

The work is one of major interest not only for historians, but also for geographers, topographers, cartographers, philologists and archivists, since it inserts the most ancient maps and cadastral designs in the scientific milieu.

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***Atlas istoric al orașelor din România, A Series: Moldova, fascicle 2: Siret* (coord. by Dan Dumitru Iacob; text by Victoria Paraschiva Batariuc, Șerban Dragomirescu; maps by Mariana Vlad; transl. by Sigrid Pinter), Bucharest, Editura Enciclopedică, 2010, XII + 12 p. + 7 maps**

We notify the publishing of the second fascicle of *Atlasul istoric al orașelor din România* [The Historical Atlas of the Cities of Romania], A series. *Moldova*, referring to the city of Siret. The editors' option is not casual at all, since it is about one of the most ancient Romanian urban centre. In addition, Siretul held for a while the position of main residence of the princes of Moldavia and of siege of the Roman-Catholic Bishopric at the East of the Carpathian Mountains. As a result, it became an important commercial centre on the route that linked Poland to the cities of Chilia and Cetatea Albă at the Black Sea.

Unfortunately, as it happened with other cities beyond the Carpathians, the loss of the political importance of Siret in Suceava's benefit led to the diminishing of its administrative, economic, religious and demographic position, which significantly altered its urban features.

As well as the previous fascicles – referring to the cities of Sighișoara, Sebeș, Suceava, Târgoviște and Câmpulung – this volume was drawn up according to the norms established by the International Commission for the History of the Towns concerning the work's format, structure and plan.

Thus, the work opens with a *Cuprins* [Summary], followed by a *Cuvânt înainte* [Foreword] signed by Dan Dumitru Iacob and certain *Repere fizico-geografice* [Physical-Geographic References] presented by Șerban Dragomirescu. Afterwards, Franz Pieszech and Victoria Paraschiva Batariuc draw up the section entitled *Cronica orașului* [City's Chronicle], containing the most important chronological references of the history of Siret, while Victoria Paraschiva Batariuc also sets up a serious *Introducere în istoria orașului* [Introduction in the city's history], where she noted very well that this town belonged to "*apanajul fostelor doamne ale țării* [appanage of the country's former princesses". Then, Dan Dumitru Iacob investigates the *Evoluția demografică* [Demographic evolution], *Structura morfologică* [Morphological structure] – where he examines the transit routes, the urban division between the central and the industrial areas of the settlement between the 18th and the 20th centuries –, and also the five *Etape de extindere a orașului* [Phases of city's extension]: 12th-13th centuries; the end of the 13th and the first half of the 14th centuries; the second half of the 14th and the 16th centuries; the 17th-19th centuries; the 20th century. Further down, Victoria Paraschiva Batariuc presents short portraits of the *Monumentele istorice* [Historical monuments] of Siret and its surroundings. It is about the Orthodox churches of Sfânta Treime [Holy Trinity], Sfântul Ioan Botezătorul [Saint John the Baptist], Sfântul Onufrie [Saint Onufrius] and Sfântul Dimitrie [Saint Demetrius], along with the Catholic and Armenian dwellings, not preserved nowadays.

Consequent to this, Dan Dumitru Iacob sets up a selection of the most important quotations referring to the *Descrieri istorice ale oraşului* [Historical descriptions of the city], and Victoria Paraschiva Batariuc enumerates the *Descoperirile arheologice* [Archeological discoveries] in the area of Siret for the period between Cucuteni Culture and the 17th century. Afterwards, the work includes a table with *Numele străzilor* [Streets' names] – drawn up by Dan Dumitru Iacob, *Bibliografia* [The bibliography] – composed by Victoria Paraschiva Batariuc and Dan Dumitru Iacob, and also a presentation of the *Provenienţei ilustraţiilor şi hărţilor* [Origin of the illustrations and maps], also written by Dan Dumitru Iacob.

The volume comes to an end with seven maps: *Planurile zonei* [Area's sketches] of the fair of Siret, drawn up in 1784 (scale: 1:89,000) and respectively in 1790 (scale: 1:28,800); *Planul oraşului* [City's sketch] dated in 2005 (scale: 1:10,000); *Planul oraşului din 1855, cu numele străzilor vechi şi actuale* [Sketch of the city in 1855 with old and present streets' names] (scale: 1:2,500); *Etape de extindere a oraşului* [Stages of city's extension] (scale: 1:5,000); *Parcelarea oraşului* [The division of the city] in 1855 (scale: 1:5,000) and *Parcelarea oraşului* [The division of the city] around 1900 (scale: 1:5,000).

Like the previous fascicles, the Atlas of the city of Siret is also bilingual, the pages numbered in Latin being written in Romanian, while their correspondent in Arab letters comprising the translation in German.

Unfortunately, despite its importance, the history of the city of Siret remains less known because of the lack of extensive archeological diggings, destined to supply the small number of the documentary information referring to this settlement. Henceforth, since this work includes the most ancient maps and cadastral sketches of the city and area of Siret in the scientific milieu, the publishing of it would certainly rouse the interest of the historians, geographers, topographers, cartographers, and philologists.

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Virginia Isac, *Contribuţii la o biobibliografie Alexandru Ioan Cuza* [Contributions to a Biobibliography of Alexandru Ioan Cuza], Iaşi, Editura Junimea, 2005, 157 p.

As it is known, consequent to a hardworking activity extended even after her retirement, Virginia Isac published the most available and complete working tool referring to the Archives in Iaşi: *Catalog de documente din Arhivele Statului Iaşi. Moldova* [Catalogue of documents from the State Archives in Iaşi], vol. I (1398-1595).

After this volume of documents, although she had been retired for a long time, Virginia Isac has continued to investigate the archives and libraries, focusing upon the period of the union of the two Romanian Principalities (1859) and upon Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza and his wife, Elena Cuza. Naturally, the author's congeniality with this topic is to be connected to her birth's settlement – the commune of Ruginoasa, Iaşi county, where is the location of the palace and the church where the bones of the former prince were deposited – and to one of the first buildings where she lived in Iaşi: the former inn of Petru Băcalu, in front of which the *Hora Unirii* [The Union's hora] was danced on January 24, 1859.