

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 (17-18/2014) of the review include debates on “**Critical Toponomastics and Historical geographical studies**”. Half of the papers in this volume were presented at the workshop ‘Critical Toponomastics, collective memory and spatial identity’, 55th Anniversary of the Geography Department, West University of Timișoara, May 16-17 2014.

For 2014 RHGT is proud to have three guests from the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms: Paul Woodman, Peter Jordan and Bogusław Zagórski. The paper of Paul Woodman highlights the interconnections between toponymy and identity, suggesting that there are four players involved in these interconnections; those who give and use toponyms *in situ*, those who do so from afar, the toponyms themselves, and finally the places and features to which the toponyms relate.

A short article, elaborated by Peter Jordan, takes a general view on the meaning of bilingual naming in public space for the cultural identity of minorities. On the other side, a geopolitical research is presented by Bogusław Zagórski. Taking an insight into Arab



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geographic atlases, dr. Zagórski shows how the extent of the Arab world is defined with graphical tools, and reveals what spaces are claimed as Arabic and what are the differences between Arab countries (and some neighboring countries) presented graphically.

This volume provides greater space to studies in historical geographies. Emilia Sarno contributes two different studies. One of the papers is focused on analysing the relationship between the term 'Balkan' and the territory, and how it acquired a political significance, revealing the historical steps developed by the Balkan region in proceeding from 'tyranny to pluralism'. The second paper elaborated by Emilia Sarno is about how historical maps and GIS form an integrated methodology in the rediscovery of 'cattle-track' landscapes.

In the tradition of promoting young historical geographers, the second part of the volume includes three studies made by PhD researchers. A very interesting topic is debated by Mirabela Petculescu: health policy reform in Romania during the last two decades. Raluca Covaci reveals a geohistorical and toponomastic presentation of the settlements situated at the border between Romania and Serbia, most specifically on the Moravița Plain, while Claudia Varan presents also an interesting historiography of a rural settlement from the Hunedoara county, Romania.

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

Editor in Chief
dr. Remus CREȚAN