

NOTES AND REVIEWS

Mihai Răzvan Ungureanu (editor), *Marea Arhondologie a boierilor Moldovei (1835-1856)*, 2nd edition, Iași, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Publishing House, 2014, 222 p.

The preoccupation for the collecting and the setting in order of the archive materials have constituted important objectives for historians and linguists. Aware of the fact that, in the absence of documents, some periods (especially the farthest ones) from the history of our society evolution remain inaccessible for our research, they invested assiduous individual and collective effort, resulting, today, in a rich inventory of documents, registered in consecrated pieces of work.

Since the middle of the 19th century, Teodor Codrescu, starting from the idea that “the truth is the essence of history”¹, and fearing that a fatal occurrence would randomly put them in the possession of someone who would not know how to cherish such a national treasure, “would destroy, use them for protecting the windows, or keep them thrown at the back of an attic”² – as it had happened with many of the original documents along the time – gathered, in the pages of this *Uricar* (collection of old documents), a large number of muniments, charters, different documents, all selected according to the enounced criterion of the observed truth.

Some of the collections were made about certain historical personalities: *Documente moldovenești înainte de Ștefan cel Mare*, *Documente de la Ștefan cel Mare*, *Documente moldovenești de la Bogdan Voevod*, *Documente moldovenești de la Ștefăniță Voevod* etc. (to mention just few of them, from the same geographical area and within the same field that is aimed in our review). Besides them, there are a series of collections (in several volumes), made for the purpose of allowing the methodical research of the documentary materials; they include – both temporally and from the informational point of view – intervals that go much beyond the references to a specific era. This type of contributions were brought especially by the State Archives, which carried out an intense editorial activity, translated through the printing of a large number of works: *Catalogul documentelor moldovenești*, *Documenta Romaniae Historica. A. Moldova*, *Documente privind istoria României. A. Moldova* etc.

Mr. Mihai Răzvan Ungureanu joins³, owing to the printing of *Marea Arhondologie a boierilor Moldovei*, to the few ones, because the number of the specialists in Slavic, Slavic-Romanian and Cyrillic palaeography is getting smaller and smaller – who bring their contribution to the filling of the documentary gaps, a necessary action, with a profound ethic character, if we consider “the correct attitude, in relation to the past” (p. 9). Thus, the present book brings together, almost integrally, the ones who had their statue of boyar recognised, or who were given a rank of boyar, during the Organic Regulations period (1835-1856), in Moldova. The author structured his material in a manner that facilitates the work with this instrument: the patronymics have been organised alphabetically, and, subordinated to them, the surnames are, in their turn, subjected to a similar system. For each person, there is mentioned the reason for the granting of the rank, the rank, the number and the date of the decree of investment; at the end, it is mentioned the source from which the information was excerpted.

By this restitution of the nominal composition of the boyars – with the purpose to complement the efforts made for the deciphering of the internal socio-economic mechanisms of this social section

¹ Teodor Codrescu, *Uricarul*, volume I, Tipografia Buciumului Român, 1871, p. III.

² *Ibidem*.

³ After publishing, in 1997, along with Ioan Caproșu two volumes of *Documente statistice privitoare la orașul Iași* (Iași, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Publishing House).

(an objective also announced in *The introductory note* of the paper, pp. 9-11) – benefit other scientific fields too. The onomastics (anthroponomy especially) is just one of them. Thus, the inventory allows analyses, from different perspectives: types of names (derived / underived, borrower / autochthonous), their frequency, graphic variants (between brackets, the author also added the onomastic forms with reduced incidence, yet present in the contemporary administrative texts, or in the minor importance documents), their evolution in time. As regarding this last aspect, the comparison with the actual data⁴, makes us observe the “greatness” and the “decline” of some of the old names. It stands to reason that, due to the lack of a complete anthroponymic inventory, the comparison cannot be an exact one; nonetheless, some tendencies are noticeable, or there are observed some patterns, in the case of each name. thus, if in the *Arhondologie*, for the patronymic *Alcazi*, there have been registered seven people (*Alecu, C., Gheorghie, Gheorghie, Ion, Nicolai, Săndulachi*), today, in DFNFR, their number reaches 10; for the anthroponym *Balș*, with 11 bearers in *Arhondologie* (*Alecu, Alecu, Costachi, Costachi, Gheorghie, Grigori, Grigori, Lupu, Panaite Theodor, Theodoriță*), there was registered, at present, in Galați County, one person (from a total number of 193, at the national level). There are names that disappeared: *Ambelicopolu, Angheliris, Angonachi, Angonescu, Arghiramu, Asinescu(l)* etc., but also names with a high frequency, in the concerned region (representing more than a half of the number of people who have the name): *Alexa* (*Gavril* and *Ioan*, in *Arhondologie*) registers 5,891 people, in DFNFR (the total is of 9,030), and *Averescu* (*Gavrilaș*) – 96 of 137. Moreover, there can be made several observations, on addressing the last names. Among others, it is worth noticing the fact that the ones formed with the suffix *-ache/-achi* gradually changed their class, migrating from that of the first names, towards that of the surnames, and specialising in the last category.

Beyond these considerations, it is important to mention that almost none of the essential forms of manifestation of the Romanian society (particularly that from Moldova), such as: economic activities, social relations, administrative, juridical, cultural, military, church organisation, political phenomena and affirmation of the cultural beginning, there cannot be reconstituted, without the investigation of the archive sources. According to this perspective, *Marea Arhondologie a boierilor Moldovei*, is an excellent instrument in which there are enumerated, classified and described “the public status of the noble people, or those who had high ranks” (p. 9), which represents a new step (the result of years of work in the archives from Iași, as the author himself confesses), meaning the bringing to light of the unknown documentary sources, and their use, for a better understanding of the past.

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Adrian Rezeanu, *Periplu toponimic*, Bucharest, Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2014, 288 p.

The present work gathers a series of studies (some of them published previously in the Romanian Academy magazines), whose central subject is constituted by the urbanonymy. The problems, which this type of denominative structure imply, were actually the main interest of Adrian Rezeanu, along his

⁴ We consider *Dicționarul de frecvență a numelor de familie din România (DFNFR)*, vol. I (A-B), Craiova, Universitaria Publishing House, 2003, from which, there is, published, unfortunately, just one volume. The frequencies from here are from year 1996, when it was constituted the Data Base of the Onomastics Laboratory, led by professor Gheorghe Bolocan (Faculty of Letters, University from Craiova).