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# Reviving the Past Images and Discourses in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

Introduction

The aim of this article is to present various ways of presenting in museums located in Eastern European countries, such as Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Latvia. A common motive for the selected museums was the past. Exhibiting ways took different methods depending on factors such as the approach of highlighting the aesthetics of objects or knowledge about them, or choosing the content of the curator about the object's history and its original context more authentic than the origin of the object itself. On the other hand, it seems to depend on the roles of a museum, recognized as a national, regional or private museum. It brings general insights into how modern museums visited in 2016–2018 answer questions that matter the most, who exhibits, what is exhibited, where and for whom.

**Keywords**: exhibiting, idea of display, objects versus context, museums, state, regional, private, Eastern Europe

Cet article porte sur la façon dont les plus importants musées « ethnographiques » de Roumanie sont apparus et développés dans la

première moitié du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle, ne rappelant qu'en passant les moments survenus à la fin du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle ou après la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Il s'agit de la période d'affirmation maximale des valeurs nationales, qui affectera également la mission des musées et leur mode de fonctionnement, les programmes de collection et l'exposition d'objets. Au-delà de la tendance centralisatrice et uniformisant du nouvel État national, se remarque pourtant une relative diversité des initiatives muséographiques. Ce sont des actes fondateurs appartenant aux certains intellectuels fortement ancrés dans l'environnement culturel et politique de l'époque, préparés dans les plus prestigieuses institutions occidentales. **Mot clés**: musées, collections, culture populaire, ethnographie.

The aim of the article is to present the results of the Polish – Romanian and the Polish – Bulgarian research projects (2016–2018). By examining and analyzing contemporary strategies of representing and (re)interpreting the past, manifested through the military museum exhibitions (permanent and temporary) and narratives developed around them, this paper is an attempt to answer the question: what are military museums for?

**Keywords:** exhibiting practices, military heritage, military museum, representation, site of memory

The article discusses how the WWII historical reenactments in Poland contribute to the construction of national identities. The current political situation, where Poland's ruling *Law and Justice* party supports specific interpretations of the past and intensively promotes these in the public space, the activities of historical reenactors are often read through the prism of the party's political activity. In a similar way, collective identity projects performed in historical reenactments are understood. In contemporary Polish social life WWII history constitutes a very strong political and symbolical capital. Representing war events, reenactments and reenactors place themselves in the very centre of debates on contemporary visions of the past and identities related to them. This article focuses primarily on describing how the stereotype attributed to the WWII historical reenactments influences the perception of this phenomenon by the audience and shapes their sense of national identity.

**Keywords**: historical reenactment, historical policy, national identity, performativity

After the demise of the Communist regime, painter Horia Bernea was appointed as head of the Romanian Peasant Museum. Bernea organized the museum's exhibitions striving to display the 'spirituality of the Romanian peasant' through the objects of the museum collections, but having at the heart the Orthodox Christian belief. The first exhibition, 'The Cross', was opened in 1994, being imprinted by his plastic imagination and the ideas about rânduiala lucrurilor (the organic order of the things). Thus, this first exhibition aimed to encapsulate the religious, intimate and organic traits of the way the objects are positioned in the world. After the beginning of the 2000s, steps towards an alternative usage of the museum's rooms and additional premises were made. It was then that various activities such as public conferences and debates, or fairs of 'traditional' material culture, were hosted in the museum. In addition, a subtle and new image of the 'Romanian peasant' is delivered to the public, an image that is quite different from that of the 1990s, but still much accurate with regard to the current everyday life in Romanian villages.

**Keywords:** peasant art, national identity, antidote museum, cultural market

The topic is focused on the age and the generation of the informers and their connections with the historical events. The reflection of the changes in their lives and identity could be observed in them realizing that they have experienced dramatic historical events during the same period of time in their lives. The victimization/ heroization / mythologization of their ancestors, the pride to be a part of the grand historical events, the connection with the diaspora, the metropolia, the homeland and the issues which are connected with it -its understanding, experiencing and perception, are aspects that also have to be analyzed. These common moments create a part of the group consciousness of the respondents – their shared remembrance and values, but also show that people from various generations with a similar historical background develop common remembrance, values and beliefs even though they remember different historical processes.

**Key words**: immigrants, Aegean (Western, Greek) Thrace, identity, relocation, memory

The population transfers and exchanges between the states from the Balkan Peninsula and Anatolia, in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, generated new identities. Even though, in order to analyze them, it is invariably done under the sign of ethnicity, the groups which they belong to are more accurately named not ethnic groups, but population categories within the nation they are a part of. Origin represents a central marker of these identities. Culturally speaking, the appearances of the identity phenomenon connected to a place of origin are noticeable in various categories of markers and symbols: oiconymic, spiritual, sportive, of song and popular dance etc. The following paper focuses on the ethnographic illustration of these categories regarding the *Pontians* and the *Minor-Asians* in Greece. In dealing with the spiritual category, a visual anthropology application is presented, which refers to the custom of burning Judas in a Greek settlement at the border with The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It is worth mentioning that such an identity phenomenon represents a wide and fertile area of anthropologic research in the regions

**Keywords**: identity, origin, population category, symbols and markers, uprooting

The text aims to examine the first Bulgarian capital Pliska in the perspective of historical ethnology. The study is concentrated on the period from the late 19<sup>th</sup> c. till the early 21<sup>st</sup> c., in which Pliska was "reborn" in the national cultural memory as the first capital of the Bulgarian state. The process of constructing ideas about the first Bulgarian capital depends on the political context and passes through various stages. While in the national narrative Pliska is mainly associated with the formation of the Bulgarian state, on a local level, initiatives and public space shaping in the last decade have been focusing on Knyaz Boris I and the adoption of Christianity and the Cyrillic alphabet. On the national level, such considerations have led to the initiative of rebuilding the Grand Basilica. It reflects the trend of rebuilding a number of historical sites, motivated both by a desire to develop cultural and religious tourism and by increasing nationalist tendencies.

Key words: Pliska, historical reenactments, cultural memory

VIRGINIA BLÎNDA (Institute for South-East European Studies, Bucharest), Quelques considérations sur les peines associées à l'univers des livres dans les Principautés Danubiennes et dans l'Empire Ottoman (milieu du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle) ... 116

In the Danubian Principalities (1832–1849) and the Ottoman Empire (from 1857), the legislation mentions various sanctions endured by those who did not follow the rules on the circulation of the books (publishers, booksellers, readers).

Towards the mid-nineteenth century, sanctions on the unlawful circulation of books coming from abroad or printed in their own countries have started to be enforced. This way, authorities wanted to reduce the influence that books could have on a new generation of young intellectuals willing to change the existing social and political foundations.

**Key words:** punishments, knowledge, Danubian Principalities, Ottoman Empire, printed books

Throughout the period of socialism the state undertakes a number of measures to control all aspects of the population's life. The family, which at that time is looked upon as "a major cell of society", is to shape the future generations in keeping with the ideology aspect to by the communist party. The family is kept under control ever since the start of its formation. A great number of regulations and restrictions are drawn concerning marriage contraction age, its form (e. g. "comsomol- stile" marriage) and the family's reproductive function. The report highlights the depiction of those aspects of state policy in feature films from the "mature socialism" period.

**Key words**: Bulgarian films, the 1970s, family formation, models

#### **Articles**

This study is devoted to the calendar of Megara and her colonies, and to the institutional connections between metropolis and *apoikiai* (« colonies ») in Antiquity. Most of the scholars agree that the Megarian calendar was reproduced, with minor changes, in the colonies during the Archaic period. Nevertheless, it was recently argued that the similar Megarian institutions attested in the colonial cities might reflect the desire of the *apoikoi* 

(«colonists») to create artificially, in latters periods, a Megarian-Dorian identity. This new thesis is subject of debate. Since the transfer of the metropolis' calendar to the colonies, as supposed for the Megarian colonisation, is paralleled by similar institutional connections attested in the Euboian and Milesian colonial enterprises. Besides, the calendar cannot be dissociated from the religious sphere, and several months were consecrated to the celebration of particular Megarian cults. This has not stopped the evolutions and the innovations: some months (*Bosporios*, *Herakleios*, *Potamios*) can be connected with new cults and festivals appeared in latter times in the colonies, or with the presence of Greeks of non-Megarian origin in the *apoikiai*, especially the Boeotians. Megara and her colonies certainly not possessed identical calendars in Archaic period, but the differences were probably less important than the similarities.

**Keywords**: Megara, Aigosthena, Calendars, Greek Institutions, Greek Colonization, Greek Federalism.

In the days of the Late Roman Empire, the *Limes Moesiae* followed the course of the Lower Danube. A Roman road, the *Via Istrum*, ran along the southern bank of the river, linking legion camps, forts, watchtowers, signal posts and stations, from *Sirmium* (Sremska Mitrovica) to *Noviodunum* (Isaccea). One of the three units of the *Classis Histriae* (i.e., the Danube Fleet), the *Classis Moesica*, secured the border control on the river. It operated not only along the Danube from the Iron Gates to the Danube Delta, but also along the northern Black Sea coast, from the delta to the Crimea. While the Danube Fleet played a significant role in the logistics for the legions by transporting food, weapons and troops it was also a great economic factor, due to the activities of its headquarters, and its ports, marinas and wharfs. The river trade on the Lower Danube covered a wide variety of commodities in the Late Roman period.

Even as the Danube border became gradually weakened in Late Antiquity, the amphorae and fine ware circulation in the Mediterranean world attest to the fact that the Lower Danube was integrated in the extensive network of the Mediterranean long-distance trade routes at least until the beginning of the seventh century. However, as the barbaric incursions into imperial territory intensified, urban life along the southern bank of the river fell into deterioration. From the late 600s to the 960s, the Bulgarians appear to have been making great efforts to keep the delta area under their control. The Byzantines, on the other hand, never gave up on the idea of recovering its control over the mouth of the Danube. Commercial shipping between the

Middle and the Lower Danube seems to have been resumed after the Bulgarians and the East Franks concluded a peace treaty in the early 830s. In the 960s, river trade on the Danube appears to have been in full swing. Rock salt from Transylvania, silver, horses and slaves from Bohemia and Hungary were being shipped on the Danube.

**Keywords**: Border Control, Black Sea, Byzantine Thalassocracy, Danube Fleet, Lower Danube, River Trade, Shipping, *Via Isrum* 

The article presents a study on the institution of bans in South-Eastern and in Central Europe. The study begins with the first data, related to the Croats but the special accent is on Bulgarian history. We have a survey of the sources, mentioning the institution in Bulgaria or in Bulgarian lands from the Middle Ages to the Early Modern times under Ottoman power: these are historical relations, inscriptions, and folkloric data. A particular attention is payed to un unpublished graffito from the Church of Saint Demetrius of Boboshevo from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. We arrive to the conclusion that in mediaeval and Ottoman Bulgaria the institution of bans did not exist and the mentioning derive from the popular culture with the uninstitutional meaning of important, rich and influential person.

**Keywords**: ban, Bulgarian institutions, Ottoman Empire, Boboshevo, Church of Saint Demetrius in Boboshevo.

> The elaboration of Tables of Remarkable Things/ Rerum memorabilium tabulae as a supporting scientific tool in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries scientific literature contributes to distinguishing homonymous geographic sites, such as the many cities bearing the name of victory (Nicopolis). From the end of the 16th century the city of Nikopol on the Danube (Nicopoli de Bulgarie) is clearly distinguished from Preveza (Actia Nicopolis of the Antiquity, Nicopoli de Romanie of the Modern Times). The already non-existent towns, such as the antique city of Nicopolis ad Istrum (ad Haemum, ad Iatrum) are found only in the sections of antique Greek-Roman geography. In the universal geographies from that period, Nikopol on the Danube becomes known as a central town of a sanjak. Along with its traditional name, the Turkish version is also mentioned – Nigeboli, Nigebolu. The latter is relatively rarely listed in Rerum memorabilium. In the Tables and in the main text of the geographic works, Nikopol on the Danube is often misrepresented as a capital or a major city of Bulgaria, which is influenced mainly by the Universal

*Relations* of Giovanni Botero. The name of this town in Central Bulgaria is associated with the traumatic memory of the Battle of Nikopol (1396). This trend continues in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, especially in the geography textbooks.

**Keywords**: Nikopol on the Danube – European universal geographies and histories – Sixteenth and Seventeenth centuries – Giovanni Botero – history and geography textbooks in pre-modern times

In 1668 the war between the Ottoman Empire and Venice was reaching its end after the long siege of Candia. It excited the interest of diplomats and scholars for different reasons. Two Italians were induced to study the economic resources and the military organization of the Empire. The first of these writings (published here) is preserved at the Marucelliana Library in Florence, while there are several copies of the second. Both authors belonged to the same circle of distinguished physicians.

**Keywords**: Francesco Redi, Giovanni Mascellini, fiscal system in Chios and Bagdad, janissaries

The year 1198 marks the renaissance of the Armenian kingship for the last time. After only a year from his coronation, Lewon I addressed Innocent III trying to secure his help in a war for the Antiochene succession which opposed his nephew, Raymond-Rupen, to Bohemond IV, count of Tripoli. The present article seeks to present and analyse Lewon's foreign policy during this conflict, especially his diplomatic approaches towards the papacy.

Keywords: Lewon I, Bohemond IV, Cilicia, Antioch, Innocent III

This paper aims to present the only Armenian manuscript of the Library of the Royal Canonary of Premonstratensians at Strahov (Czech Republic). It is being studied for the first time (Bibliotheca regiae canoniae Strahov-Pragae, Num 536, Sign D.C.V.8.). It is the so called Stephanyan's Gramatice (autor is Stephanos Stephanyan Roshka), which is rewritten in 1726 in Stanislavov by scribe Martiros Senienc. The Stephanyan's Gramatice is a variation of Gramatice of the Armenian language. This is

the fifth known manuscript of the Stephanyan's Gramatice all over the world.

**Keywords:** Armenian art, Stephanyan's Gramatice, Stephanos Stephanyan Roshka, Strahov Library, unpublished Gramatice, Polish Armenians, Stanislavov

This paper aims to present the Armenian printing houses in Amsterdam where starting from 1660 the printing of the Armenian books continued till 1760 for consequent 57 years and finally stopped its activity. In the history of Saint Etchmiadzin and Saint Sargis printing houses Tovma Vanandetsi Nurijanyan the bishop of St. Kach in the area of Goght distinguished for his publishing activities. During twenty-two years (1695–1717), Vanandetsi's have published 20 books and one map. Vanandetsi's first publication was the so called "Worldwide View" map printed in 1695. All books are marked by their perfection and usefulness. The most important part of the iconographic system, published by TovmaVanandetsi, also compiles thematic, page-made images. The author of the thematic images is German Christoffel van Sichem the Younger. In 1702 from the engravings of Hymnarium, published by the Vanadians, their distinctive features and performing skills are characterized by the last two important episodes of Christ's earthly life with his disciples "The Last Supper" and "Washing of the Feet", which also used to be illustrations of some manuscripts.

**Keywords:** Armenian printed books, Armenian printing house in Amsterdam, book illustration, iconography, TovmaVanandetsi Nurijanyan, Christofel van Sichem, engraver, The Last Supper, Washing of the Feet, Jerome Nadal

The Late Antique Alexandrian tradition of physician-philosophers (*iatrosophists*), following Galen's *dictum* about the excellent physician being also a philosopher, had an great impact on Byzantine medicine. Since Middle Byzantine times Byzantine iatrosophists stand in close relation to a highly developed and transcultural hospital system. After the Osmanic capture of Constantinople (1453) and the following migration movement of Byzantine scholars Italian university cities, like Padua,

Bologna and Ferrara, evolved into centers of a newly developed Byzantine-Italian iatrosophism. This paper aims to outline the merits of some notable Postbyzantine iatrosophists in the preservation and further development of Byzantine medical traditions.

**Keywords**: Arztgelehrte; Iatrosophistentum; konstantinische Textsammlungen; christliche Anthropologie; byzantinisches Gesundheitswesen; spätbyzantinische Psychosomatik; Gelehrtenmigration; italienische Studienzentren.

DORU ADRIAN LIXANDRU (Centre d'Études Sociologiques et Politiques Raymond Aron – CESPRA, EHESS/CNRS Paris), Un monarchisme fasciste : repenser la nature de la dictature royale roumaine des années 1938–1940 ...... 301

In interwar Romania, the activism of a powerful monarchist political movement led to the emergence of the royal dictatorship (1938–1940) of King Carol II (1930–1940). Despite the major impact this regime had on Romanian society, scholars didn't systematically explored its ideological, political and cultural background. Instead, they rather analysed it as a failed experience of personal rule. In this regard, I have tried to answer to a series of fundamental questions related to the modern and nationalist nature of the carolist monarchism. Therefore, I have studied the mechanisms which facilitated the diffusion of fascist ideas and practices, in order to demonstrate the fact that the Romanian royal dictatorship is largely influenced by the ideology and practice of fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. In this article, I first explore the development of the carolist political movement. Secondly, I discuss the issue of transnational fascist exchanges in Europe and in Romania. Thirdly, I examine the fascist orientation and practice of the authoritarian regime, as well as how this phenomenon generates an aestheticization of politics. Finally, in the last part of my analysis, I formulate a series of questions regarding the fascist nature of the Romanian monarchism.

**Keywords**: aestheticization of politics, fascism, interwar Romania, monarchism, the carolist dictatorship

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### **Comptes rendus**

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