

characteristics features of the land forms, climate, vegetation, places of interest, economic evolution, occupations, etc.), 2. Historical considerations (the official documentary testimonial of the settlement, owners, remarkable moments in its history), 3. The origin of the oiconims (the forms in which they were attested in various documents throughout the centuries, theories about names etymology). The three settlements are minutely described with regard to all the stated aspects.

Glossary of the place name (pp. 55-175) is the most substantial chapter of the book. Each toponym constitutes a separate article, in the following set-up: the type of the named object, location, etymology. The phonetic transcription, for which the author opted in order “to capture the exact pronunciation of the toponyms” (p. 19), enables the comparison between the dialectal form and the official one, remarkably catching the local specific character.

The analysis of the information recorded in the *Glossary* is carried out in the next section: *Classification of toponyms* (pp. 176-221). The lady author takes into consideration the three aspects: semantics, typology and etymology.

The semantic criterion determined the division of the material into two subdivisions: a) place names derived from appellatives (the most part of the indigenous terms refer to land forms, hydrography and vegetation, taking into account the mostly mountainous zone in which the three settlements are situated), b) place names derived from proper nouns – Christian names (through function change, transformations or associations) and toponyms (the transfer of name from a geographical entity to another situated nearby). Regarding typology, the presented place names fit into two patterns: simple and compound. Their detailed analysis sets forth the interrelationship of the three compartments of language: lexic, anthroponomy and toponymy. The toponymical layers – Romanian, Old Slavic, Magyar, Ukrainian and German – found in Borșa, Moisei and Vișeu de Sus represent the object of the last criterion of analysis, the etymological one.

The work ends with *Language characteristic features* (pp. 222-227), a short chapter which presents the phonetic, morfo-syntactic and lexical characteristic features of Maramureș dialect and the way in which these are present in the local toponymy, followed by *Conclusions* (pp. 228-230) and *Bibliography* (pp. 231-245).

Through the analysed material and the etymological solutions proposed, Mrs. Adelina Emilia Mihali's book easily finds a place among the significant works on toponymy, contributing to the turning to good account of the plentiful and various information, which often risks being lost, due to the modification of the area's geomorphological aspect.

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Georgeta Ghionea, *The history of the urban banks in Oltenia in statistical data and correspondence (1880-1948)*, Târgoviște, Cetatea de Scaun Publishing House, 2015, 451 p.

A paper dedicated to the history of the urban banks in Oltenia during the period of the years 1880-1948, – from the founding of the National Banks of Romania and until the setting up of the totalitarian socialism – is welcome. It comes to enrich the fact of getting familiar with the banking system and the ways through which the financial institutions, either branches of the National Bank or of other central banks, either bigger local banks or smaller ones had supported, through their very mission, the effort of modernizing the economic life in this part of the country.

The paper is judiciously structured in five chapters, to which the list of the documents and statistics, the introductory study and the bibliography are added. It not only has the task of completing the few historiographical information now available concerning the chosen subject, but also equally represents

a necessary and valuable contribution to knowing and thoroughly studying an extremely interesting subject, closely related to the evolution of financial-banking system in Romania. The approach to such a complex field had required the undertaking of serious and indispensable investigations at the National Archives County Services of Dolj, Gorj, Vâlcea, Olt and Mehedinți, as well as the examining of some speciality papers, statutes, reports and periodicals which illustrate the various aspects concerning the banking and credit system in Oltenia. The paper comprises 108 documents and 5 statistics, all of them having a special importance both for the historians and for those preoccupied by the economic history. As regards the selection of the documents, the lady author remarks that only those documents were published which “were about the setting up, the evolution and the balance of certain banking societies, having an outstanding role in supporting the local economy, and not only”.

The confidential correspondence between D. I. Dimitriu and personalities of Romanian financial – banking life (I. G. Bibicescu, Anton Carp, Th. Ștefănescu, Eugeniu Carada), contracts of association, instructions of the economic and financial situation of Vâlcea county during the first decades of the XXth century, requests for merging, the establishing of the branches and special agencies of the NBR in Oltenia in the year 1948 are only a few of the subjects which the lady author approached in the first chapter of the paper entitled: *The NBR branch and agencies in Oltenia, between the instructions of the Central Administration and the engagement in supporting the economy.*

On the basis of the studied documents, in the second chapter with the title: *The banking movement in Oltenia (1880-1948). The urban commercial banks and the interaction with the economic environment*, the lady author took into consideration the organization and consolidation of the credit institutions in the researched region, within a national financial economic system. The evolution of the banking operations, the impact of the economic crisis, of the monetary reform of 1947, the nationalization of 1948 and its consequences for the Oltenian banking system are only some aspects which we find in the statistics and documents in this chapter.

The establishing of the Bank of Commerce in Craiova, in December 1897 was closely related to the economic and social function which this town had in the XIXth century. Its organization, role and evolution until 1948 was treated in the third chapter of the paper entitled: *The organization and functioning of the Bank of Commerce in Craiova (1897-1948)*. In a short time it had become, as the lady author remarked, the most important private bank in Oltenia, set up by means of Romanian capital and focussed on a wide range of financial operations, with favourable consequences for all the social categories.

The IVth chapter was devoted to co-operative system in urban Oltenia. In the two statistics dedicated to the co-operative societies for credit, but also to those for consumers, to the cooperatives for forestry, agriculture, supply and marketing, the lady author successively examined the stages of their setting up and activity ever since the end of the XIXth century. The statutes for functioning, the general statistical data, the exchange of letters with the National Institute of Cooperation, the reports after the inspection undertaken by cooperative institutions are subjects we find in the documents that complete this chapter of the book and offer us information about the role and place of the system of credit, of production and sale, within the larger system of cooperative movement in Oltenia.

In the last chapter of the book, the lady author carried out two statistics about the structure of the shareholders group and the office holders of the urban banking societies in Oltenia, starting from the idea that “the success and performance of some institutions or the failure of some of the largely depended on the quality of human resources”. The lady author took into consideration the possibility that the statistical the image of some local leaders, better known “for their engagement in the cultural or political life and less for their contribution to the development of the financial and banking system in Oltenia”.

Without insisting on other details, I consider that this paper has undoubtedly covered the subjects approached and that it asserts itself as a substantial piece of research, being ranked as a valuable contribution worth taking its proper place in the contemporary historiography, in the series of books and studies devoted to presenting the history of the national economy.

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