

HISTORIOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR AN URBAN HISTORY OF OLTENIA

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Abstract: In the present study we are trying to find, starting from the analysis of edited monographs, the historiographic stage due to which it can be identified the evolution and the development of the cities from the south-west of Romania, starting with the Middle Age and until contemporaneity. Although relatively late, from the second half of the 19th century, the research on addressing the history of the cities from our country, gained consistence and pertinence along the time, reaching to the present situation, where there are monographs for all the cities from Oltenia, which make a radiography of the urban life from Antiquity, and where possible, until nowadays. Even if we benefit from such a historiographic heritage, nevertheless, we consider the research of the urban life from the mentioned area to have plenty uncovered secrets.

Keywords: historiography, urbanism, city, Oltenia, research.

To justify our scientific approach about an approximately half of the century era (1859-1918), which is characterised through linear ascendance of the Romanian nation, in all the fields (economic, social, cultural, military, political), it seems to bring in front of the today designers of the tomorrow comfort, not only an example and the variants of several generations, but also the image of a step forward in the history of the Romanian civilisation. By delimiting a beginning of the urban modernisation process, through the threshold between the static and preponderantly rural Middle Age, and the dynamic Modern Age, with groups of human forces working for transformations (changings) and results incomparable better than the previous millenary eras, we bring closer an inherited creation of the age mentioned above, by the parameters of a contemporary habitat.

If in the Middle Ages, the historiography was registering the cities through enumerative records or comparative images of the foreign travellers, in the Modern Age, the city and the urbanism represented the reaction of the capitalist system, of the organisation of labour and production. As relating to the seek for comfortable life in the crowded urban settlements, there were being developed the

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historiographic studies about cities, being imagined not only projects, building techniques with mortar and bricks, but also the noblesse of the roots. An intellectual dimension of the historians, it is added to the imagination and the desire to discover, of the designers and builders. For the Romanians, a modern historiography of the cities starts with the monograph of Câmpulung-Muscel, written by C. D. Aricescu in 1855.

Although they have a very old existence, the cities from Oltenia did not constitute the subject of ample monographic works, but at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Under the influence of the romantic historiography, B. P. Hașdeu, in 1878, established an older tradition as regarding the beginnings of the most important city from Oltenia, Craiova. His writing was similar not only to the political wishes and options of the dwellers from the banks of Jiu river, but it was also the response to the novelties from the entire society. It was a period when the cities from Oltenia were increasing their number of dwellers, under the influence of emerging and extension of the economic and industrial entities, or the centralising factors of ample commercial and banking processes, aiming for the rendering valuable of the agricultural wealth from the area. Influenced by the ideas of Hașdeu, the first real historian of Craiova, August Pessiakov, wrote *Sketches from the history of Craiova* (Samitca Institute of Graphic Arts, Craiova, in two editions: 1902 and 1914). The work was considered by the researcher Laurențiu Rădvan, in 2004 as belonging to those “greatly enthusiastic local monographs, nevertheless, lacking a historic analysis, without rigorous documentation, a useless waste of paper”¹. However, we consider that the work of Pessiakov the first historiographic document debating the theme from our title, a scientific landmark for the age in which it appeared, considering that it was bringing forward an approach of the anterior centuries, through the presence of medieval ecclesiastic architectural monuments (Sf. Dumitru princely/ban church, a construction that dates probably from the ruling of Craiovescu boyars and renovated by the prince Matei Basarab; Știrbei Church; Otetelișenu Church; Madona Dudu Church etc.), which had been demolished and rebuilt for modernisation, according to the occidental patterns, even in the years when his book was appearing. The book still represents a useful documentary source for the today historians.

In the same category, there are also placed those of G. Poboran² for the city of Slatina, Alexandru Ștefulescu³ for Târgu Jiu, V. Demetrescu⁴ for Turnu Severin or that of I.S. Drăgulescu for Calafat⁵.

¹ Laurențiu Rădvan, *Orașele din Țara Românească până la sfârșitul secolului al XVI-lea*, Iași, “Al. I. Cuza” University Publishing, 2004, p. 8.

² *Istoria orașului Slatina*, Slatina, 1909.

³ *Încercarea asupra istoriei Târgu Jiului*, Bucharest, 1899; Idem, *Istoria Târgu Jiului*, Târgu Jiu, 1904.

⁴ *Istoricul orașului Severin*, Turnu Severin, 1883.

⁵ *Orașul Calafat odinioară și astăzi*, Craiova, 1906.

The works of the mentioned historians are the first collections of documents gathered by the authors as passionate researchers of the historic past, or according to the advice of the Minister of Education, Spiru Haret. All the enumerated works appeared as a desideratum of the generations, at the beginning of the 19th and 20th century, and the principles of the positivist historiographic school. For the same historiographic necessity, we are realising the present paper. Numerous efforts of some intellectuals from the area, in over one hundred years after the remembered historiographic beginnings, were concretised, gradually, according to the gathering of documents and the enrichment of the archivist institutions, created locally after 1931⁶. In 1925, N. Iorga, the historian who had published many documentary volumes, some noticed by the director of the History Museum from Craiova, Ștefan Ciuceanu⁷, depicted the image of “the third type, that of the boroughs”, in the history of the Romanian genesis. The great historian, in his relation with the intellectuals from Craiova from “Ramuri” magazine, approached, in two articles, the historical individuality of Oltenia, and the small cities from here: *Orașele oltene și mai ales Craiova în pragul vremurilor nouă*⁸ and *Două conferințe craiovene I. Rostul Olteniei în mișcarea pentru neam II . Ce au făcut și ce trebuie să facem*, Craiova, 1906.

The first studies regarding the cities from Oltenia are registered by Anastase Georgescu (*Craiova – Cercetări istorice – 1 Târgul Craiovei* (Craiova – Historical research – 1 The Borough of Craiova), Craiova, 1936) for Craiova; C. Pajură and D. T. Giurescu (*Istoricul orașului Turnu Severin 1833-1933* (The history of Turnu Severin City 1833-1933), a paper printed on the occasion of the centenary celebration, Bucharest, 1933) for Severin, and Constantin Grigore (*Râmnicul Vâlcei, Râmnicu Vâlcea, 1944*) for Râmnicu Vâlcea, all dating from the interwar period.

From the moment of the early beginnings, until the most recent published papers, numerous volumes of documents, monographs and studies about the urban localities from the south-west part of Romania, have been printed. At the meeting with the new purposes, emerging from the regional urbanisation programmes, the cities were becoming regions with their own natural resources and attraction spots for the population living in the surrounding areas⁹. The process of industrialisation of the country, during 1948-1989, propelled the city, not only as a quantity expressed by the increasing number of dwellers, but in the level of urban life and economic production. In Romania, in the 20th century, the number of the cities increased from 137 (with 2,930,245 dwellers) in 1912, to 138, with 3,651,039 dwellers in 1930 and 260, with 12,311,203 dwellers in 1990¹⁰. Considering this “urban explosion”, especially triggered by industrialisation and construction, the urban settlements changed and multiplied their functions. Nowadays, almost all the

⁶ “Oltenia. Studii. Documente. Culegeri”, 3rd edition, year X, 2006, no. 1-2 (*Arhivele craiovene 75 ani 1931-2006*).

⁷ N. Iorga, *Studii și documente*, vol. XXV, Bucharest, 1913 (*Corespondența lui Dimitrie Aman*).

⁸ “Arhivele Olteniei”, year IV, 1926, no. 20, p. 275-294.

⁹ Nițu Nicolae, *Răspândirea orașelor din România pe zone geografice*, in “Arhivele Olteniei”, New Series, no. 9, 1994, p. 191-197.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*.

cities, becoming cultural-scientific and university-academic centres (as in case of Craiova), stimulated the historic monographs, on the occasion of anniversaries related to the celebration of a jubilee year from the documentary attestation of them: Slatina in 1968, Craiova in 1975, Râmnicu Vâlcea in 1989, Târgu Jiu in 2006 etc.

Representative for these historiographic products remain *Istoria Craiovei* (The History of Craiova), under the coordination of the historian Titu Georgescu, economist Constantin Bărbăcioru and literary historian Florea Firan¹¹. For 1821-1918, on 50 de pages, the chapters *Craiova during the revolution from 1821*, *Craiova in the age of the Organic Regulations*, *Craiova – one of the centres of the 1848 revolution*, *Craiova and the Union of Principalities*, *Presence during the independence war* evidence the principle of attendance to important events, which the authors considered. For the evolution of the city and the urbanism from Craiova, there were reserved, in the structure of the work, only three pages (see the sub-chapter *The industrial, commercial and urbanistic development at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century*)

In a similar approach, in a chronological presentation of the facts, there were elaborated monographs for the other cities too: Brezoi¹², Calafat¹³, Caracal¹⁴, Craiova¹⁵, Drobeta Turnu Severin¹⁶, Ocnele Mari¹⁷, Râmnicu Vâlcea¹⁸, Târgu Jiu¹⁹, Slatina²⁰, Drăgășani²¹, Strehaia²² and Corabia²³.

¹¹ Scrisul Românesc, Craiova, 1977; also see vol. *Craiova. Trecut, prezent și viitor*, Scrisul Românesc Publishing, Craiova, 1979, chapters “Craiova pe coordonatele istoriei (author Ștefan Ștefănescu)”, “Craiova între 1821 și 1848” (Ileana Petrescu), “Craiova și Unirea Principatelor” (Nichita Adăniloiaie), “Craiova în timpul Războiului pentru independență” (Vasile Maciu), “Mișcarea muncitorească și socialistă din Craiova până la 1921” (Vladimir Osiac), “Dezvoltarea industrială a Craiovei la sfârșitul secolului al XIX-lea și începutul secolului al XX-lea” (Paul Barbu, Ilie Bogheanu).

¹² Petre Bardășu, Gheorghe Simeanu, *Brezoi – 100 de ani de industrie forestieră*, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Conphys Publishing, 1973.

¹³ Vasile Petrișor, Lelius Mândroi, *Calafat trepte de istorie*, Craiova, Scrisul Românesc Publishing House, 1977; the second edition in 1992.

¹⁴ *Caracal. File de istorie*, Caracal, MJM Publishing, 1988; Pătru Crăciun, *Caracal. Ghid istorico-turistic*, Caracal, MJM Publishing, 1972.

¹⁵ Luchian Deaconu, *Memoria Craiovei. Itinerarii istorice*, Muzeul Olteniei, Craiova, Muzeul Olteniei Publishing, 1981; Pospai Mircea, *Memoria Băniei*, Craiova, Scrisul Românesc Publishing, 1980.

¹⁶ *Municipiul Turnu Severin 121-1972 [Album]*, Bucharest, Politics Publishing House, 1972; Achim Costea, Nicolae Ieva, Gheorghe Nica ș.a., *Municipiul Drobeta-Turnu Severin. Studiu monografic*, Drobeta Turnu Severin, Scrisul Românesc Publishing, 1972.

¹⁷ Vasile Berbece, Victor Botnariuc, Sergiu Purece, *Băile Govora, Băile Ocnele Mari*, Bucharest, Fortuna Publishing, 1982.

¹⁸ Mateescu Constantin, *Memoria Râmnicului*, Bucharest, Sport Turism Publishing, 1979; Idem, *Râmnicul de odinioară*, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Almarom Publishing, 1993.

¹⁹ Elisabeta Ancuța-Roșianu, *Târgu Jiu. Monografie*, Târgu Jiu, Ram Publishing, 1979.

²⁰ *Procesul de urbanizare în România. Zona Slatina-Olt*, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing, 1970; *Slatina 600. Pagini din monografia orașului*, Slatina, 1967; *Slatina. Pagini de monografie...*, Slatina, Muzeul de istorie, 1972.

²¹ Constantin Șerban (coordinator), *Monografia Municipiului Drăgășani*, Constanța, Ex Ponto Publishing, 2004.

²² Constantin A. Protopopescu, *Strehaia. Trepte de istorie*, Bucharest, Quark Press Publishing, 2006.

²³ Florea Băciu, Ion Vârtejarum, *Monografia orașului Corabia*, Corabia, Alutus Publishing, 2001.

After 1990, many researchers published and re-published monographs about the cities from Oltenia, consistent in documentary and photographic annexes²⁴. Extremely valuable though the basis of information, they stimulated not only the chronologic approaches, but also the researches of the modern urbanism sources, the art of city constructions from Oltenia. Among them, the most significant are the works about the most important city of Oltenia: *Alimentarea cu apă [a Craiovei]*, Helios Publishing House, Craiova, 1998; *Amenejarea apelor. Canalizarea și termoficarea orașului*, Helios Publishing House, Craiova, 1998; *Grădinile și parcurile Craiovei*, Editura de Sud, Craiova, 1999; Luchian Deaconu, *Craiova 1898-1916. Saltul la urbanismul modern. Nicolae P. Romanescu*, Sitech Publishing House, Craiova, 2001 and Luchian Deaconu, Otilia Gherghe, *Craiova de la 1878 la 1900*, Sitech Publishing House, Craiova, 2009²⁵.

The information gathered on these occasions were taken into account by collectives of authors of *The historical dictionaries of the localities*, from the counties of Dolj²⁶, Olt and Vâlcea, works that are closer, as time, to our scientific research.

²⁴ *Istoria ilustrată a Craiovei*, Craiova, Dava Publishing, 1996; Mihai Butnariu, *Monografia municipiului Drobeta Turnu Severin*, Drobeta Turnu Severin, Prier Publishing, 1998; Victor Bobleanță, Mădălina Olteanu, *Cerneți. Orașul Severinului*, Timișoara, Eubeea Publishing, 2004; Corneliu Tamaș, *Istoria Râmnicului*, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Conphys Publishing, 2006; Idem, *Istoria Horezului*, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Conphys Publishing, 1995; Idem, *Istoria Ocnelor Mari*, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Conphys Publishing, 1995; Dana-Roxana Dincă, Vera Grigorescu, Sabin Popovici, *Monografia municipiului Caracal*, Geamăna, Tiparg Publishing, 2007; Ion Marin, Gheorghe Bănică, *Caracal. Tărâm de legendă și destinație turistică*, Caracal, Delta Cart Educational Publishing, 2006.

²⁵ For the other cities, there are added the articles in the year books of the history museums from the region: Emanoil Paul Barbu, *Aspecte ale evoluției și activității comenzii pompierilor din Craiova în a doua jumătate a secolului al XIX-lea*, in "Pagini din istoria pompierilor", Bucharest, Vremea Publishing, 1978, pp. 93-101; Nicolae Bănică-Ologu, *Dinamica structurilor sociale și protecția spațială a relațiilor de producție în Râmnicul (Vâlcea) medieval*, in "Studii vâlcene", 7, 1985, pp. 43-52; Ecaterina Bosoancă, *Ziduri uitate: Hanu Roșu*, in "Drobeta", X, Drobeta Turnu Severin, 2000, pp. 187-194; Nicolae Chipurici, *Aprovizionarea cu apă a orașului Turnu Severin*, in "Drobeta", 1998, 8, pp. 191-198; Nicolae Chipurici, Tudor Rățoi, Dorel Petrescu, *Istoricul pompierilor mehedinieni*, Drobeta Turnu Severin, Prier Publishing, 1998; Marius Dobrin, *Urbanism craiovean înaintea primului război mondial*, in "Oltenia. Studii. Documente. Culegeri", 3rd edition, year III, 1999, no. 2, pp. 119-127; Octavian Teodor Gheorghiu, *Drobeta Turnu Severin. Ipoteză de evoluția urbanistică*, in "HU", 2001, 9, 1-2, pp. 145-154; Vasile Marinoiu, *Evoluția orașului Târgu Jiu în secolele XVIII-XIX*, in "Litua", 1997, 1, pp. 40-48; Petre Purcărescu, *Contribuții la cunoașterea istorică a Parcului Zăvoi din Râmnicu Vâlcea*, in "Studii vâlcene", new series, no. IV (XI), 2008, pp. 51-64; Tudor Rățoi, *Edificii reprezentative ale Severinului: Hala Radu Negru*, in "Drobeta", VII, 1996, pp. 126-130; Paul Rezeanu, *Contribuții la cunoașterea dezvoltării edilitare a Craiovei între 1831-1944*, in RMMMI, 1987, 18, 1, pp. 71-73; Mircea Borcoman (coordinator), *Strázile au amintiri. Monografia orașului Drobeta Turnu-Severin*, Agora Publishing, Craiova, 2001; Elena Udriște, *Începuturile iluminatului public în orașul Târgu Jiu*, in "Litua", IV, 1988, pp. 433-443; etc.

²⁶ Cezar Avram, Paul-Emanoil Barbu, Dincă Ciobotea, Vladimir Osiac, *Dicționarul istoric al localităților din județul Dolj. Craiova*, Craiova, Alma Publishing, 2005; Vladimir Osiac, Nicolae Stoicescu (coordinators), *Dicționarul istoric al localităților din județul Olt. Orașe*, Craiova, Alma Publishing, 2006, Dincă Ciobotea, Cezar Avram (coordinators), *Dicționarul istoric al localităților din județul Vâlcea I. Orașele*, Craiova, Sitech Publishing, 2009.

Subsequently to this excursion through the historiography of the cities from Oltenia²⁷, ascertaining and motivated, it can be concluded that the history of the urban settlements from the south-west region of Romania, remained sequential, chronological and opportune to the political stimuli, received according to certain realities from our evolution. Therefore, the work intends to provide a synthetic regard on the entire urbanistic factor and the history of the cities from the area of Oltenia, free from any prejudices and only inside the dimension of the unquestionable information, as part of a rich archivist patrimony. Such a work, that, from the perspective of the actual community interests, contextualises events, social realities, projects and accomplishments in a coagulated and adequate structure, for the integration of the many documentary-statistic-juridical and narrative sources, kept by the Central National Archives (in 1831), or those of the Counties (Dolj, Gorj, Mehedinți, Vâlcea and Olt), founded after 1931, is more than welcomed.

The richest documentary funds, are those created by the archivists during 1859-1916, the town halls and the prefects' offices from the counties. The resources of any town-hall from a residential city have several divisions, from which two of them are more complex, in connection with our chosen theme: the Administrative Department and the Technical Department. These sections offer a rich source of information and data, on addressing the most diverse fields of the economic, social, political, cultural and urbanistic life. Created by the institution of the Town-Hall itself, the information inserted in the different papers, catch the designing of facts or stages in the different urbanistic programmes, not including wide areas or general projects, as that made once with the founding of Turnu Severin and Calafat cities. The limitations of the information (in content) do not diminish their quality as authentic, official and veridical sources of documents. According to the attributions of the Town-Hall institutions, the most numerous documents refer to the measures taken by city leaders, to systematise, line, pave and macadamise the streets, to the treaties with different foreign and national companies for the introduction of trams (in the case of Craiova)²⁸, phones, water and public illumination, the building of municipal palaces, the founding of the Fire Station in Craiova, in 1884²⁹, water supplying, sewing system etc. The fund of the Town-Hall of Craiova, completed for 1831-1950, includes no less than 16,835 archivist units. The fund of the Town-Hall of Calafat transferred, in 1941, in the

²⁷ See Vasile Ciobanu, Anda-Lucia Spânu (coordinators), *Bibliografia istorică a orașelor din România*, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing, 2007.

²⁸ Contracts with the society Paumayet Făreanu, which were not carried out. SJAN Dolj (Dolj County Service of the National Archives), the Town-Hall of the Municipality of Craiova, the Administrative Department, files 66/1900 and 10/19.

²⁹ *Ibidem*, file 4/1884.

deposits of the National Archives from Dolj, is made of 10,008 archivist units, for 1852-1910, most of them created during the years of the Independence War. For the end of the 19th century, beside the statistic data of the industrial establishments from the city (a beer factory, brick, carbonated waters, sausages and salami, candles factories, mills, bakeries), we can also meet negotiation with foreign and national companies for the introduction of electric lighting and the construction of the railway between Craiova and Calafat. Important archivist funds were also kept by the Town-Halls of the municipalities of Râmnicu Vâlcea³⁰, Târgu Jiu, Turnu Severin and Caracal or Shipyard from Turnu Severin³¹. In the patrimony of the National Archives too, we found other categories of sources, such are the narrative³², the epigraphic³³ and the cartographic ones.

The cartographic ones, which include the cities in their extended dimensions from one stage to the other, are the most eloquent, both as regarding the space (the territory) of urban habitat, and the urbanistic quality created by the leaders that ran certain departments or the town-halls of the settlements. The plans of the different cities date after 1791. They were firstly designed according to the relief, and after 1906, on the basis of trigonometric measurements, being called rated plans (in which the altitude is marked through contour lines)³⁴. Few plans were executed especially for edited and urbanistic works, such is *The general plan of the ponds around Craiova*, drafted by the captain (later, colonel) G. Savopol; *The plan of Craiova city from 1905, for the water supplying from Gioroc source*; *The plan for lining and systematisation of Craiova from 1916*, made by the architect I. D. Berindei (diplomat of the French government, teacher at Belle-Arte School, former architect of the Internal Affairs Ministry, former general inspector at the national exhibition from 1906) and the engineer M. Colleanu; The design project for the new city of Turnu Severin from 1835, belonging to the engineer Xavier

³⁰ See I. Soare, *Primăria Municipiului Râmnicu Vâlcea*, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Conpys Publishing, 2000.

³¹ Constantin Petrică Dănescu, *Șantierul naval din Turnu Severin*, vol. I (1851-1950), Drobeta Turnu Severin, Prier Publishing, 2004; Nicolae Chipurici, Tudor Rățoi, Cristian Anița, *Arhivele Naționale la Mehedinți. Semicentenar*, Craiova, MJM Publishing, 2003.

³² The most interesting manuscript from SJAN Dolj, signed by Porubski from 1957: *Craiova de altădată*.

³³ Up until now, they were entirely published only for the cities from Vâlcea County, see Constantin Bălan, *Inscripții medievale și din epoca modernă. Județul istoric Vâlcea, sec. XIV-1848*, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing, 2005.

³⁴ Most of them are for the Academy Library, Maps: H 2466-A LXXVII 4 (year 1790); H 1048-D XXX 15 (year 1845, Gotthieb, 142 X 149 cm); H 1047-D XXX 14 (year 1850, 180 X 150 cm); H III 547 (year 1854, 140 X 147 cm); H 3186 CCV 5 (by Filip Lazăr, 37,5X 41,5 cm); H 2556-D LXXXI 8 (year 1895, by Călinescu, 52,5 X 67,5 cm); for the other cities, we noticed the plans in the funds "Maps" of County Department for the National Archive from Dolj, Vâlcea, Gorj, Olt and Mehedinți.

Villacrosse³⁵; *The plan of the city of Târgu Jiu from 1847* of Costache N. Râmnicăneanu³⁶, *The plan of the city of Târgu Jiu elaborated according to the streets placement from 1877*³⁷, *The plan of the city of Târgu Jiu, made by Alexandru Ștefulescu*³⁸, *The sketch of the Bishopric estate and the river of Râmnic, the isolated places around Râmnic, Troianu, Juga, the properties of Vâlcea in 1857*³⁹, *The delimitation plan of the city of Râmnicu Vâlcea din 1897* etc.

Another category of sources is that represented by the narrative ones, among these, the most interesting, but also the most subjective, being the autobiographies signed by Ana Leoveanu (*Miseria umană*, Craiova, 1900), Zoe Mandrea (*Icoane din trecut*, Bucharest, f.a.), Olga Gigurtu (*Amintiri și icoane din trecut*, Craiova, 1935), Nicolae Porumb (*Din firele unei vieți*, Craiova, 1927) and Constantin Argetoianu (*Pentru cei de mâine. Amintiri din vremea celor de ieri*, vol. I. *Până la 1888*, Humanitas Publishing House, Bucharest, 1991).

The documentary sources mentioned above are the most veridical pieces of information about the Romanian society, in its grouping composition, from the city. The density of the human, individual and group actions, gave the cities cultural and civilising modern attributes and different functions, which were concretised in production, trade, consumption, political, administrative, military, residential, touristic and cultural centres. In the 19th century, there were gradually and slowly fixed, the directions and the parameters for the evolution of the urban settlements, towards the wide network of cities from nowadays. The demographic, economic and financial factors, added near the institutional background of the state and the natural environment of the area, in continuity, interference and modern administration, according to the occidental model, created a new specificity for the cities of Oltenia, between 1859 and 1918. We have tried to determine this aspect, in relation with other Romanian cities, especially from the left side of the river Olt, and even more confronted to the economic restructuration, after the obtaining of the State Independence, which determined the reorientation, preponderantly of the cities from the field regions, towards the port cities near the Danube, in which there were commercialised cereals coming from Brăila and from the Danubian regions.

The railways built after 1869, became not only the factor of the wide spreading of the cities towards the train stations, but also that of the modernisation of the cities, though the huge potential brought once with the supplying of limestone, gravel, rocks and basalt.

³⁵ C. Pajură, D. T. Giurescu, *Istoricul orașului Turnu Severin*, Bucharest, 1933.

³⁶ Elena Udriște, *O hotărnicie a Târgu Jiului din anul 1847*, in "Litua", 3, 1986, p. 448.

³⁷ Alexandru Ștefulescu, *Istoria Târgu Jiului*, Târgu Jiu, 1906, p. 98.

³⁸ *Ibidem*.

³⁹ Titi Mihail Gherghina, *Imagini citadine din Râmnicu de altădată*, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Almarom Publishing, 2007.

The historical sources, encompass the names of the architects, construction engineers, hydrologist engineers, landscape engineers, restorers from all the parts of the Central and Western Europe. Their share in the modernisation of the cities from Oltenia, in competition with the Romanian architects and engineers, adept of the national style, “painted” an urban civilisation, according to the European requests of the era from the 19th and 20th centuries. After 1859, once with the modernising reforms of the national state, the impact became difficult to unravel. The inerties and the mental of the anterior age determined stagnation, after the gaining of the state Independence, the national energies, and, implicitly, the community ones, imposed a rhythm in the urbanistic creation, never seen before. In the first years of World War I, many of the collections and values from the cities of Oltenia, were plundered by the foreign occupants, fact that transformed everything into a recession in the urbanistic development of the area.

Between 1859 and 1918, the documents are the proof of an urbanism created “as an intellectual and professional movement”, long-lasting and efficient, up until nowadays. Therefore, we conclude by saying, along with other researchers, that “the urbanism of the twentieth century is rooted in the nineteenth century”⁴⁰.

⁴⁰ Peter Hall, *Orașele de mâine. O istorie intelectuală a urbanismului în secolul XX*, Bucharest, All Publishing, 1999, p. 21.

