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## BOOK REVIEWS

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**MIHAI D. DRECIN, GABRIEL MOISA, DELIA CORA, and CRISTIAN CULICIU, eds.**

**Maramureșul istoric: Studii de istorie și arheologie**

(Historical Maramureș: Historical and archaeological studies)

Cluj-Napoca: Academia Română, Centrul de Studii Transilvane, 2020

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**R**ECENTLY, A great part of the scientific focus in the field of history has been directed towards the study of certain historical regions. This might have been influenced by the recent anniversary of the centenary of a historical event that led to several changes in most fields of European society, but also within Romanian society. These changes were documented in monographs dedicated to the different Romanian historical regions. Papers have been published on regions like Transylvania, Crișana and others, and the current volume is part of that series, containing historical and archaeological studies on the historical region of Maramureș.

Visually, the cover of the book is divided into two parts; the upper part features the title, clearly showing that the volume is dedicated to the history of the region of Maramureș; the fact that the title is set against a wood-like background seems to further highlight the historical aspect of the work, but beyond the title there is the fundamental graphic element—the historical map of the county of Maramureș, an element which focuses the reader's attention on the book's message not just through words, but also visually.

The volume is structured into four scientific sections, generically entitled “Geografia locurilor” (The geography of places); “Învățământ și cultură” (Education and culture); “Politică și istorie militară” (Politics and military history); “Societate” (Society). The four chapters do not have the same structure; the first one only includes one paper, while the others have four, or even nine works.

The volume includes several scientific studies, more precisely 19 articles, whose main topic of research is Maramureș. In fact, this book resulted from the scientific session entitled “Contribuția Maramureșului istoric la istoria românilor” (The contribution of historical Maramureș to the history of the Romanian people), which took place on 25–27 October 2013. However, the research was published only seven years later, in 2020, for financial reasons; such details, as well as others regarding the hidden aspects of the volume's publication, can be found in the section “Cuvânt-înainte sau Despre Maramureșul istoric din stânga și din dreapta Tisei” (Foreword, or On historical Maramureș on the left and the right banks of the Tisza River) (pp. 9–27). This segment is translated into two foreign languages—English and French—sending a message of transparency and bestowing upon the book an international flair. The works published in this volume are not translated, but each article's abstract is also written in English, sometimes in German, so that interested parties from abroad may also briefly consult the book.

The first scientific section—“The Geography of Places”—includes a paper by Alexandru Ilieș and Marin Ilieș, who approach the historical region of Maramureș from a geographical viewpoint—“Țara Maramureșului: Particularități geografice în spațiu și timp” (The Country of Maramureș: Geographical specificities in space and time) (pp. 31–48).

The second chapter includes five articles (pp. 49–116). This research reflects on the past of education and of culture in general, in Maramureș. The time segment analyzed is rather ample, from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the period between the two wars and until today. The third scientific segment includes nine papers, and is the largest chapter of the volume. The studies were grouped together to outline the political past and the military history of Maramureș (p. 117–260). The fourth section includes four studies that analyze various aspects of Maramureș society from a historical point of view (pp. 261–336).

In conclusion, the volume is part of the series of monographs dedicated to various historical regions, thus enriching the documentary contributions to one of the most fascinating areas of today’s Romania.



ROBERT-MARIUS MIHALACHE

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MIRCEA-GHEORGHE ABRUDAN

**Ortodoxia românească în istorie și contemporaneitate. Articole, eseuri și note de lectură**

(L’Orthodoxie roumaine à travers l’histoire et la contemporanéité.

Articles, essais et notes de lecture)

Cluj-Napoca : Renașterea ; Stockholm : Felicitas Publishing House, 2019

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**L**ES DEUX siècles et demi de confiance illimitée dans les disponibilités créatrices de l’humanité, durant lesquels l’iconoclasme voltairien, perpétué sous différentes formes livresques et idéologiques, a alterné avec des moments de récupération de la tradition et de recherche des dimensions profondes des forces qui gouvernent le destin des individus et des communautés, n’ont pas diminué l’intérêt pour la réflexion sur les appartenances confessionnelles, avec les acceptations institutionnelles et communautaires qu’elles avaient incorporées tout au long du temps. La production culturelle résultant de cet intérêt a bénéficié du revirement des interrogations générées par les défis qui mettaient en cause le succès du paradigme multiculturel et des projets politiques et économiques intégrationnistes, légitimés par un prétendu affranchissement de l’individu des contraintes imposées par les anciennes loyautés spirituelles et communautaires. L’actualité des études portant sur l’histoire confessionnelle et ses significations à long terme est ainsi démontrée par le creuset idéologique qui témoigne d’une réalité duale, où les valeurs chrétiennes sont placées à l’origine du projet de construction européenne, tout en constituant des sources d’inspiration pour des options éthiques et politiques censées censurer le paradigme postmoderniste des libertés individuelles ou assurer la légiti-