



*Istoria în cetate: profesorului Vasile Dobrescu la împlinirea vârstei de 80 de ani*, book coordinated by Corina Teodor, Giordano Altarozzi, Maria Tătar-Dan, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Mega, 2023, 418 p.

DOI: 10.2478/amsh-2023-0016

The collective volume, *History in the Citadel: Professor Vasile Dobrescu at 80*, coordinated by Corina Teodor, Giordano Altarozzi, and Maria Tătar-Dan, serves as a comprehensive tribute to the esteemed Professor Vasile Dobrescu upon reaching the milestone of 80 years of age. Published by Mega in 2023, this academic work spans a diverse range of historical topics, presenting a rich tapestry of scholarly contributions, also reflecting the value and the impact of Professor Dobrescu's work.

The book is rigorously structured, opening with an introduction, followed by a selective bibliography of Professor Dobrescu's scientific contributions on Transylvanian modern history, and Romanian elites and economic history, then thematic sections. The thematic sections cover various aspects of economic realities in the 19th and 20th centuries, glimpses into historical elites, and institutional constructions and reconstructions. Additionally, the volume explores literary and cultural dimensions, reflections on legal issues, and offers insights into contemporary global historical discourse.

A section of the volume is evoking the personality and academic profile of Professor Dobrescu, with articles signed by his colleague Vasile Boloș, Mihai Drecin, Daniela Ștefănescu, Iulian Boldea, Maria-Ana Georgescu, Gheorghe-Nicolae Șincan, Mihai Monoranu, Adrian Șimon, Vasile Gorea. Among them, Professor Iulian Boldea underlines the significant contributions of Professor Vasile Dobrescu to historiographical research through his writings, lectures, and conferences, characterized by persuasive rhetorical strength, eloquence, and pedagogical skill. Dobrescu's research focuses on key themes within the modern history of Romania, including institutions and banking elites, the nation-building process, and essential dimensions of the political history of Romanians during the Austro-Hungarian Empire period. Professor Boldea highlights Dobrescu's exploration of the identity coordinates of the nation within a multicultural and multiethnic space. Professor Vasile Dobrescu is commended for his rigor, meticulous documentation, scholarly passion, and pedagogical vocation. Dobrescu's vast knowledge base relies on archival studies and an interdisciplinary approach that opens up new perspectives and meanings. Boldea emphasizes

Dobrescu's investigation into the profiles of historical figures such as Samuil Micu Clain, Petru Maior, George Barițiu, Avram Iancu, Alexandru Papiu Ilarian, Visarion Roman, Ioan Rațiu, George Pop de Băsești, Ioan Micu, Iuliu Coroianu, Nicolae Iorga, Iuliu Maniu, among others. Dobrescu has focused also on rural elite figures, including teachers, priests, notaries, and traders, who played a crucial role in promoting national values. Additionally, Boldea highlights Dobrescu's studies on the ideological and doctrinal orientations of Romanian economists and politicians from Transylvania, including Pavel Vasici, Visarion Roman, George Barițiu, Ioan Roman, Ștefan Pop, Nicolae Petra Petrescu, Ioan I. Lapedatu, among others.

This section is followed by a series of insightful essays that delve into diverse historical subjects. A section is focused on economic aspects within the historical context of 19th and 20th-century Romania. Here, Georgeta Fodor's contribution explores the aspects of women's education and the improvement of living conditions in Romanian families in Transylvania during the second half of the 19th century. Georgeta Fodor delves into the societal and cultural dynamics shaping women's roles and the impact of education on family life during this transformative period.

Daniel Boroș continues the exploration, focusing on the image of King Carol I from an Economic Perspective. Boroș examines the economic dimensions of King Carol I's image, providing insights into how economic factors influenced the perception of the monarch among his contemporaries. Daniel Boroș offers a nuanced understanding of the intricate relationship between monarchy and economic dynamics during this historical period.

Ion Zainea explores the dual role of Romanian banks in Bihor, serving both business interests and providing support to the rural communities during the interwar period.

In the section dedicated to the history of elites, the contributors provide a multifaceted exploration of the formation and impact of Romanian elites across different modern history. Cornel Sigmirean delves into the role of the Catholic schools in shaping the social and intellectual Romanian elite of Transylvania.

Gheorghe Bichicean's contribution sheds light on the intersection of Romanian aristocracy and Masonic influences during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Mihai D. Drecin explores the intertwining of theater and politics focusing on Theatrical Company 'Zaharia Bârsan' in Service of the Fulfillment and Consolidation of National Unity of Romanians.

Cristian Ciula examines the cultural and societal dynamics captured in a Romanian magazine 'Furnica' throughout the Year 1914, a pivotal historical year. Kálmán Attila explores the political ideas of Lukács György (1865–1950) in his parliamentary discourses

from 1922 to 1926, offering a unique perspective on the interwar political landscape. Virgil Pană's chapter reveals a less-explored page in the history of Romanian-Hungarian literary relations.

The book also explores institutional developments, with essays by Adrian Onofreiu on the railway in the Someșul Mare Valley and Vlad Popovici and Ovidiu Emil Iudean on Romanian lawyers in Transylvania before and after World War I. Ion Cârja and Cecilia Cârja provide insights into the Romanian press's reactions to the historic visit of the Kings of Greater Romania in Transylvania (1919). Maria Tătar-Dan explores the educational role of school trips in fostering a sense of national unity during the transformative period of Greater Romania.

In the section dedicated to *Romanian ecclesiastical realities*, the authors offer valuable insights into the cultural and religious landscape. Milandolina-Beatrice Dobozi's contribution unfolds as a meticulous historical exploration, shedding light on the religious architecture and cultural history of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Reghin during the 19th century. The chapter offers archival findings, providing readers with a deeper understanding of the evolution of religious spaces in Transylvania.

Corina Teodor invites the readers on a cultural-historical journey exploring the motivations, experiences, and cultural implications of Romanians undertaking pilgrimages to Jerusalem at the dawn of the 20th century. This chapter is providing an academic exploration of the cultural dynamics surrounding Romanian pilgrimages to a sacred destination. Through a meticulous examination of historical records and cultural artifacts, Teodor unravels a captivating narrative that contributes to our understanding of the intersection between religious devotion, cultural identity, and the broader historical context.

Anca Șincan's contribution delves into a specific aspect of Romanian religious history, exploring clandestine networks. This chapter provides valuable insights into the challenges faced by religious communities under the totalitarian regime's secrete police surveillance and the strategies employed by clandestine networks to maintain their religious activities. Through a careful examination of secret police archives, Șincan's contribution unveils a hidden layer of religious history, shedding light on the intricate dynamics between religious communities and state authorities in Romania.

Another section of the volume ventures into legal reflections, with contributions by Nicolae Ploșteanu and Adrian Boantă, providing an interdisciplinary approach to the historical and legal aspects of Romanian society.

In the section dedicated to the *Historical Discourse in the Contemporary World*, the chapters delve into diverse aspects of

historical inquiry, providing fresh perspectives on global historical narratives and specific regional contexts. Giordano Altarozzi initiates the exploration with a nuanced reflection on the challenges and nuances of periodizing history, highlighting the intricate interplay between Western and Eastern historical trajectories. The author proposes a thought-provoking analysis of how geopolitical shifts and cultural dynamics contribute to shaping our understanding of historical periods.

Fábián István (*The Eastern Limes of Transylvania: Archaeology, Heritage, and Edutainment*) provides an examination of the archaeological findings and cultural heritage in Mureș County, shedding light on how these elements contribute to the broader understanding of Transylvanian history.

Iulia-Alexandra Oprea's contribution explores the intricate dynamics of identity reinvention in Turkey, focusing on Kemalist narratives and their relationship with the Ottoman history. Oprea critically examines how the Kemalist perspective shapes and reinvents Turkish identity by selectively engaging with aspects of the Ottoman heritage deemed "useful" for the nation's modern narrative. Oprea offers valuable insights into the complexities of identity construction, reflecting on how historical narratives are strategically employed to shape contemporary notions of national identity in Turkey.

Ana Borbély concludes this section, focusing on the cultural presence of Emanuil Gojdu's name in the contemporary linguistic landscape of Budapest, exploring how historical figures contribute to shaping the cultural memory and linguistic expressions of a city.

In conclusion, this book stands as a comprehensive and well-organized homage to Professor Vasile Dobrescu, bringing together a wealth of scholarly perspectives that contribute to our understanding of Romanian history across various domains, with a focus on Transylvania. The volume not only celebrates the achievements of Professor Dobrescu but also serves as a valuable resource for scholars, intellectuals, students, teachers interested in the intricate tapestry of Romanian history.

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