

TUDOR DINU, REVOLUȚIA GREACĂ DE LA 1821 PE TERITORIUL MOLDOVEI ȘI AL ȚĂRII ROMÂNEȘTI [THE GREEK REVOLUTION OF 1821 ON THE TERRITORY OF MOLDAVIA AND WALLACHIA], Editura Humanitas, Bucharest, 2022, 368 p.

When discussing the events of 1821, we remember a few keywords that linger in our minds to this day: Holy Alliance, Ottoman Empire, Great Eastern Crisis, Greek Revolution, Philiké Hetairia, Vladimirescu, Ypsilantis, etc. In this sense, we can conclude that the events of 1821 still have an interested public, whether specialists or less specialized in the science of history. The number of works referring to 1821 is constantly increasing. Thus, in 2022, the history of 1821 gained another volume. It is the book of Tudor Dinu, a renowned Greek language and literature professor at the University of Bucharest. His book's title is quite long but specific for the period and space it is meant to cover: *The Greek Revolution of 1821 on the territory of Moldavia and Wallachia*.

Beside teaching at the University of Bucharest, Professor Dinu holds a *doctor honoris causa* title of the Democritus University of Thrace (Greece). He is a classicist and specialist in neo-Hellenic studies. His volumes focus primarily on the pre-Phanariote and Phanariote periods. Among his significant works are *Mihai Viteazul, erou al eposului grec* [Michael the Brave, a hero of the Greek epos] (Bucharest: Editura Humanitas, 2008; 508 p.); *Dimitrie Cantemir și Nicolae Mavrocordat – rivalități politice și literare la începutul secolului XVIII* [Dimitrie Cantemir and Nicolae Mavrocordat – political and literary rivalries in the early eighteenth century] (Bucharest: Editura Humanitas, 2011; 461 p.); *Bucureștiul fanariot. Biserici, ceremonii, războaie* [Phanariote Bucharest. Churches, ceremonies, wars] (Bucharest: Editura Humanitas, 2015; 552 p.); *Bucureștiul fanariot. Administrație, meșteșuguri, negoț* [Phanariote Bucharest. Administration, crafts, commerce] (Bucharest: Editura Humanitas, 2017; 451 p.).

Editura Humanitas published this volume in 2022. It is a book consisting of 14 chapters (including a prologue and an epilogue), spread over more than 200 pages, in which the author combines the monographic historical account with photographic illustrations.

As already mentioned, *Revoluția greacă de la 1821 pe teritoriul Moldovei și al Țării Românești* is a monograph of the revolutionary events of 1821, traced diachronically within each chapter. Tudor Dinu's book excels in its linguistic simplicity and detachment from the weighty rigor often found in some monographs dedicated to the subject, which approaches it to the style of the American historian Keith Hitchins, an honorary member of the Romanian Academy and *doctor honoris causa* of the Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. Like him, Tudor

Dinu uses clear, concise, and summarizing language, conferring an epic, pleasant, and easy-to-read style. Unlike Hitchins, who dwells shortly on the revolutionary moment of 1821, constrained by the limitations of a compendium such as *Românii 1774–1866* [The Romanians 1774–1866],¹ Tudor Dinu projected his entire analysis on the revolutionary episode of 1821, which allowed him a careful and comprehensive analysis, with vivid and numerous emphases on aspects and details. Of particular value in this book's economy are the numerous quotations from the primary sources of the respective period, such as proclamations, declarations, testimonies, poems, songs, etc., on which the author relies his entire analysis.

Tudor Dinu is not the first historian to dedicate a monograph to the Revolution of 1821. Long before him, historian Andrei Oțetea authored a monograph on Tudor Vladimirescu, titled *Tudor Vladimirescu și Revoluția de la 1821* [Tudor Vladimirescu and the Revolution of 1821], published by Editura Științifică in Bucharest in 1971. Andrei Oțetea, one of the great historians of 20th century Romania, was a professor at the University of Jassy. He is known mainly for his contribution to the history of the Middle Ages. However, his work also includes studies and volumes on other eras. As a partisan of the Marxist ideology, he defended the thesis of the inseparability of Vladimirescu's movement from that of Eteria. More accurately, A. Oțetea emphasized the anti-Ottoman nature of the movement, whereas Vladimirescu's intentions against the nobility remained no more than a stratagem, a tactic designed to determine the local population to fight against it. According to him, the ultimate aim was to pressure the nobility to join the Eteria movement and unite the autochthonous nobility and the peasantry against Ottoman rule.²

Like Andrei Oțetea, historian Gheorghe Platon, a renowned professor at the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Jassy, stood out for his research on modern Romanian history. In his work *Geneza revoluției române de la 1848: introducere în istoria modernă a României* [The genesis of the Romanian Revolution of 1848: introduction into the modern history of Romania], published by Editura Junimea in 1980, he set the events of 1821 in a much broader context, with the struggle for liberation from the Ottoman Empire taking a back seat. The author notes that the Revolution of 1821 was not a spontaneous event but the result of a long series of upheavals that had been gathering for centuries in Romanian society.³ In other words, these upheavals are represented by two directions, namely the struggle for power within the limits of a social class and, of much greater importance in the author's view, the class struggle as a reflection of the deeper turbulences in Romania's history.

¹ Keith Hitchins, *Românii 1774–1866* (Bucharest: Editura Humanitas, 2018), the chapter *Răscoala de la 1821*.

² Mircea T. Radu, *1821. Tudor Vladimirescu și revoluția din Țara Românească* (Craiova: 1978), 34–37.

³ Gheorghe Platon, *Geneza revoluției române de la 1848: introducere în istoria modernă a României* (Iași: Editura Junimea, 1980), 74.

Regarding the character of the movement led by Tudor Vladimirescu, it is necessary to refer to Mircea T. Radu's work, *1821: Tudor Vladimirescu și Revoluția din Țara Românească* [1821: Tudor Vladimirescu and the Revolution in Wallachia], published by Editura Scrisul Românesc in 1978. The author starts from the works of Andrei Oțetea and I. C. Filitti, analyzing the social aspect of Tudor Vladimirescu's movement. He refers to the contradictions between the two editions of Andrei Oțetea's volume. In light of these contradictions, he concludes that the movement led by Tudor Vladimirescu initially had an anti-Ottoman nature, resembling the intentions of the Eteria movement. M. T. Radu brings up the fact that Tudor Vladimirescu collaborated with the nobles and received their consent to be the movement's leader to liberate the Romanians from the domination of the Porte. At the same time, the author agrees with the social (anti-nobility) spirit of Tudor Vladimirescu's actions but considers that it was acquired during the course of events and not from its outset.

Tudor Dinu's approach is free of ideological influences. The author explains that Vladimirescu's movement does not necessarily have a social dimension as implied by the Proclamation of Padeș. At the same time, there can be no indication of anti-Ottoman intentions since Vladimirescu only joined the Eteria movement as it served his interests. He understood that the discontent of the Wallachians was not directed against Ottoman rule but against the abuses of the nobility. That is why he tried cooperating with the Turkish authorities by requesting that Ottoman officials be sent to inspect and solve the country's problems.⁴ Thus, Tudor Dinu separates Eteria's anti-Ottoman program from that of Tudor Vladimirescu because the latter's intentions were not so radical.

Unlike previous works, written mainly during the communist period, Tudor Dinu does not employ methods or practices that emphasize one aspect or another, as did the Marxist writers who discussed the revolutionary period of 1821. Historians of the time almost misused the dialectical method, which assumed that every complex process of unfolding events contained a series of contradictions. One of them was the fundamental one, and they absolutized the search for contradictions so that the historical account would be consistent with the theories of dialectics.⁵ Of course, this does not mean we should reject dialectical logic in historical research, but its overuse and the employment of dialectical determinism reveal only a part of the research results, not all of them.

⁴ Tudor Dinu, *Revoluția greacă de la 1821 pe teritoriul Moldovei și Țării Românești* (Bucharest: Editura Humanitas, 2022), 73.

⁵ Mircea T. Radu, *1821. Tudor Vladimirescu*, 549.

From this perspective, it should be noted that Tudor Dinu also distances himself from some authors' statements regarding the antipathy towards the Greek movement on the territory of the two Romanian Principalities, by refusing to consider Tudor Vladimirescu a national hero. At the same time, he places the event not only in the context of Romanian national history but also internationally, given that Eteria had a substantial impact on the emancipation movements in the Balkan Peninsula.

Perhaps Tudor Dinu's most significant contribution is to draw the reader's attention to Tudor Vladimirescu's movement on the territory of Wallachia and especially to its placement in a much broader historical-geographical context. Thus, in this work, the reader is presented with a series of aspects related to Eteria, the secret society that was the main player in the events of 1821. The author describes how a person could become a member of this society. He also reveals the behind-the-scenes aspects and extensively outlines the tactics in planning the Eteria Revolution. We cannot overlook Dinu's attention to detail regarding aspects less discussed in scholarly historiography, such as Al. Ypsilantis' strategic thinking, how his troops were organized, the soldiers' clothing, etc. The events that took place after Tudor Vladimirescu was murdered are also significant. The author presents the route followed by Alexander Ypsilantis' disorganized troops in an easily understandable manner. Emphasis is placed on the effects they had on the communities encountered along the way, and their robberies and sporadic battles on the territory of Wallachia are also mentioned. This is why T. Dinu's work offers a complete history of the 1821 Revolution, not only from the perspective of the initial actions of Tudor Vladimirescu and Alexander Ypsilantis. It presents the story in its entirety, down to the last details concerning the fate of the Eteria members, who were separated and continually hunted by the Turkish troops.

Therefore, the present volume has the advantage of detaching itself from such ideological rigors, taking a highly objective approach since the author did not intend to support any thesis or fit the revolutionary movement into any ideological niche. The final result is a necessary work that offers readers a broad and highly nuanced perspective on the moment of 1821, thus filling a gap in Romanian historiography. With its concise manner and pleasant and easy-to-read style, Tudor Dinu's book is an excellent invitation to reading, addressed not only to a niche audience but also to a less informed one.

In conclusion, we consider it necessary to remind that Tudor Dinu contributes decisively to the assertion of popular history writing with his relaxed style and simple language based on extensive historical documentation. Thus, he assumes the role of a narrator, a storyteller who recounts events with a detached and neutral attitude without pronouncing a subjective verdict on the ideological dispute

surrounding Tudor Vladimirescu's movement. We are pleased to have the opportunity to study the events of 1821 through the lens of a monograph that fully encompasses this theme, rendering it to readers in a consistent and pleasant manner.

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NÁNDOR BÁRDI, JUDIT PÁL, DINCOLO DE TRANŞEE. CUM AU TRĂIT MAGHIARII DIN TRANSILVANIA MARELE RĂZBOI ŞI TRIANONUL [BEYOND THE TRENCHES. HOW THE TRANSYLVANIAN HUNGARIANS PERCEIVED THE GREAT WAR AND THE TRIANON TREATY], Editura Humanitas, Bucharest, 2022, 504 p.

The book entitled *Dincolo de tranşee. Cum au trăit maghiarii din Transilvania Marele Război și Trianonul*, edited by historians Nándor Bárdi and Judit Pál, was published in 2022 by Humanitas Publishing House on the 100th anniversary of the Great War's end.

As the title shows, the authors suggest a different kind of history that draws the public's attention to lesser-known aspects of the First World War. Right from the start, in the introductory study, the editors stress that this is a microhistory work. Thus, the book's main objective is not to provide a history of events or a strictly military history but to present the Transylvanian Hungarians' perception of the war experiences reflected in their memoirs.

From a structural point of view, the volume comprises seven main parts: "Let's go to Moscow to dine!/How the Great War begins", "When bullets whistle, words are no longer enough/Memories from the Romanian front, 1916", "Everything is uncertain today/Everyday life behind the front", "Should we run away or stay at home?/The entry of the Romanian troops in Transylvania in 1916: Those who stayed at home and those who fled", "The distant hope is too scarce for liberation. The life of the prisoners of war", "Total collapse! /The end of the war and the change of state power", and "To be or not to be.../The transition period after the end of the war". These are framed by an introductory study entitled *The Transylvanian Hungarians and Romanians in the First World War*,

between ethnic stereotypes, simmering conflict, and the need for coexistence, the editors' note, a chronology of the main events of the war, with a focus on Transylvania, and a section of biographies dedicated to the 46 authors whose memoirs have been quoted.

The chapters are sequenced according to the thematic criterion of the Great War's events. Each chapter opens with a brief introduction, followed by relevant passages from the memoirs of the time. In terms of sources, the work draws on fragments selected from 12 diaries and 34 memoirs. These come from three different environments: from the front, "beyond the trenches", and from the prison camps. Therefore, we find accounts of ordinary people, soldiers, doctors, historians, library directors, such as Farkas Gyalui, and other Transylvanian personalities.

Each chapter also includes photographs representative of the contents. These give the book an exceptional graphic appearance and attract the reader's attention.

The introductory study deals with issues relating to imagery, i.e., the image of the Romanians, the memory of the war, and the employed sources. Despite a wealth of material, the editors admit that there are few accounts of everyday life. However, some memoirs accurately portray a society damaged by the devastating effects of the war.

The first part of the work covers events surrounding the outbreak of the Great War. This chapter reveals the excitement and the idea of the duty to participate in the war, the uncertainty about the future, and the lack of security. Various excerpts reflect on the spread of the first news from the front, false information in Cluj, and the relationship between Hungarians and Romanians.

The second part refers to military aspects, as it provides the reader with information on Romania's entry into the war and the situation on the front, as reflected in the memoirs of Hungarian soldiers. In this regard, we find the testimonies of Hussar lieutenants and captains, infantry majors, and agronomists, who recount the actions taken by both the Romanian and the Central Powers troops, as well as the reactions of the locals and their hopes for a glorious outcome of the war for Austria-Hungary.

This volume also provides an interesting insight into the motivations behind the war memoirs and diaries of the Transylvanian Hungarians. For example, at a certain point, Hussar Lieutenant Miklós Kozma said, "I don't write my diary just to write down the history of the company or the regiment and to record everything that happened to me, but because the diary can also provide lessons for the future".¹ There are accounts of this kind referring to some events belonging to the foreign area in connection with the military, for example, the communication of peace with the Russian Empire.

¹ Nándor Bárdi and Judit Pál, *Dincolo de tranșee. Cum au trăit maghiarii din Transilvania Marele Război și Trăianul* (Bucharest: Editura Humanitas, 2022), 103.

As announced in its title, the third chapter deals with everyday life behind the front. It contains well-illustrated aspects, such as the functioning of schools and universities in wartime, the reception of the wounded at railway stations, the devastating effects of the war on the economy (for example, the difficult supply of towns and the issue of food rations), and the defence of property (the effort of Cluj University Library's director to send 11 boxes with books to Budapest).

The fourth part of the work, which is the most extensive one, is somewhat related to the second part, in that it refers to the consequences of Romania's war declaration on Austria-Hungary. More specifically, it deals broadly with the events that began during the night of August 27–28, 1916, aimed towards occupying Transylvania. Thus, we learn that one of the first measures taken following the Romanian army's entry into Transylvanian territory was to evacuate the civilian population.

This chapter clearly describes how the various localities' populations reacted to the Romanian troops' entry into Transylvania. "Panic, haste, confusion",² "mass hysteria",³ and "the cold dread of death"⁴ are just a few terms that describe the perception of the troops' penetration in the collective mentality.

The population's attitude in this respect is accurately reflected in the account of György Balogh, the mayor of Satu Nou: "A part of the people, waken up suddenly, without clothes, got out of their warm beds and ran into the mouth of murderous death; the other part looked for a hole in which to hide like mice before a catastrophe".⁵

Many secondary ideas emerge from this rush, which several witnesses report, such as the storage/transportation of documents, photos, and goods of institutions or various people, the difficult travel conditions, the feelings towards refugees, the community spirit, etc.

Much shorter than the previous chapter, the fifth part is dedicated to the prisoners of war. We find the accounts of three people belonging to different social categories—a priest, a peasant, and a soldier—who left written narratives about their difficult moments spent in captivity.

The penultimate part covers the events at the Great War's end, marked by the permanent entry of the Romanian troops into Transylvania. In other words, this part introduces the reader to the so-called transition period, which was characterised by instability, uncertainty, and unrest, a situation acutely felt by the Hungarian population in the context of the arrival of the Romanian troops and the establishment of the new administration.

² Bárdi and Pál, *Dincolo de tranșee*, 259.

³ Bárdi and Pál, *Dincolo de tranșee*, 259

⁴ Bárdi and Pál, *Dincolo de tranșee*, 201.

⁵ Bárdi and Pál, *Dincolo de tranșee*, 223.

We find other essential information between the lines, like portraits of the Romanian soldiers, their relationship with the civilian population, the atmosphere in various towns, order maintenance, etc.

The seventh part adds to the previous chapter by presenting some aspects of the transitional period in more detail. These include the visits of the Romanian royal family to Transylvania, the takeover of institutions by the Romanian state, the swearing of the oath of allegiance to the new authorities, and the difficult choice the Hungarian population had to make between staying and leaving for Hungary.

In conclusion, as can be seen, this volume presents a different kind of history, that is, a human history of the Hungarian community in Transylvania, intending to draw the public's attention to lesser-known or lesser-researched aspects. It is a collective history consisting of many individual accounts of a population that, following the collapse of the dualist monarchy, lost its former status and became a minority after representing the majority of Transylvania's population. The testimonies that provide precious details of the traumas experienced by both the civilian population and the military personnel affected by the memories of the war are relevant in this respect: "I also saw this when we were travelling along the Târnava [river] towards Blaj, and I cannot and do not want to forget this."⁶; "For those of us who have seen it, this depressing train will haunt us in our dreams, too."⁷; "[...] a bitter and painful memory that cannot be forgotten."⁸ Thus, each passage contributes to a better understanding of the war in Transylvania.

Above all, the importance of this volume lies in the translation into Romanian of some memoirs with a significant historical load. It is also a genuine instrument for those interested in the memoirs of the Great War and the history of Transylvania during that period. Last but not least, this book clarifies a series of concepts and enriches the scholarly literature on the history of minorities in the war years.

With a topic that is extremely necessary to understand the First World War, *Dincolo de tranșee. Cum au trăit maghiarii din Transilvania Marele Război și Trianonul* remains a reference work in scholarly literature.

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⁶ Bárdi and Pál, *Dincolo de tranșee*, 160.

⁷ Bárdi and Pál, *Dincolo de tranșee*, 186.

⁸ Bárdi and Pál, *Dincolo de tranșee*, 223.

VICTOR SPINEI, DORINA N. RUSU, EDS., **ENCICLOPEDIA REPREZENTANȚILOR SCRISULUI ISTORIC ROMÂNESC [ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ROMANIAN HISTORICAL WRITING]**, 5 vols., Editura Karl A. Romstorfer, Suceava, 2021, 699 p. + 588 p. + 443 p. + 431 p. + 553 p.

The *Encyclopaedia of the Representatives of Romanian Historical Writing* is an approach initiated by the Section of Historical Sciences and Archaeology of the Romanian Academy for preserving and keeping alive in the memory of future generations the figures of those who have toiled and those who strive today to unravel the evolution of humans and their activity over time, because, as Nicolae Iorga said, “Historical studies are the deepest initiation into humanity. Every science has an educational dimension, but none has a broad horizon like historical studies. When one dedicates one’s entire soul to historical studies, then one passes through so many epochs, through so much mystery, through so much depth”.¹

The work consists of five substantial volumes, totalling 2,714 pages. Each volume begins with an introduction of the authors who contributed to the presentations and whose initials appear at their ends, together with general abbreviations and those corresponding to the mentioned books and periodicals. It presents the structure of the contributions agreed upon by the coordinators and the regional teams, the partial model being *Enciclopedia istoriografiei românești* [Encyclopaedia of Romanian Historiography], published in 1978. Volume I refers to three letters, A to C; volume 2 – eight letters, D to K; volume 3 – three letters, L to N; volume 4 – three letters, O to R; and volume 5 – ten letters, S to Z. At the end of volume 5 is a list of authors with the contributions each of them has produced.

The first volume opens with an introduction signed by the coordinators of the *Encyclopaedia*, Academician Victor Spinei and Academician Dorina N. Rusu, entitled *Un demers cu propensiuni enciclopedice* [An Approach with Encyclopaedic Propensities]. It is an opportunity to reflect on past encyclopaedic endeavours at European and national levels. It recalls the publication of the largest encyclopaedia in Romania, *Dicționar enciclopedic* [Encyclopaedic Dictionary], consisting of seven volumes published between 1993 and 2009 by Editura Enciclopedică in Bucharest. Following the initiative of the same publishing house and its director, Marcel Popa, in the first decade of the 21st century, a project proposal was launched to compose a new encyclopaedia of Romanian historiography. Several groups of researchers from Cluj-Napoca, Iași, and Chișinău responded to this call, but the absence of financial means prevented this project from becoming a reality.

The first encyclopaedia dedicated to Romanian historiography was published in 1978, under the scientific coordination of Professor Ștefan Ștefănescu,

¹ Nicolae Iorga, “Se repetă istoria?”, in *Generalități cu privire la studiile istorice*, ed. Victor Durnea. 4th ed. (Polirom, 1999), 178.

corresponding member of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania and director of the Nicolae Iorga Institute of History in Bucharest. It was a project involving 17 historians from Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca. In addition to the contributions of historical personalities, the 1978 encyclopaedia included chapters on institutions, historical sources, reference works, and periodicals. Written at a time when restrictions specific to the era were imposed (concealment of historians from Soviet Moldova, those forced to work in exile, extensive entries dedicated to certain party members and political activists), the work also included the contributions of personalities whose works had previously been banned.

In 2020, the Romanian Academy decided that the preparation of this *Encyclopaedia* should be included in the research plans of its subordinate institutes, that is, the George Barițiu Institute of History in Cluj-Napoca, the A. D. Xenopol Institute in Iași, and in Bucharest—the Nicolae Iorga Institute of History, the Institute for South-East European Studies, the Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology, and the National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism. Together with the directors of the above-mentioned institutes, teams of regional coordinators were formed to collect the contributions from the designated areas. They were joined by specialists, renowned scholars, and academics from all over Romania (including the Republic of Moldova), who suggested introducing contributions they drafted. A total of 358 authors were involved, a fact reflecting the project's magnitude. Without their dedication, the *Encyclopaedia* could not have been completed in one year, a record time for such an achievement. The approximately 3,800 entries are mainly dedicated to historians but also to representatives of the adjacent sciences: archaeology, numismatics, epigraphy, sphragistics, diplomacy, heraldry, and palaeography, as well as to personalities and researchers in fields that support the understanding of history, i.e., anthropologists, demographers, sociologists, linguists, art historians, ethnographers, ethnologists, archivists, science historians, etc. Unlike the 1978 encyclopaedia, the current work also contains photographs of the featured contributors.

This *Encyclopaedia* is an opportunity to take stock of Romanian historiography. The introduction presents a summary of Romanian historical research, pointing out a few essential directions emerging from the analysis of the contributions: the effort to publish the sources, although admirable, is far from complete and far from reaching the level of the countries with consolidated historiography; the elaboration of works of historical analysis, interpretation, monographs, and syntheses refers mainly to various aspects regarding the Romanian territory and less to other geopolitical areas. The *Encyclopaedia* is beneficial as it is also an x-ray of current historical writing, which is experiencing a quantitative explosion of authors and themes. However, it is worth noting the preference for factual, positivist history at a time when the publication of collections of documents is increasingly unattractive to the younger generations of

researchers, and there is a certain reluctance to produce works of synthesis or philosophy of history.

The presentation of an impressive number of scholars committed to historical writing, from the fifteenth century to the representatives of the younger generation, may tempt specialists working on the evolution of national historiography to produce clarifying statistics or sociological studies. For example, in the first volume alone, there are about 900 contributions, from medieval chronicles to historians who debuted at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Naturally, most are dedicated to twentieth century historians, followed by representatives of the younger generation, nineteenth century historians, and then the eighteenth, seventeenth, sixteenth and fifteenth centuries presented in reverse chronological order. There are representatives from all over Romania, including the Republic of Moldova and the Cernăuți region, and of different nationalities: Hungarians, Germans, Greeks, Jews, etc. It is possible to identify the studies and origins of those presented and to understand how the passion for studying history was passed on to their descendants, establishing families of historians over several generations.

The two coordinators are aware of the shortcomings of the *Encyclopaedia of the Representatives of Romanian Historical Writing*—a fact mentioned in the introduction. Not all the historians or researchers from different fields, who have contributed to the depiction of various aspects of the evolution of human society, have been included. The contributions are uneven in their achievement with regard to the scholarly activity and importance of the presented personalities, as well as concerning the professional experience and the expertise of the contributions' authors. There are many explanations for these aspects: the limited time available to avoid losing funding for the project and the Coronavirus pandemic, when all libraries were closed, which meant minimal information resources. There was also a lack of communication between the various regional coordination centres, which would have prevented the duplication of authors of specific contributions. It should be noted that the number of researchers involved in elaborating this work was too small in relation to its extent, especially as most were already engaged in other research projects.

However, the project is continuing, which is praiseworthy and understandable given that history writing is an ongoing process. To complete the *Encyclopaedia*, the Section of Historical Sciences and Archaeology of the Romanian Academy has taken the initiative to publish in the future issues of its publication, *Memoriile Secției de Științe Istorice și Arheologice* [Memoirs of the Section of Historical and Archaeological Sciences], the contributions of the personalities not included. Thus, in tome 41 (2022), 52 contributions by 20 authors have been published, and this approach will continue in the forthcoming issues.² Preserving the memory of those

² “Memoriile Secției de Științe Istorice și Arheologice a Academiei Române”, 5th series, 41 (2022), 203–248.

who committed themselves to historical writing is the task of the present generation. It should be an ongoing pursuit reflected in the digital world in an internationally circulated language. The great encyclopaedias of the French, British, German, and Italian traditions are just a *click* away on the computer and provide rigorous and valuable information to various categories of users.

The Section of Historical Sciences and Archaeology of the Romanian Academy is preparing the publication of several encyclopaedias to complement the one presented here: *Instituțiile cu preocupări de istorie de pe teritoriul României* [Institutions Working on History in Romania] (coordinator: Nicolae Iorga Institute of History), *Periodicele aferente științelor istorice românești* [Periodicals Related to Romanian Historical Sciences] (coordinator: George Barițiu Institute of History, Cluj-Napoca), *Enciclopedia izvoarelor istoriei românilor* [Encyclopedia of the Sources of Romanian History] (coordinator: A. D. Xenopol Institute of History, Iași), *Enciclopedia autorilor străini cu preocupări privind istoria spațiului carpato-dunărean* [Encyclopedia of Foreign Authors Working on the History of the Carpathian-Danubian Area] (coordinator: Institute of South-East European Studies, Bucharest).

Another meaning of the *Encyclopaedia* is the pedagogical one. The contributions testify to destinies dedicated to science, formed in different historical and spiritual contexts, but illuminated by the same passion for capturing the essence of humanity because one of the missions of researching the past is “to teach people tolerance, kindness; to remove through culture the urge to tear apart those who do not see and do not feel as you do is a need to which historical studies have responded, making you better, taking you out of this cruel world to show you how relative life is”³.

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³ Nicolae Iorga, “Se repetă istoria?”, 178.