

FOREWORD

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 newly released issues (19-20/2015) of RHGT include debates on **toponymy and on historical geographies of transhumance**.

For 2015, RHGT has two guests on place-name studies: Paul Woodman, a member of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, and Francesco Perono Cacciafoco, an Italian toponymist. The paper of Paul Woodman highlights the so-called toponymy of absence, a new perception on place-names, while Cacciafoco's papers are both focused on diachronic toponymies – taking two different case-studies: Imola, an Italian town, and Abui, a south-Asian place-name.

The second part of the volume is dedicated to a special number on transhumance in Italian spaces. Emilia Sarno was in charge to lead this special issue, which comprises five papers. Thus, the introductory article made by Emilia Sarno focuses on the necessity of publishing researches on transhumance as an old human activity in Italy. Her second intervention is related to the historical stage of 'the great transhumance' and its effect on

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developing settlements in the Mediterranean region of Naples. On the other side, Gabriella di Rocco's paper challenges the research on transhumance with references to the so-called 'tratutti' and the fortified settlements from the Italian area of Molise. Taking an insight into the southern Tuscany region, Franco Cambi and his co-authors make a cross-disciplinary approach in transhumance as a marker of territorial identity. The next paper is about transhumance routes in Tuscany authored by Fulvio Landi and Lidia Calzolari considering the issues of cartography, place names and virtual landscaping. The last paper of this special number is authored by Edoardo Vanni and focuses on the mobility processes for defining cultures reconsidering identity and transhumance in a long/run perspective.

This volume provides thus greater space to studies in historical geographies of transhumance. We want to highlight by these papers that transhumance is an important historical human activity which deserves more space for further researches in historical geographies.

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

Editor in Chief
dr. Remus CREȚAN