

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 onomastics.

The issues (15-16/2013) of the review deals with **“Toponomastics and Historical geographies in southern and eastern Europe”**. Toponomastics is covered by a special Italian guest. If the previous volumes were dedicated to toponymy and historical geographies of Sicily, the 2013 RHGT covers researches made by geographers and linguists in the field of old toponymy and on historical geographies. Mr. Francesco Perono Cacciafoco has responded to the 2013 RHGT proposal as to being a guest editor in presenting the Paleo-Ligurian place-names, highlighting the use of proto-Indo-European toponymy in the area of Olbicella, Italy. An interesting debate on the names of roads and streets in the south Carpathian region of Muscelele Argeşului was developed by Mihaela Avram. The hodonoms indicate a polarization of the transport activities and of the transhumance roads towards the *muşcele* (hills). Place-names show a road network

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in which habitation is much done along the valleys up to the mountains and explains the development of the local urban centres. The author reveals that the names of the streets are in a permanent process of adaptability to the urban evolution and reflect the cultural representations and symbols which the society tries to promote.

The second part of the volume includes studies made by geographers specialized or dealing with historical geographies, this volume selecting five interesting articles based on researches made in Romania.

As far as the role of toponymy in having a direct impact on future tourism development is concerned, Ribana Linc and Mihaela Biriş made a reflection on the Bihor county territory, focusing on the E 671 road axis between Mădăras and Săcueni, which crosses a high rural area from a plain region (the Crişurilor Plain). This area has many archaeological sites and historic buildings of a higher or lower value, recovered or long time forgotten: some castles that have long been features of residence for the Hungarian nobles stand out. The authors come to the conclusion that if these tourist resources will be highlighted in the right way, they might represent the special attraction landmarks for tourists passing through the region or for those who are passionate about the rural history of the Western Plain of Romania.

Four PhD students, Artugyan Laurenţiu, Zisu Ionuţ, Raluca Covaci and Mirabela Petculescu deal in their papers also with aspects of historical-geography. Artugyan speaks about the studies conducted on the karst terrains in Romania with a special focus on the Banat Mountains, while a historical perspective on the seminal works written on soil geography is highlighted by Ionuţ Zisu. Cultural elements of resistance in the Banat Plain are shown by Raluca Covaci, detailing ‘a tale of two communes’ from the plain area. The volume ends with a paper which shows patterns of historical geographies in Drobeta Turnu Severin, a town positioned on the Danube River.

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

Editor in Chief
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