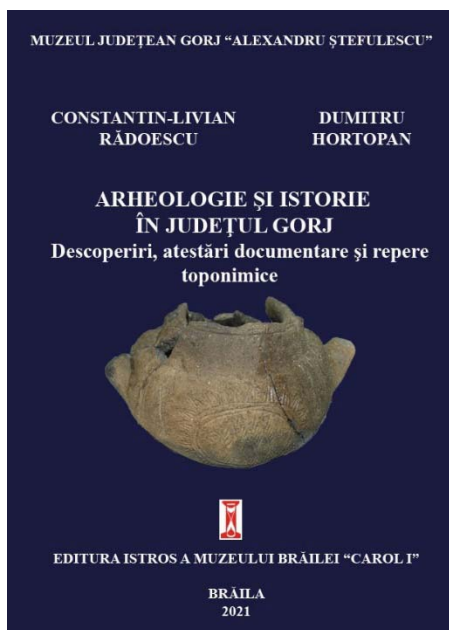


## RECENZIE CARTE

*Flavius Cristian Mărcău\**

**Constantin Livian Rădoescu, Dumitru Hortopan, *Arheologie și istorie în județul Gorj. Descoperiri, atestări documentare și reperi toponimice*, Editura Istros a Muzeului Brăilei „Carol I”, Brăila, 2021, 350 p.**



[Constantin Livian Rădoescu, Dumitru Hortopan, *Archaeology and History in Gorj County. Discoveries, documentary evidence and toponymic landmarks*, Istros Publishing House of the "Carol I" Museum of Braila, Braila, 2021, p. 350].

Archaeological research is an essential activity to understand human history and evolution and to reveal the secrets of our past. By studying archaeological material, specialists can reconstruct the way of life and culture of human communities over millennia and draw important conclusions about their social, economic and political development.

Gorj County is an area with an important cultural history and more. Since prehistoric times, the area has been inhabited by human groups who developed a series of particular cultures, whose material and spiritual traces can still be seen in the archaeological heritage of the area.

In ancient times, the territory of Gorj was inhabited by various tribes, and later the area was integrated into the Roman Empire, being part of the province of Dacia. In the Middle Ages, Gorj became part of the Romanian Country and was an important cultural and economic centre, according to the sources of the time.

Today, the cultural-archaeological heritage of Gorj, especially from the prehistoric, ancient and medieval periods, are important sources of information for researchers in the field of history, archaeology and anthropology, as well as for the tourist and cultural promotion of the area. As a whole, the history and cultural

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heritage of Gorj is an important element of Romanian history and culture with a strong interest for researchers in the field.

The volume under review, „*Arheologie și istorie în județul Gorj. Descoperiri, atestări documentare și repere toponimice*” [Archaeology and history in Gorj County. Discoveries, documentary evidence and toponymic landmarks], by Professor Phd. Constantin-Livian Rădoescu, Research Scientist Grade I within the County Museum "Alexandru Ștefulescu" of Târgu Jiu, and Dumitru Hortopan, Archaeologist and Manager of the same cultural institution, represents a valuable contribution in the field, being the first work of this kind for the respective geographical area, and presents a maximum interest for specialists, due to the listing of those "localities on the territory of which significant archaeological discoveries have been reported and recorded". (p. 9). And there are not just a few data, but even a significant volume of information containing the totality of discoveries, as a result of specialized or accidental investigations, from the entire area of Gorj County.

The authors are specialists in the field of research that this volume addresses. Constantin Livian Rădoescu holds a PhD in History, with a doctoral thesis on "The plastic art of the Neo-Eneolithic cultures between the Carpathians and the Danube (Oltenia and Muntenia)" and is the author/co-author of 11 specialist books and numerous studies published in scientific journals in his field. Among these we mention the volumes “*Istoria veche a României. Preistoria și Protoistoria spațiului carpato-dunăreano-pontic*, Editura Academica Brâncuși, Târgu Jiu, 2016” [Ancient History of Romania. Prehistory and Protohistory of the Carpathian-Danube-Pontic Space, Academica Brâncuși Publishing House, Târgu Jiu, 2016]; “*Artă și religie în preistoria spațiului nord-dunărean. Simbolistica plasticii neo-eneolitice aflate în colecțiile muzeelor din Oltenia*, Editura Academica Brâncuși, Târgu Jiu, 2014” [Art and Religion in the Prehistory of the Northern Danube Space. The symbolism of the neo-eneolithic plastic found in the collections of museums in Oltenia, Academica Brâncuși Publishing House, Târgu Jiu, 2014] and “*Geneza și evoluția culturilor neo-eneolitice pe teritoriul dintre Carpați și Dunăre*, Editura Didactică și Pedagogică, București, 2008” [Genesis and evolution of Neo-Eneolithic cultures on the territory between the Carpathians and the Danube, Didactic and Pedagogical Publishing House, Bucharest, 2008].

Dumitru Hortopan holds a PhD in History with a thesis on "Economic life in southern Dacia in the 2nd-3rd centuries BC", and is the author/co-author/editor of five volumes and over 50 scientific articles published in journals. Among them we mention “*Patrimoniul cultural creștin din Oltenia sec. XVII-XVIII. Ghid de bune practici destinat personalului monahal*, Institutul Național al patrimoniului, 2012” [The Christian cultural heritage of Oltenia sec. XVII-XVIII. Guide of good practices for monastic staff, National Heritage Institute, 2012] and “*Digging in the Past of Old Europe: Studies in Honor of Cristian Schuster at his 60th Anniversary*, Editura Istros a Muzeului Brăilei <<Carol I>>, Brăila, 2019”.

As for the volume under consideration, it comprises 350 pages and is divided into three main chapters.

The first chapter, „Cadrul fizico-geografic” [Physico-geographical framework], brings together information on the relief, hydrographic network, climate, vegetation, fauna, soils and natural resources, the authors providing readers with essential information to get to know Gorj County.

In the second chapter, called „Repertoriul descoperirilor” [Directory of discoveries], the localities are presented in alphabetical order and the discoveries for each locality in chronological order. Also, as the authors mention in „Cuvântul înainte” [The Word Before], existing data have been checked and "older information, some of it erroneous or incomplete, has been revised, and the bibliographical references have been substantially enriched" (p. 9). Basically, in addition to collecting the data and inserting them into the volume, the authors proceeded to correct inaccurate or erroneous information that was already in the scientific circuit.

In the third chapter, entitled „Repere toponimice: atestări documentare, cartografice, surse administrative” [Toponymic landmarks: documentary and cartographic evidence, administrative sources], the authors capture the names of localities only from a chronological perspective of history, without making any specifications on the linguistic or dialectological nature (p. 223) and make "a Toponymic Register according to the structure of the Toponymic Dictionary of Romania. Oltenia (DTRO), in which, after recording the official form of the locality's name, its phonetic and morphosyntactic variants are specified chronologically, respecting the original spelling and indicating the documentary source, the selected data providing historians with evidence of the age of the settlement, archaeologists with information on the location and dating of objectives to be investigated, and linguists and dialectologists with reasons to study and clarify the origin of the names in question" (p. 223).

Also, as a strong point, the volume provides the reader, specialist or not, in addition to information collected from various sources, a number of 18 color maps, made to a high quality, 56 figures and 2 tables that complete the proposed scientific approach.

In conclusion, the authors of the volume capture very valuable information for those who wish to study the history of Gorj County from the point of view of the archaeological discoveries made over time and provide the reader with a complete book in terms of information available for Gorj County. A commendable scientific approach and particularly useful for future research.

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