
BOOK REVIEWS

VASILE PUȘCAȘ

**Philip E. Mosely despre Transilvania
și Basarabia**

(Philip E. Mosely about Transylvania
and Bessarabia)

Cluj-Napoca: Școala Ardeleană, 2017

IMAGINE A young American pouring over the Soviet archives in Moscow in the early years of the 1930s—one of the first Americans granted access to do so. Along with the intense labor of his studies he works odd jobs as a translator to help provide food, firewood, and clothing. He struggles together with the Russian populace through the forlorn and frigid Moscow winter, suffering malnutrition and disease for want of food. Such is the vivid picture that Professor Vasile Pușcaș paints of the young and dedicated scholar in his book. The image is to be remastered throughout the book as Philip E. Mosely transforms into his various roles—that of a professor, a protégé of the famed D. Gusti, an advisor to the US Department of State, an esteemed expert on foreign affairs, and a champion of Romanian customs and culture. The theme is oft repeated: Mosely is not merely an academic locked behind the heavy doors of a mahogany lined library, but a field researcher, tenacious in his search for truth in the various fields of sociology, anthropology, history, political science, and foreign policy. Tenacity is shown in Mosely from the start. On preparing to return to America after his aforementioned long and grueling sojourn as a young scholar in Moscow, he was informed by Russian officials that none of his notes or copied materials collected over the

two years of research would be permitted to leave with him. This was a proposition that was simply not acceptable to the young Mosely. He wrote a letter directly to Stalin himself and delivered it to the front door of the Kremlin. In it he stated succinctly, he was not going anywhere without his materials. If pressed, he insisted, this incident was surly to make waves with Russian-American relations. The next day the Kremlin responded—the young Mosely would be permitted to return to the United States with all of the products of his labors.

In Professor Vasile Pușcaș' detailed work of the life and times of the scholar Philip E. Mosely one is continually left with the impression of a great man and scholar fixed on revealing truth through experience lived in the field. After introducing the reader in a succinct and well flowing preface of how Professor Pușcaș came to be acquainted with the inspiring works of Mosely and how Mosely came to spend time in Romanian and the Balkans, the author breaks into the core of the book.

The core segment of Professor Pușcaș' book is divided into 12 subsections that track a rough chronological flow of Mosely's life and career. This core section is then bookended with a superb annex in which one can find original writings and essays of Philip E. Mosely in both English and Romanian. The reader is first introduced to a short biographical sketch of Mosely. Born in 1905 to a family in Massachusetts that traces its lineage back to early 18th century colonial times, the young Mosely was educated at Harvard, graduating in 1926. While at Harvard he studied and became profoundly interested in the East and West dynamics of international relations as well

as Russian literature, culture, history, and foreign policy. The book documents the progress of Mosely as a scholar through his various travels to the European continent. The young Mosely researched and spent time at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Sciences Po in Paris, and the University di Perugia in Italy, all of which helped build the emerging scholar's experience on the continent. These experiences would in time contribute to a powerful reputation as an expert on European Affairs. Admirably, Philip E. Moseley was also a gifted polyglot that used language to aid his studies. He would go on to master seven languages throughout his life and travels, including Romanian.

After the biographical sketch of the early years, the book's next several subsections focus on Mosely's profession as an educator and on his role as a researcher in the villages of Romania. As a student of the fascinating Gusti method of sociological research, Mosely learns how the method of investigation focuses the lens of sociological understanding upon four frames of existence: cosmological, biological, psychical, and historical. Mosely first trained under these principles in an in-depth study of the Romanian village of Șanț. From what follows in Professor Pușcaș' descriptions of these sociological studies it is clear that Mosely deeply cared for the Romanian people, their customs, and their rich traditions. Mosely delivers in his essay titled "The Sociological School of Dimitrie Gusti" and published in *The Sociological Review* (available in the Annex) the first English language review of this then new and advanced school of sociological research. Part of the importance of this research in the villages of Romania is laid out as a key to understating the power dynamics in Romania. Mosely writes "in Eastern Europe there is no gulf greater than that which divides the city from the village.

Through literature, lectures, film, and expositions the institute is trying to give the city a true picture of village life." Indeed, it was the rural class of Romania that survived and persisted with their culture and way of life under foreign occupation for so many centuries, to be lifted up in more recent times to form the base of the new Romanian state. In another of Mosely's profound essays on Romania titled "A New Rumanian Journal of Rural Sociology," he states that the leaders of Romania "awoke to the fact that its new position was due above all to the centuries-long persistence of the Rumanian peasantry under alien rule." Mosely's work in Romania not only gained him understanding of Romanian history, traditions, and culture (all to be used in later assignments at the Department of State), but his work also aided in the goals and desires of Gusti who was trying to bridge the gap and connect the cultural richness of rural life to the urban centers. The book likewise demonstrates the benefits the villagers received due to these sociological studies, benefits such as medical clinics, veterinary assistance, many thousands of vaccines, bridges, libraries, and lectures, all of which aided in enriching the rural life of the villagers. Mosely and others among Gusti's teams lived in the villagers' homes and advised them in their trials. It is a touching example of the profound impact of sociolegal work that any nascent or experienced sociologist could be reminded of.

Following the sequence of events in Mosely's life the book progresses towards the Second World War and the postwar questions of partition and border disputes. During the war, Mosely's exploits and advisory functions within the US Department of State are fascinating and further tell the story of an academic with a keen knowledge of European History and territorial claims. As a member of the Advisory Committee

of the Department of State, Mosley used to great effect the knowledge gained in his previous employ with Gusti and demonstrated his knowledge as one of the more well-versed members on Transylvanian and Romanian history. Professor Pușcaș' book gives a vivid presentation of the trials of the postwar period and is useful to readers in gaining an understanding of the matters regarding Romanian territories. The sequence of the book returns the reader to Mosely's homecoming to academia after the war. He continued to stay active in research and opinion pieces in global politics throughout the Cold War and until his death, and these pieces and recommendations found use in US security and defense agencies. Mosely was one of the very men that advocated that the US military include area studies into the professional education of the officer corps. These types of area studies remain a key component to a US military officer's post university education to this day.

One parting recommendation for a reader less familiar with the works of D. Gusti, or of sociology in general, is that they may want to start with reading the preface written by Professor Pușcaș, followed by reading some of Mosely's works in the Annex. As one originally unfamiliar with the works of Gusti I found some clarity later on while reading Mosely's summary of this unique method of research. I likewise better understood the context and necessity of the sociological research in the remote Romanian villages after reading of the rural foundational base of emergent Romania in Mosely's article in *Foreign Affairs*. Additionally, reading some of the original works of the biographical subject before delving into the heart of the book will give a clear picture of Mosely's compassion and humanity towards those he so intently studied and sought to understand. His essay regarding the partition of Transylvania accurately portrays a man well versed in the issues and

questions regarding the region and gives the impression of a scholar with a keen intellect and understanding of the political landscape of Southeastern Europe.

Professor Pușcaș concludes this deeply researched and well written book with a salient passage explaining that though Mosely had prepared to become a historian, the various interdisciplinary methods he studied brought him to the boundaries of sociology, anthropology, economics, psychology, and the study of politics and international relations. A key takeaway of the book is the benefit of rigorous scientific methods that Mosely learned under the tutelage of D. Gusti—knowledge that would serve him the rest of this life. Professor Pușcaș' writing is salient and crisp and the collection of included essays are interesting and enlightening. Any budding or experienced scholars looking to further their knowledge of the fascinating region of Southeastern Europe would do well by reading Vasile Pușcaș' interesting book on the life of Philip E. Mosely and his impact on Romanian and European affairs.

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CURTIS D. CORDON

MELANIA-GABRIELA CIOT
Negocieri internaționale

(International negotiations)

Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitară

Clujeană, 2021

THIS NEW work by Professor Melania-Gabriela Ciot helps to complete the puzzle of international negotiations on which Romanian researchers have been working over the years. This Romanian perspective of international negotiations has the concrete purpose of filling the academic void regarding this subject, something the author does with precision and excellence. Professor Ciot