

## REVIEW OF BOOKS ON MINORITIES

\* \* *Emigrarea populației evreiești din România în anii 1940-1944. Culegere de documente din Arhiva Ministerului Afacerilor Externe al României* (Emigration of the Jewish Population Living in Romania, 1940-1944. A Collection of Documents from the Archives of the Ministry of External Affairs of Romania), ed. by Ion Calafeteanu (coord.), Nicolae Dinu and Teodor Gheorghe, Edit. Silex, Bucharest, 1993, 255 pp.

The present volume was published on the occasion of the inauguration of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., in April 1993. It is the result of efforts undertaken by a research team headed by Ion Calafeteanu, and gathers 94 documents from the archives of the Ministry of External Affairs of Romania pertaining to the issue of the immigration of the Romanian Jews to Palestine in 1940-1944.

Undoubtedly, the topic is not new. The tragedy of the Struma and the emigration of the Jews from Hungary and northern Transylvania through Romania have been addressed at length. However, little focus has been laid on the emigration to Palestine as a whole, or on the position of the Romanian government in relation to the issue. The present volume, gathering a number of extremely important documents, may lay the premises for a research effort devoted to the emigration of the Romanian Jews during World War Two. Unfortunately, neither the archive funds nor the respective files are mentioned, which little facilitates the work of any researcher willing to embark upon such a project.

Moreover, the volume lacks the introductory study which accompanies, as a rule, a collection of documents on a specific topic. The integration, from the very beginning, of the immigration issue into the general policy of the Romanian government towards the Jews would have been extremely useful. Without such integration, there is always the risk to overbid the place held by the emigration within the policy of Ion Antonescu towards the Jews. The assertion made in the Foreword – along which “fundamentally, Antonescu’s government considered that the so-called ‘Jewish question’ could be solved solely by having the Jewish population emigrate, mainly to Palestine“, (p. 9) – seems far too categorical and difficult to defend under careful analysis. In any case, it disregards the far ampler anti-Jewish measures and policies applied in Romania at that time, affecting a larger number of Jews and requiring much more sustained efforts on the part of the state apparatus, such as, for example, the deportation of the Jews from Bessarabia and Bukovina to Transnistria. Owing to the above, the present volume bears the imprint of the early nineties, when the policy towards the Jews carried out in the time of Marshal Antonescu was only timidly approached in Romanian historiography, with the mainstream, featured by the “official” historians, trying to hide the truth and deny any persecution, and when several attempts are known to have been made at redirecting research towards marginal themes.

Undoubtedly, the emigration of the Jews is an important issue to research, also due to the fact that it pertains to a somewhat longer period in the history of the Jews living in Romania, no less important than the policy of the Romanian state towards the Jews. During World War Two, the emigration of the Jews was seen by the Romanian officials as a solution to the “Jewish question“. The targeted purposes are clearly outlined in the documents included in the present volume. A note of 15 November 1941 by the Military Cabinet of the Leader of the State to the Ministry of External Affairs lists the advantages of the emigration of the Jews from the Kingdom – while the Jews living in Bessarabia and Bukovina were to be deported –, namely: “the number of the Jews living in the Kingdom, who had become undesirable, would decrease; the rich Jews, who are also the most

dangerous, would immigrate; given the short notice, the Jews would be forced to liquidate their businesses hastily, to the benefit of the Romanians; the emigrants would leave in the country part of their property, to be subsequently taken over by the national patrimony, as they would only be allowed to take with them only part of their money," (doc. no 19, p. 93). Furthermore, a resolution of 24 November 1941 by Ion Antonescu states: "It is imperative that we should get rid of as many Jews as possible, and that they should leave in the country, of their own accord, the capital accumulated here," (no 21, note 1, p. 96)

The Jews themselves, faced with persecutions, crimes committed against them, and apprehensive of bleak prospects lying ahead, sought to emigrate. The Federation of the Unions of the Jewish Communities of Romania addressed the authorities with emigrations proposals – such as the memoirs put forward by Wilhelm Filderman, president of the organization (doc. no 12, pp. 85-86).

The Romanian government sought, at least in a declarative way, to encourage as many Jews as possible to leave the country. At a certain point, the drawing up of general plan of emigration was considered – mentioned by the Minister of National Economy, General Gheorghe Potopceanu, in a memoir addressed to Ion Antonescu on 17 February 1941 (doc. no 9, pp. 78-81) –, but the project was never carried through. Mihai Antonescu, vice-president of the Council of Ministers, admitted in May 1944 that, "I never, absolutely never received any effective or carefully thought-out project" in this respect; however, there were some "pitiful, onerous transactions" linked to the organization of the emigration (doc. no 43, p. 138).

As indicated in the volume – which, however, does not offer reliable data for the entire 1940-1944 period –, the results of the Jewish emigration seem to have been rather modest. The number of immigrants was low, their departure difficult, not only due to the circumstances given by the war, but also to the business transactions having the immigrants as an object. To the state, ship owners and other intermediaries, emigration was a source of spoliation of the Jews. The risks faced by the immigrants were enormous, especially given the precarious state of the ships involved in the process.

In 1944, the Romanian authorities showed some eagerness in speeding up the emigration of the Jews. In June, in order to eliminate the abuses of the private agents, the Romanian government decided to take the matter into their own hands (doc. no 55, pp. 165-166; doc. no 57, pp. 167-169; doc. no 58, pp. 169-178; doc. no 65, pp. 215). However, this did not lead to any significant increase in the number of immigrants.

The Romanian-German relations in relation to this issue are well illustrated in the volume. The policy of Romania towards the Jewish emigration seems to have been clearly different from that of Germany. This can be seen in the renewed interventions of the German diplomats in Bucharest against immigration to Palestine, interventions disregarded by the Romanians (the intervention of Manfred von Killinger, Minister of Germany to Bucharest, of 15 February 1944: doc. no 39, pp. 130-133; the intervention of Counselor Dittler, member of the German Legation, of 9 March 1944: doc. no 42, p. 135; the memorandum of the German Legation, entitled "Stand Adopted Towards the Memoir of the Romanian Government Concerning the Emigration of the Jews Living in Romania", of 10 May 1944: no 51, pp. 146-161). In answer to these interventions, the Romanians reaffirmed their policy of encouraging the emigration of the Jews. In 1940-1944, the question of the Jews living in Romania lay at the core of the Romanian-German relations. It seems that in 1943-1944, the Romanians employed the issue of the Jewish immigration so as to assert their independence in relation to Germany.

We believe that assertion of the editors of this present collection of documents along which the emigration of the Jews was a priority of the Romanian government is true when considering the years 1943 and 1944. However, in the previous period, things were completely different. Quite significant is the fact that not a single document dating to the period 6 January – 10 November 1942 was included in the collection. Indeed, this was the time in which deportation rather than emigration was the "solution" to the Jewish question. It is then that the deportations to Transnistria took place (having begun in the autumn of 1941), and it is also then that the Romanian officials adhered, in a first stage, to the German plans aiming to sent the Jews living in the Banat and southern Transylvania to the death camps in occupied Poland. In 1940-1944, Ion Antonescu's policy towards the Jews underwent significant change. In the autumn of 1942, out of reasons of external policy, Antonescu

abandoned the violent policy against the Jews, upon which he had embarked in June 1941 and which had triggered the death of a great number of Jews. This would explain the new accent laid on the immigration of the Jews, such as illustrated in the volume under consideration.

The developments occurred in 1940-1944 in the approaches to the immigration issue are quite suggestive of the wavering and ambiguous policy towards the Jews promoted by Antonescu's government, as well as of the particularities of the Jewish question in Romania.

*Viorel Achim*

\* \* *Minorităţi etnoculturale. Mărturii documentare. Maghiarii din România (1945-1955)* (Ethno-cultural Minorities. Documentary Testimonies. The Hungarians Living in Romania, 1945-1955), ed. by A. Andreescu, L. Nastasă, A. Varga, L. Năstasă (coord.), Cluj, 2002, 920 pp.; *Minorităţi etnoculturale. Mărturii documentare. Maghiarii din România (1956-1968)* (Ethno-cultural Minorities. Documentary Testimonies. The Hungarians Living in Romania, 1956-1968), ed. by A. Andreescu, L. Nastasă, A. Varga, L. Năstasă (coord.), Cluj, 2003, 1006 pp.

The two dense volumes include a considerably large number of documents (the first volume, 222 documents, and the second, 115) addressing various complex and sensitive issues related to the life of the Hungarian population in Romania and the relations with the Romanian majority within the Romanian state after World War Two (1945) and until 1968.

The documents, unpublished before, were gathered from the central and local Romanian archives, for their most, as well as from the Hungarian archives of the Ministry of External Affairs. The considerable research effort put up by the editors was aimed at offering a coherent image of the destiny of the Hungarian population, "integrated in the Romanian State" at the end of World War Two; however, without pretending to exhaust the complexity of the issues or include all the existing documents.

Undoubtedly, the editing of these documents can only stimulate researchers in making new and unbiased approaches to the past two decades, in which a host of events marked the evolution of the Romanians, as a majority, and Hungarians, as an ethnical minority, after the introduction of the dictatorial regime in communist Romania.

The consistent notes add to the substance of the documents and ease the reader's access to the information. Moreover, the volumes include a considerable number of facsimiles with documents and photographs, most of which unpublished before. Quite noteworthy are the two lists of indices, one being a list of persons, quite long in itself, and the other one of localities, which enhance the systematic and all-encompassing character of the applied methodology. Unfortunately, the pages in the list of documents are not numbered, and the documents lack a short abstract.

The shorthand reports of the discussions on various important issues and events of the time by the political elites of the regime are captivating to the reader.

The two volumes under consideration are an outstanding example of how the historical past can be reevaluated, and deserve full appreciation.

*Cezar Măţă*

- \* \* \* *Minoritățile naționale din România. 1918-1925. Documente* (National Minorities in Romania. 1918-1925. Documents), coord. Ioan Scurtu, Liviu Boar, Bucharest, 1995, 784 pp.; *Minoritățile naționale din România. 1925-1931. Documente* (National Minorities in Romania. 1925-1931. Documents), coord. Ioan Scurtu, Ioan Dordea, Bucharest, 1996, 606 pp.; *Minoritățile naționale din România. 1931-1938. Documente* (National Minorities in Romania. 1931-1938. Documents), coord. Ioan Scurtu, Bucharest, 1999, 516 pp.

The three volumes edited under the aegis of the State Archives comprise over 360 documents, for their most unpublished before, concerning the national minorities living in Romania. Each volume has a valuable *Introductory Study* (vol. I, pp. 7-14; II, pp. 7-16; III, pp. 7-24) by Ioan Scurtu. Except for laws already published in "Monitorul Oficial" and the press articles of the time, the documents are published integrally in their original language, the documents in foreign languages (German, French, Hungarian, and English) being provided with a Romanian translation. The selection was made from a multitude of archive funds so as to set out, on the one hand, the evolution of the policy promoted by the Romanian state towards the minorities and, on the other hand, the attitude of the latter towards the Romanian state. This dual objective was the tool employed by the editors in the selection and publishing of the most representative documents for each minority living in Romania. The documents highlight political, economic, social, cultural, denominational, etc. aspects in the life of the Hungarian, German, Jewish, Gypsy, Ukrainian, Polish, Russian, Lippovan, Bulgarian, Serb, Turkish, Tatar, Armenian, Greek, Slovak, Italian, etc. minorities.

The volumes include various types of documents: statements, speeches, decrees-laws motions, press articles, statistic tables, electoral manifestos, programs of the minorities' parties, reports by the Special Services of the Political Police Department, telegrams, law excerpts, orders, circular letters, notes, regulations, statutes of various associations of the ethnical communities, applications, police reports, correspondence, and memoirs. Most of these documents are housed by the Central Historical National Archives, the Archives of the Ministry of External Affairs and of the Romanian Intelligence Service.

In order to facilitate the access of foreign readers, the *Table of Contents*, *Introductory Study*, *Note on the Edition*, and *List of Documents* in each volume are translated into languages of wide circulation.

Volume I, unlike the other two volumes, also includes a selective list of periodicals issued by minorities in 1919-1925, as well as a selective bibliography (pp. 153-183).

The publishing of the three volumes under consideration is a notable event in Romanian historiography and an important contribution to a better and deeper knowledge of the evolution of the Romanian society in the interwar period.

Nagy Pienaru

VIOREL ACHIM, *The Roma in Romanian History*, Central European University Press, Budapest, New York, 2004, VI+233 pp.

Few researchers have delved into the rich history of the Roma of Eastern Europe, which is what makes Viorel Achim's *The Roma in Romanian History* a must read for anyone interested in Roma. Although the first documented presence of Roma in the Romanian territories dates back to the

fourteenth century, Romani history has been virtually ignored in Romanian historiography. Achim rectifies the shameful exclusion of this substantial minority with an excellent study that artfully synthesizes several centuries of Romani social and political history.

In this translation of the Romanian version published in 1998, Achim investigates the present precarious situation of Roma by asking what in their long history has brought about their marginalization in Romanian society. Each chapter deals with a distinct period, adeptly summarized by the author. The work begins with the arrival of the Roma on the territory of Romania and their enslavement in the medieval ages, continues through the emancipation of the Roma in the nineteenth century, traces the interwar situation, details their tragic fate during the Second World War, attempts to understand communist era policy toward Roma, and finishes with a contemporary look at Roma in Romania.

Achim argues that the Roma are underprivileged and discriminated against today mainly due to problems with the process of emancipation some 150 years ago. They remained politically, economically, and socially isolated from Romanian society after gaining their freedom in the nineteenth century. Although communism attempted to level the playing field, without a sustained civil rights movement to advance the rights of Roma, upon its collapse Roma have sunk even further into poverty and isolation. Achim takes a pessimistic view on the ability of Roma to overcome their situation and predicts a worsening of Romani social problems.

The work is an ambitious undertaking by the author that is methodologically rigorous in a field where often times less than scientific research methods are applied by those examining Roma. Although most of the book is primarily descriptive, specific sections contain analysis, such as the events surrounding the deportation of Roma from Romania during World War II. The arduous task of navigating archives and libraries in Romania made the scholarship an extremely daunting task, one that illustrates the author's tenacity and patience, the result being a mastery of the materials. The diversity of resources alone proves the book to be a treasure trove for fellow scholars.

Unfortunately, the book does not include cultural history, which may have attracted more non-specialists to it. Also, it's a shame that this English version isn't updated. The book's introduction and the concluding chapter on the contemporary situation of the Roma are slightly outdated. For instance, the latter relies extensively on the 1993 survey of socio-economic conditions of Roma published by Romanian sociologists Elena and Cătălin Zamfir, *Țiganiii între ignorare și îngrijorare*. While valid for the period following the demise of communism, a re-examination after a decade is necessary. The initial shock of the transition has passed and since 2000, Romania is no longer experiencing a recession. Additionally, there is a new drive to improve the situation of the Roma spearheaded by the European Union. Thus Achim's dire predictions of Romani worsening social conditions might have somewhat abated.

Although the book was written primarily for an audience acquainted with Romanian history, it also appeals to social scientists, policymakers, and anyone interested in Roma. What makes this piece outstanding is its breadth of scope, its reliance on archival sources, and the author's keen understanding of how Roma fit into Romanian historiography.

In conclusion, *The Roma in Romanian History* is an excellent piece of scholarship that synthesizes the history of the Roma in Romania. The book establishes an excellent baseline that begs further scholarship on each of the chapters presented. These issues are paramount for understanding the current plight of Europe's largest transnational minority.

*Michelle Kelso*

VASILE CIOBANU, *Contribuții la cunoașterea istoriei sașilor transilvăneni 1918-1944* (Contributions to a Better Knowledge of the History of the Transylvanian Saxons, 1918-1944), Edit. Hora, Sibiu, 2001, 470 pp.

The author of the present paper, a researcher at the Institute of Socio-Human Research of Sibiu of the Romanian Academy and lecturer within the Chair of Modern and Contemporary History of "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, makes an analysis of the economic, political and cultural evolution of the Saxons living in Transylvania in 1918-1944.

In his *Foreword* (pp. 11-27), the author makes a brief presentation of the history of the Saxons, from their colonization till 1918, pointing out to the present state of research, the sources, and the importance of the topic. The book comprises four large chapters.

Chapter 1, *Adeziunea sașilor la Unirea Transilvaniei cu România* (The Saxons' Adhesion to the Union of Transylvania to Romania) (pp. 29-68), includes aspects pertaining to the change in political orientation of the Saxon leadership in the autumn of 1918, the negotiations with the Central Romanian National Council and the Leading Council, and the Decision of Mediaș for Adherence to the Union (8 January 1919).

Chapter 2, *Activitatea economică a sașilor în anii 1918-1944* (Economic Activity of the Saxons in 1918-1944) (pp. 69-158), addresses the consequences of the Union of Transylvania to Romania on the economic life of the Saxons, as well as the evolutions in key-fields, such as industry, agriculture (focus being laid on the land reform of 1921), trades, commerce, and the banking system.

Chapter 3, entitled *Organizațiile politice ale sașilor transilvăneni în perioada 1918-1944* (Political Organizations of the Transylvanian Saxons in 1918-1944) (pp. 159-264), brings into focus the political organization of the Saxons in the first decade of the interwar period, the penetration of Nazi ideology among the Saxons, the resulting turmoil, and the internal organization in 1938-1944. The attitude of the Saxons toward the major internal and international events (including the Diktat of Vienna) and the political organization in the time of Andreas Schmidt (1940-1944) are outlined.

The last chapter is devoted to the cultural life of the Saxons (pp. 265-403). A presentation is made of aspects linked to the role of culture, education, scientific breakthroughs, press, plastic art, music, and drama, followed by several pages in which the author puts forward the conclusions of his research on the history of the Saxons in 1918-1944 (p. 405-411).

The book also includes a *Selective Bibliography* (pp. 413-444), an *Index of Persons* (pp. 445-461), an *Index of Settlements* (pp. 463-468), and *Sources of the Illustrations* (pp. 469-470).

Vasile Ciobanu's book is a valuable contribution of the monograph type, combining the previous historiographic research work with a systematic effort of archive research undertaken by the author. The result is commendable, as the reader is offered an insight into some fundamental issues in the evolution of the Saxon population living in Transylvania in 1918-1944.

*Alexandru Ciociltan*

STELIAN BREZEANU, CONSTANTIN IORDAN, HORIA C. MATEI, TUDOR TEOTEOI, GHEORGHE ZBUCHEA, *Relațiile româno-elene. O istorie cronologică* (The Romanian-Greek Relations. A Chronological History), Edit. Omonia, Bucharest, 2003, 385 pp.

The present book, the result of the collective effort of several historians with a consistent interest in the Romanian-Greek relations, is another important editorial event.

Although strictly chronological, it offers an all-encompassing image of the history of the Romanian-Greek relations since the oldest times (quite suggestively opening with the relations between the Geto-Dacians and the Ancient Greeks) until the present day (the final part of the book addresses the Romanian-Greek relations since the end of World War II until 2003, more exactly until the signing by Romania, at Brussels, of the protocols of adhesion to NATO with the 19 members of the alliance, Greece included).

The book has a foreword by Virgil Căndea, member of the Romanian Academy and correspondent member of the Hellenic society of Archaeology, who believes that a "Greek replica" of the present volume would enhance the joint contribution of the two peoples to culture and civilization in Europe.

A special focus is devoted to the Romanian-Greek relations in the Phanariot time, including the reforming projects undertaken by a number of Phanariot princes, such as Constantin Mavrocordat, and the evolution of the Romanian-Greek relations during the two world wars and in the interwar period, which marked a rapprochement between the two states culminating in the signing of the Pact of Non-Aggression and Arbitrage in March 1928 and, especially, in the efforts joint of Romania and Greece, alongside Turkey and Yugoslavia, in setting afoot the Balkan Entente.

A host of other important aspects of the Romanian-Greek relations are dwelt upon at length, including the Byzantine time, which wielded considerable influence on the organization of society, and of the political and ecclesiastic structures in the Romanian Principalities, and the Romanian-Greek relations during the emergence of the national states in South-East Europe and their emancipation from the Ottoman rule.

Two tables showing the succession of the state and government heads of Romania and Greece are also provided.

Owing to the complexity of the issues addressed, the present book exceeds by far the limits of a strictly chronological work, such as it may seem at first sight, being without any doubt an important contribution and an extremely useful work tool in the study of the Romanian-Greek relations since the oldest times and until the present day. The historiographical *background* of the authors recommends it both to historians and to the general public showing an interest in the historical evolution of the relations between the territorial entities in South-East Europe now known as Romania and Greece.

*Radu Tudorancea*

*Dan hier ist beser zu leben als in dem Schwaben Land. Vom deutschen Südwesten in das Banat und nach Siebenbürgen. For It Is Better to Live Here than in the Swabian Land. From Southwest Germany to the Banat and Transylvania*, ed. by Annemarie Röder, Stuttgart, 2002, 264 pp. (with illustrations and maps in the text).

The bilingual volume gathers several studies devoted to the colonization of the Germans from southwestern Germany (Upper Swabia, Baden, the Black Forest region, and Württemberg) in the Banat, the Sătmar region, and Transylvania in the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries. The volume accompanied the exhibition with the same topic, organized with the kind assistance of Lord Baden-Württemberg.

In “*Din Germania de sud-vest în Banat și în Transilvania. Apropiere de o expoziție din perspectiva istoriei culturii*” (From Southwestern Germany to the Banat and Transylvania. A Look at the Exhibition in the Light of the History of Culture), Annemarie Röder outlines the scope and objectives of the exhibition (pp. 15-29).

Gert Kollmer-von Oheimb-Loup makes an analysis of “*Cadrul economic al Germaniei de sud-vest pe fundalul fenomenului de emigrare*” (Economic Outline of Southwestern Germany on the Backdrop of the Emigration Phenomenon) (pp. 30-48). The economic causes of the emigration within the policy of colonization carried out by the House of Austria are examined. Until the time of Mary Theresa, the economic autonomy of the new territories counted among the pursued objectives, the policy of the sovereign seeking to create a unitary economic space. The mercantilist conception of the Habsburg authorities aiming to consolidate the state by developing agriculture, trades, and mining is presented. Undoubtedly, the colonists were stimulated to emigrate by the granting of some privileges. The agrarian economy, the inheritance rights, the agrarian conjuncture, and the impact of wars, demographic evolution and prices in the space of origin are featured out.

Anton E. Dörner, author of the article “*Primele colonizări svăbești în regiunea Sătmăruului în secolul al XVIII-lea. Colonizarea particulară*” (The Early Swabian Colonization of Sătmăr in the Eighteenth Century. Private Colonization) (pp. 49-57), points to the premises and economic, political, military and religious objectives of the colonization. The first attempt at colonization unsuccessfully undertaken by Count Alexander I Karolyi in 1712-1714 is addressed: only some 250 colonists out of the initial 1,400 survived at Urziceni. The second attempt undertaken by the Count in 1720, with the assistance of recruiter Anton Elmayer, was successful.

Rudolf Gräf describes the colonization of the mountainous Banat (pp. 58-66). Quite naturally, focus is laid on mining, metallurgy, and forestry. Specialists were brought over from the Tyrol, Styria, Upper and Lower Austria, Bohemia, Moravia, Hungary, and the Zips region (Slovakia). The mining administration, the role played by the mining centers in the development of the regions, and the destructive effects of the Austrian-Turkish wars are addressed. The impact of the industrial revolution on the entire territory is highlighted. One should also mark that in 1848-1849, the German inhabitants of the mountainous Banat gave their support to the Hungarian Revolution.

A second paper, also by Annemarie Röder, “*Colonizarea de stat în Banat: Baze instituțional organizatorice, recrutarea coloniștilor și condiții de colonizare*” (State Colonization in the Banat: Institutional and Organizational Bases, Recruitment of Colonists, and Colonization Conditions) (pp. 67-86), addresses the methods of colonization with German, Romanian and Serb elements, as well as the privileges granted to colonists. The adversity faced by colonists is also presented: the war against the Turks in 1736-1739 and the plague epidemics of 1738-1739. As a result of the peace of Belgrade (1739), the Banat became a border region between the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires. The resuming of colonization in the time of Mary Theresa and of her son, Joseph II, is presented. In 1782, the latter would extend to non-Catholics the right of establishment in the Banat. Migration also continued in the nineteenth century, with interruptions.

Anton E. Dörner’s “*Colonizări din Baden-Durlach la Sebeș (mijlocul veacului al XVIII-lea)*” (Colonization from Baden-Durlach to Sebeș, Mid-Eighteenth Century) (pp. 87-92) speaks of the factors determining the magistrate of the town to support the establishment of Lutherans from the German space without consulting the province authorities, and of the difficult life of the newcomers. The author believes that, “By and large, the colonization of the Sebeș region with emigrants from southwest Germany yielded positive results on the economic, social and cultural levels. The experience of the transmigrating skilled workers brought over from more developed provinces contributed to the development of some important economic sectors in the region of Sebeș, in the time of the reforms of Mary Theresa.”

“*Din Steinlachtal spre Transilvania. Ultima emigrare organizată din Württemberg înspre sud-estul habsburgic. Între adaptare și stăruință*” (From Steinlachtal Towards Transylvania. The Last Organized Emigration from Württemberg Towards the South-West of the Habsburg Empire. Between Adjustment and Efforts) (pp. 93-114) by Márta Fata shows how the Saxons came to support the establishment of some German colonists in their territories. The author quotes among the causes:



demographic growth, excessive fragmentation of agricultural land, the inheritance system of the Saxons, as well as their wish to improve the ethnical-demographic balance in favor of their minority. (In 1839, the Romanians, the Gypsies, and the Hungarians accounted for 52.6% of the population on the estate of the Saxon University). One should note here the part played by Stefan Ludwig Roth in recruiting German coreligionaires willing to emigrate in 1844-1845. The reasons for their immigration to Transylvania and the hurdles they had to overcome are outlined. The biography of a notable emigrant is also provided: Johann Georg Haldenwang of Ofterdinger established at Pianu de Jos. The difficulties experienced by the latter, on his journey to his new country and during the integration process are presented.

Marionela Wolf approaches a less known issue, namely that of the German immigrants of Banat, Sătmar, and Transylvania in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century (pp. 124-160). It is the case of immigrants who failed in their attempt, and were forced to return to their place of origin. Many became beggars in the process, some of them even losing the citizens rights previously held.

Georg Richter presents in "*Ducele Carl Alexander de Württemberg, erou de război alături de prințul Eugen*" (Duke Carl Alexander of Württemberg, War Hero Together with Prince Eugen) (pp. 177-190) the biography of this character having played an important part on the battle field in 1716-1717, in the clashes with the Ottomans at Petrovaradin, Timișoara and Belgrade.

Three other studies trace the biographies of a number of characters. Karl-Peter Krauss presents "*Deportarea și reîntoarcerea lui Jakob Fridolin Albiez, răsculat din Hauenstein*" (The Deportation and Comeback of Jakob Fridolin Albiez, Rioter of Hauenstein) (pp. 195-216); Nicolae-Marcel Simina outlines the activity of a forerunner of archeology in Transylvania, Karl Haldenwang (pp. 217-225); Annemarie Röder follows the evolution of a family of immigrants from Württemberg established in Timișoara (pp. 230-243).

The volume enjoy outstanding printing conditions and includes a large number of engravings, maps, drawings, paintings, illustrative artifacts, chronological tables, measurement units, and coins of the eighteenth century from the Habsburg Empire, as well as a multilingual index of localities.

It addresses both the specialists and the general public, with an interest in the topic. Quite commendable is the translation into Romanian of the material, which leads to a better understanding of the policy of colonization carried out by the House of Austria in the Banat, Sătmar, and Transylvania, a topic little addressed in the Romanian history handbooks.

*Alexandru Ciocîltan*

*Erdélyi testamentumok I. Hadviselő székely végrendeletei. Háromszék*, (Transylvanian Testaments I. The Last Wills of Szekler with Military Duties. Trei Scaune), ed. by Kinga S. Tüdős, Edit. Mentor, Tg. Mureș, 2003, 467 p. + ill.

The book edited by Kinga S. Tüdős and collaborators is the first one in a series planned by the author to consist of other last will collections from Transylvania, written in Hungarian, from the sixteenth-seventeenth centuries. The opening volume of this series contains 138 last wills, covering the period between 1548-1711. These unpublished sources stem from various archives in Romania (Sfântu Gheorghe, Târgu Mureș, and Alba Iulia) as well as from the Hungarian National Archives in Budapest. The author's aim was to offer a wide selection of testaments drafted by or for Szeklers who lived in Trei Scaune (Háromszék), which was one of the administrative units of the Szeklers during the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period.

The book opens with an extensive introduction which sets the political as well as the social and economic framework of the Szekler society in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Participating in the defense of the Transylvanian principality was the main duty of the Szeklers, an obligation that shaped the life of this mainly peasant population. Many last wills were put on paper before the testators went to war. Other causes for testament writing were old age, illness, and plague epidemics. The author proceeds with a social analysis on the testament writers, concluding that more than half of the selected last wills belong to nobles and to richer Szeklers. Women can be found among testators; in this volume, female last wills represent one third of the total documents. The author also discusses the structure of a last will, the juridical questions of inheritance in Szekler society and tradition, as well as the nature of the legacies in the analyzed testaments. Not surprisingly, many last wills contain itemized lists and topographical descriptions of the landed property to be inherited by the descendants or legal inheritors. The author devoted a subchapter to the lettered and rural intellectuals (deacons, priests, pastors, and teachers) mentioned in the testaments. In an overwhelmingly illiterate society, their writing skills secured their social advance (p. 37).

The rather lengthy introduction is followed by the edition of the Szekler testaments. Their publication is a genuine contribution to historical writing and our knowledge of the past. The author brings to light an extraordinary corpus of primary sources through a painstaking work of transcription and critical edition covering more than 300 printed pages.

A prosopographical database contains all information, gathered from other sources as well, on the individuals whose last wills are comprised in the volume. A summary of the introduction is provided both in Romanian and German, although these two texts are not identical in contents and length. The author also provides the Romanian summaries of the last wills, thus generously enabling a broader access to these sources.

The excellent graphic conditions of the volume are to be commended. In conclusion, the collection of Szekler last wills is a necessary and valuable addition to historiography, whose continuation can only be desired in the near future.

Mária Pakucs

AVRAM ROSEN, *Contribuția evreilor la progresul industrial în România interbelică* (Contribution of the Jews to Industrial Progress in Interwar Romania), Edit. Hasefer, Bucharest, 2002, 296 pp.

Avram Rosen's book is an important contribution to a better insight into the role and place of the Jews in the industrial development of Romania during the first four decades of the twentieth century. It includes three chapters: I. *Potențialul material și uman de pornire. Contribuția evreilor la dezvoltarea industrială în România 1900-1918* (Initial Material and Human Potential. Contribution of the Jews to Industrial Development in Romania, 1900-1918) (pp. 37-135); II. *Contribuția evreilor la progresul industrial în România 1919-1929* (Contribution of the Jews to Industrial Progress in Romania, 1919-1929) (pp. 136-224); III. *Contribuția evreilor la progresul industrial în România 1930-1938* (Contribution of the Jews to Industrial Progress in Romania, 1930-1938) (pp. 225-286). Each chapter is provided by the author, who is an authority in economic history, with tables and documentary appendages (Chap. I, 9 tables and 13 documentary, pp. 110-135; Chap. II, 2 tables and 5 appendages, pp. 210-284), excerpts from archive documents and the press of the time, especially industrial surveys.

Avram Rosen makes an analysis of the Jews' involvement on different levels, either in points of the activities carried on (craftsmen, managers, members on the administration boards of some joint stock companies, chambers of commerce and industry, etc), or of their participation in the process of industrial development (manufacturing and mining and oil industries): workshops, private industrial businesses, joint stock companies, etc.

The employed documents and sources lead to the conclusion that under the favorable circumstances created in the interwar period, the Jews had a substantial contribution to the development and modernization of Romania.

*Nagy Pienaru*

PAULA SCALCĂU, *Grecii din România* (The Greeks Living in Romania), Edit. Omonia, Bucharest, 2003, 309 pp.

Paula Scalcău's *Grecii din România* (The Greeks Living in Romania) continues the series of works on Greece and Greek civilization inaugurated by the Omonia Publishing House in 1993 with the publishing of translations from modern Greek literature (Kavafis, Poetry Works), as well as of various works laying a special focus on the history of the Greeks living in the Romanian space since the more ancient times and up to the present day.

The book looks at the evolution of the Greek communities living in Romania on the backdrop of some significant historical events and periods, such as the Phanariote century, the 1821 revolution, and the periods after 1859 and 1989. The specific segments taken under discussion are extremely varied: teachers and professors, metropolitans, printers, actors, physicians, pharmacists, ship owners, and tradesmen.

Industry was the economic sector of choice for the Greek community living in Romania. Therefore, out of the 12,867 businesses Wallachia in 1863, 222 were Greek, 208 Austrian, 95 Ottoman, 91 Russian, 33 Prussian, 19 English, and 17 French. An analysis is made of the object of activity of these businesses, of their name and evolution in time.

One of the wealthiest Greeks established in Bucharest in the second half of the nineteenth century was Evangelie Zappas. His name and the name of his cousin Konstantinos Zappas, as well as the charity works of the two, are mentioned by the author. A most memorable aspect was Zappas' contribution to the revival of the Olympic Games. However, there was also a huge diplomatic scandal linked to his name, namely the argument which broke out between Romania and Greece in 1892 and led to the break of diplomatic relations until 1896, which is not mentioned in the aforementioned book.

Evangelie Zappas was a Greek of the Epirus who made a considerable fortune after having coming to Romania. On his death in 1865, his cousin Constantinos Zappas was appointed executor of the will. Shortly after the death of Constantinos Zappas in 1891, the issue of the will led to a deterioration of the relations between Romania and Greece. According to the laws of Romania of the time, real estate could not be bequeathed to foreign citizens or to foreign states, since property was conditioned on Romanian citizenship. The argument over Zappas' will plagued the Romanian-Greek relations until 1896, when the conflict was quenched and diplomatic relations were resumed.

An interesting episode in the book is the refuge taken in Romania during the civil war of Greece (1946-1949) and after the end of the war by several thousands of communist fighters, who settled down in Romanian towns with an important Greek community, such as Bucharest, Brăila, Constanța, and Galați.

A chronological table of the history of the Greeks living in Romania, a very useful instrument in the studying of Greek communities in the Romanian towns, is also given.

Owing to its global approach to the issue, Paula Scalcău's book is an important scientific contribution to the study of the evolution of the Greek communities living in Romania and of their interactions with the Romanian population.

*Radu Tudorancea*

*Studii și documente privitoare la istoria comunității albaneze din România* (Studies and Documents on the History of the Albanian Community Living in Romania), ed. by Gelcu Sefedin Maksutovici, vol. I, Bucharest, 2000, 352 pp.

The volume edited by Gelcu Maksutovici includes over 40 studies pertaining to the Albanian Diaspora and Albanian community living in Romania. The issues addressed are extremely varied: political history, culture, denomination, society, economy – and they are owed to Romanian, as well as foreign specialists (Bulgarian, Serbian, Albanian, Turkish etc.). Out of the latter group, one should note the studies by Ismet Dermaku (*Nikolla (Naum) Naçio – Conducătorul societății culturale albaneze din România* (Nikolla (Naum) Naçio – Leader of the Cultural Albanian Society of Romania), pp. 85-94; *Aniversarea a nouăzeci de ani de la întemeierea societății patriotice albaneze “Bashkimi” (Unirea) din București* (Ninety Years Since the Creation of the Patriotic Albanian Society “Bashkimi” (The Union) of Bucharest), pp. 95-104; *Secția Societății “Bashkimi” din Constanța și activitatea ei patriotică culturală* (The Constanța Department of the “Bashkimi” Society and its patriotic cultural activity), pp. 110-116; *Școala albaneză “Lumina” de la Constanța (1905-1912)* (The Albanese School “Lumina of Constanța, 1905-1912), pp. 117-122; Irvan Unver Nastratinoglu (*Ibrahim Temo și Atatürk*) (Ibrahim Temo and Atatürk), pp. 155-160; and Gheorghe Barbalov (*Albanezii emigranți în România, prin Bulgaria, în secolul trecut* (Emigrant Albanians to Romania, Through Bulgaria, in the Last Century), pp. 161-164.

The volume opens with a group of studies signed by Gelcu Maksutovici and Panait I. Panait on the history of the Albanians and the evolution of this community living in the Romanian Principalities since the Middle Ages until the present time. The issues pertaining to (Moslem and Orthodox) denominations are approached by George Grigore in *Coranul, în albaneză, de la Ploiești* (The Koran of Ploiești, in Albanian), pp. 148-150, and Ștefan Buchin in *Mărturisiri despre Biserica Ortodoxă Albaneză din București* (Testimonies on the Albanian Orthodox Church of Bucharest), pp. 151-154.

An important section of the volume is dedicated to a number of prominent representatives of the Albanian community: Baki Ymeri, Gelcu Maksutovici, Lucia Djamo-Diaconița, etc. The final section of the volumes includes documents of the twentieth century, among which the extremely interesting documents published by N. Ciachir, *Date inedite despre albanezii, cetățeni străini așezați pe teritoriul României în anul 1943* (Unpublished Information on the Albanian Foreign Citizens Established in Romania in 1943), pp. 338-342, from the State Gendarmerie Fund of the National Archives.

The numerous contributions of the editor enable us to believe that his efforts to draw up “a sincere and as complete as possible history of the Albanians living in Romania” will undoubtedly be successful.

Nagy Pienaru

*Tătarii în istoria românilor* (The Tatars in the History of the Romanians), coord. Marian Cojoc, Edit. Muntenia, Constanța, 2004, 286 pp.

The volume *Tătarii în istoria românilor* (The Tatars in the History of the Romanians), under the coordination of Marian Cojoc, includes 11 studies falling into three sections: *Originea și evoluția turco-tătarilor în spațiul românesc* (The Origin and Evolution of the Turks-Tatars in the Romanian Space); *România, Marile Puteri și problemele turco-tătarilor în secolul XX* (Romania, the Great Powers and the Turkish-Tatar Issues in the Twentieth Century); and, *Repere documentare ale istoriei tătarilor dobrogeni în secolul XX* (Documentary Landmarks in the History of the Dobroudjan Tatars in the Twentieth Century).

The first section, with a *Preface* and *Foreword* by Marian Cojoc and, respectively, Ekrem Gafar, opens with *Prezențe ale turco-tătarilor în viața spirituală a Dobrogei (1913-1915)* (Turkish-Tatar Contribution to the spiritual Life of Dobroudja, 1913-1915) (pp. 13-42) by Stoica Lascu. The author highlights several aspects in the cultural activity of the Moslem minority in the territory between the Danube and the Black Sea; the inauguration of the Melik Mosque of Constanța (May 1913); the role of the Moslem Seminar of Medgidia; the Turkish-Tatar intellectuals. In his *Originea și evoluția problemei naționale a tătarilor* (The Origin and Evolution of the National Question of the Tatars) (pp. 43-52), Güner Acmolă makes a diachronic presentation of several episodes in the tragedy of the Crimean Tatars, also providing the lists of the members of the Tatar elite suffering the rigors of the communist jails. The demographic evolution of the Moslem population is analyzed by V. Ciorbea, based on statistical data, in his study *Turco-tătarii în Dobrogea interbelică* (The Turks-Tatars in Interwar Dobroudja) (pp. 53-60). In his *Presa și învățământul comunităților tătară și turcă din România în perioada 1920-1989* (The Press and Education Establishments of the Tatar and Turkish Communities in Romania, 1920-1989) (pp. 61-66), Aladin Amet gives a summary of data on the various Turkish periodicals and highlights some aspects in the history of the Dobroudjan Moslem Education. Constantin Ionașcu's study, *Despre rezistența turco-tătară anticomunistă din Dobrogea* (On the Turkish-Tatar Anti-Communist Resistance in Dobroudja) (pp. 67-70), paints the portraits of some prominent members of the Tatar community involved in anti-communist activities, now enjoying a well-deserved recognition.

The second section gathers the contributions by Florin Anghel, "*Noul curs*" în relațiile dintre România și Turcia, 1927-1928 (The "New Trend" in the Relations Between Romania and Turkey, 1927-1928) (pp. 71-84); Gh. Buzatu, *România și marile puteri în ajunul celui de-al doilea război mondial (cazul V.V. Tilea)* (Romania and the Great Powers on the Eve of World War Two. The V. V. Tilea Case) (pp. 85-114); Marian Zidaru, *Eforturi româno-turce pentru salvarea păcii în Europa în primăvara și vara anului 1939* (Romanian-Turkish Efforts in Defending Peace in Europe in the Spring and Summer of 1939) (pp. 115-132); and, Emanuel Plopeanu, *Turcia – factor de tensiune în relațiile sovieto-americeane (1946-1947)* (Turkey – A Source of Tension in the Soviet-American Relations, 1946-1947) (pp. 133-152).

The third section publishes for the first time a number of documents issued by the Police and the Prefect's Office of Constanța, housed by the National Archives and the local archives of the Romanian Intelligence Service. The documents published by Virgil Coman in *Mărturii documentare privind tătarii din Dobrogea, 6 septembrie 1940 – 6 martie 1945* (Documentary Testimonies on the Tatars Living in Dobroudja, 6 September 1940 – 6 March 1945) (pp. 153-160) and by Marian Cojoc in *Anul 1953 în istoria tătarilor dobrogeni* (The Year 1953 in the History of the Dobroudjan Tatars) (p. 161-282) are essential to a better understanding of the evolution of the Moslem communities living in Dobroudja in the first decade of the communist regime.

Nagy Pienaru

MIHAI ȚIPĂU, *Domnii fanarioți în Țările Române. 1711–1821. Mică enciclopedie* (Phanariot Princes in Romanian Countries, 1711–1821. A Concise Encyclopedia), Edit. Omonia, Bucharest, 2004, 288 pp.

Long time kept under an exclusively critical look, the Phanariot time in the history of Romania is now under reconsideration by Romanian historians. This new and undoubtedly commendable approach, in which the negative aspects of the allogeneous reigns (corruption at all levels, excessive abuse against the active population, chronic instability of the throne bearers, etc.) are far from being overlooked, also sets into light some undeniable progressive elements: a process of legislative and organizational regulation, the development of the cultural milieu, permissiveness towards the penetration of the European factors of modernization, the creation, albeit isolated, of

manufactures, the wide circulation of western books, an extensive use of foreign languages (especially of French) by the local elite, theatrical shows performed by foreign troops, etc.

Therefore, the publication of the encyclopedic volume of Mihai Țîpău, with a preface by Prof. P. M. Kitromilides, can be deemed extremely timely. Especially as such events have been of rare occurrence lately, specialists in the field (with few exceptions) avoiding getting involved in the development of work tools, an undertaking which requires accuracy, scrupulousness and patience), and which more often than not is, very unfortunately, ignored by the critics.

As indicated by the author in his introductory *Note*: "The concise encyclopedia of the 'Phanariot' princes and reigns is an attempt to summarize the information provided by historical sources and the results of Romanian and Greek historiography for the period under consideration," (p. 9).

The book opens with *Schiță cronologică. Epoca fanariotă* (A Chronological Outline. The Phanariot Time) (pp. 11-44), slightly exceeding the period in question, as it covers chronologically the interval 1700-1821. It is followed by brief portraits of the Phanariot princes, in alphabetical order (pp. 45-154), and by a chapter including *Liste cronologice de ierarhi ai bisericii, suverani, domnitari și demnitari* (Chronological Lists of Church Hierarchs, Sovereigns, Princes, and Office-Bearers) (pp. 157-173). The book ends with a rather extensive bibliography. The presentations of the related historical characters are the result of a competent and scrupulous effort, which has enabled the author to successfully fulfill his goal, namely the "filling up of a gap" in historiography. However, a few corrections of the information provided in the book are required. For instance, the bases of the "Filiki Eteria" Secret Society (Society of Friends) were not laid in 1816 – such as noted by the author (p. 42) –, but in 1814. The deposition of the Moldavian prince Alexandru Moruzi occurred on 11/23 August 1806 (and not on 12/24, such as mentioned in the volume, p. 131). The cliché of the *simultaneous* deposition of the two Phanariot princes (Constantin Ipsilanti – Wallachia, and Alexandru Moruzi – Moldavia) in 1806 continues to persist in Romanian historiography, which is quite unfortunate, especially as I have clearly pointed out that, at the time, the Porte considered the two Danubian Principalities to be distinct territorial and political entities, and never took "twin" measures (see Marian Stroia, *Românii, marile puteri și sud-estul Europei 1800-1830* (The Romanians, the Great Powers and South-East Europe. 1800-1830.), Bucharest, 2002, pp. 130-131).

As to the death Alexandru Suțu (18/19 January 1821) and the long controversy over this episode, I should recommend to the author the paper *Cum sfârșit-a Alexandru Suțu?* (What Was the End of Alexandru Suțu?) published by me in "Magazin Istoric", an XXXIII, new series, no 8, which I believe clears any possible doubts.

One can only conclude by congratulating the Omonia Publishing House for having assumed the effort to publish a commendable book, in excellent graphics conditions.

Marian Stroia