

## FOREWORD

*The “Nicolae Iorga” History Institute of the Romanian Academy inaugurates a new journal, “Historical Yearbook”, addressed especially to foreign specialists. To this effect, the studies published in this yearbook are in languages of wide circulation, most of them in English.*

*Our purpose is to put into circulation the results of the research work carried out by members of the “Nicolae Iorga” History Institute, contributions by other Romanian historians and, undoubtedly, by historians abroad, being nonetheless more than welcome.*

*In fact, the yearbook applies the scientific program set up by the founder of our Institute, the prominent Romanian historian Nicolae Iorga, who published part of his works in foreign languages, thus contributing to a better understanding of the history of the Romanians abroad and, at the same time, promoting the approach of a Romanian historian to issues of world history.*

*Each issue will be focused on a general topic of historiographical impact, without excluding for that matter other studies addressing issues of more specific interest or placing into circulation recently found documents. Considerable weight will be given to reviews and presentations of research efforts by Romanian and foreign historians, as well as of history journals, with the purpose to develop historiographical critics and establish a dialogue among historians with similar interests.*

*The “Historical Yearbook” was also designed as a means to promote the relations of the “Nicolae Iorga” History Institute of the Romanian Academy with institutes, universities, foundations, and research centers abroad, especially from the European Union.*

*The inaugural issue of 2004 has as a topic “Majority and Minority”, with a special look at the place and dimensions of national minorities, and their relations with the Romanian majority. We trust that our readers will*

*find here all the necessary information enabling them to form an opinion on this reality of Romanian society, to begin with the Middle Ages and until the present time. A bibliographical presentation listing several books that came out of press during the last years, many of which are collections of documents published by Romanian historians, is offered to this purpose.*

*In the hope that the “Historical Yearbook” will be able to meet the requirements of specialists and of the general public with an interest in history issues in Romania or abroad, I would like to wish a successful career to this new publication.*

**Prof. Dr. Ioan Scurtu**

Director of “Nicolae Iorga” History Institute of the Romanian Academy