

against Bonaparte, who had conquered Egypt, the young officer was attached to General Koehler's mission to Constantinople, where they were expected to instruct the Ottoman troops. Another member of that military mission, the surgeon William Wittman, was mentioned by Eric Tappe and Trevor Hope in two surveys of English travelers in the Danubian Lands which are missing from the bibliography of this book ("Revue des études roumaines" in 1960 and 1975). Until 1801, when the French army left Egypt, Leake participated to various actions along with the Turks and acquired his first archaeological experience at Troy, in Bithynia and Phrygia, in Cyprus and in Lycia. He also visited ancient sites in Egypt, following the course of the Nile up to Aswan. In Lebanon and Syria he saw other antiquities. In 1802 Leake was at Marathon and Thermopylae, made an excursion to Mycenae, Argos and Epidaurus, then suffered a shipwreck with the brig which carried marbles of the Parthenon, gathered on Lord Elgin's orders (some of them were rescued and are now in the British Museum). At the return from his travels, he was kept waiting in vain for an award and only in 1804 the Foreign Office posted him abroad on his own project of an intelligence mission for which he got the recommendation of Nelson himself. This time, he was sent to the Southern Balkans.

His celebrity is connected to the antiquarian and cartographic researches he managed to do during the six years he spent in Albania, Northern Greece, Morea and Mani. The regular correspondence he maintained with the diplomatic network in London and in Pera gives us a faithful image of the feverish life he led. Upon a horse or in a carriage, he scoured through Epirus, Thessaly and Macedonia, examining the strategic routes. At Ioannina, the residence of Ali Pasha, where Leake had the position of an agent of the British government, a French Consul General arrived in 1806: it was Pouqueville, whose qualification as a researcher was not inferior to that of his English rival. His *Voyage de la Grèce* in 6 vols (1826) teaches us a good deal more than Leake about the topography, the natural conditions and the trade of Northern Greece. Among the next goals of Leake's explorations were Naxos, Paros, Delos, Mount Athos – what else? The man was an inexhaustible traveler. The Ottoman authority was not endlessly tolerant, and, at the insistence of the French ambassador to Constantinople, Leake was under arrest for almost a year in 1807 in Salonica. After his release, he took into his hands all communications between Ioannina and London: Ali Pasha always expected financial support and military aid, though most of his efforts were consumed by local conflicts with other chieftains. In 1810 Leake returned to England, putting an end to his Balkan adventure. From then on, he published a series of books relating to the region he had so thoroughly investigated, an activity which filled his last forty years.

Except this end devoted to learning, the life of William Martin Leake reminds us of Captain Hornblower, the renowned hero of C.S. Forester's novels. It is a pity that we do not find here a map with Leake's itineraries.

Andrei Pippidi

Edda BINDER-IIJIMA, Heinz-Dietrich LÖWE, Gerald VOLKMER (Hrsg.), *Die Hohenzollern in Rumänien 1866–1947. Eine monarchische Herrschaftsordnung im europäischen Kontext*, Köln – Weimar – Wien, Böhlau Verlag, 2010 (Studia Transylvanica, Band 41), 196 p.

Expression et symbole de l'euro péanisation du pays, de la fin de la dépendance politique et culturelle de l'Empire Ottoman, le règne de Carol I^{er} et la dynastie qu'il a fondée ont mis une empreinte décisive sur l'histoire moderne de la Roumanie. Longtemps ignorée par le discours historique officiel pour des raisons idéologiques, l'importance historique de la monarchie roumaine est reconsidérée aujourd'hui sur le fond d'une préoccupation générale de souligner l'importance de la monarchie comme institution nationale et européenne. Un écho notable de ce débat est le présent volume issu d'un colloque organisé à Heidelberg, en novembre 2006, par le Seminar für Osteuropäische Geschichte et Siebenbürgen-Institut, en coopération avec Deutschen Kulturforum östliches Europa et l'Institut des Études Sud-Est Européennes de l'Académie Roumaine.

La relation profonde entre la monarchie et la modernisation de la Roumanie, qui est un thème central de ce livre, est soulignée notamment dans les contributions de Keith Hitchins et de Lothar

Maier. Cornelius R. Zach s'arrête sur les options décisives des souverains roumains dans les moments de crise de la période 1866–1947, en évaluant leur rapport avec les options des élites politiques roumaines et avec l'opinion commune. Les cours royales de Bucarest, de Sinaia et de Sigmaringen, en tant que symboles de la monarchie, font l'objet de l'analyse d'Edda Binder-Iijima, tandis qu'Elena Siupiu met en évidence le prestige dont jouissait Charles I^{er} parmi les monarques balkaniques dont témoignent, par exemple, les mémoires des diplomates de Ferdinand de Saxe-Cobourg-Gotha. Gerald Volkmer établit les bornes principales de l'évolution de la politique étrangère de la Roumanie entre 1866 et 1918, et Günter Klein étudie le rapport symbolique entre la monarchie et l'armée, en soulignant le rôle de l'armée comme instrument de légitimation dans la guerre d'indépendance, pendant la Première Guerre Mondiale et pendant la dictature de Carol II. La signification de la monarchie dans le contexte des relations roumano-allemandes est dégagée par Michael Kröner, qui étudie la relation de la monarchie avec la minorité allemande de la Roumanie, et surtout la perception du monarque par cette minorité. La figure protéique de Carol II est dessinée par Hans-Christian Maner et Klaus Heitmann, tandis qu'Armin Heinen traite du rôle de la monarchie dans la période de l'Holocauste.

La lecture de ce livre est une incursion instructive dans l'histoire moderne de la Roumanie vue à travers son centre politique et symbolique.

Andrei Timotin

Dinu POȘTARENCU, *Contribuții la istoria modernă a Basarabiei (II)*, Tipografia Centrală, Chișinău, 2009, 136 pp.

The breakdown of the Communist regimes is an unfinished story in a few countries that are caught on the strip between West and East. The bad luck to have a strategic geopolitical importance threw them in the turmoil of the Communist Moloch and represents still today the main reason of their uncertain future. The Republic of Moldova is such an example. Looking at these countries, one finds however that something changed though, in comparison with twenty years ago. The Soviet power has vanished and people are opening one eye to the Western societies. They may travel and work in the West, learn foreign languages and attempt to understand the values that lay behind the apparent well-being of Western countries. In the bosom of the academic milieu, at least concerning in some research institutes of Moldova, there is an obvious effort to improve their professional standards.

This volume by Dinu Poștarencu proves to be one of the honest and beautifully constructed which belong to this trend. The aspects studied by the author outline the tragic destiny of Bessarabia, that half of historical province of Moldova that today is separated by state boundary from Romania. Poștarencu highlights the statistical data of Bessarabia's administration and censuses during the century from annexation of that province in 1812 till its union with Romania in 1918.

This sequence of documents begins with an important new source, the ethnic statistics of Bessarabia in 1808, which Poștarencu found in the Chișinău National Archives. It is followed by several inquiries the Tsarist administration had carried out in the *gubernia* in 1844, 1862, 1897, and 1901.

The reader is powerfully impressed by Poștarencu's care to avoid any kind of nationalistic stereotypes. The figures are enough evidence on the Tsarist strategy to include the peripheral region of Bessarabia in the huge Russian empire. In the two chapters of the volume, *Ethnic Structure of Bessarabia in the Tsarist Time*, (pp. 7–71), and the *Territory and Administrative Organization of Bessarabia in the Tsarist Time*, (pp. 72–83), Poștarencu analyses the principles, the criteria as well as the terminology that guided the Tsarist administration in Bessarabia. The volume closes with 50 pages of appendices regarding the ethnic and administrative situation period which support the author's assertions.

The volume may be the best till now, a synthesis of ethnic and administrative statistics of Bessarabia.

Stelu Șerban