

## FOREWORD

### Description

An international biannual, *Review of Historical Geography and Toponomastics* publishes articles on all aspects of historical geography and toponomastics. As well as publishing original research papers of interest to a wide international and interdisciplinary readership, the review encourages debates over new challenges facing researchers in the field and discussion of conceptual and methodological issues. Each issue includes a book review section.

It encourages high quality scholarship on a broad range of historical geography and toponomastics topics.

Themes covered in the Review include:

- The geographies of places in the past
- The dynamics of place, space and landscape
- The geographies of place-names
- Methodological problems in historical geography
- Landscape, history and environment

The journal publishes high quality papers that make a new contribution to the understanding of historical geographical systems. The editors invite submissions dealing with theory, methods and models of spatial analysis. The journal has a multi-disciplinary outlook and includes contributions from geography, history, economics, environment and toponomastics.

The sixth volume of the review include “*A Special Volume on behalf of the University of Catania Collaboration*”, emerging from a joint research meeting of the geographers from the West University of Timisoara and the University of Catania held in Timisoara on April 2011. In this context, the volume was dedicated only to studies made by the geographers from the University of Catania. Thus, RHGT launched for 2011 a proposal for the researchers from the University of Catania to publish studies in the fields of historical geography, toponomastics and other geographical branches in order to promote a good collaboration between the universities from two of the European Union countries, Italy and Romania, respectively the geographies of the Sicily and Banat regions.

The volume has two distinct parts: the historic-geographical and toponomastics studies and the articles focused on other human geography researches made on Sicily territory.

The historical-geographical articles include several specific studies. Professor Nunzio Famoso deals in his paper with original characteristics of historical-geographical

problems of Sicilian geography. Other two geographers have real interesting researches: Andrea d'Urso – analyzing the urban settlement process in Sicily from the historical perspective and Gianni Petino – examining the Sicilian agriculture in the last 60 years. Fabio Famoso makes a literature review on the features of Sicily in cartographic works. Toponomastics and ethnographic studies are the object of other two geographers; Iolanda Laura Lanzafame shows how the Siculo-Arabic dialect influenced the Sicilian language and culture, while Lucrezia Nuccio highlights the Sicilian folklore. Other geographers from the University of Catania as Cotugno Linda, Lucrezia Nuccio, Sorbello Maria, Sauro Irene and Zignale Maurizio have brought new elements on the researches made in Sicily as far as population, urban and tourism geographies are concerned.

*Free online access to this journal is available* within institutions in the developing world.

**Editor in Chief**  
Dr. Remus CREȚAN