

Ileana Roman, Tudor Rățoi, *Enciclopedia Județului Mehedinți – Dicționar (Mehedinti County Encyclopaedia – dictionary)*, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, PRIER Press, 2021, 928 p.

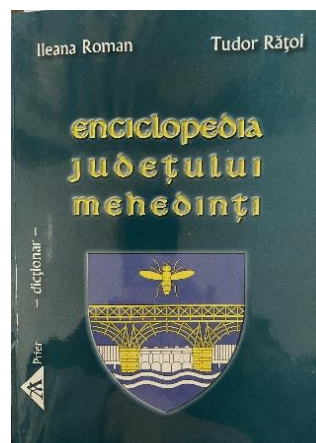
In October 2021 Prier Press, from Drobeta-Turnu Severin, added to the Romanian historiographical treasure a valuable lexicographical work entitled *The Encyclopedia of Mehedinți County – Dictionary*, “a premiere, not only for Mehedinți County” (p. 5), made by Ileana Roman and Tudor Rățoi, authors and coordinators.

We are talking about a scientific work, professionally realized, which is added to the most valuable encyclopedic works published so far, thus contributing, through the richness of historical, cultural etc. information, to the great encyclopedia of the Romanian nation. On the front cover the new coat of arms of Mehedinți County is printed (approved by Government Decision no. 791 of September 27, 1999), and on back cover, there is a synthesis text, taken from the *Preface*, regarding the content of the work.

In *The Preface* (pp. 5-8) the two coordinators give consistent information on the main milestones pursued in this editorial project, and also talk about motivation, research, structure and result.

On addressing the reason that generated the idea of the project from which the work resulted, Ileana Roman and Tudor Rățoi say that “it mattered first of all, the absence of information from the national and universal encyclopedias, as well as the lapidarity of those mentioned, important information not only at the «county level»...”, giving as an example, in this respect, the work *Encyclopedic Dictionary*, vol. 7 (Bucharest, Encyclopedic Press, 1993-2009), in which there was “no word written on the Land of Severin – the first medieval duchy organized in the south of the Carpathians; not a word about the Medieval Fortress of Severin – the first stone fortress in Wallachia; not a word about Schela Cladovei – an important archaeological site, here being discovered one of the first human settlements in the European space, dated to approx. 8,000 years BCE. Also missing from this dictionary, many localities with natural monuments, with ancient vestiges, numerous personalities, some known on a national scale. Well-known personalities are mostly absent from the great world encyclopedias. The scientist Stefan Odobleja himself is omitted from the *British Encyclopedia*, even from the recently published editions in the Romanian language. At the same time, there are some 'local' self-references that do us harm” (pp. 5–6). Concluding, we can say that the present paper comes to cover the unexplained omissions from those works of national and international dimensions, and to counteract that information that brings “disservices” to Mehedinți County.

Then, regarding the research and documentation for the new edition, the two coordinators make the following clarifications: “Various works have appeared about Mehedinți, but most of them are derisory. We have bibliographed only the works that contribute inherently to the knowledge of the heritage values in Mehedinți County (62 sources: 15 general works and 47 special works – n/n). The rest are works mostly «emanated» after 1990, in full freedom of speech, but outside of minimum scientific, as well



as moral criteria. They represent compilations or just plagiarisms. For those created as guides, albums, leaflets with «tourist destinations», expensively published under the aegis of some governmental entities, besides the poverty of language, the nominal information itself is often erroneous. These are the anomalies of these politically and socially confused years. [...].

In our project we showed special care for the recovery of the values, occulted or mutilated by the communist regime. Furthermore, in this chapter, *de restitutio*, we consider a holy duty to continue the identification of war heroes, many of whom are still unknown, although they were on the front line in the battles. Out of the thousands of sacrificed, there have been identified only a few hundred in the so-far researched documents. [...]. Regarding the *Personalities* section, there ought to be made the following clarifications: 1. In addition to the well-known and recognized names, I have also mentioned from those unjustly forgotten through the dark corners of history. [...]. 2. Since in the years 1838 and 1950, 70 Mehedinți villages were abusively assigned to the counties of Gorj and Dolj, it is rightful that the people born in those villages until 1938, others until 1950, to have their Mehedinți origin preserved, even if they subsequently belonged, or belong, to other counties. [...]. 3. Recently released names of people (mostly with belletristic writings) are selected and flagged in the dictionary as a local potential. Others left behind works in manuscripts worthy of investigation. [...]. 4. Regarding the other *en titre* presences – localities, institutions, industrial, commercial, agricultural enterprises, they are mostly monographically presented” (pp. 6–7).

On addressing the research, as well, there can be said that the project was started several years ago, “with several authors, rather hasty in researching the information, as well as in writing the texts”, the first edition being published in 2003, at the Prier Press in Drobeta-Turnu Severin, under the title *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Mehedinți County*. In the new work (which would be the second edition, revised and completed) a significant part of the articles signed by the late Nicolae Chipurici (localities, companies) and Alina Cotan (collaborator for periodicals) is kept, to which there was added the contribution of professor Marius Arbănași, “the etymologies of localities”.

Thus, compared to the initial version, the new version came up with “structural additions, revisions and confrontations with other sources, namely updated information. At the same time (according to the coordinators– n/n), we have introduced new articles-title, so that the work now is doubled, compared to the first one” (p. 5). In its entirety the work “includes monographic summaries, usual information, resumes, assertions, analyses, evaluations regarding: personalities, localities, etymologies, institutions, companies, societies, periodicals, historical, archaeological, cultural events, monuments of art and civilization, natural monuments, with iconography in text and color drawings” (p. 7).

The new work has 930 pages and, besides the text itself, it contains 24 color drawings (explained in p. 9), graphic conventions (pp. 9–10), abbreviations (pp. 10–11), bibliography (pp. 905–908), people index (pp. 909–927), a final note (colophon) regarding the volume (p. 928), the map of Mehedinți County (p. 929), and some data regarding the Printing House of the MJM Press, where it was printed (p. 930).

The drawings include photo-illustrations that highlight the Mehedinți past and present: the ancient Drobeta (Roman vestiges, inscriptions and coins); The Medieval Fortress of Severin (restorations and coins from Bănia Severinului); The Austrian fortress of Ada-Kaleh restored in Șimian Island and the island under water (archival footage); Turnu-Severin (archival images), Plan of Turnu Severin city, 1835; Turnu-Severin: neoclassical... and contemporary architecture; Baia de Aramă and Cerneți (archival images); The cities of light;

Settlements of Christian spirituality; Fine arts; Museum Collections; “I.G. Bibicescu” Library – bibliophile editions; Orșova Nouă and archival footage; Monuments of heroes; Monuments of art; Collections of the Museum of the Iron Gates Region; Strehaia – medieval effigies; Vineyards; Folk groups; Cultural holidays; Iron Gates Natural Park; Mehedinți Plateau Geopark; Fountains.

In addition to these drawings, on page 12, the work presents us with a scene from Trajan's Column – *The God Danubius coming out of the river at Drobeta*, from here on being intensely sprinkled with photographs that highlight a series of landscapes and historical constructions, industrial and social constructions, or photos that depict a significant part of the personalities contained in its pages.

The bibliography, which is “an integrant part of the work” (p. 8), includes an appreciable number of general works and special works, having as authors important names from the pantheon of the Romanian culture and science, and lesser known authors, but whose works give substance to our paper of interest: George Călinescu, Marcian Bleahu, Eudoxiu de Hurmuzachi, Șerban N. Ionescu, Marian Popa, Lucian Predescu, Costin Scorpan, Dumitru Tudor, A.D. Xenopol, Ion Albulețu, Dumitru Andreca, Alexandru Bărcăcilă, Cornel Boteanu, Marcela Bratiloveanu-Popilian, Mihai Butnariu, Andreea Cârstea, Isidor Chicet, Șerban Cioculescu, Nicolae Chipurici, Vasile Cucu and Ana Popova-Cucu, Mișu Davidescu, Vasile Dumitrescu, Nicolae Ieva and Ovidiu Vișan, Ion Ionescu de la Brad, Ion Iancu Jianu and Traian Netta, Sorina Ștefania Matache, Ileana Mateescu and Marcel Mateescu, Ion I. Nistor, Constantin Pajură, D.T. Giurescu, Marian Petcu, Gheorghe Ploscaru, Sergiu-Grigore Popescu, Rodica Pospai Păvălan, Constantin Protopopescu, Ileana Roman, Tudor Rățoi, Paula Scalcău, N.D. Spineanu, Ion Stângă, Răsvan Stroe, Daniel Pepteanu, Bazil Ștefănescu, Nicolae Vizdei, Paul Petrescu, Elena Secoșan, Georgeta Stoica, Pavel Ciobanu.

The index of people, structured on professional fields, includes over 1,000 personalities born in Mehedinți County or adopted by it: academicians, actors and directors, engineers and teachers in different specialties, physicists, mathematicians and chemists, economists and financiers, historians, archaeologists, museographers and archivists, geographers, theologians, priests, monks and Orthodox hierarchs, philologists and linguists, philosophers, psychologists, sociologists, diplomats, politicians, municipal administrators, generals, doctors and pharmacists, architects, plastic artists, estheticians, vocal soloists and instrumentalists, composers and conductors, ethnologists and folklorists, cultural animators, lawyers, lawyers and magistrates, writers, literary critics and historians, publicists and journalists, performant athletes, war heroes, anti-communist militants and martyrs, founders and philanthropists, etc. It ought to be appreciated the large number of elites, the top value personalities registering 24 academicians, an impressive number for a small county.

Studying the index, we will try to make a summary picture of these Mehedinți human values, listing only a few of the names known to us: Gheorghe Ionescu-Șișești, Constantin Rădulescu-Motru, Gheorghe Țițeica (academicians), Geo Saizescu (film director), Virgil Ogășanu (actor), Petre Daea (agronomist engineer), Dumitru Berciu, Dumitru Tudor, Petre Gherghe (archaeologists, university professors), Petti Velici (plastic artist), Ioan G. Bibicescu (politician, founder of institutions), Pamfil Șeicaru (founder and philanthropist), Gheorghe Dumitrescu-Bistrița (priest, folklorist), Eufrosin Poteca (monk, philosopher), Dinică Ciobotea, Nicolae Chipurici, Mite Măneanu, Constantin Protopopescu, Tudor Rățoi (historians), Nicolae Ionescu-Șișești, Ștefan Odobleja (doctors), Tudor Vladimirescu (leader of the revolutionary movement of 1821, martyr of the nation), Ion Ioanid, Nicolae

Vulcănescu (anticommunist militants), Nicodim Nicolaescu (Orthodox hierarch), Alexandru Stănculescu-Bârda (Orthodox priest, historian), Mihai Corcodel (theologian, protopsalter, coordinator of cultural projects), Doru Viorel Ursu (magistrate), Tudorel Butoi (forensic psychologist, professor), Sorin Lavric (writer, literary critic, politician), Tudor Nedelcea (writer, literary historian), Dan Șalapa (professor, writer), Ecaterina Andronescu (university professor, politician), Rodion Cămătaru, Matei Mirel Rădoi (footballers), Lavinia Miloșovici (gymnast), Nelu Bălășoiu, Gheorghe Roșoga, Petrică-Mățu Stoian, Angelica Stoican, Niculina Stoican, Domnica Trop (vocal soloists), Constantin Gherghina (instrumental soloist).

Such a work cannot be all-encompassing and perfect. This would be impossible to achieve, hence, the series of grievances and dissatisfaction. Therefore, finding that the first edition did not rise to the level they had proposed, the coordinators devised a new edition, more comprehensive, and superior, quantitatively and qualitatively, to the previous edition and succeeded. It is to be admired the made effort, and it deserves our appreciation. Nonetheless, as the result of those who toil is not always properly appreciated, on the contrary, criticized, it is expected that among the Mehedinți residents, there will also be dissatisfied people who will express their discontent, both verbally and in writing.

Being aware of it, the coordinators make the following clarifications: “When addressing the syntheses, the evaluations, the assessments, the approach is thought according to the freedom of thought and expression of the authors. In this respect, nonetheless, we cannot please everyone. The important thing is that we have managed to portray in an almost exhaustive manner the identity, the significant, the representative on our county” (p. 8).

In the conclusion of the foreword that precedes this scientific work, the dissatisfied receive a good breath of oxygen from the coordinators, who make the following statement: the work is “a construction ... diachronic and synchronic..., concluded at the end of September 2021, but generously open towards the next edition, with anticipated thanks to those who will come up with the inherent justifications and new information, the objective being the same: to know our forefathers, as well as the transition and perspective contemporaries, to know our values that widely, through their history and present, raise the county to national and universal landmarks” (p. 8).

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The fact that the archivist and historian Tudor Rățoi, born in Dăbuleni, Dolj, chose to work and live in Drobeta-Turnu Severin, was a gain for Mehedinți County, being one of the most appreciated specialists in archiving, a historian and a high-class academician, his work being very well received and appreciated in the Romanian scientific environment. Therefore, this volume, which carries the professional imprint of the distinguished researcher Tudor Rățoi and of the writer and editor Ileana Roman, “the most awarded writer of Severin”, is up to the requirements imposed for this kind of works and is added with honor to the works that manage the Romanian past and present.

Thus, we are to congratulate the initiators and the coordinators of this scientific approach – Ileana Roman and Tudor Rățoi – and their collaborators – Nicolae Chipurici (localities, companies), Marius Arbănași (etymology of the localities) and Alina Cotan (periodicals) – for the intellectual effort they made, the publishing house, the printing house

and the technical group formed by Victoria Rățoi, Ramona Alina Codiță, Marian Bobiți (computerized editing) and Mihai Băileșteanu (the cover and the graphic layout), for the manner they have given themselves to this editorial project and for success. We also congratulate the City Hall of Drobeta Turnu Severin – mayor Marius Screciu, for the financial support of the project.

We highly recommend the work (for the authenticity of information) to the specialists in the field, students, master and doctoral students, history lovers and enthusiasts.

Eugen PETRESCU

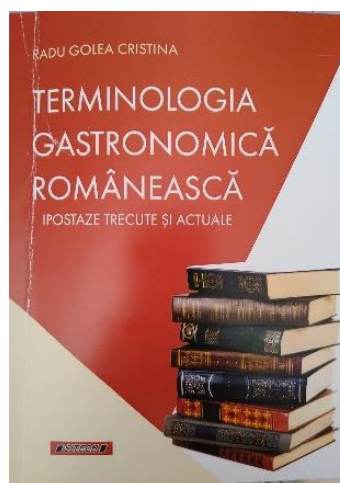
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Cristina Radu Golea, *Terminologia gastronomică românească. Ipostaze trecute și actuale (Romanian Gastronomic Terminology. Past and Current Hypostases)*, Craiova, Sitech Press, 2021, 192 p.

“The discovery of a new dish means more to the happiness of the human race than the discovery of a star”, said, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the French politician and gastronome Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, and the interest in what and how much we eat, for what food represents in the life and culture of a society, has progressively captured the attention of anthropologists¹ and, lately, that of linguists too, who have turned their attention to the terminology used in this field.

Under the motto quoted above, Mrs. Cristina Radu Golea places her present book as well, offering us a journey into the Romanian gastronomic vocabulary.

After a condensed Introduction (pp. 9–12), in which she establishes the objective of the work – “we will systematize, according to semantic criteria, some expressions, phrases and proverbs from the Romanian language that have, in their composition, certain terms referring to culinary preparations or to certain physiological actions (eating, drinking)” (p. 10) – in the chapter *Specifics of the Romanian Gastronomic Terminology* (pp. 13–24) the author states that, not being a language of international circulation, Romanian had to import, in different eras and under different influences, a series of new terms, including in the culinary space. A means of expanding and adapting the gastronomic terminology to the needs of the time was also the relationship it had with other areas of research; knowledge of this connection, most often, facilitates “the correct decoding of the various names of culinary preparations and gastronomic processes that turn ingredients into food” (p. 17). The fields of interest are: biology, agriculture, history, geography, painting, etymology, semantics, pragmatics.



¹ Besides that of the Medical doctors (today, the nutritionists).