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BOOK REVIEW

ATLASUL ETNOGRAFIC AL JUDEȚULUI TIMIȘ, VOL. IV, ZONA LUGOJ, (ETHNOGRAPHIC ATLAS OF TIMIȘ COUNTY, VOL. IV, LUGOJ AREA)

Ioan Viorel BOLDUREANU, coord. Edit. Eurostampa,
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The Ethnographic Atlas of Timiș County, Lugoj Area, coordinated by Ioan Viorel Boldureanu, is a valuable contribution in the field of regional, historical and cultural geographies of the Timiș County. The regional approach considers the main cultural features of the area. These features are highlighted to unveil the spatial distribution of the local cultural traits of the investigated places. The work starts with the major research hypothesis for framing the specific cultural and ethnographic area through particular investigations on the rural habitats of the Lugoj area. This area is an important cultural space at the level of the Timiș County, Romania.

The atlas is structured in three distinct sections completed with representative maps. Furthermore, significant maps complement the atlas chapters. The first chapter focuses on the traditional habitat of rural settlements in the Lugoj area, unveiling particular typologies in terms of historical and geographic introspections. Accordingly, the rural habitat typologies are based on historical age and village-type size. Additionally, their structures and functionalities are emphasized.

The official documents of investigated sites are presented in order to highlight the contemporary characteristics based on the previous features framed by the above mentioned typologies. A particular attention is paid on dialectical issues and on the local rural architecture that generate particular cultural landscapes mirroring traditional ways of life. Based on these issues the local rural monographs are constructed to understand from a global perspective all the major cultural characteristics that are represented in important maps based on GIS programs. The second section concerns on the traditional arts of the rural habitat of the Lugoj area with issues as domestic textile manufactures, the inner households landscapes and traditional clothes. They are in-depth analyzed and



well illustrated through relevant photographs that are collected by ethnographic research. This also provided important materials on the local traditional folklore and rural ethnology, framing particular issues on local dialectics and social-cultural features that had been generated through various layers of cultural landscapes. Summing it all up, the third section provided interesting materials on the local cultural landscapes of the Lugoj area. The work ends with in-depth analyzed holograms, basing on sampled case studies of investigated local countryside. The merit of the atlas stands both on the valuable work of researchers coordinated by professor Boldureanu and on the multi-method scientific approach with ethnographic and participant investigation that translates into relevant maps and relevant photographs that follow the narrative. Furthermore, the atlas represents an important reference for the regional bibliography of the historic Banat region, thus contributing to further fertile research in the field.