

pluriethniques et pluriconfessionnelles, prennent légalement naissance par les privilèges accordés par les princes qui reproduisent des modèles des pays voisins, comparables à la « Loi allemande ».

Fondée sur une riche bibliographie (p. 559–594), amplement utilisée, le livre de L. Rădvan représente la première synthèse sur la genèse du phénomène urbain dans les pays roumains, une synthèse qui ne manque pas des points de vue nouveaux sur des problèmes difficiles et controversés. Publié dans une collection spécialisée dans une maison d'édition prestigieuse, il apportera une contribution importante à la connaissance de l'histoire de cette région dans les milieux académiques occidentaux.

Andrei Timotin

MARE ET LITORA. *Essays Presented to Sergei Karpov for his 60th Birthday*, edited by Rustam SHUKUROV, Moscow, 2009, 776 p.

As everybody knows, Professor Karpov (born in 1948) is the great historian of the Empire of Trebizond and of the Byzantine Black Sea. Therefore he deserves the splendid volume which was dedicated to him by forty of his colleagues and friends from his own country as well as from Italy, France and Germany. Their merits match the reputation of the scholar whom they paid homage and the list of contributors reads as a repertory of the world of learning as far as the broad field of his studies is concerned. The reader will also find in this *Festschrift* Professor Karpov's bibliography (some pages of his were already translated into Romanian, but only at Chişinău). The articles in Russian have useful abstracts in English, while Russian abstracts equally inform the intended readership about what has been written in other languages).

Among the many important contributions, there are some connected with the interests of Romanian historians. For instance, Laura Balletto is drawing on unpublished documents about two Genoese notaries of the 14th century: both of them, Antonio di Ponzò and Bernabò di Carpena were active on the Lower Danube, at Chilia. Another new source on the history of Caffa and the Black Sea is identified and examined by Enrico Basso: about fifty documents of the notary Giovanni de Labaino from 1410 to 1412. Giovanni da Vicina who came out of them was used as notary at Caffa from 1400 to 1411. A merchant called Domenico di Credenza died *in partibus Vallachie* where his heirs hoped to collect a handsome fortune. M.N. Bakhmatova presents the Venetian chronicler Gian Giacomo Caroldo (recently, Şerban Marin has published the first two volumes of his edition of that chronicle, without knowing however the Verona manuscript signaled by Bakhmatova). Furthermore, an article by Chryssa Maltezou produces archive material on the Maruzzi family, Greeks from Epirus who enriched themselves in Venice and served the two empresses of Russia and Austria. One of the commercial centres where these merchants were present was Bucharest. It should be added that the marquis Panos Maruzzi married Zoe, daughter of Scarlat Ghica and sister of Alexander, princes of Wallachia. We are brought to an earlier, sixteenth-century, Wallachia by Ihor Ševčenko's essay on Maximos Trivoulis: being connected with ex-Patriarch Niphon and Manuel of Corinth, Maximos became in 1517 a member of the entourage of Prince Neagoe Basarab, whom he glorified in classical Greek verse and whose attempts to achieve independence from the Ottoman yoke he encouraged. Thierry Ganchou, in his flawless stemma of the dynasty of Trebizond, assigns a place to a Maria of Gothia who married David II Megas Komnenos. She must have been an aunt of the homonymous wife of the Moldavian prince Stephen the Great; that second Maria lived in Moldavia from 1472 to 1477. This fruitful examination of the volume may end with the essay of I.K.Fomenko on a hand-written map of Constantinople, which was made in 1793, when General Kutuzov had come to Istanbul as an ambassador. In the margin the author has annotated details of historical interest, like the Byzantine ruins, and the location of the houses of Western diplomats in residence.

The papers contained in this volume make varied, valuable and original contributions to our knowledge of South-Eastern Europe.

Andrei Pippidi