coalition that removed Ion Antonescu from power. *The act of August 23, 1944 – despite the course of events in the following years – brought Romania back to the United Nations camp at the last moment* (our emphasis). The transformation of the country into a battlefield with unpredictable effects in the case of resistance on the fortified line on which Antonescu relied and which – in the face of the massive ground offensive of the Red Army, doubled by the bombings of American aviation – was avoided” (pp. 77-78).

Dan Cătănuș: “However, much remains unexplained aspects regarding the activity of the R.C.P. during the Second World War, in the fight against the Antonescu regime and in the preparation of August 23. Within the party, there were major failures and conflicts, which culminated in the overthrow of the general secretary (appointed by the Comintern), under one of the harshest accusations: agent provocateur of the Security (an accusation refuted after the investigations of the

party commission in 1966-1968). Many of the suspicions and adversities that arose during the war continued to manifest themselves after August 23, and even gained momentum, as happened in the Pătrășcanu case. This explains Moscow's insistent interest, in the immediate aftermath, in finding out what happened in Romania, the activity carried out by the R.C.P. between 1941 and 1944 and the involvement in the preparation of August 23. It is yet another proof of the lack of the connections between the local communist leadership and the Soviet leadership" (p. 151).

Cristian Troncoță: "In April 1940, the S.S.I. drew up an extensive Synthesis on the war preparations of the U.S.S.R. The conclusion formulated by the country's main secret service was decisive. The Soviets, through their military doctrine, if they were to get involved in the war, had to carry out the war to the end, that is, until *the destruction of the adversary*, understanding by this *the imposition of the Soviet regime*. Or, in other words, whoever goes to war against them risks being Bolshevized. As a simple coincidence, also in April, but in the year 1944, the Romanian authorities learned about the armistice conditions proposed by the Soviets and which, in essence, meant the same thing: 'unconditional surrender', that is, the destruction [*Sic!*] of the Romanian state by imposing the Soviet regime.

Therefore, the change of front produced by the act of August 23, 1944, which had as its main consequence the acceleration of the process of occupying the country by to the Red Army, is a false problem, stated, undoubtedly, by interested political circles (emphasis added). The fundamental problem that should keep us focused is how we perceive today what we can call the fate destined for Romania, as result of the context in which the Second World War broke out and its consequences for Romania. In this war, Romania was a victim of the geopolitical games of interest of the great powers, unlike the First World War, when it was a beneficiary. History is contradictory, because it is a sum of contradictory stage events, which we like to call historical eras. *The Communist Era was not a consequence of the act of August 23, 1944* (our emphasis), but the fate of a small country, like Romania, established by the Great Powers at a certain stage" (pp. 191-192).

Ottmar Trașcă: "The coup d'État of August 23 and Romania's detachment from the alliance with the Third Reich accelerated the outcome of hostilities on the southern flank of the Eastern Front, the situation of Army Group 'South Ukraine' quickly becoming catastrophic. As a result of the fact that the Romanian Army followed the royal proclamation without hesitation – which provided for a ceasefire on the Eastern Front – and consequently abandoned its positions, numerous German units were soon surrounded, captured or destroyed by the Red Army forces. The causes of this major defeat cannot be attributed exclusively to the coup d'État of August 23, 1944 and Romania's withdrawal from the war – as former German military commanders, more or less involved at that time in the events on the Romanian theater of operations, tried to explain, to a good extent, a responsibility at least as great falls on the erroneous measures and late decisions taken by the decision-making bodies in the Reich" (pp. 320-321).

Constantin Corneanu: "The representatives of the U.S. and Great Britain were not among the signatories of the Armistice Agreement on the night of September 12-13, 1944. On the evening of September 12, 1944, starting at 10:00 p.m., the final discussions on the Armistice Agreement took place between the Romanian delegation and the diplomatic representatives of the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A., and Great Britain. The Romanian delegation returned to the country on September 14, 1944. On September 15 and 16, 1944, the Romanian Government discussed the content of the Armistice Agreement and established the manner of applying its provisions. In the Kremlin's strategic plans in Europe, Romania would be involved, after August 23, 1944, by using: 1) as an advanced Soviet military base; 2) the economy, especially oil and food resources, as sources for strengthening the Soviet potential; 3) of the Romanian Government, as a puppet in control of the most important segment of the Danube, thereby managing to control a main transport artery in Southern Europe; 4) of military force as a supplement to the armed forces of the Soviet Union" (pp. 466-367).

Vasile Buga: "At the last time, Russian historians recognize that the Soviet factor played an important role in the installation in Romania of the government led by Petru Groza. They write that 'the documents show that the Soviet side actively participated in the formation of coalition cabinets. Thus, in the spring of 1945, the direct military and political pressure of Soviet representatives brought to power the cabinet of P. Groza in Romania, into which the communists entered. To achieve this goal, the visit to Bucharest of the Deputy Commissar for Foreign Affairs, A.I. Vyshinsky, was intended, but in addition, at a critical moment additional Soviet divisions were temporarily introduced into the Romanian capital'. The positive attitude of the Russian authorities towards the former sovereign of Romania, their recognition of his real merits in carrying out the courageous act of August 23, 1944, of Romania joining the anti-Hitler coalition, was also manifested later, when he was invited, in May 2000, at the military parade in Moscow dedicated to the 65th anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite Germany" (pp. 392-393).

Tudor Vișan-Miu: "Finally, we can ask ourselves whether if General Dămăceanu [1896-1978] had lived longer (he would have turned 93 in July 1989), his memoirs could have seen the light of day during the 1980s, when a series of professional works appeared detailing the role of the army? Unable to give a definitive answer, it must be recalled that, in 1977, the issue had nevertheless reached the table of Ceaușescu and the C.C. of the P.C.R., and, after the general's death, the only effort to publish it was limited to an article in *Magazin istoric* in 1984. Finally, after 1989, in general, military memoirs written during the communist regime – being exposed to some propaganda distortions – received quite modest attention, *perhaps justifying, nowadays, an effort to recover the history they contain* (our emphasis), beyond propaganda and mystifications" (pp. 463-464).

Ștefan Bosomitu: "As I have observed in this text, people recall in different ways the histories in which they took part together. They remember different contexts and situations, interpret the facts in their own way and relate everything to

personal experience. A sign that *the party's memory* had not canceled their *personal memory*. Of course, we should not let ourselves be easily misled by these personal narratives – as being profoundly different from the official narrative. On the contrary, one can easily observe common places, issues that are not and cannot be deconstructed or interpreted. The history of the events of August 23, 1944, remained a story that the former illegalists of the party would remember differently. Beyond the hegemonic narrative, there were a multitude of interpretations and recollections related to the circumstances and consequences of that history. My text attempted to capture precisely those details and nuances that individualize personal narratives in relation to the official history of the event” (p. 492).

Bogdan Jitea: “The moment of August 23, 1944, constituted for the Romanian communist vulgate the act of birth of a new regime destined to make a tabula rasa of the old ones. Cinematography, as the most important of the arts cultivated by the regime, brought its offering on the propaganda altar. The process was not, however, linear and without syncope. The reflection on the big communist screens of the act of Antonescu’s overthrow started slowly, in close connection with the environmental political context. *Valurile Dunării* [The Waves of the Danube] (1960) represents the turning point in the filmography of August 23, 1944, as a cinematic expression of national communism. The communist film industry had in Titus Popovici that politically committed writer who understood that for propaganda to work, not only gross falsehoods are needed, but also fragments of truths. The film that brings together all the clichés of Ceaușescu’s historiography regarding August 23, 1944, is *Ziua Z* [D-Day]” [1985] (pp. 522-523).

Valentin Ciorbea, *Comuna Întregalde în izvoare istorice* [Întregalde Commune in Historical Sources]. Editor prof. univ. dr., Editura Academiei Oamenilor de Știință din România, București, 2024, 168 pp; tab. ISBN 978-630-6518-34-0

Professor Valentin Ciorbea – who will turn 80 this fall – is a well-known personality among historical scholars in our country.

A recognized specialist in the history of modern Dobrudja and, especially, the interwar history, of the Romanian Navy and the Merchant Navy, of the Port of Constanța – the historian from Constanța (a native of Transylvania, born on October 12, 1946 in Alba County, in the heart of Transylvania) considered, a short time ago, that he also owes a contribution to the research and writing of some landmarks of the history of his native town.

I was looking, a few years ago (2021), “with the meticulousness of the Transylvanian, the thematic or signaling sheets were drawn up, at the Constanța County Library – as if I still have them in front of my eyes – on the basis of which the doctoral thesis was elaborated, in 1982 – *Evoluția Dobrogei între anii 1918-1940. Contribuții la cunoașterea problemelor economice, sociale și politice* [The Evolution of Dobrudja between 1918-1940. Contributions to Knowledge of Economic, Social, and

Political Issues]. At that time, this thesis – its non-appearance damages the national historiography of available research, scrupulous, thoroughly articulated in the sources of time – introduced in the national-territorial equation of the respective approach an extension of the investigation on the existing Dobrudjan counties in the Romanian State during 1913-1940: Durostor and Caliacra. This unitary approach to the research of national history is a priority in specialized research, no one has investigated such an issue before him. It is a priority and a merit that should be retained as such.

Present, later, with numerous specialized articles in magazines from Bucharest, Iași, Constanța, Valentin Ciorbea will stand out for the sobriety and seriousness of their conception, of their writing. There are articles that prepared the books later, the ninth decade being fruitful in terms of the appearance of studies, the participation in numerous scientific sessions, the excerpt from the documents of the news time that will be the basis of those volumes”.

Thus, this volume was born – the fruit of archival research. Here is how the author motivates his scientific approach:

“Why this group of documents from the chronicle of Întregalde commune? Why did I, prof. univ. dr. Valentin Ciorbea, decide to carry out this project? The answer is simple. I was born and raised in the village of Necrilești. My parents, Niculae Ciorbea and Elena Paul, were also born in Necrilești, like their parents.

For me, this village was the eye of contact with the universe and remained the miraculous place where I feel closest to nature. This is where I truly recharge my energies. As a child, I admired the starry sky and the green mountains from spring to autumn, covered in snow in the harsh winters.

I understood from childhood the extraordinary connection of the villagers with the surrounding nature. As animal breeders, they took impressive care to ensure hay for the cattle. Most of them had cows, sheep, goats, horses, and oxen. The mowing period, followed by drying and gathering the hay in the barns, was a ritual in which all family members participated, from older children to grandparents. In the village there were people engaged in the production of charcoal, which they used in the communes of Alba Iulia and Teiuș. They obtained another income from the firewood they sold in the same areas. During the harvest, they went to the villages in the plains where reapers were needed. From here they brought their corn and wheat for food during the winter” (p. 5).

“The graves of my relatives, grandparents, mother, aunts, uncles, and cousins also connect me to Necrilești.

I studied at the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the ‘Al.I. Cuza’ University in Iași. Through government assignment, I became a professor in Constanța. I regretted Transylvania, especially cities like Alba-Iulia, Teiuș, Sibiu did not have places in the assignment. I would have happily returned to my beloved Transylvania.

The profession of university professor [at the ‘Ovidius’ University of Constanta] combines with that of researcher. In my investigations at the Romanian Academy Library, I sporadically encountered information about the communes of

Întregalde. I filed them in the hope that I would find the time necessary for more extensive investigations into the past of the commune.

Geographically located in the Trascău Mountains, the commune of Întregalde reveals its name as its geographical position between two rivers, the Găldița that flows through Necrilești and the Galda that runs through Ghioncani and Ivăniș, to merge at the entrance to the village of Întregalde, approximately 1 km from the center of the settlement. On a geographical area of 82.86 km², the villages of the commune of Ivăniș, Iliești, Ghioncani, Dealul Geogiului, Marinești, Modolești, Necrilești, Sfârcea, Popești, Tecsești and Întregalde.

According to the census data, on December 1, 2021, 459 people were counted in the commune of Întregalde" (p. 6).

The commune of Întregalde has archival sources kept at the Alba County Service of the National Archives; we found and photographed several dozen documents from the following funds: Tecsești Orthodox Parish; Întregalde City Hall; Inventory of registers belonging to the Întregalde commune City Hall, period 1943-1955; Întregalde Gendarme Post, 1942-1944; Întregalde Militia Post, 1950-1956.

From the researched files, we selected 84 documents relevant to the activity of the Întregalde City Hall, the situation of the inhabitants in terms of material and social aspects, living conditions, education, demography, the heroes of the commune who fell in the Eastern Campaign, anti-communist fighters, etc. The volume opens with a document from 1884 that includes the names of parishioners from the hamlet of Tecsești and ends with an informative note regarding the anti-communist attitude of the priest from the village of Necrilești who served in 1953.

These pages constitute a heartfelt confession of one of the best-known, nationally, sons of the Întregalde commune – *recte*, of the Necrilești hamlet –, they could form the basis of a future extensive thematic monograph. Professor Ciorbea has laid, with love, rigor and science, a first documentary stone in its construction.

Delia Roxana Cornea, *Vilegiatura la malul mării și patrimoniul său arhitectural. Istoria băilor de mare și a cazinourilor din Constanța și Mamaia. Seaside Leisure and Its Architectural Heritage. The History of Sea Bathing and the Constanța and Mamaia Casinos* (Muzeul de Istorie Națională și Arheologie Constanța), Mega, Cluj-Napoca, 2024, 518 pp.; ill.; facs., sketches. ISBN 978-606-020-857-0

A graduate of the 'Ovidius' University in Constanta, with a Bachelor's degree in History (2001) and a PhD thesis at the 'Valahica' University in Târgoviște (with Professor Ion Calafeteanu), with the thesis *Exilul politic românesc 1945-1965* [The Romanian Political Exile 1945-1965] (2013), the author of this volume – a native of Dobrudja (born February 11, 1978, Baia commune, in Tulcea county –, has established herself as a devoted and diligent servant of the Clio Muse; both scientifically – she had the strength to move, with certain scientific results, from an initial research theme (which dealt with the Romanian post-war exile) to one of a

completely different nature (circumscribed by the history of Dobrudja) – and managerially-curatorially.

Taking over the position of manager, in December 2024, of the Museum of National History and Archaeology in Constanța, is seen (in June 2025) by this laborious researcher with a modern managerial vision, as “a great challenge, because the museum is now going through a process of relocation and reorganization. The last move took place in 1977, when it moved from the old headquarters – currently the headquarters of the Archbishopric – to the old Communal Palace. At the same time, the reorganization of the institution was also carried out, becoming the Regional Museum of Dobrogea, the Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanța. So, it received not only a new name, but also a new status, with a character of national importance.

As for me, I tell you with all sincerity that it is a period of great challenges, not only for me, but for the entire collective of the museum. Apart from one person, all those who participated in the move in 1977 are long retired – some, unfortunately, are no longer with us. So, you realize that we are in a situation where, every day, we have managed a new challenge.

Of course, there are activities that we have carry out, many of which we are already used to – we are specialists and we move on. As I said at the beginning, Constanța is, itself, a city with a rich history. However, in recent years, we have not had the necessary promotion. What happened? We have entered a shadow cone”.

Precisely in order not to remain in the unwanted ‘shadow cone’, the new manager is at the origin – alongside and together with his colleagues – of diversified cultural-exhibition and curatorial actions.

The appearance of the present volume also falls within this context.

It completes the author’s rich bibliography, such as, books by a single author – *Recuperări istorice: Asociația Foștilor Deținuți Politici Români de la Paris* [Historical Recovery: The Association of Former Romanian Political Detainees in Paris] (2010), *Reședințele regale de la Marea Neagră: Casele de vis ale Reginelor României* [Royal Residences on the Black Sea: Dream Homes of the Queens of Romania] (2021); co-author – *Cazul Arthur și exilul românesc* [The Arthur Case and the Romanian Exile] (2006: with Dumitru Dobre), *Istoria pe un clișeu: Dobrogea interbelică în colecția fotografului V. Nicolau* [History in a Cliché: Interwar Dobrogea in the Collection of Photographer V. Nicolau] (2016: with Corina Apostoleanu; 2018: English version), *Tezaurul de sculpturi de la Tomis-Constanța* [The Treasure of Sculptures from Tomis-Constanța] (2024: with Aurel Mototolea, C.A.C.G. Alexandrescu, Irina Sodoleanu, Andreea Andrei, Cristian Cealera); co-coordinator (and author) – *Moștenirea culturală turcă în Dobrogea* [Turkish Cultural Heritage in Dobrudja] (2013: with Tasin Gemil and Gabriel Custurea), *Dobrogea în contextul Primului Război Mondial* [Dobrogea in the Context of World War I] (2017: with Valentin Ciorbea and Corina Apostoleanu).

The thematic content of this bilingual volume (in case of a necessary re-edition, it would be more appropriate, I believe, to have separate publications – in

the two languages, Romanian and English, for easier dissemination in the Western scientific environment) is as follows:

Cuvânt-înainte [Foreword] (pp. 7-8). Capitolul I. *Bulevardul Elisabeta și vechiul cazin – Ante-proiecții ale unui deziderat edilitar (1880-1921)* [Chapter I. Elisabeta Boulevard and the Old Casino – The Dawn of Urban Aspirations (1880-1892)] (pp. 9-76). Capitolul II. *Sezonul estival la Constanța la cumpăna secolelor XIX-XX – Băile de „La Vii” și inaugurarea celui de-al doilea Căzin comunal (1893-1903)* [Chapter II. Summer in Constanța at the Turn of the 20th Century – “La Vii” Baths and the Second Casino (1893-1903)] (pp. 77-144). Capitolul III. *Noi proiecte edilitare dedicate vilegiaturii – Extinderea și lărgirea bulevardului Elisabeta, construirea noului cazinou și mutarea băilor la Mamaia 1903-1910* [Chapter III. Constanța and New Tourism Ventures – Expanding Elisabeta Boulevard, Building a New Casino and Relocating the Bath to Mamaia 1903-1910] (pp. 145-267). Capitolul IV. *Vilegiatură și loisir la Constanța și Mamaia (1911-1940)* [Chapter IV. Vacations and Leisure in Constanța and Mamaia (1911-1940)] (pp. 269-441). Capitolul V. *Turismul și patrimoniul arhitecturii de vilegiatură la Constanța și Mamaia, de la debutul celui de-Al Doilea Război Mondial și până la prăbușirea regimului comunist (1940-1989)* [Chapter V. The Architectural Heritage of Tourism in Constanța and Mamaia from the Beginning of World War 2 the Fall of Communist (1940-1989)] (pp. 443-516) and a Afterword: *Cazinoul, o perlă a coroanei Constanței* [The Casino, a Pearl of the Constanța’s Crown], by Professor univ. dr. Florin Anghel (pp. 517-518.)

The volume is elaborated on the basis of meticulous documentation – in archives, the press of the time, historiographical works related to the subject (in a possible re-edition, it would be beneficial to complete it with a bibliographical arrangement of the sources, respectively, of Indexes) –, the author possessing the science of phrasing the historical events and processes in question; written in an accessible way for an easy reading, without lexical preciousness, the volume constitutes an agreeable and useful reading.

Here are some excerpts:

“Closely linked to the history of the seaside resorts was the history of the casinos in Constanta and Mamaia; the city had a dance hall – kursaal 9880-1891), the old communal house (1892-1910) and from 1910 the diaphanous Art Nouveau building, the Communal Casino, which still adorns the Constanta seafront today. Mamaia also had many moments of glory and decline and after the old bathing pavilions were, one by one, damaged or destroyed, starting with the years 1934-1935 the Mamaia Casino was built here. Then, as now, visitors came to take sea baths and sun baths and to enjoy the entertainment offered by the city and the resort, in an annual cycle perpetuated for more than a century. Then, as now, locals and visitors alike enjoyed the benefits of beaches, the joy of parties and the freedom of summer vacations, this being the spirit that I tried to capture in this volume” (p. 7).

“Not many references have survived about the events of the 1939 summer season, but the national press nevertheless provided very accurate information

about the Navy Day Celebration. The festivities of this 'great year', as King Carol II said, were highlighted by the incorporation of the new school ship Mircea into the Romanian fleet. On the same day, the foundation stone for the Taşaul Harbour was laid to the north of Constanța, which is intended to accommodate the warships of the Royal Navy as well as the merchant navy. We must mention, however, that a significant development at the time was the establishment and activity of the Association of Balneo-climateric Municipalities of the Black Sea coast of Dobruja, chaired by Engineer N. Caranfil, who was making sustained efforts for the tourist development of the whole area.

The association, which grouped Constanța with Mamaia beach, Eforie, Carmen Sylva, Techirghiol, Mangalia, Cavarna and Balçik with Kranevo beach, was based in Constanța, and its aim was to ensure the development of the resorts through a joint activity program, which was to include the following urban ventures: 'a). The construction and enhancement of land and water transportation routes linking these localities; b). The supply of drinking water in plentiful quantities to all the bathing resorts, as well as sewerage; c). Illumination of all resorts with electric lighting in optimal conditions; d). Cleaning up the marshes and swamps on the coast; e). Afforestation of the Black Sea coast from Constanța to Kranevo, planting alongside roads and creating parks around the resorts; f). The construction of breakwaters to protect the beaches, as well as shoreline reinforcement works; g). Building wharfs.

If at least part of this ambitious program had been put into practice, the Romanian coastline between Constanța-Mamaia and up to Kranevo would have become the Romanian Riviera of Europe. However, the Second World War put a sudden stop to this ambitious program, and the destruction that followed would cancel the progress that had been made during the interwar period" (pp. 434-435).

"The third phase in the history of Mamaia resort took place between 1975-1985, when several tourist attractions distinguished themselves through their elegant and diverse architectural styles, and through the superior quality of the facilities they offered such as Caraiman II, Condor, Alcor, Vega, Ambassador, Savoi and Lido hotels which opened on the northern side of the resorts. Aside from the accommodation units, a ski-lift was also built on Siutghiol Lake (1975), as well as several piers, tennis court, discos, water sports centers, and water slides were also added. Additionally, the old Castel complex was renovated and transformed into the Neckerman Club, exclusively for German tourists.

By the early 1970s, Mamaia had become a fair competitor of its foreign counterparts such as the French Riviera, attracting a great number of European tourists, especially Germans and Scandinavians. Year after year, the resort hosted a significant number of cultural and sports events, such as The Mamaia National Contest for Romanian Light Music Composition and Performance (the first edition was held in 1963), The Miss Litoral Beauty and Elegance Contest, The Animated Film Festival, The Romanian Ceramics Decade (first edition in 1987), The Ancient Theatre Evenings, The Mamaia Yachting Cup, and the Mamaia Tennis Cup, and others".

The Casino, a Pearl of the Constanța's Crown], profesor univ. dr. Florin Anghel: autoarea „a reușit să aducă publicului o carte document și monument. Este un demers copleșitor pentru autoare, dar benefic pentru comunitate, pentru cei care iubesc istoria locurilor frumoase și pentru toți care își doresc să privească trecutul și prin prisma unor ochi și voci care nu au stăpânit prima scenă a deciziei. Volumul autoarei îmbină o imensă documentație de arhivă cu una de presă foarte consistentă și cu opinii extrem de bine articulate și puse în contextul epocii. Aveți în mână cea mai valoroasă istorie a Cazinoului din Constanța, o poveste așteptată de multă vreme, în contextul în care în spațiile memoriei se cer atât de vital revăzute, apreciate și revizitate” (p. 517).

At the end of these brief notations, we highlight the observations of Professor Florin Anghel, with whom we are in symphony (however, not with the author's absolute belief that this volume is “the most valuable history of the Constanta casino, a long-awaited story” /p. 517/; abstraction is made, here, the extensive volume by the late Doina Păuleanu – mentioned, it is true, sparingly, especially in the beginning, in the pages of this volume; whose author, to her credit, honestly records in the very first footnote: “A syntagme taken from Doina Păuleanu, who published [in 2011] *a reference monographic work* dedicated to the Casino, a work that should be, for any person interested in knowing this matter, *a mandatory reading* /our underlinings/p. 9/): the author “has managed to bring to the public a book that is both a document and a monument. It is an overwhelming undertaking for the author, but beneficial for the community, for those who love the history of beautiful places and for all who wish to look at the past through the prism of eyes and voices that did not control the first scene of the decision. The author's volume combines immense archival documentation with very consistent press documentation and with extremely well-articulated opinions placed in the context of the era. You have in your hands the most valuable history of the Constanța Casino, a story that has been waiting for a long time, in the context in which the spaces of memory are so vitally needed to be reviewed, appreciated and revisited” (p. 517).

Gheorghe Dumitrașcu, *Oameni și fapte din istorie (studii și articole)* [People and Facts from History (Studies and Articles)]. Ediția a II-a, revăzută și adăugită, Editura Fântâna lui Manole, Golești-Vâlcea, 2024; Editura Intol Press, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, 2024 / 892 pp.; ill., facs. ISBN 978-606-8641-41-6; ISBN 978-606-8701-45-5.

Like teacher Oltea Gramaticu, from Bârlad – briefly mentioned in the bibliographic notes here – the author of this volume also represents a milestone in high school education in the Country (respectively, in Oltenia, in the Râmnicu Vâlcea area), through the didactic, scientific (with a doctorate in History, defended in 1984) and managerial personality that he has demonstrated since the 1960s of the last century; teacher, head of school and social-political institutions, founder of publications and various professional-scientific and civic associations, author of numerous studies and

articles on history, signatory of several volumes – *Râmnicul medieval. Studii și documente* [Medieval Râmnic. Studies and Documents (co-author with Corneliu Tamaș)] (1995), *Epopeea Independenței României în conștiința vâlcenilor* [The Epic of Romanian Independence in the Consciousness of the People of Vâlcea] (2003), *Spiru C. Haret – apostol al conștiinței naționale* [Spiru C. Haret – Apostle of National Consciousness] (2008), *Haretismul în cultura românească – județul Vâlcea* [Haretism in Romanian Culture – Vâlcea County] (2008), *Haretismul în școala românească – județul Vâlcea* [Haretism in the Romanian School – Vâlcea County] (2013), *Istoria învățământului din Vâlcea în anii României moderne – 1821-1918* [History of Education in Vâlcea in the Years of Modern Romania – 1821-1918] (2018), *Oameni și fapte din istorie* [People and Facts from History] (2021), *Haretismul în școala și cultura românească (Vâlcea)* [Haretism in Romanian School and Culture (Vâlcea)] (2023).

At a venerable age (born April 19, 1938, in Râmnicu Vâlcea), a devoted servant of Clio, he gathered some of the studies published in this volume.

Whose thematic composition is:

Argument (pp. 11-12)

I. *Personalități românești* [Romanian Personalities] (pp. 13-570): Oameni de stat [Statesmen]: Alexandru Ioan Cuza și Carol I, Constantin Argetoianu, Alexandru Averescu, Ion C. Brătianu, Ion I.C. Brătianu, Vintilă I.C. Brătianu, Nichifor Crainic, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Ion Gh. Duca, Ioan Emanoil Florescu, Grigore Gafencu, Take Ionescu, Iuliu Maniu, Alexandru Marghiloman, Nicolae Rădescu, Ion Mihalache, Mihail Manoilescu, Lucrețiu Pătrășcanu, C.A. Rosetti, Constantin Stere, Pamfil Șeicaru, Nicolae Titulescu, Ioan V. Totu. Istorici [Historians] – Nicolae Bălcescu, Gheorghe Brătianu, Constantin C. Giurescu, Nicolae Iorga, Dimitrie Onciul, Vasile Pârvan, Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu, Alexandru D. Xenopol. Filozofi, sociologi [Philosophers, Sociologists] – Petre Andrei, Dumitru Drăghicescu, Dimitrie Gusti, Simion Mehedinți, Mihai Ralea, Constantin Rădulescu-Motru. Cărturari, îndrumători ai învățământului [Scholars, Educational Leaders] – Mihai Eminescu, Ion Ghica, Spiru Haret, Gheorghe Lazăr, Ion Maiorescu, Titu Liviu Maiorescu, Petrache Poenaru, V.A. Urechia.

II. *Tendențe de idealizare a imaginii României interbelice (1918-1940)* [Tendencies of Idealizing the Image of Interwar Romania (1918-1940)] (pp. 571-662) – *O analiză nuanțată* [A Nuanced Analysis] (pp. 572-590), *Practici politice, guvernamentale și administrative* [Political, Governmental, and Administrative Practices] (pp. 591-617), *Radicalizarea socială* [Social Radicalization] (pp. 618-639), *Abandonarea regimului democratic românesc interbelic* [Abandonment of the Interwar Romanian Democratic Regime] (pp. 640-662).

III. *Însemnări necenzurate* [Uncensored Notes] (pp. 663-847) – *Istoria între adevăr și mistificare* [History Between Truth and Mystification], *Pericolul pierderii demnității naționale* [The Danger of Losing National Dignity], „*Istoria nu ne învață nimic*” – *declară public unii lideri politici* [“History Teaches Us Nothing” – Some Political Leaders Publicly Declare], *Guvernării de azi calcă în picioare istoria poporului român* [Today’s Rulers Trample on the History of the Romanian People], *Ignorarea trecutului: un atentat*

la conștiința națională a românilor [Ignoring the Past: An Attack on the National Conscience of Romanians], *Monstruosul genocid împotriva românilor transilvăneni (1848)* [The Monstrous Genocide Against Transylvanian Romanians (1848)], *Adevărurile lui Karl Marx despre români* [Karl Marx's Truths About Romanians], *Controverse cu privire la domnia lui Alexandru Ioan Cuza și conspirația „Monstruoasei coaliții”* [Controversies Regarding the Reign of Alexandru Ioan Cuza and the Conspiracy of the “Monstruous Coalition”], *Cum s-a reflectat în discursul public din istoriografia noastră abdicarea lui Cuza* [How Cuza's Abdication was Reflected in Public Discourse in Our Historiography], *Alexandru Ioan Cuza și Mihail Kogălniceanu în jurnalistica eminesciană (sinteză)* [Alexandru Ioan Cuza and Mihail Kogălniceanu in Eminescu's Journalism (Synthesis)], *Esența istoriei românilor în opera lui Mihai Eminescu* [The Essence of Romanian History in the Work of Mihai Eminescu], *Interpretări și controverse cu privire la marea răscoală românească din primăvara anului 1907 (interviu cu istoricul Gheorghe Dumitrașcu, realizat de Petre Cichirdan)* [Interpretations and Controversies Regarding the Great Romanian Uprising of the Spring of 1907 (Interview with Historian Gheorghe Dumitrașcu, Conducted by Petre Cichirdan)], *Idealul național prezent în sufletul generației Marii Uniri* [The National Ideal Present in the Soul of the Great Union Generation], *Un episod dramatic din lupta eroică a ostașilor din Regimentul 2 Vâlcea (1916)* [A Dramatic Episode from the Heroic Struggle of the Soldiers of the 2nd Vâlcea Regiment (1916)], *Jertfa supremă și eroismul dascălilor vâlceni pentru făurirea României Mari* [The Supreme Sacrifice and Heroism of the Vâlcea Teachers for the Creation of Greater Romania], *Semnificația istorică și contemporană a Tratatului de Pace de la Trianon (4 iunie 1920)* [The Historical and Contemporary Significance of the Trianon Peace Treaty (June 4, 1920)], *România Mare și învățămintele istoriei (interviu cu istoricul Gheorghe Dumitrașcu, realizat de Petre Cichirdan)* [Greater Romania and the Lessons of History (Interview with Historian Gheorghe Dumitrașcu, Conducted by Petre Cichirdan)], *Însemnări despre politica electorală în România interbelică* [Notes on Electoral Politics in Interwar Romania], *Destrămarea României Mari în vara și toamna anului 1940 (80 de ani de la marea tragedie teritorială românească)* [The Disintegration of Greater Romania in the Summer and Autumn of 1940 (80 Years Since the Great Romanian Territorial Tragedy)], *Un asasinat odios (din 27-28 noiembrie 1940), care a zguduit de revoltă și indignare o lume întreagă: Nicolae Iorga (1871-1940)* [A Heinous Assassination (November 27-28, 1940), Which Shook an Entire World with Revolt and Indignation: Nicolae Iorga (1871-1940)], *Responsabilitatea clasei politice în apărarea integrității teritoriale a României* [The Responsibility of the Political Class in Defending the Territorial Integrity of Romania], *I.G. Duca și Vâlcea* [I.G. Duca and Vâlcea], *Un deschizător de drumuri în istoriografia contemporană românească: prof. univ. dr. Titu Georgescu* [A Trailblazer in Contemporary Romanian Historiography: Prof. Dr. Titu Georgescu], *Continuăm ce am început* [We Continue What We Started].

IV. *Didactice tradiționale* [Traditional Didactics] (pp. 849-891) – *Prețuirea școlii și a dascălilor ei de altădată* [Valuing the School and Its Teachers of the Past], I.L. Caragiale, *revizor școlar de Vâlcea* [I.L. Caragiale, School Inspector of Vâlcea], *De la*

„cantinele școlare” haretiene, la programul „laptele și cornul” [From the “School Canteens” of the Haret, to the “Milk and the Horn” Program], *Ocrotirea orfanilor de război* [Protecting War Orphans], *Obsesia „lecției!”... de altădată* [The Obsession with the “Lesson!”... of the Past], *Nu lăsați timpul să treacă pe lângă voi!* [Don’t Let Time Pass You By!], *O promoție a generației anilor ‘50* [A Promotion of the Generation of the 50s], *Un gând bun, frumos și generos tuturor dascălilor vâlceeni* [A Good, Beautiful, and Generous Thought to all the Teachers of Vâlcea], *Școala românească a „vremurilor de ieri” și a „vremurilor de azi”* [The Romanian School of “Yesterday’s Times” and “Today’s Times”], *Feriți-vă de impostura intelectuală!* [Beware of Intellectual Imposture!]. *Sursele imaginilor* [The Image Sources] (p. 892).

As the author shows in *Argument*, through this volume – a collection of studies and articles published over three decades in various scientific and cultural publications – “he persistently tried to approach historical reality, with the desire to offer a true image of the society of those times, through ‘people and deeds’, ‘with the good and the bad’, without diminishing or obscuring their contribution to the progress of Romanian society. As for the personalities inserted in the work, the author suggests that they must be viewed in the disturbing context of the time in which they had the strength to manifest themselves patriotically and not to lower their brilliance, due to changing times, reducing their valuable and historical dimension to ‘little pygmies’, in comparison with the foreigners, who were glorified beyond measure” (p. 11).

And: “By going through the content of the book’s pages, it is found that the author constantly reminds us of the moral authority, dignity, competence and patriotism of the great forefathers and considers that nothing can be more harmful in the new path we have to travel in today’s European concert than the constant worship, on our knees, to the gods of others. In this terrible confusion in which we find ourselves no longer seeing saving horizons ‘through ourselves’, it is possible to deliberately break, alone, the connection with the past to which we owe our existence and to take hesitant but noisy steps towards the impossibility of reviving the prosperous life of our own people” (p. 11).

All these statements, assertions and value judgments coming from an honest and devoted servant of Romanian school and culture - which can also form the basis of scientific knowledge, on the part of the younger generations, of the history of our nation.

Ion Negrei, *Traseul spre lumină și libertate al Basarabiei (1917-1920). Bessarabia’s Path to Light and Freedom (1917-1920) [Bilingual Volume]*. Volum îngrijit de Cristian Bențe [și] Sebastian-Dragoș Bunghez. Traducere în limba engleză realizată de Laura-Rebeca Stiegelbauer [Edited by Cristian Bențe /and/ Sebastian-Dragoș Bunghez. Translated from Romanian by Laura-Rebeca Stiegelbauer], „Vasile Goldiș” University Press, Arad, 2024, 316 pp. ISBN 978-973-664-969-1

The well-known historian and national-cultural activist from Chisinau (b. March 12, 1958) have published a bilingual volume dedicated to the history of

Bessarabia – so necessary in disseminating the true facets of the history of 1917-1920 in international scientific circles.

As can be easily seen, the author focuses his research mainly on the events of 1917-1918, highlighting the main stages that led to the preparation, proclamation and consolidation of the Union of Bessarabia “with its mother Romania”.

They are important to be known by the lecturer and readers who are not familiar with an objective presentation of the events of those years.

The thematic content of the volume is as follows: Romanian text: pp. 3-156, English Version: pp. 157-315 – *Table of Contents* (pp. 5-6), *Preface*, by The Editors (pp. 159-161), *Translator's Note* (pp. 163-164), *Instead of Introduction: Homage to the Union Generation* (pp. 165-173), *“The Changing Face of the Russian Leadership”* (pp. 173-176), *“Cuvânt Moldovenesc” – the Tribune of the Bessarabian Romanians* (pp. pp. 177-180), *Constitution and Activity of the Moldavan National Party* (pp. 180-184), *Congress of Moldovan Teachers (May 25-28, 1917)* (pp. 184-199), *Introduction of the Latin Alphabet in Bessarabia* (pp. 199-201), *Nationalisation of Education in Bessarabia* (pp. 201-205), *Congress of Moldovan Military (October 20-27, 1917)*, *Proclamation of the Autonomy of Bessarabia* (pp. 205-214), *Organising Office of the Council of the Country. Convocation of the Council of the Country* (pp. 214-222), *Proclamation of the Moldovan (People's) Democratic republic. December 2, 1917* (pp. 222-231), *Moldovan Democratic Republic Fights Anarchy* (pp. 231-233), *Proclamation of Independence of the Moldovan Democratic Republic. January 24, 1918* (pp. 233-237), *January 24, 1918. Chișinău Declaration of a Group of Intellectuals from “All Romanian Countries”* (pp. 237-242), *The Vote by the Council of the Country on the Declaration of Union of the Moldovan Democratic Republic (Bessarabia) with Romania. March 27, 1918* (pp. 242-250), *Bessarabia's Messengers to the General Congress of Bukovina* (pp. 250-260), *December 1, 1918. Chișinău Salutes Alba-Iulia* (pp. 261-269), *The Act of Unconditional Union of Bessarabia with Romania. November 27/December 10, 1918* (pp. 269-270), *The Participation of Bessarabians in the First Parliamentary Elections in the Unified Romania* (pp. 270-287), *Paris Peace Conference (1919-1920): International Recognitions of the Acts of Union of Bessarabia, Bucovina and Transylvania with the Kingdom of Romania* (pp. 287-292), *Instead of Conclusion: Quo vadis, Republic of Moldova?* (pp. 293-297), *Annex* (pp. 299-315).

The author shows that “The Union of Bessarabia with Romania was a responsible and courageous act of the politicians from Bessarabia. At a time when Bessarabia was in danger of disintegration and the establishment of the Bolshevik Red terror, the act of the Union of Bessarabia with Romania was the solutions to save the population of the country from the totalitarian perspective of development, and the event as such is the most beautiful page of political history written in the Bessarabian area by the sons and daughters of this land and in the interest of the entire population of this area” (p. 167).

“During the totalitarian Soviet regime, everything was done to make that the names of those who honourably represented the national interest would disappear forever from the memory of our nation. In practice, several generations in

the post-war period knew nothing about the contribution of the Union generation to the economic prosperity of the peasantry, to the support of national culture, to the cultivation of national consciousness and identity, to the maintenance and promotion of the ideas of national unity, while Bessarabia, as well as other Romanian territories , were under foreign rule. This historical injustice and historiographical gap must be removed” (pp. 169-170).

And, also, a timely setting in the historical context of our days: “Moldova’s European vector is currently being put to the test. The moment calls for a maximum concentration of all resources to achieve the proposed goal. The political class in Chișinău is facing a serious test of responsibility. But we must understand that the success of Moldova’s European integration does not depend on Chișinău alone. The post-Vilnius situation dictates the need to implement rapid and well-thought-out sectoral policies on the part of the decision-makers in Chișinău, Bucharest, Brussels and Washington, and calls for concrete actions to ensure the security and well-being of the region and the European continent.

If the pro-European approach of the Republic of Moldova will be successful, then it will be the second page of success written by the political class in the Bessarabian space. For the time being, the only and the most beautiful page of political history written in the Bessarabian area remains that of 1917-1918” (p. 297).

A constitutive title of Moldavian historiography, this volume represents yet another testimony to the professionalism and national-cultural devotion of Clio’s servants between the Prut and the Dniester, to the role that historiography can play in forging Romanian feelings of identity everywhere, including through the appeal to research and knowledge of the true history of our nation.

This book constitutes testimony in this sense.

Printed in Arad, under the auspices of a university publishing house, the volume constitutes, at the same time, a testimony to the guild solidarity of Clio’s servants from both sides of the Prut, an example of good practices in the scientific and national-cultural collaboration of Romanians everywhere.

Anatol Petrencu, *Ucraina în flăcări* /Articole, recenzii: 2022-2024/ [Ukraine in Flames /Articles, Reviews: 2022-2024/] (Academia Oamenilor de Știință din România. Universitatea de Stat din Chișinău. Universitatea de Stat „Bogdan Petriceicu Hașdeu” din Cahul. Asociația Istoricilor din Republica Moldova „Alexandru Moșanu”), f.e. [no publisher], Chișinău, 2024, 180 pp. ISBN 978-9975-66-795-1

The personality of the author of this volume – recently septuagenarian (b. May 22, 1954) – is retained in the representative *Enciclopedia reprezentanților scrisului istoric românesc* [Encyclopedia of the Representatives of Romanian Historical Writing] (5 Vols., 2022; coord. [Eds.]: Victor Spinei and Dorina N. Rusu), published under the aegis of the Section of Historical Sciences and Archaeology of the Romanian Academy: “Specialist in contemporary history. Research on the

contemporary history of European countries, deportations from the Moldavian S.S.R. during the Soviet period, the history of the Second World War. Author of monographs, collections of documents, collections of studies, university and school textbooks and over 600 scientific and journalistic articles" (vol. IV (O-R), pp. 152-153: v o i c e PETRENCU Anatol; compiled by G.P.) (Professor Gheorghe Postică was born in the same year; he was elected, on September 25, 2024, Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy).

A recognized national-cultural activist, initiator of numerous scientific events (president of the Association of Historians of the Republic of Moldova "Alexandru Moșanu"), he is the author of dozens and dozens of historical and socio-political studies and articles, as well as numerous volumes – (single author): *Învățământul istoric în România (1948-1989* [Historical Education in Romania (1948-1989) (1991, 112 pp.); *Istoria universală. Epoca contemporană, 1939-1993 (Europa, SUA, Canada)*. Prelegeri [The Universal History. Contemporary Era, 1939-1993 (Europe, USA, Canada). Lectures] (1995, 272 pp.) (2nd edition completed, 1995, 346 pp.; 3rd edition completed, 1995; 4th edition, anastatic, Iași, 2010); *Basarabia în al Doilea Război Mondial: 1940-1944* [Bessarabia in the Second World War: 1940-1944] (1997, 346 pp.); *România și Basarabia în anii celui de-al Doilea Război Mondial* [Romania and Bessarabia in the Years of the Second World War] (1999, 176 pp.); *În serviciul zeiței Clio* [In the Service of the Muse Clio] (2001, 816 pp.); *Polonezii în anii celui de-al Doilea Război Mondial. Istoria politică* [The Poles during the Second World War. Political History] (2005, 246 pp.); *Basarabia în timpul celui de-al Doilea Război Mondial: 1939-1945* [Bessarabia during the Second World War: 1939-1945] (2006, 224 pp.); *Varșovia văzută de un istoric basarabean* [Warsaw Seen by a Bessarabian Historian] (2006, 144 pp.); *Istoria contemporană. Studii, materiale, atitudini* [Contemporary History. Studies, Materials, Attitudes] (2011, 580 pp.); *Un scurt popas necesar drumului* A Short Stopover Necessary on the Road (2014, 328 pp.); *Rusia, 2019: „Acesta a fost un an greu...”* (“это был тяжелый год...”) [Russia, 2019: “This was a Difficult Year...” (“это был тяжелый год...”)] (2020, 296 pp.); *A fi profesor de istorie în Republica Moldova. Cu prilejul conferirii înaltului titlu de DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA de către Universitatea de Stat „Alec Russo” din Bălți* [Being a History Professor in the Republic of Moldova. On the Occasion of the Conferral of the High Title of DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA by the “Alec Russo” State University of Bălți] (2021, 236 pp.); *Ucraina în flăcări /Articole, recenzii: 2022-2024/* [Ukraine in Flames /Articles, Reviews: 2022-2024/ (Academy of Romanian Scientists. State University of Chisinau. State University “Bogdan Petriceicu Hașdeu” of Cahul. Association of Historians of the Republic of Moldova “Alexandru Moșanu”), no publisher, Chisinau, 2024 /180 pp.;

(co-author, co-editor): *Relațiile româno-italiene: de la confruntare la colaborare. 1945-1985* [The Romanian-Italian Relations: From Confrontation to Collaboration. 1945-1985] (1993, 216 pp.); *Crestomație la Istoria românilor. 1917-1992* Crestomație la Istoria românilor. 1917-1992 [Chrestomathy in Romanian History. 1917-1992] (co-editor: 1993, 295 pp.); *Istoria universală, 1939-1944: manual experimental pentru clasa IX-a*

a școlii de cultură generală [World History, 1939-1944: Experimental Textbook for the 9th Grade of the General Education School (1995, 176 pp.); *Istoria universală. Epoca contemporană. Manual pentru clasa a XII-a* [World History. Contemporary era. Textbook for Grade 12] (2002 /2 editions/); *În apărarea istoriei și demnității naționale. Culegere de documente* [In Defense of National History and Dignity. Collection of Documents] (co-editor: 2003, 96 pp.); *În apărarea istoriei și demnității naționale. Culegere de documente* [Marshal Ion Antonescu and Basarabia. 1941-1944. Collection of documents] (co-editor: 2008, 350 pp.); *Teroarea stalinistă în Basarabia. Studii, documente, memorii* [Stalinist Terror in Basarabia. Studies, Documents, Memoirs] (co-editor: 2013, 360 pp.); *O istorie a Basarabiei* [A History of Basarabia] (co-editor and co-author: two editions: 2015, 424 pp.; 2018, 424 pp.); *Românii în Gulag: memorii, mărturii, documente* [Romanians in the Gulag: Memoirs, Testimonies, Documents] (co-editor: vol. I, 2014, 352 pp.; vol. II, 2015, 362 pp.); *Republica Moldova în căutarea identității. Materialele Conferinței Științifice Internaționale 30 de ani de la proclamarea Independenței Republicii Moldova, 23-24 august 2021* [The Republic of Moldova in Search of Identity. Materials of the International Scientific Conference 30 Years Since the Proclamation of the Independence of the Republic of Moldova, August 23-24, 2021] (co-editor and co-author: 2021, 760 pp.); *Enciclopedia. Centenarul Războiului de Reîntregire și al Marii Uniri (2014-2020)* [Encyclopedia. Centenary of the War of Reunification and the Great Union (2014-2020)] (co-author: 2022 /Bucharest/, 1712 pp.).

The thematic content of the present volume, with a special theme, is the following:

Conținutul tematic al volumului este următorul: *Abrevieri* [Abbreviations] p. 7), *Introducere* [Introduction] (pp. 7-8);

I. *Ucraina în flăcări* [Ukraine in Flames] (pp. 9-34) – I.1. *Aspecte metodologice ale studiilor* [Methodological Aspects of Studies] (pp. 9-14), I.2. *Aspecte istoriografice ale cercetărilor* [Historiographic Aspects of Research] (pp. 15-32), I.3. *Izvoarele folosite* [Sources Used] (pp. 32-34);

II. *Rusia împotriva Ucrainei. Studii* [Russia Against Ukraine. Studies] (pp. 35-114) – II.1. *Rusia, 2021: „Mai la nord de Coreea de Nord! ”* [Russia, 2021: “Further North of North Korea!”] (pp. 35-40), II.2. *Ghepardul Asiei Centrale mai șiret decât ursul siberian* [The Central Asian Cheetah is More Cunning Than the Siberian Bear] (pp. 40-44), II.3. *„Nu uitați de unde ieși gazâli”* [Don’t Forget Where the Gazelles Come From”] (pp. 44-45), II.4. *Premisele, mersul și perspectivele războiului ruso-ucrainean* [The Premises, Course, and Prospects of the Russian-Ukrainian War] (pp. 46-55), II.5. *Exportul grâului din Ucraina* [Wheat Exports from Ukraine] (pp. 55-56), II.6 *A purta titlul de academician nu înseamnă obligatoriu să fii înțelept/școlit: cazul Andrei Marga* [Having the Title of Academician Does Not Necessarily Mean Being Wise/Educated: The Case of Andrei Marga] (pp. 57-61), II.7. *O săptămână istorică sau Rusia – stat terorist* [A Historical Week or Russia – A Terrorist State^o] (pp. 62-69), II.8. *La moartea unui colaboraționist ucrainean (pro-putinist)* [On the Death of a Ukrainian (Pro-Putinist) Collaborationist] (pp. 67-69), II.9. *Războiul agresiv al Federației Ruse împotriva Ucrainei: analiza situației actuale* [The

Aggressive War of the Russian Federation Against Ukraine: Analysis of the Current Situation] (pp. 69-79), II.10. *Războiul agresiv al Federației Ruse împotriva Ucrainei: analiza recentelor contribuții istoriografice* [Russia's War of Aggression Against Ukraine: Analysis of Recent Historiographical Contributions] (pp. 80-87), II.11. *Barbaria rușilor în Ucraina și poziția Chișinăului oficial* [The Barbarity of the Russians in Ukraine and the Position of Official Chișinău] (pp. 87-92), II.12. *D-ale Istoriei... Rușii au aruncat în aer barajul hidrocentralei de la Kakhovka sau Timpuri noi, aceleași tactici* [From History... The Russians Blew Up the Dam of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Station or New Times, the Same Tactics] (pp. 92-95), II.13. *Vladimir Putin și jocul primejdios cu Istoria* [Vladimir Putin and the Dangerous Game with History] (pp. 95-98), II.14. *Rusia, înainte, spre trecutul stalinist!* [Russia, Forward, Towards the Stalinist Past!] (pp. 99-101), II.15. *Vladimir Putin ne-a dat dezlegare* [Vladimir Putin Gave Us Detachment] (pp. 101-103), II.16. *Războiul agresiv al Rusiei în Ucraina și poziția Chișinăului oficial* [Russia's Aggressive War in Ukraine and the Position of Official Chișinău] (pp. 103-106), II. 17. *Dispariția lui Navalni* [Navalny's Disappearance] (pp. 106-108), II.18. *Tradiționala obrăznicie a rușilor* [The Traditional Impudence of the Russians] (pp. 108-110), II.19. *NATO și securitatea de stat a Republicii Moldova* [NATO and the State Security of the Republic of Moldova] (pp. 111-114);

III. *Războiul de cucerire al Rusiei analizat în cadrul forurilor științifice* [Russia's War of Conquest Analyzed in Scientific Forums] (pp. 115-125) – III.1. *Conferință științifică „Politica agresivă a Federației Ruse față de statele din spațiul fost sovietic” /la 24 februarie 2023, sub egida Asociației Istoricilor din Republica Moldova „Alexandru Moșanu”, la Biblioteca națională a Republicii Moldova/* [Scientific Conference “The Aggressive Policy of the Russian Federation Towards the States of the Former Soviet Space” /on February 24, 2023, Under the Auspices of the Association of Historians of the Republic of Moldova “Alexandru Moșanu”, at the National Library of the Republic of Moldova/] (pp. 115-118), III.2. *Mass-media și Războiul hibrid. Conferință internațională /6-7 octombrie 2023, la Universitatea „Dunărea de Jos” din Galați/* [Mass Media and Hybrid War. International Conference /October 6-7, 2023, at the “Dunărea de Jos” University in Galați/] (pp. 118-121), III.3. *Securitatea națională poate fi asigurată doar prin accesarea Republicii Moldova în NATO. Comunicat pentru presă /al Asociației Istoricilor din Republica Moldova „Alexandru Moșanu”, 8 noiembrie 2023/* [National Security Can Only Be Ensured by the Accession of the Republic of Moldova to NATO. Press Release /of the Association of Historians of the Republic of Moldova “Alexandru Moșanu”, November 8, 2023/] (pp. 122-123), III.4. *Ucraina: doi ani de rezistență împotriva invadatorilor ruși. Masă rotundă /organizată la 22 februarie 2024, de către Asociația Istoricilor din Republica Moldova „Alexandru Moșanu”/* [Ukraine: Two Years of Resistance Against the Russian Invaders. Round table [Organized on February 22, 2024, by the Association of Historians of the Republic of Moldova “Alexandru Moșanu”/] (pp. 123-125).

Concluzii [Conclusions] (pp. 126-127), *Anexe. Recenzii* (10 cărți) [Appendices. Reviews (10 Books)] (pp. 128-177), *Indice de nume* [Index of Names] (pp. 178-180).

Passionate about history since childhood, Anatol Petrencu has been researching for half a century and addressing the most painful and significant events of the Moldovan state, he repeatedly declared that “There is a debate among historians: Truth or Homeland. I think I always choose Truth over Homeland. I fight for the truth, for the Romanian people, for our Homeland”. For decades, Anatol Petrencu has remained a model teacher for entire generations: “Petrencu was and remains the historian who not only writes history, but also makes history here, in the Republic of Moldova, being recognized throughout the Romanian space and abroad,” is the opinion of Lidia Pădureț, vice-rector at the ‘Alecă Russo’ State University in Bălți. So that Ion Negrei, his good comrade, may have words of appreciation for the present volume as well, “The most shocking event, the Russian aggression against Ukraine. *Ucraina în flăcări* [Ukraine in Flames] brings together his studies on the events that took place since 2022 in our space, in the Ukrainian, Romanian, as well as throughout Europe. It condemns this aggression and warns of the danger that looms over civilization”.

Supporter of Ukraine’s right to defend itself and exist as an independent country, the history professor and national-cultural militant from Chișinău – proves through the consistency of his attitude – among the few, in this sense, servants of Clio from beyond the Prut – principledness and promotion of historical truth.

Gavriil Preda (coord. [Ed.]), 23 august 1944. Adevăr și mistificare [Studii]. Mircea-Dorel Suci (consilier editorial), Corint Istorie. Autori români, București, 2024, 608 pp. [+16 pp., unnumbered, interleaved between pages 481 and 482]; ill. ISBN 978-606-088-629-7

Initiated and coordinated by the recently septuagenarian Professor Gavriil Preda (born August 15, 1955), the volume is built on his conviction that it “attempts to approximate the truth of the historical facts regarding August 23, 1944 in accordance with the current state of national historical research, thus removing [*Sic!*] the erroneous interpretations that existed until December 1989” (p. 16). A goal fulfilled as such, by appealing to new documentary sources – from authors recognized for their meticulousness and professional honesty – and by critically reviewing the specialized literature.

Its content (15 studies, and 18 authors) is as follows: Gavriil Preda, *Argument* (pp. 5-16).

Partea I [Part I]: *Înainte de 23 august 1944* [Before August 23, 1944] (pp. 17-161) – Petre Otu, *România în al Doilea Război Mondial. Dimensiuni geopolitice, geostrategice (militare) și economice* [Romania in World War II. Geopolitical, Geostrategic (Military), and Economic Dimensions] (pp. 19-55 – Introducere, Poziția geopolitică și geostrategică a României, „Problema militar românească” interbelică, De la neutralitate la război. România în ochii ciclonului, Campania din Est (22 iunie 1941-23 august 1944), Campania din Vest (23 august 1944-12 mai 1945), Concluzii [Introduction, The Geopolitical and Geostrategic Position of Romania, The Interwar

“Romanian Military Problem”, From Neutrality to War. Romania in the Eyes of the Cyclone, The Eastern Campaign (June 22, 1941-August 23, 1944), The Western Campaign (August 23, 1944-May 12, 1945), Conclusions]). Constantin Corneanu, *Alianțe politice din România înainte și după 23 august 1944* [Political Alliances in Romania Before and After August 23, 1944] (pp. 56-126 – O situație dificilă pentru Axă, Opoziția politică sub protecția statului, PCR devine un aliat politic frecventabil, Unitatea opoziției politice, un drum lung și chinuitor, Lupta pentru putere și amplificarea neînțelegerilor, Asaltul asupra puterii, Sprijinul sovietic este esențial [A Difficult Situation for the Axis, The Political Opposition Under the Protection of the State, The PCR Becomes a Frequentable Political Ally, The Unity of the Political Opposition, a Long and Torturous Road, The Struggle for Power and the Amplification of Disagreements, The Assault on Power, Soviet Support is Essential]). Petre Opreș, *Operațiunea Iași-Chișinău, relatată de mareșalul Rodion Malinovski la Academia Militară „Mihail V. Frunze” de la Moscova* (1958) [The Iași-Chișinău Operation, Narrated by Marshal Rodion Malinovsky at the ‘Mihail V. Frunze’ Military Academy in Moscow (1958)] (pp. 127-161).

Partea a II-a [Part II]: *La 23 august 1944* [On August 23, 1944] (163-404) – Ioan Scurtu, *Constituirea guvernului de la 23 august 1944 și activitatea sa până la intrarea în legalitate* [The Formation of the Government on August 23, 1944 and Its Activity Until Its Entry Into Legality] (pp.165-199). Ottmar Trașcă, *Germania nazistă și actul de la 23 august 1944* [Nazi Germany and the Act of August 23, 1944] (pp. 200-265 – Istoriografia germană, Evoluția raporturilor româno-germane în perioada premergătoare actului de la 23 august 1944, Percepții și reacții ale Germaniei naziste la Actul de la 23 august 1944 [German Historiography, The Evolution of Romanian-German Relations in the Period Preceding the Act of August 23, 1944, Perceptions and reactions of Nazi Germany to the Act of August 23, 1944]). Cătălin Turliuc, *23 august 1944: schimbarea de regim și ordinea constituțională* [August 23, 1944: the Change of Regime and the Constitutional Order] (pp. 266-288). Sorin Aparaschivei, *Raportarea serviciilor de informații străine la Actul de la 23 august 1944 și urmările acestuia* [Reporting by Foreign Intelligence Services at the Act of August 23, 1944 and Its Consequences] (pp. 289-325 – Regele Mihai I face planuri pentru rezistența subversivă contra ocupației politico-militare sovietice, Actul de la 23 august 1944, o surpriză strategică!, Stalin își revine din surpriza strategică de la 23 august 1944 și ocupă România printr-o operațiune sub steag fals, A avut Occidentul un plan de luptă contra sovieticilor din România?, Concluzii [King Michael I Makes Plans for Subversive Resistance Against the Soviet Political-Military Occupation, The Act of August 23, 1944, A Strategic Surprise!, Stalin Recovers from the Strategic Surprise of August 23, 1944, and Occupies Romania Through a False Flag Operation, Did the West Have a Plan to Fight Against the Soviets in Romania?, Conclusions]). Alin Spânu, *23 august 1944 – variante, percepții și explicații* [August 23, 1944 – Variants, Perceptions, and Explanations] (pp. 326-350). Valentin Ciorbea, Dan-Dragoș Sichigea, *23 august 1944 în spațiul fluvialo-maritim românesc: provocări, soluții, consecințe* [August 23, 1944 in the Romanian River-Maritime Space: Challenges, Solutions, Consequences] (pp. 351-404).

Partea a III-a [Part III]: După 23 august 1944 [After August 23, 1944] (pp. 405-596) – Ioan Chiper, Constantin Hlihor, *Consecințe geopolitice și geostrategice ale evenimentelor de la 23 august 1944 din România [Geopolitical and Geostrategic Consequences of the Events of August 23, 1944 in Romania]*. (pp. 407-433 – Introducere, Actul de la 23 August a adus comunismul în România și a deschis calea comunizării statelor central și sud-est europene?, Evenimentele de la 23 august 1944 au modificat raporturile dintre membrii Coaliției Națiunilor Unite în Balcani?, Au condus evenimentele de la 23 august 1944 la scurtarea războiului cu șase luni de zile? [Introduction, Did the Act of August 23 Bring Communism to Romania and Pave the Way for the Communization of Central and Southeastern European states?, Did the Events of August 23, 1944, Change the Relations Between the Members of the United Nations Coalition in the Balkans?, Did the Events of August 23, 1944, Lead to the Shortening of the War by Six Months?]). Florian Banu, *Câteva considerații privind consecințele economice ale Actului de la 23 august 1944 [Some Considerations Regarding the Economic Consequences of the Act of 23 August 1944]* (pp. 434-480 – România – aliatul incomod, preocupat de bunăstarea economiei naționale, 12 septembrie 1944 – o Convenție de Armistițiu dictată dur și acceptată cu resemnare, Prevederile economice ale Convenției de Armistițiu, mai importante chiar decât prevederile militare, Aplicarea prevederilor economice ale Convenției de Armistițiu – de la discursul oficial la realitățile dure, Dificultățile trecerii la economia de pace și la refacerea țării (1945-1946), Conferința de Pace de la Paris și ultimele reverberații economice ale Actului de la 23 august 1944, Exilul românesc parizian apără interesele României, Concluzii [Romania – the Inconvenient Ally, Concerned with the Well-Being of the National Economy, September 12, 1944 – an Armistice Convention Dictated Harshly and Accepted with Resignation, The Economic Provisions of the Armistice Convention, Even More Important Than the Military Provisions, The Application of the Economic Provisions of the Armistice Convention – From Official Discourse to Harsh Realities, The Difficulties of the Transition to a Peace Economy and the Reconstruction of the Country (1945-1946), The Paris Peace Conference and the Last Economic Reverberations of the Act of 23 August 1944, The Romanian Exile in Paris Defends the Interests of Romania, Conclusions])). Vasile Buga, *Reflectarea Actului de la 23 August 1944 în istoriografia sovietică/rusă [Reflection of the Act of 23 August 1944 in Soviet/Russian Historiography]* (pp. 481-516 – Istoriografia sovietică despre Actul de la 23 august și importanța acestuia, Reflectare Actului de la 23 august 1944 în memorialistica sovietică, Reflectarea Actului de la 23 august 1944 în istoriografia rusă [Soviet Historiography on the Act of August 23 and its Importance, Reflection of the Act of August 23, 1944 in Soviet Memoirs, Reflection of the Act of August 23, 1944 in Russian Historiography])). Alexandru Ghișa, *Impactul Actului de la 23 August 1944 asupra relației dintre România și Ungaria* (pp. 517-540). Viorel Domenico, *23 august 1944 în filmul românesc [August 23, 1944 in Romanian Film]* (pp. 541-580 – Cinematografiști: momentul trăit, Confiscări și abuzuri, Cinematografia și reflectarea evenimentelor de la 23 august 1944, Cenzură și urmărire informativă Aplicarea prevederilor economice

ale Convenției de Armistițiu – de la discursul oficial la realitățile dure, Manipularea prin film: studiu de caz – filmul Tudor Vladimirescu [Cinematographers: the Moment Lived, Confiscations and Abuses, Cinematography and the Coverage of the Events of August 23, 1944, Censorship and Informational Surveillance Applying the Economic Provisions of the Armistice Convention – from Official Discourse to Harsh Realities, Manipulation through Film: Case Study – the Film Tudor Vladimirescu]). *Anexă* [Appendix] (pp. 581-596). *Miercuri, 23 august 1944: două mărturii memorialistice* [Wednesday, August 23, 1944: Two Memoirist Testimonies] (texte selectate și adnotate de [Selected and Annotated Texts by] Mircea-Dorel Suciu) – Șerban Cioculescu: *Memorial 23 august 1944* [Memorial August 23, 1944]; Vasile Ionescu: *Proclamația regală: înregistrarea la Palat și difuzarea la radio* [Royal Proclamation: Recording at the Palace and Broadcast on the Radio]. *Index* [Onomastic] (pp. 598-605).

As the editor says, “The August 1944 act in Bucharest was not accidental, but was the consequence of actions carried out during the period 1939-1944 between a series of external and internal factors of a geopolitical, military, economic, political nature, etc. Therefore, the action of August 23, 1944 in Bucharest has its genesis in the changes that occurred in the balance of power between the great European powers and the system of alliances between them since the end of the interwar period and during the Second World War, changes that directly targeted Romania's situation and its evolution internationally, but which influenced the political and military decisions taken by the leadership factors in Bucharest during the aforementioned time period” (pp. 5-6). And Professor Petre Otu, an authority in the field of military history:

“Through its geographical and geostrategic position, through the military effort in the two campaigns of 1941-1944 and through its economic potential, the beneficiaries being, in a first phase, Germany, and later, the Soviet Union, the Romanian state was an actor with a relatively high weight in the political, military and economic dynamics of the Second World War. It was the greatest war experience in the history of Romanians, which significantly influenced their post-war destiny and, why not, the collective Romanian mentality” (p. 55).

A consistent collection of studies, this volume is a benchmark for the degree of scientific quality of our Historiography today, documentary novelties and approaches to new thematic subjects, with nuanced interpretations of events – without falling into the sin of blaming previous research, but explaining the respective historical context – being able to stand for a closer knowledge of the events triggered on August 23, 1944.

Dan Prisăcaru, *Rezistență și supraviețuire la trio confiniumul Marilor Puteri. Repere istorice și identitare (1914-1940)* [Resistance and Survival in the Great Powers' Trio of Confinement. Historical and Identity Landmarks (1914-1940)]. I-II. Prefață: Prof.univ.dr. Ioan Bolovan. Notă asupra ediției: General de brigadă prof.

univ. dr. ing. Ghiță Bârsan. Introducere: Prof. univ. dr. Petre Otu. Postfață [Afterword]: Prof. univ. dr. Cătălin Turliuc, Editura Academiei Forțelor Terestre „Nicolae Bălcescu”, Sibiu, 2024, 600 + 408 pp.; ill., maps, facs. ISBN 978-973-153-585-2; 978-973-153-587-6

The book we are presenting to your attention consists of a large volume (in two volumes), due to a valuable servant – and institutional manager at the same time (he is the director since 2018 of the ‘Ștefan cel Mare’ Military Museum. Moldova Branch, Iași, of the ‘Ferdinand I’ National Military Museum) – of the Clio Museum, and is presented as a valuable documentary contribution to the knowledge of the history of Romania in the first half of the last century. Namely, it is the volume with the aforementioned title, whose thematic structure – volumes I and II – is as follows: (Vol. I): *Prefață* [Preface] (pp. 5-8), *Notă asupra ediției* [Note on the Edition] (pp. 9-12), *Introducere. De la un război la altul* [Introduction. From One War to Another] (pp. 13-16), *Mulțumiri* [Acknowledgements] (p. 17), *Abrevieri* [Abbreviations] (p. 18). *Cuprins* [Contents] (pp. 19-20).

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Vol. II: PARTEA a V-a: *Acțiuni politico-diplomatice ale României după 7 martie 1936. Adaptare și supraviețuire în zona „tampon” din istmul baltico-pontic* [Political and Diplomatic Actions of Romania after March 7, 1936. Adaptation and Survival in the ‘Buffer’ Zone of the Baltic-Pontic Isthmus] (pp. 5-125) – Rhineland Crisis an End of the Collective Security Illusion. Impact on the Balance of Power in Interwar Europe (pp. 5-11), Reactions of the Romanian Authorities and Media on the Rhineland Crisis (pp. 11-16), *Adaptări ale politicii externe românești la noile realități geopolitice din Europa intervenite după 7 martie 1936. Neutralitatea neoficială și politica de echilibru și „balans” între Marile Puteri (29 august 1936-21 decembrie 1938)* [Adaptations of Romanian Foreign Policy to the New Geopolitical Realities in Europe after March 7, 1936. Unofficial Neutrality and the Policy of Equilibrium and ‘Balance’ Between the Great Powers (August 29, 1936-December 21, 1938)] (pp. 17-36), *Implicații ale „Acordului” de la München asupra securității României. Decizii politice și militare luate de Guvernul Patriarhului Miron Cristea pentru apărarea Liniei de fortificații „Carol al II-lea” și a dispozitivului strategic din Transilvania* [Implications of the ‘Munich Agreement’ on Romania’s Security. Political and Military Decisions Taken by the Government of Patriarch Miron Cristea for the Defense of the “Carol II” Fortification Line and the Strategic Device in Transylvania] (pp. 37-48), *Semnificații politico-diplomatice și religioase ale vizitei în Polonia din 20-23 mai 1938 a Patriarhului Miron Cristea, Președintele Consiliului de Miniștri (11 februarie 1938-6 martie 1939)* [Political-Diplomatic and Religious Significance of the Visit to Poland from May 20-23, 1938 of Patriarch Miron Cristea, President of the Council of Ministers (February 11, 1938-March 6, 1939)] (pp. 49-70), *Grigore Gafencu și menținerea politicii externe românești de „balans” între marile Puteri (29 decembrie 1938-31 mai 1940)* [Grigore Gafencu and the Maintenance of the Romanian Foreign Policy of ‘Balance’ Between the Great Powers (December 29, 1938-May 31, 1940)] (pp. 70-82), *Eșuarea negocierilor anglo-franco-sovietice de la Moscova și Pactul Ribbentrop-Molotov – ultimele jaloane către dezastru.*

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PARTEA a VII-a: *Informațiile și contrainformațiile militare în avanpostul apărării intereselor strategice ale statului român. Izbânzi, limite, erori :* [Military Intelligence and Counterintelligence in the Outpost of Defending the Strategic Interests of the Romanian State. Successes, Limits, Errors] (pp. 223-316) – *Serviciul Secret de Informații al Armatei Române. Repere organizatorice și funcționale* [Secret Intelligence Service of the Romanian Army. Organizational and Functional Landmarks] (pp. 223-246),

Planurile de expansiune ale Germaniei în Sud-Estul Europei în atenția Serviciului Secret de Informații și a Secției a II-a din Marele Stat Major [Germany's Expansion Plans in South-Eastern Europe to the Attention of the Secret Intelligence Service and the Second Section of the General Staff] (pp. 247-264), *Acțiuni pe frontul invizibil pentru apărarea graniței de vest a României Mari în anii 1938-1940* [Actions on the Invisible Front to Defend the Western Border of Greater Romania in 1938-1940] (pp. 265-280), *Acțiuni pe frontul invizibil pentru apărarea hotarului de Est al României Mari* [Actions on the Invisible Front to Defend the Eastern Border of Greater Romania] (pp. 281-300), *Acțiuni pe frontul invizibil pentru apărarea hotarului de Sud-Est al României Mari în anii 1938-1940* [Actions on the Invisible Front to Defend the Southeastern Border of Greater Romania in 1938-1940] (pp. 301-316).

PARTEA a VIII-a: *Anul 1940 și drama României Întregite. Un avertisment, peste timp și vremuri, privind perenitatea amenințărilor de securitate la adresa statului român, situat de-a lungul secolelor la trio confiniumul Marilor Puteri* [The Year 1940 and the Drama of Unified Romania. A Warning, Across Time and Eras, Regarding the Perennial Security Threats to the Romanian State, Located Throughout the Centuries in the Great Powers' Confinium Trio] (pp. 317-390) – *România și Polonia în anii 1939-1940. Destinul dramatic a două țări situate în zona „tampon” din istmul ponto-baltic* [Romania and Poland in 1939-1940. The Dramatic Destiny of Two Countries Located in the 'Buffer' Zone of the Ponto-Baltic Isthmus] (pp. 317-353), *28 iunie-3 iulie 1940. Evacuarea Basarabiei, nordului Bucovinei și a Ținutului Herța. Acte individuale de curaj și demnitate care au salvat onoarea Țării și a Armatei Române* [June 28-July 3, 1940. The Evacuation of Bessarabia, Northern Bukovina, and the Herța Land. Individual Acts of Courage and Dignity that Saved the Honor of the Country and the Romanian Army] (pp. 354-372), *26 iunie-30 august 1940. O radiografie a vulnerabilităților statului și societății românești interbelice* [June 26-August 30, 1940. A Radiography of the Vulnerabilities of the Romanian State and Interwar Society] (pp. 373-390). *Bibliografie selectivă* [Selective Bibliography] (pp. 391-407).

As can be seen, the volume benefits from recommendations and praise from some top representatives of our Historiography today – prof. univ. dr. Ioan Bolovan, corresponding member of the Romanian Academy, respectively professor prof. univ. dr. Cătălin Turliuc, from the 'A.D. Xenopol' Institute of History of the Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, brigadier general prof. univ. dr. eng. Ghiță Bârsan, commander (rector) of the 'Nicolae Bălcescu' Land Forces Academy in Sibiu – “Colonel (ret.d.) dr. Dan Prisăcaru [b. December 14, 1964] is known in specialized circles, as well as by those interested, as an energetic, dynamic and tenacious person in carrying out the scientific projects undertaken or entrusted to him for resolution, a firm follower of rigor and high-quality professionalism” (Ioan Bolovan); “As a result, the present work, two massive volumes, totaling over 1,000 pages, A4 size, structured in eight chapters, comprising 50 consistent studies and articles, is, in our assessment, in the register of academic excellence, through its scientific content, research in national and foreign archives, argumentative rigor, careful analysis and eventual synthesis, conclusions

with warning force on the risks and states of danger to Romania's security, in the period 1914-1940, generated by threat factors from the directions, East, West and South, but also by internal factors, such as the deficiencies and vulnerabilities of the Romanian state and society between the wars" (Ghiță Bârsan); "Dan Prisăcaru has produced a book that is dense in terms of issues, of historiographical interest, thoroughly documented and argued, the result of an intense research effort in archives and libraries. I also note the rich iconography of the volumes, which adds additional nuances to the understanding of the studies included in the volume" (Petre Otu); "The eight parts of the volumes that bear evocative and well-chosen titles bring together a considerable number of studies that cover the fundamental moments of national history, especially the military one, starting with 1916, the year of our entry into the Great War and ending with the disastrous year 1940, the year of the – temporary – end of Unified Romania" (Cătălin Turliuc).

The combined studies are based both on the related bibliography and, above all, on unpublished archival sources, the author proving to be a careful and honest analyst, based on documentary sources, of the historical issues under discussion. A rich bibliography, rendered according to scientific usage, conclusive assessments of rare temerity among those issued by confreres – in the spirit of historical truth and a comprehensive national-patriotic vision –, a very rich and suggestive illustration (including maps and facsimiles) are elements that contribute to the completion of a volume of primary importance in our Historiography today.

Cristina-Narcisa Vergatti, Radu-Ștefan Vergatti, *Mici meserii uitate sau dispărute* [Small Forgotten or Disappeared Crafts], Editura Mica Valahie, București, 2024, 230 pp., ill., facs. ISBN 978-606-738-075-0

The well-known and prolific historian – who will be ninety next year (born December 10, 1937) – is one of the distinguished scholars who serve Clio, with a vast humanistic culture; a graduate of the Faculty of History in Bucharest (1965), he defended an acclaimed doctoral Thesis in 1980, on the topic *Probleme ale omului și societății în literatura orășenească franceză din a doua jumătate a sec. al XIII-lea* [Problems of Man and Society in French Urban Literature from the Second Half of the 13th Century]. He had a sustained teaching activity, both in higher education – Assistant (1965-1971), Lecturer (1971-1977), Associate Professor (1990-1999) and university Professor (1999-2004) (at the "Valahica" University of Târgoviște – where he is also a doctoral supervisor in the period 2004-2008), and for a period (1977-1990), also in high school. Specializing mainly in the field of Medieval History and Historical Demography (but also in some periods of Universal History), he is the author of dozens and dozens of studies and history articles, as well as numerous books (about 25: 12 – unique author, 13 co-author), such as – *Pe urmele lui Vlad Țepeș* [In the Footsteps of Vlad the Impaler] (1979), *Pe urmele stolnicului Constantin Cantacuzino* [In the Footsteps of the Stolnik Constantin Cantacuzino] (1982), *Cetatea Poienari* [Poienari Fortress] (1984, co-authors Maria Ciobanu and Nicolae Moisescu), *Neagoe Basarab* (1986), *Vlad Țepeș. Viața, faptele,*

domnia [Vlad the Impaler. Life, Deeds, Reign] (1996), Nicolae Spătarul Milescu. *Viața, călătoriile, opera* [Life, Travels, Work] (1998), *Studii de demografie istorică românească* [Studies in Romanian Historical Demography] (2002, co-author Louis Roman), *Historia Ponticae. Varia* (2002), *Populație. Timp. Spațiu. Privire asupra demografiei istorice universale* [Population. Time. Space. A Look at Universal Historical Demography] (2002), *Sfânta Alianță: Un model istorico-juridic pentru o Uniune Europeană* [The Holy Alliance: A Historical-Legal Model for a European Union] (2004), *Mircea cel Mare – Scutul Europei* [Mircea the Great – The Shield of Europe] (2009, co-authors Fănuș Neagu, Alexandru V. Diță, Virgil Joița, Nicolae Șerbănescu, Dan Zamfirescu), *Din problematica Umanismului românesc* [From the Problem of Romanian Humanism] (2007), *Puncte de vedere asupra faptelor petrecute în România între 21-23 ianuarie 1941. Points de vue sur les événements déroulés en Roumanie du 21 au 23 janvier 1941. Ediție bilingvă* [Points of View on the Events that Happened in Romania from 21 to 23 January 1941. Bilingual Edition] (2011), *Nicolae Iorga în arhivele vieneze și ale Siguranței Regale (1903-1914)* [Nicolae Iorga in the Archives of Vienna and the Royal Security (1903-1914)] (2012, co-author Cornelia Bodea), *Unchiul și nepotul: Matei Basarab și Constantin Basarab Brâncoveanu* [Uncle and Nephew: Matei Basarab and Constantin Basarab Brâncoveanu] (2014, co-author Cristina Vergatti), *Brâncoveniști* (2014, co-authors Agnes Erich and Cristina Vergatti), *Cetatea Poienari – cetatea lui Vlad Țepeș* [Poienari Fortress – Vlad the Impaler's Fortress] (2015, co-authors Cristina Vergatti and Cornel Popescu), *Probleme ale omului și societății în literatura orășenească franceză din a doua jumătate a secolului al XIII-lea* [Problems of Man and Society in French Urban Literature from the Second Half of the 13th Century] (2012), *Apostol D. Culea în slujba românilor din Basarabia* [Apostol D. Culea in the Service of the Romanians of Bessarabia] (2016, co-authors Cornel Popescu and Cristina Narcisa Vergatti), *Ștefan Ciobanu, un savant profesor luptător nămfricat pentru unirea Basarabiei* [Ștefan Ciobanu, a Scholar Professor Fearless fighter for the Unification of Bessarabia] (2018), *Retrospective asupra Marelui Război* [Retrospectives on the Great War] (2018, co-author Cristina Narcisa Vergatti), *Războiul lung din secolul al XX-lea* [The Long War of the 20th Century] (co-authors Octavian Buda and Cornel Popescu), *Radu cel Mare, Neagoe Basarab și Biserica Ortodoxă* [Radu cel Mare, Neagoe Basarab, and the Orthodox Church] (2021), *Prin Bucureștii veacului XIX înainte și după Tolstoi* [Through the Bucharest of the 19th Century Before and After Tolstoy] (2021, co-author Cristina Narcisa Vergatti), *Câte ceva despre clerici și drumuri din Țara Românească* [A Little Bit About Clergy and Roads from Wallachia] (2022, co-author with Teodor Șerban and Mihai Muscariu), *Complexul monastic Strehaia* [Strehaia Monastic Complex] (2023).

To a question, eight years ago, “What was the ‘secret legacy’ that Romania had in the quiver of history, so that this act of union was possible?”, the distinguished scientist answered, in an interview, in accordance with his national-historical convictions – resulting from scientific research and the solid education received in an extended family, that produced illustrious Romanian intellectuals, and, no less, within the framework of truth:

“The historical legacy was particularly strong. First all, there was a permanent connection between all the regions inhabited by Romanians, even if in the Middle Ages these were separated, being divided into distinct historical states. The connection occurred, first all, through those who practiced transhumance. Second, through merchants who passed from one area to another. Third, through the Orthodox Church, which maintained its faith, with its rites, for the vast majority of Romanians. There were also great lords and voivodes, who kept the connection between the Romanian regions. Don’t forget Mircea the Great, who in Transylvania ruled Amlaș, Făgăraș, and the fortresses of Huedin and Bologa, Vlad Dracul who had strong ties with Transylvania, Stephen the Great [*Ștefan cel Mare*], who ruled the Cetatea de Baltă also in Transylvania and built the fortresses of Hotin, Soroca, Orhei, Tighina along the Dniester and strengthened the White Fortress, in front of the Black Fortress of the Cossacks. Don’t forget Michael the Brave [*Mihai Viteazul*], who achieved the first union of all Romanians in 1599-1600. Even though it had a confessional and political character, its resonance was huge. Throughout Europe, among humanists, the feeling arose that oriental Latinity existed and had been preserved here, regardless of political borders. Don’t forget that the rich lord Constantin Basarab Brâncoveanu owned the domain of Sâmbăta and, through the threads of his policy, he also ruled Moldova. In practice, he achieved a union of the two states, even unofficially. Starting from these realities, the Phanariot lords also tried to unite the two states, the strongest example in this sense being the Mavrocordat family. In the 19th century, during the Russian temporal rule, the creator of the organic regulations, Count General Pavel Dmitrievich Kiseleff, dreamed of becoming prince of both Danubian Principalities. During the unsuccessful revolution of 1848-1849, one of the main points of its programs was that of achieving the union of the three Romanian countries. Thus, in 1856, at the end of the Crimean War, during the peace negotiations in Paris, Gheorghe Magheru was able to read a letter from the Romanian political leaders in front of the delegates of the great powers who were participating in the Peace Congress. The letter had an effect, it was supported by the representative of England, by that of France and even those of Russia – Prince Gorchakov and Count Kiseleff. Thus, in 1859 the first stage of the emergence of the modern Romanian state was achieved. It was at the merit of the politicians of that time that they knew how to take advantage of an extraordinary event, the Crimean War, and to achieve the first stage of the unification of the country. Other extraordinary events followed, which allowed the continuation of the formation of the Modern Romanian State – the 1877-1878 Russo-Romanian-Turkish War, which led to the Independence of the Romanian State and its elevation to the level of a Kingdom; at the same time, the second stage of the formation of the Romanian national state was achieved at that time, through the reunification with Dobrudja and the Danube Delta. In 1918, at the end of the First World War, Romania took advantage of the willful action and enormous sacrifice of the Romanian people and achieved Greater Romania, through the union of Bessarabia, Bukovina, Transylvania, and Banat with the Kingdom of Romania”.

The structure of the volume is as follows – *Mărturisiri* [Testimonials] (pp. 7-11), *„Oltenii”* [The Oltenians], *Tocilarii* [The Geeks], *Tinichigii-Cazangii* [Tinsmith-Boilermakers], *Lustragii* [Polishers], *Pălărieri și modiste* [Hatters and Milliners], *Remaiajul* [Remakes], *Stopajul stofelor* [Fabric Stopping], *Rudarii* [Wooden Object Makers], *Birjarii/Vizitii* [Carriers/Coachman], *Potcovarii/Fierarii* [Farriers/Blacksmiths], *Haranșamente* [Baggage Makers], *Sacagii* [The Sackmen], *Stucatorii* [Stucco Makers], *Tăietori ambulanți de lemne* [Woodcutters], *Transperanțiștii* [Transperantists], *Vânzători ambulanți de ziare* [Itinerant Newspaper Sellers], *Flașnetari* [Music Box Operators], *Fotografi ambulanți* [Itinerant Photographers], *Chivuțele* [Women Who Whitewashed a Building], *Florăresele* [Florists], *Stenografia* [Stenographers], *Dactilografia* [Typing], *Bragagii* [Braga Sellers], *Coșarii* [The Chimney Sweeps], *Telegraful și telegrafiștii* [Telegraph and Telegraphists], *Argintarii* [The Silversmiths], *Muzica de altădată* [Old-Time Music], *Telefonistele* [Telephone Operators], *Bărbierii* [The Barbers], *Vechii anticari* [Old Antique Dealers], *Sobarii* [The Stovemakers], *Taxatoarele și taxatorii* [The Tax Collectors]. *Bibliografie* [Bibliography], *Indice de nume* [Name Index].

This volume, with a completely new theme, is based on a rich bibliography, on sources from the interwar press, on the author's memories. Disappeared professions are revived, which gave Bucharest its charm, and characters are revived – some with names as such – who gave the picturesqueness of a great metropolis.

Here are some examples:

Shoe shiners – “In the past, when you got off at the Bucharest train stations, you were greeted by porters and then by the shoe shiners. The latter were equipped with a stool on which they sat in front of the customer, a small box with a support on which the foot was placed. Most of them also had a second stool, on which the customer sat. In some parts of the city, such as the one near the fence of the Bucharest City History Museum, there were many such shoe shiners. There was a place where 30-40 shoe shiners of all nationalities were lined up. Since it was a place where you could earn a good living, being a ford, because many people passed by who needed their shoes polished, you would negotiate for a place... There were some kind of bosses, ‘*nene*’, who demanded a ‘fee’ to let the shoe shiner work there. Among the shoe shiners there were also some desperate people from society. In the years 1950s of the 20th Century, there were some people who were expelled by communists from everywhere, who could not find jobs for political reasons. I personally know that between 1950 and 1960, there, at the University, there was a shoe shiner, a former colonel decorated with the Mihai Viteazul order, expelled from the army because he had fought heroically on the Eastern Front. The communists had not forgiven him. After spending three or four years in prison, he became a shoe shiner and worked very conscientiously there, in front of the University. The shoe shiners each had several boxes of boot polish. The box had a piece of wood that would hold the customer's foot in a certain position. In addition to these, they had shoe shiners and a box of wax with which they polished the shoes” (p. 36).

Chivuțe [Women Who Whitewashed a Building] – “The name ‘*chivuțe*’ today may seem strange. In the past, the name *chivuțe*, spoitorese or bidinărese who gives with the brush designated a profession: it was practiced by a group of women of modest origin, working by the day, ‘on the *binale*’ (construction sites). Their main occupation was plastering or whitewashing walls, ceilings, fences or entire buildings, in more modest households. They generally used white lime in which, sometimes, they poured color to give the plastered wall a yellow or reddish hue. They usually gathered and stood about right at the entrance to Str. Bazaca, in a place between the old Flower Market, now disappeared, and the entrance to Hanul lui Manuc to be hired for work. There you would see them gathered, several in one place, crouching, smoking, sometimes also having a *ghioc* in their hand with which they would guess the future, because they could have, right, more professions. They were easy to distinguish. On their shoulders, or placed next to them, were their tools – brushes with long, unmistakable handles, buckets, sometimes ladders that they climbed to reach the higher parts of the houses or rooms. Usually the *cinvutele* worked in families – there were two sisters and their daughters, or a mother with her daughters, or even three generations. They had scarves on their heads, tightly tied to protect their hair. They sometimes had necklaces around their necks, and large earrings in their ears (...) Today, with the workers’ blocks built by the communists, with the establishment of cooperatives of craftsmen and painters, the *cinvutele* have disappeared, and their job is practiced mainly by men, although it is still a very difficult one” (pp. 112-113),

Chimney sweeps – “All those who were involved in repairing and cleaning chimneys were called chimney sweeps, sometimes hornari. The chimney sweeps’ guild was regulated at least since the Phanariot period. In 1937, Mayor Al.G. Donescu established that this profession could only be practiced with authorization. Chimney sweeps had to register at the city hall, presenting their professional qualification documents, health certificate, certificate of good conduct, military record, two photographs in chimney sweep uniform - established by the city hall. They were equipped with some specific to their work: metal, straw and wooden brooms, cannonball, rope, etc. They necessarily had a cotton and metal braided odgon. Its length varied depending on the number of floors crossed by the chimneys they had to clean. At the end of the odgon there was a heavy metal ball, which slid along the chimney, from its mouth, on caá, to the stove at the lowest level. This ball removed the slag and cleaned the chimney, In addition to this cable with a heavy ball at the end, chimney sweeps also had various brushes with the help of the carrot they cleaned the chimneys inside. In some cases, they entered the house and used small doors next to the stoves to reach the inside of the chimneys. In order to easily reach the top of the chimney, they usually had a ladder that they fixed firmly to the roof and then climbed up the chimney” (pp. 138-139).

This book, very richly illustrated, is yet another confession of the authors' appetite for the 'little' makers of history, discerning in its pages a comprehensive sympathy for the 'anonymous' hard workers, also creators of modern Romania.

Maria Gogu Zinovii, *Basarabia și Transnistria în Gulagul sovietic. Deportări și muncă forțată* [Bessarabia and Transnistria in the Soviet Gulag. Deportations and Forced Labor] [Cuvânt-înainte /Foreword/: prof. univ. dr. hab. Anatol Petrencu] (Agenția Națională a Arhivelor. Universitatea de Stat din Moldova), Editura Lexon-Prim (Seria „Arhiva”), Chișinău, 2024, 220 pp; ill., facs. ISBN 978-9975-173-04-9

The book that we submit to the attention of the readers of this History publication belongs to a meritorious researcher from Chișinău – namely an archivist in the General Directorate of the Governmental Archival Fund within the National Archives Agency of the Republic of Moldova, member of the Steering Committee of the Association of Historians of the Republic of Moldova 'Alexandru Moșanu'.

It is a Doctoral Thesis defended in 2023, printed the following year with the title above.

The appearance of this monograph, based on the doctoral thesis in historical sciences, defended by Ms. Maria Gogu Zinovii, is the culmination of the author's many years of activity within the Doctoral School of the State University of Moldova, in the ANA's repositories, but also of the materials acquired during the Memory Expeditions – expeditions to Siberia, where Bessarabians and Transnistrians remained to live.

The thematic structure follows a usual academic technique in such cases of scientific research: *Cuvânt-înainte* [Foreword] (p. 5), *Lista de abrevieri* [List of Abbreviations] (p. 6), *Introducere* [Introduction] (pp. 7-10).

I. *Gulagul – Obiect al cercetării istorice* [The Gulag – Object of Historical Research] (pp. 11-58 – I.1. *Gulagul și dimensiunea sa economică* [The Gulag and Its Economic Dimension]). I.2. *Scrieri istorice privind Gulagul*: a) Istoriografia română; b. istoriografia rusă privind munca în Gulag; c. tematica muncii în Gulag în lucrările istoricilor occidentali [Historical Writings on the Gulag: a) Romanian Historiography; b. Russian Historiography on Work in the Gulag; c. The Theme of the Gulag in the Works of Western Historians]). I.3. *Surse istorice privind munca în Gulag*: a. Documente inedite de arhivă. b. Documente de arhivă editate. c. Izvoare de istorie orală [Historical Sources on Work in the Gulag: a. Unpublished Archival Documents. b. Edited Archival Documents. c. Oral History Sources]. Concluzii la Capitolul I [Conclusions to Chapter I]).

II. *Locuitorii din RASSM (1924-1940) și RSSM (1940-1941) pe șantierele Gulagului* [Residents of the MASSR (1924-1940) and the RSSM (1940-1941) on the Gulag Construction Sites] (pp. 59-145 – 2.1. *Crearea RASSM, instaurarea terorii staliniste și deportările de populație la munci forțate* [Creation of the MASSR, Establishment of Stalinist Terror and Deportations of the Population to Forced Labor]. 2.2. *Instaurarea Puterii Sovietice în RSSM și exilările de populație la munci în anii*

1940-1941, în Siberia: *Lucrul în mine, Munca la tăiatul pădurilor, Munca în colhozuri, sovhozuri și fabrici, Pescuitul, altă muncă practică de basarabeni în Siberia, Munca deportaților în infrastructură și construcții* [Establishment of Soviet Power in the RSSM and Deportations of the Population to Labor in 1940-1941, in Siberia: Work in Mines, Work in Logging, Work in Kolkhozes, Sovkhozes, and Factories, Fishing, Other Work Practiced by Bessarabians in Siberia, Work of Deportees in Infrastructure and Construction]. Concluzii la Capitolul II [Conclusions to Chapter II]).

III. *Munca locuitorilor din RSSM deportați în anii 1944-1956* [The Work of the Inhabitants of the RSSM Deported in 1944-1956] (pp. 146-196 – 3.1. *Reluarea represiunilor în Basarabia în anul 1944 și exilările la munci în Gulag* [Resumption of Repressions in Bessarabia in 1944 and Exiles to Work in the Gulag]. 3.2. *Basarabenii pe șantierele Gulagului în anii 1944-1949: Aspecte ale muncii copiilor deportați, Munca femeilor deportate din Basarabia* [Bessarabians on the Gulag Construction Sites in 1944-1949: Aspects of the Work of Deported Children, The Work of Women Deported from Bessarabia]. 3.3. *Deportații din anii 1951-1956 la muncile din Siberia* [Deportees from 1951-1956 to Work in Siberia]. Concluzii la Capitolul III [Conclusions to Chapter III]).

Concluzii generale [General Conclusions] (pp. 197-199). *Bibliografie* [Bibliography] (pp. 200-212). *Indice geografic* [Geographical Index] (pp. 213-216). *Indice de nume* [Name Index] (pp. 217-220).

As Professor Anatol Petrencu, the supervisor of the Doctoral thesis, points out in the *Cuvânt-înainte* [Foreword], “The work is unique in the number of archival documents that have been researched and put into the scientific circuit, through the numerous testimonies of survivors and their descendants. These researches and oral history studies were carried out both in the Republic of Moldova and in Siberia, the Russian Federation, especially in the regions of Novosibirsk, Tomsk and Tyumen.

The monograph is structured in three chapters and eight subchapters, Introduction and Conclusions. It is written in an accessible language. The work is completed with photographs from archival documents and photographs from personal archives the photographic material used by the author represents a visual document, an important tool in the rendering of history, which has a special impact on readers and helps them to better, and more clearly understand historical contents.

Apart from the fact that the monograph has an original scientific character, we also mention its *practical value* (emphasis added). The materials of this work have a didactic importance and can be used in teaching normative and special courses at the Faculties of History in the Republic. The study can be useful in the process of developing didactic literature for university education, of synthesis works in the field of Romanian History. The research materials can be of real use to pupils, high school students, students, doctoral candidates, all those who are interested in the problems of deportations by the Soviet State” (p. 5).

The first monograph in Moldovan national historiography devoted to the subject of deportations from the perspective of the daily life of people forcibly

displaced to Siberia and Kazakhstan, is elaborated by consulting both archival sources and testimonies of victims and their descendants.

The work constitutes a first attempt at a systematic and complex treatment of the peculiarities of the work of Transnistrians and Bessarabians in the Gulag. The systematization and generalization of documents, specialized literature and oral history testimonies allowed us to identify the work that the deportees did, how many hours a day they had to work, what kind of tools they had to fulfill their work norms, how they managed to manage without adequate clothing and with a malnourished food ration, etc.

After studying archival documents and specialized literature, the author “came to the following conclusions: Transnistrians were the first to go through the ordeal of deportations and extremely hard labor in the Gulag. Most of the people deported from the RSMS and later from the MSSR in the first year of life in Siberia died of cold and hunger. They had a very hard time in exile because they came from an area with a milder climate than that of Siberia, compared to other deportees, who were used to such temperatures” (p. 198), concluding: “we can say that those deported to the Stalinist Gulags were like slaves. For decades, it was considered important to increase industrial output in certain branches of the economy, such as coal, steel, oil, etc. At first, the so-called planned economy may have shown success, but later it proved to be inefficient, and ultimately led to the collapse of the Gulag system.

I found that the effectiveness of labor, often, simply had no point, had absolutely no economic value” (p. 199).

Written soberly, without falling – taking into account the affective-emotional nature of the topic – into the trap of counterproductive rhetoric from the perspective of historical accuracy, the work constitutes an radiography of the topic analyzed by documentary means; the statements are supported by archival attestations and oral history testimonies, in a sober, concise writing. The work illustrates the high professional and scientific level of Moldavian Historiography.

„Anuarul Muzeului Național al Marinei Române” [The Romanian National Naval Museum Yearbook] [Constanța], XXVIII, 2025, 358 pp.; ill., map, facs., tab. ISSN 2601-4513. ISSN-L 2601-4513

Dunărea și Marea Neagră în spațiul euroasiatic. Istorie, relații politice și diplomatie, XIII. Lucrările celei de-a XXIX ediții a Conferinței Naționale de Comunicări Științifice a Muzeului Național al Marinei Române [The Danube and the Black Sea in the Eurasian Space. History, Political Relations and Diplomacy, XIII. Proceedings of the XXIXth Edition of the National Conference of Scientific Communications of the National Museum of the Romanian Navy] [Constanța], 2025, 402 pp.; ill., map, facs. ISSN 2601-1999. ISSN-L 2601-1999

The two volumes constitute the scientific production, materialized in the two periodicals, for the year 2025 of the Romanian Navy Museum in Constanța. As

can be seen, both appear with admirable continuity, each issue offering readers documentary surprises and new thematic approaches.

Their content – belonging to a constant group of collaborators, recognized specialists in the respective thematic fields – is as follows:

„Anuarul Muzeului Național al Marinei Române” [The Romanian National Naval Museum Yearbook] – dr. Vasile Mărculeț, *Haralfd Sigurdarson (Hardrada), de la prințul norvegian fugar la comandantul varegilor din garda imperială de la Constantinopol (1030-1043)* [Haralfd Sigurdarson (Hardrada), From the Fugitive Norwegian Prince to the Commander of the Varangians in the Imperial Guard in Constantinople (1030-1043)]: pp. 9-46, dr. Marian Boza, *Anul 1783 pentru Crimeea* [The Year 1783 for Crimea]: 47-64, Dragoș Dumitru Dragomir, *Soarta pădurilor Dobrogei, la cumpăna secolelor al XIX-lea și al XX-lea* [The Fate of the Dobrudjan Forests, at the Turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries]: 65-73, dr. Luminița Stelian, dr. Angela-Anca Dobre, *Percepția radioului în viața dobrogenilor* [The Perception of Radio in the Life of Dobrudjans]: 74-86, dr. Constantin Cheramidoglu, *Pericolul minelor din Marea Neagră, după Primul Război Mondial* [The Danger of Mines in the Black Sea, After the First World War]: 87-99, dr. Luminița Giurgiu, dr. Teodora Giurgiu, *Granița româno-iugoslavă în dezbaterile Adunării Deputaților (1923) – poziția Partidului Național Român* [The Romanian-Yugoslav Border in the Debates of the Assembly of Deputies (1923) – the Position of the Romanian National Party]: 100-116, dr. Stoica Lascu, *Portul Constanța și Marina – în câteva repere publicistice interbelice (semnate de I.N. Duployen)*. Documentar [The Port of Constanta and the Marina – in Several Interwar Journalistic References (Signed by I.N. Duployen). Documentary]: 117-157, dr. Lavinia Dumitrașcu, drd. Oana Grigoruță, *Avocați constănțeni din prima jumătate a secolului XX* [Lawyers From Constanța in the First Half of the 20th Century]: 58-174, dr. Silvia Ioniță, *Activitatea Diviziei de Dunăre după ultimatumul din iunie 1940 și până la intrarea României în război, reflectată în Registrul Istoric al Statului Major Marină – Cronologie selectivă III* [The Activity of the Danube Division After the Ultimatum of June 1940 and Until Romania's Entry Into the War, Reflected in the Historical Register of the Naval Staff – Selective Chronology III]: 175-199, colonel (r) Remus Macovei, *Reacția refugiaților ardeleni la manifestările antiromânești de la Cluj, din noaptea de 3/4 martie 1944* [The Reaction of Transylvanian Refugees to the Anti-Romanian Demonstrations in Cluj, on the Night of March 3/4, 1944]: 200-207, plutonier adjutant șef (r) Eugen-Dorin Spătaru, *Participarea Regimentului 93 Infanterie „Cloșca” Arad la luptele pentru apărarea Moldovei (aprilie-iunie 1944)* [The Participation of the 93rd Infantry Regiment ‘Cloșca’ Arad in the Battles for the Defense of Moldova (April-June 1944)]: 208-227, dr. Daniel Niculae, *23 august 1944 în Memoriul sergentului sanitar Drăgoi Nicolae din Batalionul de Gardă a Palatului Regal* [August 23, 1944 in the Memoir of Medical Sergeant Drăgoi Nicolae From the Royal Palace Guard Battalion]: 228-232, dr. Marian Zidaru, *August 1945. SSI monitorizează activitatea serviciilor informative anglo-americane din cadrul legațiilor anglo-americane din București* [August 1945. SSI Monitored the Activity of the Anglo-American Information Services Within the Anglo-American Legations in Bucharest]: 233-247, comandor dri.ng. Marian

Tănase, *Divergențe între S.U.A. și U.R.S.S. privind aplicarea dreptului maritim internațional: acțiuni în Marea Neagră* (1983-1986): 256-271, comandor (r) dr. Marian Moșneagu, *Ieșeni care au contribuit la afirmarea Marinei Române* [People of Iași Who Contributed to the Affirmation of the Romanian Navy]: 272-294, comandor (r) dr. Ioan Damaschin, *Presa de marină a României. Scurt istoric* [The Romanian Navy Press. A Short History]: 294-303, dr. Andreea Atanasiu-Croitoru, *Pictori și pictură marină în arta românească* [Painters and Marine Painting in Romanian Art]: 304-324, dr. Carmen Irène Atanasiu, *Mărturii inedite. Noi contribuții la istoria marinei române* [Unpublished Testimonies. New Contributions to the History of the Romanian Navy]: 325-333, dr. Claudia Lupu, *Restaurarea unei cărți de cult* [The Restoration of a Cult Book]: 334-346, dr. Stoica Lascu, *Recente cărți referitoare la Basarabia anilor 1918 și 1924 și Transnistria anilor 1941-1944* [Recent Books on Bessarabia in 1918 and 1924, and Transnistria in 1941-1944]: 347-357.

Dunărea și Marea Neagră în spațiul euroasiatic. Istorie, relații politice și diplomatie, XIII. Lucrările celei de-a XXIX ediții a Conferinței Naționale de Comunicări Științifice a Muzeului Național al Marinei Române [The Danube and the Black Sea in the Eurasian Space. History, Political Relations and Diplomacy, XIII. Proceedings of the XXIXth Edition of the National Conference of Scientific Communications of the National Museum of the Romanian Navy] – drd. Oana Grigoruță, *Delfinul: Simbol marin peren în Dobrogea, din antichitate și până în secolul XXI (I)* [The Dolphin: Perennial Marine Symbol in Dobrudja, from Antiquity to the 21st Century (I)]: 7-24, dr. Vasile Mărculeț, *Prințul norvegian Harald Hardrada în serviciul Bizanțului (1034-1043). Stratagemă militară folosită în campania din Sicilia (1038-1040)* [Norwegian Prince Harald Hardrada in the Service of Byzantium (1034-1043). Military Stratagems Used in the Sicilian Campaign (1038-1040)]: 25-55, Dragoș Dragomir Dumitru, *Călători prin Dobrogea Otomană* [Travels Through Ottoman Dobrudja]: 56-71, dr. Cristina Maria Spânu-Cîmpianu, *Epidemii din aria Episcopiei Hușilor semnalate pe cărți vechi (sec. XVIII-XIX)* [Epidemics in the Area of the Huși Bishopric Reported on Old Books (18th-19th Centuries)]: 72-84, dr. Marian Boza, *O altfel de cursă navală în America Latină* [Another Naval Race in Latin America]: 84-104, dr. Alina Papoi, *Comisia a Dunării și integrarea României în sistemul politico-economic european* [The Danube Commission and Romania's Integration Into the European Political-Economic System]: 105-112, dr. Lavinia Dumitrașcu, *Un italian în slujba Marinei Române: Eugenio Vincenzo Varetton* [An Italian in the Service of the Romanian Navy: Eugenio Vincenzo Varetton]: 112-119, dr. Luminița Giurgiu, *Organizarea judecătorească în Dobrogea în dezbaterile Adunării Deputaților (1886). Analiza lui Alexandru Marghiloman* [The Judicial Organization in Dobrogea in the Debates of the Assembly of Deputies (1886). Analysis by Alexandru Marghiloman]: 120-130, dr. Constantin Cheramidoglu, *Despre Podul de la Hârșova și importanța sa economică și strategică în presa vremii* [About the Hârșova Bridge and Its Economic and Strategic Importance in the Press of the Time]: 131-144, dr. Luminița Stelian, dr. Angela-Anca Dobre, *Aspecte privind ocupația Dobrogei în Primul Război Mondial* [Aspects Regarding the Occupation of Dobrudja in the First World War]: 145-156, conf. univ. dr. Mariana Cojoc, *Obiectivele Biroului Economic Francez pentru navigația pe Dunăre și Marea Neagră la finalul Primului Război Mondial*

[Objectives of the French Economic Office for Navigation on the Danube and the Black Sea at the End of the First World War]: 157-168, colonel (r) Remus Macovei, *Aspecte privind contribuția Marinei Militare Regale la înfrângerea rebeliunii de la Tatar Bunar* [Aspects Regarding the Contribution of the Royal Navy to the Defeat of the Rebellion at Tatar Bunar]: 169-179, comandor (r) dr. Marian Moșneagu, *Contribuția viceamiralului ing. Nicolae Hîrjeu la înfăptuirea programelor navale postbelic* [The Contribution of Vice Admiral Eng. Nicolae Hîrjeu to the Implementation of Post-War Naval Programs]: 180-189, dr. Gabriel-Felician Croitoru, *Un om într-un butoi: O extraordinară călătorie pe apă de la Timișoara la București în 1934* [A Man in a Barrel: An Extraordinary Journey on Water from Timișoara to Bucharest in 1934]: 190-197, plutonier-adjutant șef (r) Eugen-Dorin Spătaru, *Ofițeri de echipaj din Marina Militară 1936-1948* [Crew Officers in the Navy 1936-1948]: 198-209, colonel (r) dr. Gabriel-George Pătrașcu, *Un minister unic în istoria guvernelor Românei. Ministerul Aerului și Marinei – I* [A Unique Ministry in the History of Romanian Governments. Ministry of Air and Navy – I]: 210-228, dr. Doina Anghel, *Avocatul brăilean Grigore Albuleț, ofițer de rezervă al Armatei Române în ambele conflagrații mondiale* [Lawyer Grigore Albuleț from Brăila, Reserve Officer of the Romanian Army in Both World Wars]: 229-239, dr. Dan-Dragoș Sichigea, *Structuri navale germane la Marea Neagră de la constituire la debutul Campaniei din Est: Admiral Sudost și Marinemission Rumanien – 1941 (I)* [German Naval Structures on the Black Sea from Their Establishment to the Beginning of the Eastern Campaign: Admiral Sudost and Marinemission Rumanien – 1941 (I)]: 240-248, dr. Alin Spânu, *Atacuri aeriene sovietice asupra orașului-port Constanța (1941-1944)* [Soviet Air Attacks on the Port City of Constanța (1941-1944)]: 249-260, dr. Teodora Giurgiu, *Considerații referitoare la conferințele premergătoare încheierii celui de-Al Doilea Război Mondial (1943-1945)* [Considerations Regarding the Conferences Preceding the End of the Second World War (1943-1945)]: 261-278, prof. univ. dr. Valentin Ciorbea, *Date noi referitoare la situația operativă în bazinul [vestic al] Mării Negre, 14-22 august 1944* [New Data Regarding the Operational Situation in the [Western] Black Sea Basin, 14-22 August 1944]: 279-289, dr. Marian Zidaru, *Ofițeri ai serviciilor secrete germane în Balcani în perioada celui de-Al Doilea Război Mondial – cazul dr. Wilhelm Hoettl* [Officers of the German Secret Services in the Balkans During the Second World War – the Case of Dr. Wilhelm Hoettl]: 290-300, dr. Stoica Lascu, Gheorghe I. Brătianu: „Problema Mării Negre este una din laturile esențiale ale istoriei” (Patru conferințe și un articol din anii 1943 și 1944) [Gheorghe I. Brătianu: “The Black Sea Problem is One of the Essential Sides of History” (Four Conferences and An Article From 1943 and 1944)]: 301-319, dr. Daniel Silviu Niculae, *Însemnări privind participarea plutonierului adjutant Dumitru din Batalionul de Pază al Palatului Regal la pregătirea și realizarea evenimentelor de la 23 august 1944* [Notes on the Participation of the Adjutant Platoon Leader Dumitru From the Royal Palace Guard Battalion in the Preparation and Implementation of the Events of August 23, 1944]: 320-324, locotenent-colonel (r) dr. Petre Opreș, *Generalul Sălăjan constată: „Comunismul înseamnă ce e al meu e al meu și e al tău e tot al meu” (6 mai 1964)* [General Sălăjan states: “Communism Means What’s Mine is Mine and What’s Yours is Also Mine”] (May 6, 1964): 325-336, comandor dr. ing. Marian Tănase, *13 martie 1988: Incident în Marea Neagră produs între navale militare americane și cele sovietice „The Black Sea*

Bumping Incident” [March 13, 1988: Incident in the Black Sea Between the American and Soviet Military Ships “The Black Sea Bumping Incident”]: 337-352, dr. Silvia Ioniță, *Eghiletul – element de uniformă prezent în colecția de uniforme și accesorii de uniforme a Muzeului Național al Marinei Române* [The Aglet – Uniform Element Present in the Collection of Uniforms and Uniform Accessories of the National Museum of the Romanian Navy]: 353-364, dr. Carmen Irène Atanasiu, *Interese politico-diplomatice la Dunărea de Jos* [Political and Diplomatic Interests in the Lower Danube]: 365-387, dr. Claudia Lupu, *Cauzele degradării învelitorilor din piele la câteva volume de carte și restaurarea acestora* [Causes of the Degradation of Leather Covers on Several Book Volumes and Their Restoration]: 388-402.

Publications with a tradition in recent Romanian historiography, the two scientific yearbooks of the laborious researchers from Constanța prove their scientific value, the devotion and professionalism with which they serve the muse Clio, and to the contributors – old collaborators and friends of Romanian naval museography – no less gratitude for their steadfastness.

Constantin Cheramidoglu, *Pe teme de istoria politicii externe a României. /Studii/* [On Topics Related to the History of Romania’s Foreign Policy./Studies/], Editura StudIS, Iași, 2025, 474 pp.; ill., tables, facs., ISBN 978-606-48-1318-3

Constantin Cheramidoglu, *Pe teme din istoria economiei românești /Studii/* [On Topics of the History of the Romanian Economy / Studies/], Editura StudIS, Iași, 2025, 544 pp.; ill., facs. ISBN 978-606-48-1278-0

Known and appreciated as an archivist and historian, Constantin Cheramidoglu – doctor in History in 2003; b. October 4, 1959: author of several volumes – *Mărturii documentare* [Constanța – Documentary Testimonies] (co-author) (2012), *Comerțul maritim al României în perioada interbelică* [Romania’s Maritime Trade in the Interwar Period] (2020), *Grecii Constanței vechi* [Ancient Greeks of Constanța] (2022), *Arhive dobrogene* [Dobrudjan Archives] (2023) – decided, “an approach that we appreciate”, to collect in two volumes his studies and articles published over the years in books and periodicals. He confesses to us in the *Argument* of the first volume (p. 3) that he “developed the topics based on subsequent research, as well as materials that have not been published before”.

As noted, in a journalistic presentation, Professor Valentin Ciorbea, “Going through the summaries we find that the themes addressed have as documentary support the foreign and Romanian press, but also other documentary references. As a geographical area it was limited to Dobrogea, especially the Balkan area in the first half of the 20th century”.

And as the author says, “This volume brings together number studies and articles previously published in specialized journals, which I developed based on subsequent research, as well as materials that have not been published. Chronologically, they fall into the first half of the 20th century and concern the policy pursued by Romania in the Balkans, its relations with neighboring countries or

countries interested in this area, but also the interests of the great powers in this region. I have also added material regarding the Ukrainian minority in Romania, in the context of the World War and that regarding emigration through the port of Constanta, issues that are directly related to Romania's policy at that time" (p. 3).

The first volume includes 23 studies – *Politica României în Balcani, în viziunea observatorilor străini (1911-1913)* [Romania's Policy in the Balkans, in the View of Foreign Observers (1911-1913)], pp. 7-30; *1913. Acțiunea României în Balcani, în viziunea presei străine* [1913. Romania's Action in the Balkans, in the Vision of the Foreign Press], pp. 31-60; *Implicațiile din 1913 în politica de alianțe a României* [The Implications of 1913 in Romania's Alliance Policy], pp. 61-78; *Iunie 1914. Constanța pe harta diplomatică a Europei* [June 1914. Constantza on the Diplomatic Map of Europe], pp. 79-100; *Relațiile României cu Austro-Ungariei în perioada neutralității (1914-1916) din perspectiva presei franceze* [Romania's Relations with Austria-Hungary during the Period of Neutrality (1914-1916) from the Perspective of the French Press], pp. 101-116; *Relațiile României cu Germania în perioada neutralității – în viziunea observatorilor străini* [Romania's Relations with Germany during the Period of Neutrality – in the Vision of Foreign Observers], pp. 117-132; *Relațiile româno-bulgare în perioada neutralității (1914-1916), în viziunea presei franceze* [Romanian-Bulgarian Relations during the Period of Neutrality (1914-1916), in the Vision of the French Press], pp. 133-158; *Cauza României susținută de români în societatea și presa franceză (1914-1918)* [The Cause of Romania Supported by Romanians in French Society and Press (1914-1918)], pp. 159-176; *Imaginea idealului național românesc în presa franceză a vremii (1914-1918)* [The Image of the Romanian National Ideal in the French Press of the Time (1914-1918)], pp. 177-190; *Presa internațională despre intrarea României în Primul Război Mondial* [The International Press About Romania's Entry Into the First World War], pp. 191-210; *Octombrie 1916 – Căderea Constanței, în opinia publică internațională* [October 1916 – The Fall of Constantza, in International Public Opinion], pp. 211-230; *Imaginea armatei române în presa străină a anilor 1916-1918* [The Image of the Romanian Army in the Foreign Press of the Years 1916-1918], pp. 231-252; *Dobrogea – mărul discordiei între țările Puterilor Centrale, în anul 1918* [Dobrudja – the Apple of Discord Between the Countries of the Central Powers, in 1918], pp. 253-276; *Portul Constanța și interesele Puterilor Centrale (1916-1918)* [The Port of Constantza and the Interests of the Central Powers (1916-1918)], pp. 277-288; *Cum vedeau aliații României politica Germaniei la Gurile Dunării, în timpul Primului Război Mondial* [How Romania's Allies Saw Germany's Policy at the Danube Mouths, During the First World War], pp. 290-304; *Basarabia și interesele Marilor Puteri în anii Primului Război Mondial* [Bessarabia and the Interests of the Great Powers During the First World War], pp. 305-319; *Despre posibile schimbări teritoriale ce vizau și România (a doua parte a secolului XIX și prima jumătate a secolului XX)* [On Possible Changes Territorial Issues that Also Targeted Romania (Second Part of the 19th Century and First Half of the 20th Century)], pp. 319-336; *Contextul politic al Tratatului de la Craiova (1940) din perspectiva presei franceze* [The Political Context of the Treaty of Craiova

(1940) From the Perspective of the French Press], pp. 337-350; *Activitatea minorității ucrainene din România în timpul războiului antisovietic* [The Activity of the Ukrainian Minority in Romania During the Anti-Soviet War], pp. 351-368; *Chestiunea Dobrogei în relațiile româno-ruse văzută prin presa vremii* [The Dobrudja Issue in Romanian-Russian Relations Seen Through the Press of the Time], pp. 369-392; *Problema gurilor Dunării și a strâmtorilor pentru economia României interbelice* [The Problem of the Mouths of the Danube and the Straits for the Economy of Interwar Romania], pp. 393-408; *Emigrația prin portul Constanța (1935-1947)* [Emigration Through the Port of Constantza (1935-1947)], pp. 409-440; *Presa străină și percepția ei în presa românească (1912-1940)* [The Foreign Press and Its Perception in the Romanian Press (1912-1940)], pp. 441-456; *Indici toponimici și antroponimici (selectivi)* [Toponymic and Anthroponomic Indices (Selective)], pp. 457-473.

The author placed images taken from various sources at the end of the articles, which support the thematic content.

In the second volume, under *Argument* (pp. 7-8), compared to the first version of the articles and studies, the author specifies: "This volume brings together a sum of materials previously published in various collective volumes and magazines, which, according to the principle that allows history to be continuously rewritten, we have enriched with information acquired after their publication. We have thus tried, first, to facilitate access to these materials, and on the other hand to bring them up to date, by integrating new documentary sources which, even if they do not essentially change the image of the analyzed subjects, add new arguments and relevant details to them. We have also added material that has not been published before" (p. 7).

The titles of the studies and articles in this second volume are:

Comerțul exterior al Basarabiei în vremea administrației rusești [Foreign Trade of Bessarabia During the Russian Administration], pp. 9-25; *Dobrogea la 1878-1879. Impresii și opinii din presa vremii despre ce ar trebui făcut* [Dobrudja in 1878-1879. Impressions and Opinions from the Press of the Time About What Should Be Done], pp. 26-44; *Comerțul exterior al României în vremea regimului protecționist din anii '30* [Foreign Trade of Romania During the Protectionist Regime of the 1930s], pp. 45-94; *Dimensiunea economică și politică a unei lucrări ingineresti (Canalul Dunăre-Marea Neagră)* [The Economic and Political Dimension of an Engineering Work (Danube-Black Sea Canal)], pp. 95-135; *Despre navigația comercială pe Nistru în prima jumătate a secolului al XX-lea* [On Commercial Navigation on the Dniester in the First Half of the 20th Century], pp. 136-157; *Concurența dintre marile porturi ale României* [Competition Between the Major Ports of Romania], pp. 158-180; *Considerații privind comerțul de tranzit derulat prin porturile de la Dunărea de Jos în perioada interbelică* [Considerations Regarding the Transit Trade Carried out Through the Ports of the Lower Danube in the Interwar Period], pp. 181-204; *Considerații privind tranzitul cehoslovac prin portul Constanța în perioada interbelică* [Considerations Regarding the Czechoslovak Transit Through the Port of Constanța in the Interwar Period], pp. 205-220; *Despre tranzitul polonez prin portul Constanța în perioada interbelică* [On Polish

Transit Through the Port of Constanța in the Interwar Period], pp. 221-233; *Tranzitul de mărfuri sovietice pentru Germania prin portul Constanța în anii 1939-1941* [Transit of Soviet Goods for Germany Through the Port of Constanța in 1939-1941], pp. 234-242; *Bulgaria după Primul Război Mondial și interesele unei fabrici de ciment din România* [Bulgaria After the First World War and the Interests of a Cement Factory in Romania], pp. 243-255; *Destinul industrial al orașului Cernavodă* [The Industrial Destiny of the City of Cernavodă], pp. 256-273; *Constanța versus Varna – rivalități istorice* [Constanța versus Varna – Historical Rivalries], pp. 274-293; *Traficul de pasageri prin portul Constanța în perioada interbelică* [Passenger Traffic Through the Port of Constanța in the Interwar Period], pp. 294-310; *Problemele tehnologice ale începutului exportului de sare al României pe mare* [Technological Problems of the Beginning of Romania's Salt Export by Sea], pp. 311-323; *De ce nu am mai avut armatori români?* [Why Didn't We Have Romanian Shipowners Anymore], pp. 324-342; *Marina Comercială Română în viziunea armatorilor* [The Romanian Merchant Navy in the Vision of the Shipowners], pp. 343-358; *Istoricul introducerii combustibilului lichid la vasele maritime române* [History of the Introduction of Liquid Fuel to Romanian Maritime Vessels], pp. 359-372; *Așezarea industriei petroliere la Constanța (1897-1916)* [The Establishment of the Oil Industry in Constanța (1897-1916)], pp. 373-391; *Noi date privind activitatea Societății „Steaua Română” la Constanța (1897-1916)* [New Data on the Activity of the 'Romanian Star' Society in Constanța], pp. 392-402; *Odiseea navelor Societății „Steaua Română” în timpul celui de-al Doilea Război Mondial* [Odyssey of the Ships of the 'Romanian Star' Company During the Second World War], pp. 403-417; *Despre activitatea Societății „Româno-americană” la Constanța* [On the Activity of the 'Romanian-American' Company in Constanța], pp. 418-428; *Traficul petrolier în portul Constanța în anii 1939-1944* [On the Activity of the 'Romanian-American' Company in Constanța], pp. 429-437; *Despre activitatea Societății „Astra Română” la Constanța* [On the Activity of the 'Astra Română' Company in Constanța], pp. 438-449; *Exportul de produse petroliere din România spre Turcia (1900-1940)* [The Export of Oil Products from Romania to Turkey (1900-1940)], pp. 450-466; *Linia maritimă Constanța – New York* [The Constanța – New York Sea Line], pp. 467-480; *Ipoteza tranzitului de petrol caucazian prin România în anii 1941-1943* [The Hypothesis of the Transit of Caucasian Oil through Romania in 1941-1943], pp. 481-488; *Brăila pe harta petrolului românesc* [Brăila on the Map of Romanian Oil], pp. 489-503. *Lista figurilor* [List of Figures], pp. 504-505, *Indici de persoane și locuri* [Indexes of People and Places], pp. 506-525, *Figuri* [Figures], pp. 527-544 (31 photo reproductions and facsimiles).

Referring to the theme of this second volume, Professor Valentin Ciorbea, the dean of historical studies in Dobrogea today, rightly points out that “As for us, we would like to point out that we found in the contributions of Dr. Constantin Cheramidoglu information, data and analyses that complete our research on the Dobrudja area” and “The author considered it appropriate for the reader to attach 31 period images from the ports of Constanța, Brăila, and Galați from the interwar period. As stated, the second volume brings to our attention 28 studies and articles. Our attention was particularly drawn to the studies regarding the role of the port of

Constanța as an international maritime gateway for Romania and our country's neighbors, the activity of some trading companies specialized in the export of petroleum products to various European markets. Historians and those passionate about the past of the Dobrogea area and beyond will find in the two volumes unpublished information, assessments and conclusions supported by the author through solid and diverse documentation".

The result of the long and constant documentation and research of the meticulous servant of the Clio Muse, the two volumes place the laborious author among the foremost historians of Dobruja today.

Constantin Hlihor (coordonator [Eds.]), *Alegător în România secolului XX. Între speranțe, promisiuni și interesele guvernanților* [Voter in 20th Century Romania. Between Hopes, Promises, and the Interests of the Rulers]. **Autori: Luminița Banu, Florian Banu, Mihail-Andi Băncilă, Mariana Cojoc, Marian Cojoc, Ecaterina Hlihor, Constantin Hlihor, Gheorghe Onișoru, Cristian Sandache, Ioan Scurtu, Meteor Press, București, 2025, 352 pp.; ill., facs. ISBN 978-973-728-916-2**

The initiator and editor of this volume, recently septuagenarian (B. May 3, 1955) is a very productive servant of Clio (an officer by career, with a doctorate in History, university Professor), being a pioneer in our historiography in the last three decades in the field of geopolitics. He is the author of almost 20 volumes by sole author and co-author (with translations, some of them, in English) and of numerous other volumes as an editor. On occasion of the publication of the last volume (last year), the professor from Iași Cătălin Turliuc noted: "A scholar and appreciated historian, equally well-versed in the mysteries and networks of geopolitics and international relations, Professor Constantin Hlihor offers us in this volume [*Cu mâinile altora. România și războaiele prin intermediari în Africa (1970-1985)*] a relevant analysis of a little-known and often overlooked chapter of our contemporary history. concealed by our historiography today. The internal conflict in Angola and the war between Somalia and Ethiopia, on which the author insisted in his approach, gave Romania the opportunity to consistently express in the sub-Saharan geopolitical area its position towards the reality of a divided world and always on the brink of a major war. Romania's foreign policy at that time, even if marked by an indisputable ideological background, was one of wide openness and carefully balanced moderation, with an extension towards pragmatism and political-ideological considerations alike".

Here is the thematic diversity of the author's volumes (and, in some, co-author): *Anul 1940. Drama românilor dintre Prut și Nistru* (coautor cu Ioan Scurtu) (1992), *Complot împotriva României. 1939-1947* (coautor cu Ioan Scurtu)(1994), *The Red Army in Romania* (co-author with Ioan Scurtu) (2000), *Istoria secolului XX* [History of the 20th Century] (2000), *Geopolitica și geostrategia în analiza relațiilor internaționale contemporane. Considerații teoretice și metodologice* [Geopolitics and Geostrategy in the Analysis of Contemporary International Relations. Theoretical and Methodological

Considerations] (2005), *România. Căderea comunismului și nașterea democrației: 1989-2000* (2006), *Politica de securitate în domeniul internațional contemporan. Domeniul energetic* (2008), *Geopolitica. De la clasic la postmodern* (2011), *România și șocurile geopolitice ale războiului rece* [Romania and the Geopolitical Shocks of the Cold War] (2016), *Revoluție și tranziție la români într-un secol scurt. 1918-1989* [Revolution and Transition for Romanians in a Short Century. 1918-1989] (2017), *Decembrie 1989 prin ochii tinerilor militari de atunci* [December 1989 Through the Eyes of Young Military Men of the Time] (2019), *Cu mâinile altora. România și războaiele prin intermediari în Africa (1970-1985)* [With the Hands of Others. Romania and the Proxy Wars in Africa (1970-1985)] (2025).

The thematic structure of the 8 studies is: Constantin Hlihor, *Cuvânt-înainte* [Foreword] (pp. 7-15), Constantin Hlihor, *Alegătorul din România secolului al XX-lea în fața urnelor. Între promisiuni uitate și speranța unui viitor mai bun* [The 20th-Century Romanian Voter at the Polls. Between Forgotten Promises and the Hope of a Better Future] (pp. 17-60), Luminița Banu, Florian Banu *Alegeri, alegători și aleși în România monarhică (1866-1946)* [Elections, Voters, and Elected Officials in Monarchical Romania (1866-1946)] (pp. 610-166), Ioan Scurtu, *Alegătorul român din perioada interbelică (1919-1937)* [The Romanian Voter in the Interwar Period (1919-1937)] (pp. 167-189), Cristian Sandache, *Partidul „Totul pentru Țară” și electoratul din România, în alegerile parlamentare din decembrie 1946* [The “Everything for the Country” Party and the Romanian Electorate in the Parliamentary Elections of December 1946] (pp. 190-210), Gheorghe Onișoru, *Profilul alegătorului de la 19 noiembrie 1946* [The Profile of the Voter of November 19, 1946] (pp. 211-230), Mariana Cojoc, Marian Cojoc, *Electorat și electorale în secolul XX între Dunăre și Mare* [Electorate and Electoral Processes in the 20th Century Between the Danube and the Sea] (pp. 231-266), Constantin Hlihor, Mihail-Andi Băncilă, *Alegătorul militar în secolul XX. De la gardian al urnelor la statutul de votant* [The Military Voter in the 20th Century. From the Guardian of the Ballot Box to the Status of a Voter] (pp. 267-299), Ecaterina Hlihor, *Perenitatea unor cuvinte în discursurile electorale din România secolului XX. Câteva considerații* [The Perennity of Some Words in 20th-Century Romanian Electoral Discourses. Some Considerations] – (pp. 300-326). *Despre autori* [About the Authors] (pp. 327-335).

In the *Foreword*, the coordinator reveals several assertions of a general nature, related to the topic addressed:

“Free and fair elections, based on universal suffrage, represented for Romania, as well as for other states in our geographical proximity, one of the essential indicators showing the extent to which society has entered Western modernity. Elections produce the selection and legitimization of a political elite to access and manage political power at a given time in society based on the commitments it assumes to society. If this is not respected, voters can hold the elected officials accountable by not granting them another mandate to manage the country’s affairs” (p. 7).

And the editor also points out that

“The structuring of the volume was done in the logic of historical research of facts and events that took place in space and time, from the general to the particular, without taking into account other criteria for arranging the studies included” (p. 15).

And the most extensive study, of Luminița Banu and Florian Banu, reveals that “the introduction of universal suffrage did not mean a renunciation of the long-practiced methods of falsifying elections, but, on the contrary, brought more violence and defiance of the legal framework”. It did not mean, as the coordinator himself comments, “the attenuation of political instability and the elimination of political factions promoted by the royal camarilla, regardless of who was on the Romanian throne. In this context, the reaction of a part of the electorate was not at all surprising, many citizens looking with hope towards the extreme left or extreme right movements. The violent reaction of the authorities (arrests, torture, devastation of offices, closure of publications, declaration of political formations as illegal), not infrequently by violating the legal framework, produced an even greater weakening of citizens’ trust in the positive values of the democratic political system” (pp. 9-10).

A unique thematic approach in our Historiography, this volume constitutes, through each study, a relevant contribution to the increasingly innovative thematic area of today’s historical research. The credit goes to the initiator and, naturally, no less, to each author – well-known personalities of contemporary historical writing.

Corneliu-Mihail Lungu, Magdalena Albu, Stefadina... file de arhivă. Omagiu Istoricului Ioan SCURTU, la 85 de ani. Volum îngrijit de prof. univ. dr. ... și dr. ... [Stefadina... Archive Files. Homage to the Historian Ioan SCURTU, at 85 Years Old. Volume Edited by Prof. Dr. Corneliu-Mihail Lungu and Dr. Magdalena Albu], Editura Stefadina, București, 2025, 410 pp.; ill., facs. ISSN 2392-6899

I pointed out at the beginning of this year, in a specialized magazine, that last year, 2025, our Historiography was in a moment of celebration – Professor Ioan Scurtu had reached a venerable age on November 27. And I noted then: “Professor Ioan Scurtu, founding member of the Romanian Academy of Scientists (and former president of the Section of Historical and Archaeological Sciences) – born in Neamț County 85 years ago, on the date of N. Iorga’s assassination (November 27, 1940), is among the first-rate scientific personalities that the country can be proud of; and for our Historiography, no less, the celebration of the age of the scientist with such a vast editorial production – the most authorized, with scientific validation, researcher of the interwar period, and not only, of Romania –, with national-cultural attitudes and firm patriotic conduct – constitutes a professional duty that springs from the soul of every servant of Clio, of the Romanians who have appropriated national history – especially that of the past century –, from the books of the one to whom, for many, he was a precious mentor.

As the venerable historian – who has also held various high-level positions, such as director of the ‘Nicolae Iorga’ Institute of History, general director of the

National Archives, inspector general in the Ministry of Education, president of the Romanian Society of Historical Sciences, dean of several History faculties, founder and director of historical publications, PhD supervisor of dozens of young researchers –, recently summarized (on September 9th), ‘By the summer of 2025, I had published 52 books of my own, 59 as coordinator and co-author, 108 as collaborator, 18 of which in languages of international circulation. In addition, there are over 500 studies published in specialized journals. In 2002, Ars Docendi Publishing House included 48 of these in the volume: Ioan Scurtu, *Studii de istorie* [Historical Studies]’ (573 pp.)”.

This anniversary, which should have been of the soul and solidarity of the servants of the Clio Museum in our country, unfortunately did not have national relevance - with a few, and all more significant and precious, exceptions. I am thinking, first all, of the initiative of his archivist and historian colleagues Corneliu-Mihail Lungu and Magdalena Albu, from S.C. Stefadina Comserv S.R.L. (Bucharest), who made this volume appear – 14 “studies published by historian Ioan Scurtu”, also represented to the reader in this way.

It is about the studies – 6 *Martie 1945 – Între legendă și realitate* [March 6, 1945 – Between Legend and Reality] (pp. 9-27), *Amintiri și reflecții privind activitatea Corneliei Bodea* [Memories and Reflections on the Activity of Cornelia Bodea] (pp. 29-41), 1917 – *Preludii ale Unirii Basarabiei cu România* [1917 – Preludes to the Union of Bessarabia with Romania] (pp. 43-60), 1918 – *Anul întregirii României și contextul european* [1918 – The Year of Romania’s Unification and the European Context] (pp. 61-77), 1918: „*Voința întregului popor*” [1918: ‘The Will of the Whole People’] (pp. 79-88), *Făuritori ai Unirii Basarabiei cu România (1918). Ion Inculeț (1884-1940). Pantelimon Halippa (1883-1979). Constantin Stere (1865-1936)* [Makers of the Union of Bessarabia with Romania (1918). Ion Inculeț (1884-1940). Pantelimon Halippa (1883-1979). Constantin Stere (1865-1936)] (89-112), *Tratatul de la Trianon – istoriografie și politică* [The Treaty of Trianon – Historiography and Politics] (pp. 113-128), *Lupta pentru apărarea Marii Uniri din 1918* [The Struggle to Defend the Great Union of 1918] (pp. 129-140), *Reunirea Basarabiei și Bucovinei de nord cu Patria-mamă – obiectivul fundamental al intrării României în cel de-Al Doilea Război Mondial* [The Reunification of Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina with the Motherland – the Fundamental Objective of Romania’s Entry into World War II] (pp. 141-153), *Ocupația străină – grea povară pentru poporul român* [The Foreign Occupation – A Heavy Burden for the Romanian People] (pp. 155-177), *Constituția din 1923, în perspectiva istoriei* [The 1923 Constitution, in the Perspective of History] (pp. 179-197), *Istorie și actualitate: Unitatea națională și „sacrificiul istoric”* [History and Current Affairs: National Unity and the ‘Historical Sacrifice’] (pp. 199-249), *Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu, repere arhivistice și istorice* [Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu, Archival and Historical Landmarks] (pp. 251-257).

They are complemented by 4 “collegial appreciations” (pp. 261-403) – Aprecieri colegiale [Collegial Appreciations /Reviews/] (prof. univ. dr. Corneliu-Mihail Lungu: *Ioan Scurtu, Tezaurul României de la Moscova* [The Romanian Treasury

in Moscow], Editura Enciclopedică, București, 2014] (pp. 261-263), prof. univ. dr. Constantin Hlihor: *Ioan Scurtu, reprezentarea trecutului istoric, între propria percepție și analiza surselor documentare* [Ioan Scurtu, the Representation of the Historical Past, Between One's Own Perception and the Analysis of Documentary Sources] (pp. 265-271), Dr. Magdalena Albu: *Sinteza vieții unui istoric: Ioan Scurtu* [Synthesis of a Historian's Life: Ioan Scurtu] (pp. 273-305), Magdalena Albu: *Profesorul Ioan Scurtu: „Mi-a fost dat să trăiesc sub mai multe regimuri”* [Professor Ioan Scurtu: “I Was Given the Opportunity to Live Under Several Regimes” /Conversation/ (pp. 307-403).

And at the end of the volume a touching *Cuvânt de grațitudine* (p. 409), by dr. Mihai Nicolae, founder of SC Stefadina (established in 1996, having as its main activity the provision of services specific to the archival field) – “On the occasion of his anniversary, we express our gratitude to the historian and Professor Ioan SCURTU, for the special honor of having been present, permanently, alongside the ‘Stefadina’ Publishing House and, also, with numerous scientific research works, in the pages of the ‘Stefadina... file de arhivă’ Magazine, a publication on historiographical-archival themes, born at His Excellency suggestion and practically concretized by those who had the chance to know the Professor and collaborate with him in the historical and archival realm, carrying forward the tradition inherited from their mentor, Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu”.

The volume is prefaced with an *Argument* (p. 5) by Professor Corneliu-Mihail Lungu, a long-time and steadfast collaborator – including at the helm of the National Archives – of the one being honored: “The grace of the Supreme Lord endowed the Man Ioan SCURTU with a fate rich in brilliance and creativity, in proportion to his value affirmed, demonstrated and confirmed throughout his life, especially through the Work created and left as a legacy to Romanian historiography and spirituality.

As a recognition of the greatness of such a person, over the years, prestigious institutions have published reference works about the historian I. SCURTU, such as „*Profesioniștii noștri*” [Our Professionals], edited, more than once, by the Romanians from Sfântu Gheorghe, who had become a minority in the heart of the Country. The volumes published on the 70th anniversary, or eight decades of the great historian's existence, bear witness, becoming, in turn, pages of history...

Based on such realities and editorial achievements, I considered that the *Stefadina... file de arhivă Magazine*, which the historian, professor and researcher Ioan SCURTU honored, for a decade, with specialized studies, can dare to dedicate a special issue to him, defined, with modestly, but full of admiration, as a Tribute to his 85 years of life.

On the same basis, of objective realities and incontestable evidence, those who are tasked with demystifying history and destroying the values of identity spirituality will not succeed, and the geniuses of the Romanians will endure...”

A soulful volume, an offering to the leading Romanian historian of our time – through the scientific substance of his studies and books, through his devotion to serving national history, to defending its perennial truths.

Mihai Nicolae, Magdalena Albu, *Dialoguri pentru Istorie* [Dialogues for History]. Volum îngrijit de dr. ... și dr. ..., Editura Stefadina, București, 2025, 566 pp., ill., facs. ISBN 978-606-9662-58-8

A volume of a special nature was published last year by Stefadina Publishing House. It is, in fact, a volume of conversations between historian Magdalena Albu and a number distinguished representatives of our current Historiography, “all of whom are approaching eight decades of age, and some of whom are already beyond their prime”; in *Argument* (not specifically signed), the two *îngrijitori* [editors] show that “We have dared to support the emergence and bequeathing to future generations of *Dialoguri pentru Istorie* [Dialogues for History]. Their authors are prominent representatives of the historiographical front, with a rich scientific work and a long pedagogical activity, all of whom are on the verge of completing eight decades of life, and some of them exceeding their generous age. We have included in this volume personalities who have collaborated at the Stefadina Publishing House and the Magazine, as well as in scientific activities initiated by our Society.

Those present in the pages of *Dialogues* considered that this work is intended to be a model to be followed by younger generations, vigorous and eager to cultivate interest and love for Romanian History. Thus, it would contribute to restoring this science to its legitimate rights and to the pedestal that the great classics of the field, led by the brilliant Nicolae Iorga, climbed on it” (p. 9).

Here are some summary extracts from the statements of those interviewed:

Profesorul Ioan Scurtu [B. November 27, 1940], „*Mi-a fost dat să trăiesc sub mai multe regimuri*” [Professor Ioan Scurtu: “I Was Given the Opportunity to Live Under Several Regimes”] (pp. 13-110 – “In this spirit (of the Law promulgated on July 4, 2023, which is based on the so-called concept of ‘Educated Romania’ – our emphasis), the subject History of the Romanians was eliminated from education, so that young people would not know the past and be able to make comparisons with the current situation. It should be emphasized that the draft law was discussed and approved in the Committees of the two Chambers, put to a vote in plenary article by article, but none of the 469 senators and deputies referred to the need for patriotic education and proposed that the history of the Romanians be maintained and take its rightful place in pre-university education. Taking stock, I found that I held seminars and courses with at least 3,000 students, I supervised about 300 theses degrees, 150 scientific and methodological papers for the first degree, 50 Master Theses and 72 Doctoral Theses. I have published 52 author’s books, 62 as coordinator and co-author, 108 as collaborator, of which 18 in internationally circulated languages”);

Dialog întru istorie cu opera profesorului Petre Țurlea [B. June 17, 1947], *acest Perpessicius al istoriografiei românești* [Dialogue in History with the Work of Professor Petre Țurlea, this Perpessicius of Romanian Historiography] (pp. 111-144 – “Therefore, the popularization of all great Romanian personalities, from all fields, is necessary, and that of the life and work of Nicolae Iorga, in Romania at the beginning of the 21st Century, can contribute to directing society towards true values, can contribute to restoring respect for the past of the Romanian people, to recognizing its place and role in the world of today and yesterday”);

Profesorul Ion Solcanu [B. October 19, 1943], „*Istoricul trebuie să aibă în vedere, întotdeauna, documentul: de ceramică, de piatră, de pergament sau de hârtie!*” [Professor Ion Solcanu: “The Historian Must Always Consider the Document: Ceramic, Stone, Parchment or Paper!”] (pp. 145-211 – “In my view, as someone who has been in militant politics on the front lines, I would say at the national level, for 19 years, doubled by the profession of historian, politicians are of four categories: visionary statesmen (I would include Ștefan cel Mare, Mihai Viteazul, Kogălniceanu and Ionel I.C. Brătianu), statesmen (starting with Alexandru Ioan Cuza and continuing even with Carol I and those from the first half of the century of the *Unification of the Romanian Nation*), politicians (those who hold various public dignities, work in the national interest, without neglecting their own interest, legally) and politicians (countless and rightly forgotten, are those who do not think about the interest of the nation, of the people, but think about the next elections”);

Profesorul Ioan Opreș [B. June 9, 1942], *întâlnire cu memoria Patrimoniului Cultural Național* [Professor Ioan Opreș, Meeting with the Memory of the National Cultural Heritage] (pp. 213-236 – “Understanding History and its teachings, not making it forgotten, seems to me to be the permanent obligation of the museum. Whoever neglects it and copies it carelessly, risks causing serious harm to the nation. Historians – and in cultural memory institutions, specialists serve Clio – cannot deviate from their obligations. Regarding my modest contribution to the affirmation of museums, I confess that, mainly, I insisted on coagulating the professional group to affirm its guild solidarity and to be united in supporting fully due rights”);

Ana Grama [B. August 19, 1940], *Doamnă a arhivaliilor. Din fondurile documentare ale Mitropoliei Ardealului* [Ana Grama, Lady of the Archives. From the Documentary Funds of the Transylvanian Metropolitanate] (pp. 237-261 – “I had no ambitions that were harmful to anyone, assuming the attitude of the mouse-archivist, locked in the given room. Reality offered me the open path that I needed, also ensuring me freedom, an independence that I did not give up, allowing me choices that I do not regret. My subject on my own path, carefully corroborated with the given whole!”);

Profesorul Gheorghe Sbârnă [B. February 8, 1942], *drumul carului și drumul istoriei* [Professor Gheorghe Sbârnă, the Path of the Chariot and the Path of History] (pp. 263-281 – “In the heritage of Romanian culture, Nicolae Iorga was the most complex personality, belonging equally to universal culture. His prestigious name

as a scientist and, at the same time, a politician and statesman, joined the greatest in the world, in relation to the important events of the first half of the last century”);

Profesorul Tasin Gemil [B. September 21, 1943], *un tătar din România, pe drumurile istoriei* [Professor Tasin Gemil, a Tatar from Romania, on the Roads of History] (pp. 283-303 – “Being a Tatar in Romania, but not only in Romania, meant having great frustrations and permanent fears. First of all, it was the complex of one who no longer has his own country. There is a saying: ‘The Tatars no longer have their own country, but they are now in all countries!’ In a way, the Tatars share the tragic fate of the Jews left without a country and forced to wander the whole world. Like the Jews, the Tatars have a great power of survival, of adaptation. They taught them the necessities of life”);

Profesorul Mihai Drecin [B. November 11, 1944], *și responsabilitatea de a fi istoric* [Professor Mihai Drecin and the Responsibility of Being a Historian] (pp. 305-338 – “Between 1968-2024, I published as sole author, co-author and editor 14 volumes in publishing houses in Oradea, Cluj-Napoca, Bucharest; 84 studies in collective volumes, 118 in specialized and cultural journals, I gave 345 communications in Oradea, main university centers in the country, several studies abroad. I published a series of reviews, prefaces and afterwords to volumes edited by me with former doctoral students. My orientation towards researching the history of the ‘Albina’ Bank in Sibiu was motivated by discussions with my Father, an employee of this bank during the interwar period. He told me about its beginnings and role in the history of Transylvanian Romanians, about the executive directors”);

Dr. Ioan Lăcătușu [B. September 25, 1947], *cărturarul român din inima țării* [Dr. Ioan Lăcătușu, the Romanian Scholar from the Heart of the Country] (pp. 339-373 – “In 2010, within the Eurocarpatica Publishing House of the European Center for Covasna-Harghita Studies in Sfântu Gheorghe, the *Our Professionals* Collection was established, within which, to date, 40 volumes have been produced. All the troubles of the Romanians in the counties of Covasna and Harghita start from their status as a ‘majority, numerically minority’. In practice, they cannot confidently decide the problems of preserving and affirming the Romanian identity. A ‘breath of oxygen’ is represented by the Orthodox Diocese of Covasna and Harghita and the subordinate and partner cultural institutions and, more recently, the presence of the Romanian Academy in the area”);

Profesorul Cornel Sigmirean [B. June 7, 1956], *„Toate lucrurile care le-am obținut în viață sunt rezultatul destinului, asta e clar”* [Professor Cornel Sigmirean: “All the things I have achieved in life are the result of destiny, that’s clear”] (pp. 375-396 – “At the end of nine years of research, after seeing over 300 linear meters of archives from the country and abroad, filed in 34,000 files, we reached 7,778 young Romanians, registered at 84 universities in Europe. But, I succeeded, I admit, and driven by an immense desire to convince Romanians that, in the history of Transylvania, they were not just a people of peasants, that there was an intellectual elite, that there was a nobility that was at the peak of the political movement in the 18th and 19th centuries”);

Profesorul Dumitru Preda [B. June 17, 1951], *sub semnul istoriei și al diplomației* [Professor Dumitru Preda, Under the Sign of History and Diplomacy] (pp. 397-423 – “We are a country with a historical destiny and a historical experience that signifies experience, and today, we are witnessing that people from different countries are giving us lessons that, when we were proving our vitality, did not even exist on the map of Europe. Our multi-millennium past represents a priceless treasure. It is a pride that needs to be cultivated, and here I say that it is a big mistake that the number of history lessons has been reduced and they are trying to dilute it even more, that history should be introduced mandatory regardless of what baccalaureate you hold”);

Profesorul Ion Vlad [B. February 19, 1950], *„... Ne-am bătut ... cu cei mari, cu imperiile ... și iată-ne, suntem tot aici, în picioare, ... suntem vii și facem istorie, pe când imperiile sunt ... doar în istorie!”* [Professor Ion Vlad: “... We fought ... with the great ones, with the empires ... and here we are, still here, standing, ... we are alive and making history, while empires are ... only in history!”] (pp. 425-462 – “Arriving in Brașov, a military lecturer at the history department, I found my niche, discovered the Brașov archives and historiography, the specialized institutions and local historians and I set off. It wasn’t easy, of course, I was a lone wolf, the local environment did not promote research and journalism; I enrolled in a doctorate, the first in the institution, in March 1989, but I was more hidden than tolerated in my endeavor”);

Arhivistul Tudor Rățoi [B. January 14, 1953], *„Această instituție a Arhivelor Naționale, a fost totul pentru mine”* [The Archivist Tudor Rățoi: “This Institution of the National Archives Was Everything to Me”] (pp. 463-502 – “We are contemporaries with our own past, because everything that happens to us in the present stems from the more recent or more distant past and we should always relate to it, with wisdom and honesty, in deeds and not just in words, a need that would require surgical treatment in the Romanian space, where we have become somewhat accustomed, for a very long time, to say one thing and smoke another, as Arghezi said”);

Profesorul Nicolae Noica [B. July 7, 1943], *prețuitor de seamă al documentelor de arhivă* [Professor Nicolae Noica, a Great Admirer of Archival Documents] (pp. 503-516 – “The fact that we now see in the public space, wanderings, untruth and aggression, intellectual decline and rudimentary expression is, I believe, only the consequence of the deliberate cutting out, for commercial purposes, of a slice of the broader reality of Romanian society. Perhaps I seem idealistic or overly optimistic, but, for me, the village – seen as the mother of the Nation – retains its essential role in defining national identity. Of course, modernity has touched it too, but, in its essence, it still preserves the authentic Romanian spirit”);

Profesorul și arhivistul Corneliu-Mihail Lungu [B. November 9, 1943], *un autoexilat printre documentele de arhivă ale istoriei* [Professor and Archivist Corneliu-Mihail Lungu, A Self-Exiled Among the Archival Documents of History] (pp. 517-554 – “Throughout my octogenarian life, I have learned from friends not to hate my enemies, and my enemies have taught me to respect and appreciate my friends more and more. I feel obliged to note that I had many friends during my childhood, my

student days, throughout my entire professional activity, among university professors and even among students. Since I was unable to hate or be hostile, I want to believe that I had no enemies. However, over the years, there have also been some who have been hostile to me out of envy, jealousy or their native malice”);

/dr. Mihai Nicolae/, Cuvinte pentru speranța în Documentele de arhivă... [Dr. Mihai Nicolae/, Words for Hope in the Archive Documents...] (pp. 555-566 – “Practically, in addition to physical archiving (by the ‘Stefadina’ Society, which reached 67 km of the archive – our note) intended for processing documents in order to manage and use them efficiently, we are particularly concerned with electronic archiving, which constitutes the future, without ever excluding, however, the original archival document, the essential identity matrix of the past of a people, of a national culture. Because the document itself needs to be preserved, taking account the appropriate parameters from a technical point of view, in order show its value over time – either in the immediate or distant future”).

Here is an unusual and unique volume, in terms of its theme, precious in terms of its personal ‘stories’ – which develop professional-scientific career paths, assertions and convictions forged from the perspective of defending national history –, from some remarkable representatives of today’s Historiography, indispensable for those who, in the future, will dare to sketch a history of Romanian Historiography from the last half century - from the second half of the 20th century and the first quarter of the 21st century. Congratulations to each of them – and, no less, to the initiators!

Ioan Scurtu, *Istoria de după 1989 prin experiența unui istoric* [History After 1989 Through the Experience of a Historian], Editura Junimea (Colecția *Historia magistra vitae*), Iași, 2025, 326 pp.; ill., facs. ISBN 978-973-37-2955-6

We recall, in this anniversary review, for the informative benefit of the hurried citizen – but interested in the intellectual and professional path of great contemporary personalities – just a few of the titles, almost all of which constitute pioneering works in our Historiography:

– books by a single author: *Din viața politică a României. Întemeierea și activitatea Partidului Țărănesc (1918-1926)* [From the Political Life of Romania. The Foundation and Activity of the Peasant Party (1918-1926)] (1975: 198 pp.), *Viața politică în România* [Political life in Romania]. 1918-1944 (1982: 336 pp.), *Din viața politică a României (1926-1947). Studiu critic privind istoria Partidului Național-Țărănesc* [From the political life of Romania (1926-1947). A Critical Study on the History of the National Peasant Party] (1983: 552 pp.), *Contribuții privind viața politică din România. Evoluția formei de guvernământ în istoria modernă și contemporană* [Contributions on the Political Life of Romania. The Evolution of the Form of Government in Modern and Contemporary History] (1988: 688 pp.), *Istoria Partidului Național-Țărănesc* [History of the National Peasant Party] (1994: 488 pp.), *Istoria României în anii 1918-1940. Evoluția regimului politic de la democrație la dictatură*

[History of Romania in the Years 1918-1940. The Evolution of the Political Regime from Democracy to Dictatorship] (1996: 252 pp.), *Viața cotidiană a românilor în perioada interbelică* [Daily Life of Romanians in the Interwar Period] (2001: 280 pp.), *Istoria românilor în timpul celor patru regi, 1866-1947* [History of Romanians During the Four Kings, 1866-1947], 4 vols, (2001: 236+198+338+224 pp.), *Revoluția română din decembrie 1989 în context internațional* [The Romanian Revolution of December 1989 in International Context] (2006: 364 pp.), *Istoria Românilor de la Carol I la Nicolae Ceaușescu* [History of Romanians from Carol I to Nicolae Ceaușescu] (2010: 280 pp.), *Un istoric pe meridianele lumii* [A Historian on the Meridians of the World] (2013: 278 pp.), *Tezaurul României de la Moscova. Note și amintiri privind activitatea Comisiei Comune româno-ruse (2004-2012)* [The Treasure of Romania in Moscow. Notes and Memories on the Activity of the Romanian-Russian Joint Commission (2004-2012)] (2014: 368 pp.), *Povestiri adevărate. Memorii* [True Stories. Memoirs] (2022: 612 pp.), *Martor la impunerea, evoluția și prăbușirea regimului socialist totalitar din România (1957-1989)* [Witness to the Imposition, Evolution and Collapse of the Totalitarian Socialist Regime in Romania (1957-1989)] (2024: 248 pp.); and very recently: *Istoria de după 1989 prin experiența unui istoric* [The History After 1989 Through the Experience of a Historian] (2025: 326 pp.);

– co-author: *Istoria României între anii 1918-1981* [History of Romania between 1918-1981] (1981: 376 pp.), *Actul de la 23 August 1944 în context internațional* [The Act of 23 August 1944 in an International Context] (1984: 626 pp.), Titulescu and the Peace Strategy ((1984: 646 pp.), *Democrația la români (1866-1938)* [The Democracy among the Romanians (1866-1938)] (1990: 248 pp.), *Anul 1940. Drama românilor dintre Prut și Nistru* [The Year 1940. The Drama of the Romanians Between the Prut and the Nistru] (1992: 192 pp.), *Istoria Românilor în secolul XX (1918-1948)* [History of Romanians in the 20th Century] (1999: 687 pp.), *Istoricul Academiei Oamenilor de Știință din România (1935-2009)* [History of the Romanian Academy of Sciences (1935-2009)] (2009: 214 pp.), *Istoria Academiei de Științe din România. 1935-1948* [History of the Romanian Academy of Sciences. 1935-1948] (2014: 288 pp.), *Istoria Asociației Oamenilor de Știință din România. 1956-1996* [History of the Romanian Association of Scientists. 1956-1996] (2016: 360 pp.);

– coordinator/author (thematic syntheses, collections of documents and/or studies, several titles are translated into languages of international circulation or/and published abroad): *Istoria Basarabiei. De la începuturi până în 1994 / 1998 / 2003* [History of Bessarabia. From the beginnings to 1994] (1994: 412 pp.; additional editions – 1998: 370 pp., 2003: 606 pp.), *Minoritățile naționale din România. 1918-1938* [National Minorities in Romania. 1918-1938]. Documents], 4 vols. (1995-1999: 782+680+606+516 pp.), *Ideologie și formațiuni de dreapta în România. 1927-1943* [Ideology and Right-Wing Formations in Romania. 1927-1943], 7 vols. (1996-2009: 680+304+364+444+414+412+452 pp.), *Tratatul de Istoria Românilor* [Treatise on the History of Romanians], vol. VIII: *România întregită (1918-1940)* [Unified Romania (1918-1940)] (2003: LIII+856 pp.), *Marea Unire din 1918 în context European* [The Great Union of 1918 in a European Context] (2003: 448 pp.), *Structuri politice în Europa*

Centrală și de Sud-Est (1918-2001) [Political Structures in Central and South-Eastern Europe (1918-2001)], 2 vols. (2003: 238+328 pp.), *România. Marea Unire* [Romania. The Great Union] (2008: 120 pp. – with editions in French, English, German, Italian, Spanish).

“I felt the need to pay tribute to the greatest Romanian historians – Nicolae Iorga and Gheorghe I. Brătianu – who were victims of political regimes: Iorga was assassinated by legionnaires in 1940, and Brătianu died in the Sighet prison for political prisoners in 1953. Through their work, they opened my intellectual horizons and made me understand the need for national history to be presented in an international, primarily European, context. Secondly, I had the chance to work in two institutions honored by these personalities: the Faculty of History of the University of Bucharest and the ‘N. Iorga’ Institute of History. Moreover, I had the pleasure of working for five years in Nicolae Iorga’s office, as director of the institute founded by the great historian.

In the same spirit – of respect and gratitude – I evoked four great historians that I knew: Constantin C. Giurescu, Dumitru Almaș, Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu, and Cornelia Bodea.

In the turbulent atmosphere after December 1989, I was elected head of the Department of Romanian History and I considered it useful to evoke the activity carried out to return to normality and stimulate colleagues and students to capitalize on their intellectual potential at the highest possible levels.

After 1989, I witnessed the unleashing of a negativism that is difficult to imagine, but understandable to a point, because it was necessary to break with the old regime, which also included culture, including historiography. But it came to contesting the role that Romanians had throughout history, to denying its emblematic personalities, including the historians Nicolae Bălcescu, A.D. Xenopol, N. Iorga, Dimitrie Onciul, Constantin C. Giurescu, etc. I considered it my duty to give some positive replies, presenting the main milestones regarding the place and role of Romanians in universal history, their contribution to European and world culture and civilization” (p. 5).

And in this memoir volume – “produced, like that of the Stories published in 2022, over several years, some chapters or parts of them being published in various magazines or volumes, to which I have made the changes imposed by the passage of time” –, illustrated with many documents, Professor Scurtu develops the life and social-academic excursion, allowing the reader to learn about the trajectory of one of the most representative personalities of Romanian Historiography and Culture today.

As a sign of respect for the predecessors, the great historians of 20th Century Romania are evoked, right at the beginning of the volume:

“I felt the need to pay tribute to the greatest Romanian historians – Nicolae Iorga and Gheorghe I. Brătianu – who were victims of political regimes: Iorga was assassinated by legionnaires in 1940, and Brătianu died in the Sighet prison for

political prisoners in 1953. Through their work, they opened my intellectual horizons and made me understand the need for national history to be presented in an international, primarily European, context. Secondly, I had the chance to work in two institutions honored by these personalities: the Faculty of History of the University of Bucharest and the 'N. Iorga' Institute of History. Moreover, I had the pleasure of working for five years in Nicolae Iorga's office, as director of the institute founded by the great historian.

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The thematic structure of the volume is:

Prolog [Prologue] (pp. 5-8). Capitolul I. Omagiu celor mai importanți istorici români. Nicolae Iorga și Gheorghe I. Brătianu: doi istorici români de talie mondială [Chapter I. Homage to the Most Important Romanian Historians. Nicolae Iorga and Gheorghe I. Brătianu: Two World-Class Romanian Historians] (pp. 9-18), Capitolul II. Cinci ani de activitate în biroul lui Nicolae Iorga [Chapter II Five Years of Activity in Nicolae Iorga's Office] (pp. 19-36), Capitolul III. Mari istorici pe care i-am cunoscut – Constantin Giurescu – de la închisoarea Sighet la Academia Republicii Socialiste Români (pp. 37-49), Dumitru Almaș – omul și opera (pp. 50-59), Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu – profesor și arhivist (pp. 60-65), Cornelia Bodea – Amintiri și reflecții (pp. 66-71) [Chapter III. Great Historians I Have Known – Constantin Giurescu – from Sighet Prison to the Academy of the Romanian Socialist Republic (pp. 37-49), Dumitru Almaș – the Man and His Work (pp. 50-59), Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu – Professor and Archivist (pp. 60-65), Cornelia Bodea – Memories and Reflections (pp. 66-71) (pp. 37-71), Capitolul IV. Șeful catedrei de istoria românilor [Chapter IV. Head of the Department of Romanian History] (pp. 73-84), Capitolul V. Replici pozitive la adresa celor care denigrau istoria poporului român – Românii în secolul naționalităților [Chapter V. Positive Replies to Those Who Denigrated the History of the Romanian People – Romanians in the Century of Nationalities] (pp. 86-90), 1918 – victoria principiului naționalităților în Europa (pp. 91-104), Nicolae Titulescu –

românul european (pp. 105-110), *O arteră navigabilă europeană: Canalul Dunăre-Marea Neagră* (pp. 111-116), *Istoria României – de la Yalta la Malta (1945-1989). Între mit și realitate* (pp. 117-128) [Chapter V. Positive Replies to Those Who Denigrated the History of the Romanian People – Romanians in the Century of Nationalities (pp. 86-90), 1918 – the Victory of the Principle of Nationalities in Europe (pp. 91-104), Nicolae Titulescu – the European Romanian (pp. 105-110), A European Waterway: the Danube-Black Sea Canal (pp. 111-116), Romanian History – from Yalta to Malta (1945-1989). Between Myth and Reality (pp. 117-128)] (pp. 85-128), Capitolul VI. Nici pe guvernării români nu i-am omis. Studiu de caz: aplicarea tratatului de la Trianon – Optanții unguri, Fundația Gojdu, Arhivele Transilvaniei, Dezarmarea Ungariei [Chapter VI. I Didn't Leave Out the Romanian Governors, Either. Case Study: The Application of the Treaty of Trianon – The Hungarian Optants, Gojdu Foundation, Transylvanian Archives, The Disarmament of Hungary] (pp. 129-148), Capitolul VII. 27-28 martie 2025 – în Sala Unirii din Chișinău, cu gândul la istoria Basarabiei și Bucovinei – Un eveniment simbolic, Complicitatea Marilor Puteri privind ocuparea Basarabiei și nordului Bucovinei de către Uniunea Sovietică [March 27-28, 2025 – in the Unity Hall in Chisinau, with the Thought of the History of Bessarabia and Bukovina – A Symbolic Event, The Complicity of the Great Powers Regarding the Occupation of Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina by the Soviet Union] (pp. 151-160), Capitolul VIII. Aprecieri privind evoluția României în contextul internațional după 1989 – Revenirea la democrație, „Sacrificiu istoric” [Assessments of Romania's Evolution in the International Context After 1989 – The Return to Democracy (pp. 162-175), “Historical Sacrifice”] (pp. 176-190), Capitolul IX. Director general al Arhivelor Statului/ Naționale [Director General of the State/ National Archives] (pp. 191-268) – *Congresul internațional al Arhivelor din septembrie 1992 (Canada)* [International Congress of Archives in September 1992 (Canada)] (pp. 193-202), *Masa rotundă organizată de Societatea Americană pentru Arhivistică (SUA, septembrie 1992)* [Roundtable Organized by the American Society for Archival Studies (USA, September 1992)] (pp. 203-209), *Congresul Internațional al Arhivelor din septembrie 1996 (China)* [International Congress of Archives in September 1996 (China)] (pp. 210-216), *Inițiator și semnatar al unor documente vizând restituirea arhivelor românești aflate în alte state (1992-1996)* [Initiator and Signatory of Documents Regarding the Restitution of Romanian Archives Located in Other States (1992-1996)] (pp. 217-245), *Contribuția mea la înființarea Facultății de Arhivistică (1992) și a altora la desființarea acesteia (2020)* [My Contribution to the Establishment of the Faculty of Archival Studies (1992) and of Others to Its Abolition (2020)] (pp. 245-253), *Legea Arhivelor Naționale, adoptată în 1996* [National Archives Law, Adopted in 1996] (pp. 254-268), Capitolul X. Președintele Secției de Științe Istorice și Arheologie a Academiei Oamenilor de Știință din România [Chapter X. President of the Section of Historical Sciences and Archeology of the Academy of Scientists of Romania] (pp. 269-288), Capitolul XI. Copreședinte al Comisiei Româno-Ruse pentru Tezaurul României depus la Moscova în 1916-1917 [Chapter XI. Co-President of the Romanian-Russian Commission for the Romanian Treasure Deposited in Moscow in 1916-1917] (pp. 289-314).

And *Epilog* [Epilogue] (pp. 315-321 – “I have published volumes of documents, studies and books on the years 1944-1989, in which I have demonstrated that it was not a linear period, but rather experienced important developments, marked by the Soviet occupation from 1944-1958, when the old elite – political, economic and largely cultural – was destroyed. After 1964, a national policy was returned to, and in the 1970s Bucharest was a center of world diplomacy; from 1982 the situation deteriorated as result of Nicolae Ceaușescu’s decisions regarding the early payment of the foreign debt and the forcing of exports to procure the necessary currency; the state of discontent became generalized, culminating in the huge popular movement of December 1989.

By the summer of 2025, I had published 52 books as an author, 59 as a coordinator and co-author, 108 as a collaborator, of which 18 in languages of international circulation. In addition, over 500 studies published in specialized journals are included. In 2002, Ars Docendi Publishing House included 48 of these in the volume *Studii de istorie* (573 p.)” /p. 317/).

A true panorama of the development of Romanian society after 1989, seen through the eyes of a hardworking, honest and upright historian, a servant devoted to revealing the historical truth, within the boundaries of science, of his Nation - this volume constitutes a fundamental book of contemporary memoirs.

Stoica LASCU

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Reference citations

I. Reference-List Entries for Periodicals (APA Style)

a. An Article in a Journal with continuous paging

Harrison, R.L., & Westwood, M.J. (2009). Preventing vicarious traumatization of mental health therapists: Identifying protective practices. *Psychotherapy: Theory, Research, Practice, Training*, 46, 203-219.

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b. An Article in a Journal with separate paging

Damean, S.L. (2013). The Royal Family of Romania and the National Reunification War. *Analele Universității din Craiova. Istorie*, 23(1), 43-50.

In-text citation (Damean, 2013: 50)

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Madu, C. (2010, March-April). A cure for crime. *Psychology Today*, 43(2), 12.

In-text citation (Madu, 2010: 12)

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In-text citation

The 1990 book: (Sternberg, 1990: 45)

The first 2003 book: (Sternberg, 2003a: 23)

The second 2003 book: (Sternberg, 2003b: 25)

The 2007 book: (Sternberg, 2007: 139)

All four works in the same citation: (Sternberg, 1990, 2003a, 2003b, 2007)

Damean, S.L. (2004). *România și Congresul de Pace de la Berlin (1878)*. București: Mica Valahie.

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e. Reference to a chapter in an edited book

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III. Archival Documents and Collections

a. Collection of letters from an archive

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IV. Reference to a web source

J.G. (2016, April 11). 7 Deadly Environmental Disasters. Retrieved April 25 2016, from <http://www.history.com/news/history-lists>

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