

Iustina Nica Burci, *On proprietorship. Social peripheral categories. Studies of historic toponymy in Muntenia and Oltenia*, Bucharest, Pro Universitaria Press, 2021, 272 p.

The reviewed book proposes an ample analysis on some lexical elements of socio-economical and historic reference, extending, through the approached subject, the borders of the Romanian onomastics. The author clarifies some of the issues related to the Romanian language and history, offering, in her paper, the image of the communities from the Romanian principalities, with their specific social, political and economic life.

The structure of the book is a classical one. In the *Introduction* (written in both Romanian and English languages, pp. 7-21), Mrs. Iustina Nica Burci provides us with few general notions on the relation that, in time, has been established between toponymy and the local history of the communities, a relation that is carried out, as it is proved, to the benefit of the both partners; it is motivated the choice of the debated subject, there are fixed the territorial limits (Oltenia and Muntenia), and there is established the method of working and the objectives that are to be attained through the analysis of the selected information.

In the first part of the work – *On proprietorship* (pp. 23-181) –, the author focused on the study of the denominations that reflect one of the most important aspects from the existence of the old communities: that of proprietorship. In the section called *Few general notions*, there is presented information on the common law in the Romanian space and, further on, the analysis is made in detail for the appellatives *moșie*-estate, *ocină*-inherited piece of land, *ohabă*-tax exempted land, *braniște*-fenced-in district, *vie*-vineyard, the toponyms that include the formulation “part of...”, all identified in the old customary habit, along with some terms that refer to land ownership, fiscality and sanctions from the socio-economic range (*ales*-elected leader, *coroană*-crown, *delimitare*-delimitation, *danie*-donation, *dijmă*-quitrent, *embatic*-long lease, *falcă*-old measuring unit, *gloabă*-fine, *jurebie*-piece of land, *lege*-law, *leguire*-justice, *mertic*-unit measure for cereals, *otașniță*-metayage, *pățime*-fourth-part tax, *pogon*-acre, *prisos*-spare farming land, *redevență*-due, *rest*-leavings, *stânjen*-fathom, *șugubină*-fine paid for murder, theft or adultery, *trășură*-carriage, *valma*-joint possession etc.)

The second part of the book – *Peripheral social categories* (pp. 183-256) – is also opened with few general notions: there is specified the fact that toponymy is based, to a great extent, on the participation of the anthroponymy to the establishment of the place names and that it “does not consider the social status of a person, in the inventory of the place names being equally met individuals that belong to the administrative, church, military etc. hierarchy of a locality, and also average people that make themselves remarkable, many times, neither positively nor through physical or psychical features” (p.184). Furthermore, there are analysed different categories of participants to the social life of the community, along the time: on one side, there are the people from the superior social class (*rulers*, *boyars* – the elements of micro-toponymy centred around some terms as *domn*-ruler, *domnie*-ruler’s institution, *domnesc*-ruler related, *voievod*-voivode, *vodă*-prince are also thoroughly analysed), on the other side, the middle-class people (*moșteni*-obsolete form for ‘moșnean’, *moșneni*-free peasants from Wallachia, *megieși*-free, land-owning peasant), and equally important, the category of the disadvantaged, individuals from the edge of the society, or pushed there from different reasons, all exposed in the book. Among them, there are: *băjenar*-refugee, *cerșetor*-beggar, *clăcaș*-socman, *dezrobot*-disrobed,

fur-thief, *fugar*-fugitive, *haiduc*-outlaw, *hoț*-burglar, *lotru*-robber, *mișel*-villain, *nevoiaș*-needy, *răsculat*-insurgent, *sărac*-poor, *scutelnic*-tax exempted, *sicar*-paid murderer, *slujitor*-servant etc.

The *Conclusions* (also written in both Romanian and English language, pp. 257-263) present, in a brief manner, the result of the research and the directions approached in the paper: the structure of denominations (simple, derived, compound), the manner of association for the component parts, in the compound place names (with the help of the nominative, genitive and accusative cases); the origin of the toponymical denominations (common and proper nouns, adjectives), their frequency and territorial spreading the analysed terms register today, in relation with other toponymic patterns, and also with the other appellatives analysed in the book.

Therefore, the effort to present a complex world reflects itself in the systematic study of the recorded terms, to make taxonomies that are specific in toponymy, to present common vocabulary elements, of anthroponomy and popular geographic terminology. The paper is important through the onomastic information (there are mentioned both the anthroponomic system and the toponymic one that is forming) presented in it, along with notions of lexicology, language history, or grammar. The scientific content is supported by a rich bibliography in the field, along with dictionaries, glossaries, treatises, historical studies, juridical and economic studies, collections of documents on the history of Wallachia.

All these are arguments to support the idea that the work written by Mrs. Iustina Nica Burci is to be a significant reference in the specialised literature of this domain.

Cosmin VILĂU

„Ecatarina Teodoroiu” Gymnasium School
Târgu-Jiu, Gorj