

Paul Emanoil Barbu, Mirela Comănescu, *Catagrafia din 1838 a oraşului Caracal și a satului Bold*, Craiova, Alma Press, 2018, 124 p.

The preoccupation for the collecting and the publishing of the material from the archive has been an important objective for many historians and linguists. Aware of the fact that the period documents lack (especially the far back ones) from the history of our society evolution, being inaccessible for research, they have carried out an intense, individual or collective work, to which we nowadays owe a rich inventory, included in consecrated studies.

Furthermore, the census that the two authors made follows the line of the works aiming at the recovery of the historical past, by identifying and publishing some unknown documents from the archives.

Why are the censuses important? Because, in them, there can be found essential forms of manifestation of the Romanian society, such: economic activities, social relations, administrative, legal, military or church organisation, political phenomena and the beginning of some cultural manifestations, etc. This was due to the central authorities from the period of the Organic Regulations, which, wishing to know the number of the people who would supply the financial reserves precisely, required the making of censuses that would include information on the population from the two Principalities – Wallachia and Moldova – the tax payers, the tax-exempted, the leaseholders, the traders, the craftsmen, the plough-men, the clerics, the teachers, the boyars etc. (usually the family heads), along with information on their family members and their possessions.

For the former county of Romanați, there were preserved in the National Archives, the censuses for the city or Caracal, and other four districts, from the five existing ones. The present work presents the census made for the mentioned urban administrative territory, and the rural one of Bold, which, starting with 1845 became an integrant part of Caracal.

The structure of the work is made of an *Introduction* (pp. 5–16) and two annexes in form as a table, representing two censuses: *Catagrafia din 1838 a oraşului Carcal*-The Census from 1838 of the city of Caracal (pp. 17–96) (made on slums: Sfântul Ioan, Sfântul Nicolae, Târgul de Afară, Potroseni) and *Catagrafia din 1838 a satului Bold, județul Romanați*-The Census from 1838 of the village of Bold, the county of Romanați (pp. 97–122).

In the *Introduction*, the authors analyse, on categories, the data from the table rubrics: the ethnicity of the interviewed, the marital status, the age, whether they pay taxes or not, their profession, their health state, their possessions: how many acres of land, their livestock (horses, oxen, cows, sheep, goats, pigs, buffalos, donkeys, mules), the beehives, the fruit-bearing trees, the vineyards. The authors notice the fact that, generally, the amount of information from the end of each censused segment (slum) is the correct one, but there are wrong data inserted too that, after the calculations, were corrected. These situations are inherent when making this type of works, the interviewed are not always consistent in observing the norms imposed for making the censuses and the final calculations.

On addressing our field of interest, in the period when the census was made, the family names were in full process of creation; there is registered a rich inventory of names, very important for the evaluation of the stage the Romanian onomastic system was, at the beginning of the 19th century. The denomination was generally made with the use of an only name, by relating it to a family member, and, seldom, by double names. Other times,

the names of the profession, the boyar rank, the birth place, the nickname were used as distinctive elements. All these categories can be analysed in detail, based on the information from the present paper.

To conclude, the plurality of the angles from which the material offered by the Census can be approached (professional, fiscal, social, anthroponomic categories, the ethnic compenence of the population and its mobility, the material condition of the dwellers etc.), along with the richness of information, make the endeavour of the authors to publish this book be fully rewarded.

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