

Ion Zainea, *Politică și administrație în România (6 martie 1945-1 martie 1946): Epurarea [Politics and Administration in Romania (March 6th, 1945-March 1st, 1946): Cleansing], Oradea, Editura Universității din Oradea, 2004*

Many times the historian selects and interprets by himself sources. According to the distinction made by Prof. Bogdan Murgescu⁴, these two types of activities tend to separate and gain individuality: one counting the so called *sourcelogues* and the other counting those interpreting the documentary data given by the first. We can hereby attend to the proliferation of records compilations based on chronological and thematic criteria.

We wish to signal the existence of a hybrid genre at the boundary of the two aforementioned typologies, residing in a grouping of documents preceded either by a preface, an introductory study, a platform, or all these together. Their resemblance with the prefaces of archival inventories (a brief presentation of the intended organization, the main categories of records, and their extreme years) leads us to consider them as very reliable documentary sources when they are fairly prepared. Paul Veyne argues in a book published over 30 years ago in France that “*By its very essence, history is knowledge through documents...it is not a documentary photo-editing and it does not present the past “live, as if you had been there”*”⁵.

The paper-work by Prof. Ion Zainea is not a history interpretation paper, which would require us to examine the content of the complex relations the historian attempts to identify in determining explanatory aspects (the nature of cleansing, causes, immediate consequences transposed factually or politically remote consequences or consequences on the elite, etc.) by the method of reconstructed-experimentation, probing, and auto-correction of the correlations made on the material in possession⁶. It should fairly carry the mention – *editor* – under the name of the author.

In change, one can notice the monochromy of the sources that build up the greatest part of the book (419 pages of 506) coming from the Official Gazette, or the glaring contradiction on page 488 where we learn that “*Epurarea în România n-a fost nici concepută și nici începută de comuniști / The cleansing in Romania was neither conceived nor begun by the Communists*” (p. 488) and that “*Paradigmele epurăției au fost inventate de comuniști / The cleansing paradigms were invented by the Communists*” (p. 488).

Constantin-Răducu Stancu

⁴ Bogdan Murgescu, *A fi istoric în anul 2000*, Bucharest, 2000.

⁵ Paul Veyne, *Cum se scrie istoria*, Bucharest, 1999, p. 11.

⁶ François Furet, *Atelierul istoriei*, Bucharest, 2002.