

produced newspapers, articles penned by soldiers in popular journals, periodicals, and the press, as well as unpublished and published memoirs” (p. 9).

Interesting is not only the complexity of the work of Justin Fantauzzo, deepening the history of the first conflagration, but also his efforts to clarify even small aspects that, like in a puzzle, are very useful in the process of understanding the subtle causes of a certain event. Thus, he even speaks about aspects like “climate and environment” (pp. 20–25), highlighting the differences created by local particularities or different situations, or about “insects and disease” (pp. 25–33) and their influence on the evolution of some battles. The research ends with some well written conclusions (pp. 220–225), where the author also offers a general evaluation of the situation, arguing that “From the beginning of the First World War to the end of the interwar period, soldiers who had fought outside the Western Front—against the Ottoman Empire in Sinai, Palestine, and Mesopotamia, and against Bulgaria in Macedonia—were locked into a somewhat hopeless struggle, a struggle to persuade those at home that their campaigns were worth-while contributions to the war effort. Today, it seems, the worst fears of the nearly two million men who fought in the Middle East and Macedonia have been realised” (p. 224).

Rich in historical information and bringing to attention an aspect of the war that has been insufficiently investigated so far, the book by Justin Fantauzzo is an important contribution to the understanding of the First World War and of the way in which British soldiers, from the empire and its dominions, understood and accepted the realities that they were confronted with, also showing how the local popula-

tions, supposedly liberated from their oppressors, saw and accepted the role played by them. Drawing on a sizable amount of bibliographical sources (pp. 226–243), the author ensures the great scientific value of his approach, and by reconstructing interesting life stories and the universe of the combatants in a way that is easy and pleasant to read and understand, he invites the reader to a useful and enriching lecture about a topic that is still debated today. □

IULIU-MARIUS MORARIU

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ALEXANDRU A. PĂCURAR

**Lucrările Institutului de Geografie  
al Universității din Cluj/  
Travaux de l’Institut de Géographie  
de l’Université de Cluj (Roumanie)  
(1922–1947)**

(Papers of the Geographical Institute of  
Cluj University, Romania, 1922–1947)  
Cluj-Napoca: Argonaut, 2019

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**I**N THE city located on the Someșul Mic River, the 2019–2020 academic year marked a century of Romanian higher education, since the last reestablishment of the Alma Mater Napocensis.

To celebrate the centenary of the Romanian University of Cluj, the Faculty of Geography organized an anniversary scientific conference on 3–6 October 2019 under the name “Geographia Napocensis 100.” On 3 October 2019, the first day of the event, in the Aula Magna of the university, an anniversary volume was presented, entitled *Lucrările Institutului de Geografie al Universității din Cluj/Travaux de l’Institut de Géographie de l’Université de Cluj (Roumanie) (1922–1947)*, authored by Professor Alexandru A. Păcurar.

It comprises a total number of 648 pages, 477 images—copies of documents and letters, literally saved from the waste bin, as well as 10 graphs, 2 maps, and a table. The book ends with extended ancillary Notes (pp. 455–552), which describe 214 institutions and entities with which the Geographical Institute of King Ferdinand I University collaborated over the years. The author's patience and perseverance, as well as his tremendous efforts, are reflected in the institutional Index, names and toponyms (pp. 553–605), a valuable part of the book, doubled by a Bibliography (pp. 607–621) with conventional (348 titles) and electronic sources (88 links to different websites), and an integrated Annex of the contents of all eight volumes of the *Papers* (1922–1947).

The book opens with a double Foreword, written by Professor Doru Radosav (pp. 9–16) of the Faculty of History and Philosophy of Babeş-Bolyai University, in Romanian and English, and by professors Christian Germanaz and François Taglioni of La Réunion University, France (pp. 17–24), in French and Romanian. A final Argument (pp. 25–40) was written by the book's author, in Romanian and English.

In keeping with scientific logic, the book first presents aspects regarding the establishment of the Institute of Geography at Cluj University, taking into account the international geopolitical context, as “due to the heroic deeds of the Romanian Royal Army and the sacrifices endured by the entire population during the Great War, the dream of the Romanians, including those living in Transylvania, came to fruition—the Union with the Motherland” (p. 41). The union and the new borders were acknowledged and recorded in texts of international law through the consecutive peace treaties of 1919–1920, following the Paris

Peace Conference (Versailles, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Neuilly-sur-Seine, Trianon, and Paris), based on Wilsonian principles, especially those of nationality and the peoples' self-determination.

Thus, the Great Union of 1 December 1918 “created the conditions for the establishment of a Romanian higher education system at the universities of Cluj and Cernăuți,” which were asked to join the universities of the Old Kingdom (Iași and Bucharest) in their efforts to fight for the grand design of educating the Romanian people (p. 25). The Transylvanian Ruling Council decided to create a University Commission, presided by Sextil Pușcariu, which selected distinguished professors from the Old-New Country in order to strengthen Romanianism in Transylvania. Furthermore, it established Romanian high schools in Transylvania, Banat, Crișana, Maramureș, Bessarabia, and Bukovina, where enthusiastic teachers from the Old Kingdom decided to teach.

In the spirit of Sextil Pușcariu's recommendations, in order to broaden the scope of geography and create a geographical institute, the University Commission decided to bring in one of the most important geographers of the time, Professor George Vâlsan from Iași, as well as Vasile Meruțiu. They then established the Geography Department, part of the Faculty of Sciences, with two chairs: one for General and Human Geography, managed by George Vâlsan, who also coordinated the Geographical Institute of Cluj University. The second chair, Descriptive Geography and the Geography of Romania, was coordinated by Vasile Meruțiu. Another crucial aspect is that George Vâlsan opened his geography course with the inaugural lecture “National Conscience and Geography,” stating the necessity to cement

geography's status as a science, called upon to thoroughly study and present the geographical-historical provinces united with the Motherland. One example is Professor Vâlsan's encouragement towards his disciple Nicolae Dragomir, regarding the creation of a plan to research sheepherding in Mărginimea Sibiului, his native region. The beginnings of the Geographical Institute are linked to the activity of French geographer Emmanuel de Martonne, who, after accepting the invitation from the Faculty of Sciences of Cluj, started a series of lectures in 1921, followed with great interest by numerous professors, specialists and students from Cluj, Iași, and Bucharest. All this information was later put into practice during three thematic fieldtrips, encompassing over 3,500 km, in all provinces.

Objectively and painstakingly, Professor Alexandru A. Păcurar succeeds in penning lively portraits of the three directors (George Vâlsan: 1919–31 December 1929; Vasile Meruțiu: 1 January 1930–31 August 1941; Sabin Opreanu: 1 September 1941–25 October 1947), showing both their qualities and their flaws.

After discussing the establishment of the institute and its *Papers*, the book proceeds with a detailed analysis of some aspects regarding university life in Cluj during the interwar period, with graphs depicting *student dynamics* (from 2,182 students in 1919–1920 to 2,208 in 1940–1941, with the apex reached in 1932–1933: 4,459), *their ethnic structure* (over 65% Romanians, 12–16% Hungarians, 3–7% German, 0–9% Jews, 0–3% other ethnicities) and *their origin* for the 1919–1941 university year; *student dynamic per faculty and their gender structure* (1922–1942); *teacher dynamics* (1920–1942)

and the *evolution of the student-per-teacher index* (1921–1941). Several elements of scientometry are also present: article profiles, languages used, page number, areas and regions in focus etc. The author also created a summary of the eight volumes of the *Papers*, which include 78 articles, primarily authored by Romanians (77), out of which 4 German ethnics, and only one foreigner, Emmanuel de Martonne. He also emphasized the low presence the women in academia, with only six articles.

Another perfectly portrayed component is the analysis of the *Papers* internal specificities, primarily regarding the journal's financing, as well as the correspondence with the three printing houses which published the volumes (Cultura Națională of Bucharest—vol. 1; Ardealul of Cluj—vols. 2–5; Cartea Românească of Cluj—vols. 6 and 8; the exception is volume 7, with an unknown publishing house), as well as the bookstores that sold the volumes (Franz V. Mühlendorf in Cernăuți; Librăria Românească in Oradea, Pavel Suru, Cartea Românească, both located in Bucharest, and Dacia in Baia Mare).

The text is accompanied by a substantial collection of photographs, such as requests and offers (temporary or definitive), requests for publishing expenses, as well as commercial correspondence. It also contains the correspondence of the institute's directors with the authors, regarding the publication of their papers and excerpts, and last but not least, the journal's promotional campaign, rigorously documenting the people and institutions from Romania and abroad which received these journals.

Chapters 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the book (pp. 111–288) offer us a splendid view of the activity of George Vâlsan, who edited and disseminated the publication in the scientif-

ic community, both home and abroad. This created a need and desire for knowledge of the geographic realities of the geographic-historical provinces that had just been reunited with the Kingdom of Romania. There are countless requests and appreciation letters of the work done by the Institute of Geography of the University of Cluj, from high schools and high school teachers, the Royal Ministry of External Affairs, as well as museums, libraries, bookstores, etc., and private individuals from the entire country. The same sentiment transpires from the multitude of exchange requests with entities abroad (foreign geographic societies, private and public libraries, prestigious publications), proving once again the value of the authors and of their work.

The penultimate chapter—“Varia” (pp. 289–342)—presents other administrative issues: efforts to purchase more books for the institute’s library; cashing and delivering monthly member contributions to banks; publication exchanges between the institute and Romanian and foreign institutions; regulations regarding postal expedition costs (conveying the enormous volume of correspondence); and a case study for awarding a scholarship from the Romanian Royal Geographical Society to student Ana Toşa, Geography Department (2 December 1940).

The book ends with an evocative title—“Clarifications and Biographical References” (pp. 343–454), which, through extrapolation and extraction, presents the teaching and administrative staff fluctuations in the Institute of Geography of Cluj University, between 1919 and 1947, at the same time forcing the author to continue the arduous but beautiful activity of “memory recovery” of the 45 members of the institute, for future publication.

The articles contained by the *Papers*, alongside other publications of Cluj University, such as the *Yearbook of the National History Institute*, the *Yearbook of the Classic Studies Institute*, the *Eugenic and Biopolitical Bulletin*, *Dacoromania*, *Revue de Transylvanie*, have time and time again proven the uninterrupted Romanian habitation in the geographic space of Transylvania, thus demonstrating the justness of the borders set during the Paris Peace Conference.

Professor Alexandru A. Păcurar’s excellent book impresses not only with the richness and novelty of the information conveyed to future generations, but also with the book’s artistic qualities, starting with its cover and ending with its paper and the quality of the documents, coming to consolidate the author’s reputation. We must therefore recognize the author’s merit, as he has truly and successfully completed a monumental task, fully deserving of praise and admiration.



GEORGE-BOGDAN TOFAN

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MIHAELA-CORINA ILISAN

**Icoanele pe sticlă și xilogravurile populare din Transilvania în viziunea lui Ion Mușlea**

(Transylvanian glass icons and popular woodcuts in the vision of Ion Mușlea)  
Cluj-Napoca: Mega, 2019

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**T**HE THIRTEENTH volume in the series entitled “Monographs in the Folklore Archive of the Romanian Academy,” coordinated by Professor Ion Cuceu, focuses on the art of Transylvanian icons and woodcuts as described in the work of Ion Mușlea, from an ethnographic and socio-