

Catagrafiile Vistieriei Moldovei (1820–1845). IX. Ținutul Vaslui. Partea 1 (1820), volum editat de Mircea Ciubotaru și Lucian-Valeriu Lefter, Casa Editorială Demiurg Plus, Iași, 2016, 514 p.

Daniela Butnaru*

“A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology, Str. Tb. Codrescu 2, 700481 Iași, România

The collection entitled *Catagrafiile Vistieriei Moldovei* [Censuses of the Moldavian Treasury], coordinated, through a multidisciplinary approach, by linguist Mircea Ciubotaru and historian Silviu Văcaru, was initiated in 2008, as both the coordinators and collaborators wanted to facilitate the access of the audience to a series of documents that became thus more accessible, as they had been written with Cyrillic characters and the access to the originals is restricted to the Archives' reading room. A few volumes were initially issued by the StudIS publishing house (in the period 2008–2011). These volumes were subsequently re-edited by the Demiurg Plus Publishing House, where other censuses from the same series continued to be issued; up to the present day, there have been edited the censuses of the counties of Roman (three volumes), Iași, Cîrligătura, Bacău, Hîrlău, Herții, Botoșani, Putna, Vaslui, Fălciul and Suceava.

“No documentary source is larger and richer than the one aimed at reconstructing the demographic, administrative, economic, social and onomastic reality of a land from the beginning of the 19th century” writes Mircea Ciubotaru in his extended *Introduction* (p. VII) to the volume, and this statement is by no means an exaggeration. These censuses that consist in the nominal registration of land owners as well as of the inhabitants who paid tribute and those who were exempt from tribute in order to keep records of human and material resources can provide information regarding the migration of the population, the material status of the locals, their ethnic or religious appurtenance, their kinship, marital status, the fiscal and social structure of the population of the time, etc.

The *Introduction*, a genuine monographic study, introduces the reader in the period described by the respective documents, provides comparisons with other lands with regard to the number of inhabit-

ants and localities, the economic power of the later assessed according to the number of tribute payers and their material possibilities, as well as according to the fiscal categories exempted from tribute payment. Moreover, in the introductory section the author explains how the taxes were established, which were the sums imposed on people and what their real value was, as compared to the price of certain food items or services at the time. The author of the *Introduction* shows how these censuses can be used for analyzing the occupations of the tribute-paying inhabitants of the county of Vaslui by observing the financial situation of the villages and the types of possession, or for extracting information regarding the demographic structure of the region.

Using the information provided by this census as well as his remarkable knowledge of history, Mircea Ciubotaru retraces the image of Vaslui at the beginning of the 19th century, a medium-sized town, as compared to other Moldavian towns of the time, rather resembling a village, inhabited among others by some Greek and Jewish merchants who barely managed to carry out some trading activities (p. XXV).

The lists included in *Catagrafiile Vistieriei Moldovei* are also important as they provide information about the beginnings of a very important stage of personal denomination, namely the implementation at a large scale of the binominal system. Since at the time most of the locals used to have only one name, known today as the first name, there inevitably appeared cases of homonymy. In order to differentiate between people, which was absolutely necessary in case of a census, either a second name (a nickname or a surname) or a complementary lexical determinant was added (p. XXXI). Since there were no capital letters in the text of the manuscript, it was extremely difficult for the editors to distinguish between sur-

*Email address: d_butnaru@yahoo.com.

names and information regarding the ethnicity, job or origin of a specific inhabitant and thus there were cases where the accuracy of the respective choice cannot be guaranteed.

The analysis of the second names from these lists indicates that the surname was often attributed according to the geographical origin of the bearers—*Ungureanu* [from the Hungarian country], *Munteanu* [the Wallachian], *Bistriceanu* [from Bistrița], *Bîrgăoanu* [from Bîrgău] (many of the examples are provided in the *Introduction*, p. XXXII–XXXIV)—, the ethnic group they belonged to—*Lipovanu* [the Lipovan], *Rusu* [the Ukrainian], *Sasu* [the Transylvanian Saxon] (p. XXXIV)—or the type of work they had—*Biholar* [bivolar = buffalo shepherd], *Cărăușul* [cărăuș = carrier], *Cizmariu* [cizmar = shoemaker], *Jitaru* [jitar = field watchman], *Vezăteu* [vizitiu = coachman] (p. XXXIV–XXXV). Some more expressive surnames capture certain distinctive traits of the locals that were used by speakers to identify them: *Ioniți Minciună* [minciună = lie] (p. 31), *Ion Sușțirelu* [sușțirel = slim] (p. 31), *Toader Albinețu* (p. 39), *Toader Spînul* [spîn = bald/hairless] (p. 48), *Alexa Rusu* [rus = Ukrainian] *sau Barbăroșii* [barbă roșie = red beard] (p. 52), *Ionașcu Picioroagă* [picioroag = long leg] (p. 64), *Angheluță Capumari* [cap mare = big head] (p. 66), *Gheorghe Gogomanu* [gogoman = dumb] (p. 70), *Ion Gușat* [gușă = goiter] (p. 83), *Ioniță Cușmanalt(ă)* [cușmă înaltă = big hat] (p. 98), *Mihai Barbălată* [barbă lată = broad beard] (p. 109), *Dumitru Bej(e)n(a)r* [bejenar = person who has migrated from other place (because of persecution)] *sau Buzabrici* [buză = lip; brici = razor] (p. 119), *Vasili Sîrbu* [sîrb = Serbian] *sau Căcăreazi* [căcărează = manure] (p. 119), *Luca Gurăalbă* [gură albă = white mouth] (p. 146), *Grigoraș Dorulelii* [în dorul lelii = randomly] (p. 152), *Vasili Pizdilă* [reference to female genitalia] (p. 157), *Iordachi Sfredel* [sfredel = auger] (p. 158), *Vasili Voiosu* [voios = merry, joyful] (p. 163), *Iftemi Bogdaprosti* (p. 170), *Toader Izmană* [izmană = underpants] (p. 174), *Gheorghî Nebunu* [nebun = madman, fool] (p. 180), etc. Numerous examples such as *Grigori Găină sau Guguți*, *Macoveiu Găină*

sau Guguți, *Grigori Ungureanu sau Velniceriu* (p. 7), *Petre Pădurariu sau Crăciun* (p. 12), *Toader Rusu sau Butnariu* (p. 13), *Costandin Rusu sau Bejenar* (p. 14), *Ioniți Gîdinceanu sau a Măriei* (p. 18), where there is obviously a degree of indecision when it came to choosing between two surnames or nicknames confirm the fact that the adoption of a second name was still in an initial stage.

Censuses also mirror the types of activities or work of the locals at the time, including specifications such as „fiindu-i prisăcar” [as he was a bee-keeper], „fiind pădurari și văcari” [as they were foresters and cattlemen], „preoți” [priests], „diaconu” [deacon], „sacagiu” [water carrier], „săimeni” [soldiers], „școleri” [teachers], „căraușie” [carriers], „vânătorie” [hunting] or by means of lexical determinants that accompany the first names of certain people (*cărucer* [coach man], *crîșmariu* [inn-keeper], *hahamu* [rabbi], *jitar* [field watchman], *morar* [miller], *pădurar* [forester], *păscar* [fisherman], *portărelu* [bailiff], *rotar* [wheeler], *scutar* [shepherd], etc.); in very many cases, the name of the job had already become a surname (*Baciul* [the shepherd], *Butnariu* [the cooper], *Ciobanu* [the shepherd], *Ciobotariu* [the shoe-maker], *Cojocariu* [the sheepskin coat maker], *Crîșmariul* [the inn-keeper], *Croitariu* [the tailor], *Curălariu* [the belt-maker], *Dascalu* [the altar man], *Dulgheriu* [the carpenter], *Fîntinariu* [the fountain-maker], *Funariu* [the rope maker], *Grădinariu* [the gardener], *Harabagiu* [the merchant], *Jitariu* [the watchman], *Morariu* [the miller] and *Morărița* [the miller's wife], *Olariu* [the potter], *Pînzariu* [the linen maker], *Prisăcariu* [the bee-keeper], *Rotariu* [the wheeler], *Săcrieriu* [the coffin maker], *Steclariu* [the glass maker], *Teslariu* [the carpenter], *Văcariu* [the cattle keeper], *Vezăteu* [the coachman], and others).

Censuses offer many benefits to specialists in toponymy who can identify here the first documentary attestation for the villages *Baba Rea* („Toadir Tancu ot Babarea”, p. 83) and *Codrul (Buciumenilor)*: „Iancul și Ioan sîn Toader Savastru ot Codru” (p. 464), as well as information that could explain the etymology of certain toponyms¹. For instance, the census of the

¹I have indicated the importance of this type of documents for the clarification of certain toponymic etymologies in two articles (*Catagrafiile Vistieriei Moldovei, surse documentare pentru etimologiile toponimelor personale (I)* [Censuses of the Moldavian Treasury, documentary sources for the etymology of personal toponyms (I)], in “Analele științifice ale Universității «Alexandru Ioan Cuza» din Iași”, Secțiunea III e, Lingvistică, **60**, 2014, p. 41–50, and *Catagrafiile Vistieriei Moldovei, surse documentare pentru etimologiile toponimelor personale (II)* [Censuses of the Moldavian Treasury, documentary sources for the etymology of personal toponyms (II)], in “Philologica Jassyensia”, **11** (2), 2015, p. 33–37.

village of Ciorțești includes *Simion Rotar*, *Toader, gineri a Rotarului* (p. 159), *Ion zăt Rotar* (p. 160), *Ion Rotar*, *Toader Rotar*, *Mihălachi Rotar*, *Gheorghii Rotar* (p. 161) and *Ion a Rotarului* (p. 162). On one side of the estate of the village of Ciorțești, attested under the names of *Crasna* (around 1825), *Fundul Crasnei* (in 1830), *Crăsnița* (in 1846) or *Fundul Crăsniței* (in 1842), there was settled a village initially named in official documents *Rotarul* or *Rotarul din Fundul Crasnei* (lina 1871), then called *Rotarii* (in 1873) and then *Rotăria* (1876), the last name also being used nowadays, *Crăsnița* (1876), *Crasna* (1899), *Fundul Crasnei* (1913)². The fact that several people with the surname Rotaru are recorded in the village of Ciorțești in 1820, sheds light upon the motivation for the former names of the village—*Rotarul* or *Rotarii*. The special nature of the activities performed in certain villages might determine the name change

of the respective settlement; this was the case of the village Grajduri, where the locals were also dealing with charcoal, “faciri di mangali” (p. 197); thus, a part of the village was called, starting with 1830, *Cărbunarii* [the coal men]³.

The volume contains an edition notice (*Notă asupra ediției*), a bibliography (*Bibliografie*) related to the settlements that were part of the county of Vaslui, a toponymic index (*Indice toponimic*) and an index of names of estate owners and privileged people (*Indice de nume de stăpîni de moșii și de privilegiați*) that allow the rapid and efficient identification of certain information and guide the reader through the complex structure of the censuses.

The high scientific standard of this work and the valuable information included in the censuses give us good reasons to hope that the editors shall continue their endeavour of publishing these documents.

²Information extracted from *Tezaurul toponimic al României. Moldova* [Toponymic Thesaurus of Romania. Moldavia], volume I. *Repertoriul istoric al unităților administrativ-teritoriale (1772–1988)* [Historical directory of administrative-territorial units (1772–1988)], part 2, Editura Academiei Române, Bucharest, 1992, p. 1005.

³*Ibidem*, partea 1, Editura Academiei Române, Bucharest, 1992, p. 206.