

## 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 (12-13/2013) of the review include a second debate on **“Historical geographic studies made on behalf of Catania-Timisoara universities collaboration”**, while toponomastics is covered by a special Canadian guest. If the previous volume was dedicated to toponymy and historical geographies of Sicily, the 2011 RHGT imports new researches made by Catania geographers in the field of historic houses in Sicily and on historical geographic studies made by Romanan PhD and doctorand students.

For 2012 RHGT launched a proposal to Mr Gilles Champoux to be a guest editor in presenting the toponymy and the problem of Canadian arctic sovereignty, highlighting the use of toponymy as a distinct tool that individuals and societies use to reflect their unique history, cultures, lifestyles, philosophies, heritage and



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languages over their political landscape. The geographical studies on historic houses of Sicily starts with a preface on historic houses and landscape in Sicily made by Fabio Famoso, a young researcher at University of Catania, followed by five articles on Sicilian historic houses, beginning with Nunzio Famoso, whose study is focused on Impellizzeri Palace which has an enhanced cultural heritage, Lucrezia Nuccio dealing with Ficuzza Royal Hunting Lodge, a royal presence in inland Sicily and Linda Cotugno studying Beneventano del Bosco Palace, as a special historic house in the island of Ortigia. The researches on historic houses in Sicily deal also with Villa Florio situated on Favignana island, made by Grazia Vecchio, and the role of San Giuliano Palace in the urban design plan of Catania, a geographic analyses made by two authors: Andrea D'Urso and Laura Iolanda Lanzafame.

In order to promote Romanian historical geographers, the second part of the volume includes studies made by recent PhD researchers and PhD students specialized in historical geography, selecting six interesting articles based on the historical geographies of the Carpathian Basin in Romania as well as a research reflecting the migration in the city of London.

As far as the old historical documents about Romania are concerned, two researchers, Sofronie Muresan and Lucian Daniel Ianas make a representation of the Banat Mountains in the cartographic documents of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Lazar Anton carries on his study published in RHGT in 2011, basing on the role of migration in the evolution of religious communities from the Banat Mountains and Oliver Rusu presents a related statistics to habitation in Transylvanian basin during Neolithic - Latene period. Two PhD students, Raluca Covaci and Patrick Chiroiu deal in their papers with historical-geographical problems from two of the big communes in the Banat Plain, Denta and Birda, as well as a review of Romanian dendrochronological approaches and future research perspectives for dendrochronology in Romania. A very interesting topic is the changes in the geographical space of London due to the population migration, revealing migration spatial structures created by location distribution dynamics, a research made by Mirela Mihaela Baciu.

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

**Editor in Chief**  
dr. Remus CREȚAN