

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES

RECENT BOOKS ON BESSARABIA IN 1918 AND 1924, AND TRANSNISTRIA IN 1941-1944

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In the last three decades, after gaining independence (on August 27, 1991, in the process of dismembering the U.S.S.R.), the Republic of Moldova has asserted itself in multiple plans – economic, cultural and national-identity –, on its path towards a desired European modernity it is sprinkled with notable achievements. In this context, knowing its historical past, *sine ira et studio*, is a task that historians from Chişinău – but also those from Bucharest – fulfill with great scientific and national responsibilities. Thus, mentioning some of the titles and themes subsumed under Moldavian Historiography is not an easy task. (Several years ago, I had the opportunity to produce a synthesis of Moldavian Historiography, published in English in a New York magazine – *Contemporary Historiographical Landmarks of the Romanian Space between Prut and Dniestr – Bessarabia (1812-1940)*, in “Symposium” [New York: The Romanian Institute of Orthodox Theology and Spirituality], Vol. XXVIII, No. 1, 2021, pp. 77-138.)

However, in these lines – in the wake of the concerns of bringing to the attention of those interested lesser-known, and even controversial, historical themes from the past of the entire Romanian people in the 20th Century –, we will try to draw attention to a few titles.

Two of them – signed by *Ion Giurcă* (from Bucharest) and, respectively, *Vitalie N. Ciobanu* (from Chişinău) – were recently launched, in Piteşti, during *Sesiunii Naţionale de Comunicări Ştiinţifice dedicată Zilei Arhivelor Militare* [The National Session of Scientific Communications dedicated to Military Archives Day] (July 23-25, 2025) – this year’s edition was held under the title *Armata Română pe fronturile celui de-al Doilea Război Mondial (1941-1945). 80 de ani de la încheierea ostilităţilor* [The Romanian Army on the Fronts of the Second World War (1941-1945). 80 Years Since the End of Hostilities] (the presented communications are incorporated into a massive volume, presented at the opening of the event – 814 pp.).

They are two monographs that address – research and editing independent of each other! – practically the same theme – the year 1918 from a military and socio-political point of view in the history of the Romanian territory between the

Prut and the Dniester (Russian governorate between 1812 and 1917/1918), returned to the Romanian State through the Union proclaimed on March 27, 1918.

Both belong to two military historians, well-known for their scientific research and publications.

Professor Ion Giurcă (B. 1953; Retired Colonel), also a graduate of the Faculty of History of the University of Bucharest (1992), PhD in Military Sciences – is the author of dozens of studies and articles on the military history of Romanians in the first half of the 20th Century, as a document editor; former Professor at the National Defense University “Carol I”, respectively at the “Hyperion” University in Bucharest, head of the Doctoral; among the numerous books, we quote here: *1917. Reorganizarea armatei române* [1917. Reorganization of the Romanian Army] (1999), *Divizia 9 Mărășești. 1879-1999* [Division 9 Mărășești. 1879-1999] (1999; co-author), *Anul 1940. Drama României Mari* [1940. Drama of Greater Romania] (2000), *Comandamentele strategice române în acțiune (1859-1947)* [Romanian Strategic Commands in Action (1859-1947)] (2000; co-author), *Cedarea și evacuarea Cadrilaterului în anul 1940* [The Surrender and Evacuation of the Quadrilateral in 1940] (2010; co-author), *Statul Major General Român (1859-1950). Organizare și atribuții funcționale* [Romanian General Staff (1859-1950). Organization and Functional Attributions] (2012; co-author), *Mareșali ai României* [Marshals of Romania] (2013; co-author), *Armata română de la București la Mărășești. 1916-1917*, [Romanian Army from Bucharest to Mărășești. 1916-1917] (2017), *Armata Română în Războiul de Întregire. Campaniile din anii 1916 și 1917* [The Romanian Army in the War of Unification. The Campaigns of 1916 and 1917] (2018; co-author), *Trei luni în Pocuția. Acțiuni ale Diviziei 8 Infanterie (22 mai-4 august 1919)* [Three Months in Pocuția. Actions of the 8th Infantry Division (May 22-August 4, 1919)] (2019; co-author), *Generalul Ernest Broșteanu. Eliberator al Basarabiei* [General Ernest Broșteanu. Liberator of Bessarabia] (2020); etc.

Scientific researcher Vitalie N. Ciobanu (B. 1967, Ciuciulea/Republic of Moldova; Colonel /res./), President of the Military History Association of the Republic of Moldova (2000-2020), Director of the Agency for Military Science and Memory, founder (1999) of the magazine “Cohorta”, graduate of the Faculty of History of the “Ion Creangă” State Pedagogical University in Chisinau, PhD in History – is the author of studies and books on military topics, such as: *În memoria eroilor căzuți la Nistru* [In Memory of the Heroes Who Fell at the Dniester] (1992; co-author), *Militarii basarabeni 1917-1918. Studiu și documente* [The Bessarabian Militaries 1917-1918. Study and Documents] (Chisinau, 2010), *In Memoriam. In Memory of the Heroes Who Fell at the Nistru* (1992) (Chisinau, 2012; co-author), *Impactul Primului Război Mondial asupra județelor istorice ale Basarabiei. I. Județul Orhei în documente și statistici de epocă; II. Județul Soroca în documente și statistici de epocă* [The Impact of the First World War on the Historical Counties

of Bessarabia. I.Orhei County in Documents and Statistics of the Period; II. Soroca County in Documents and Statistics of the Period] (Chisinau, 2021; co-author), *Constituirea și evoluția armatei naționale a Republicii Moldova. Repere documentare* [The Establishment and Evolution of the National Army of the Republic of Moldova. Documentary Landmarks] (Chisinau, 2021; co-author), *Album* [Bilingual]. *Armata Republicii Moldova. The Army of the Republic of Moldova* (Chisinau, 2021), *Impactul Primului Război Mondial asupra județelor istorice ale Basarabiei. Județul Bălți în documente și statistici de epocă* [The Impact of the First World War on the Historical Counties of Bessarabia. Bălți County in Documents and Statistics of the Period] (Chisinau, 2024; co-author).

As can be easily seen from the summaries of the two volumes – both published in Chișinău –, the military component of the issue is preeminent.

Professor Ion Giurcă's monograph, entitled *1918. Unirea Basarabiei cu România de-a pururi și totdeauna. Aspecte politice, economice, culturale și militare* [1918. The Union of Bessarabia with Romania Forever and Ever. Political, Economic, Cultural, and Military Aspects] is impressive – it has 624 pp. (it is filled with illustrations, facsimiles, maps, and tables) – and offers, for the first time in our Historiography, an overview of Bessarabia in 1918; as revealed in the *Cuvânt introductiv* [Foreword] – subtitled *Basarabia în drumul către unitatea națională: perspective istorice, politice și militare* [Bessarabia on the Road to National Unity: Historical, Political, and Military Perspectives (pp. 9-11) –, by the rector of the Moldova State University, Associate Professor, PhD in History Igor Șarov, it represents “a remarkable historiographical contribution, which meticulously approaches a subject of major importance for our history: the union of Bessarabia with Romania, since 1918. The historical act – essential for the configuration of the borders of Unified Romania – is viewed from a complex perspective, which brings to light not only the political events, but also the economic, cultural, and military context that favored the achievement of the national ideal for the Bessarabian Romanians” (p. 8); and he also emphasizes: “As a historian, I consider this work an essential reading for all those interested in the history of United Romania and the political and military developments of the 20th Century. It is a work that, through its documentary value and the rigor of its analysis, will remain a landmark in historical research” (p. 11).

The content of the volume, segmented thematically, with explicit subthematic titles, is as follows:

Introducere [Introduction] (pp. 12-22), *Situația politică și militară între Carpații Orientali și Nistru la începutul anului 1918* [The Political and Military Situation Between the Eastern Carpathians and the Dniester at the Beginning of 1918] (pp. 23-41), *Primul pas spre Unire* [The First Step Towards the Union] (pp. 42-72), *Structuri de conducere implicate în restabilirea ordinii între Prut și Nistru*

[Leading Structures Involved in the Restoration of Order Between the Prut and the Dniester] (pp. 73-96). *Acțiuni ale forțelor terestre, navale și aeriene la est de Prut* [Actions of Land, Naval, and Air Forces East of Prut] (pp. 97-238), *Tranzitul spațiului dintre Prut și Nistru de către trupe germane și austro-ungare* [The Transit of the Space Between the Prut and the Dniester by German and Austro-Hungarian Troops] (pp. 239-258), *Unirea R.D. Moldovenești cu Mama Sa România* [The Union of the Moldavian Democratic Republic with its Mother Romania] (pp. 259-277), *Reacții ale autorităților ucrainene față de Actul Unirii* [Reactions of the Ukrainian Authorities to the Act of Union] (pp. 279-301), *Personalități ale culturii și artei românești la est de Prut în anul Unirii* [Personalities of Romanian Culture and Art t East the Prut in the Year of Union] pp. 302-338), *O singură armată* [A Single Army] (pp. 339-355), *O singură biserică* [A Single Church] (pp. 356-384), *Constituirea și activitatea Comisariatului General al Basarabiei* [The Establishment and Activity of the General Commissariat of Bessarabia] (pp. 385-408), *Trupe române între Prut și Nistru după Unire* [Romanian Troops Between the Prut and the Dniester after the Union] (pp. 409-437), *Reintrarea României în război* [Romania's Re-entry Into the War] (pp. 438-465), *Relațiile Armatei Române cu ofițeri și trupa din Armata Rusă* [The Relations of the Romanian Army with Officers and Troops of the Russian Army] (pp. 466-477), *Lista anexelor* [List of annexes] (pp. 479-480). It is completed by such useful components, specific to an authentic scientific work: *Anexe* [Annexes] (pp. 481-582), *Bibliografie* [Bibliography] (pp. 583-590). *Indice de nume* [Name Index] (pp. 591-606), *Coliță Foto* [Photo Album] (pp. 607-624).

As the author says in the *Introducere* [Introduction], “Without exaggerating the place and role of military structures in achieving the union of the Moldavian S.R. with the Country [Romania], we try to highlight that that presence ensured the order seriously affected by the action of the Bolshevized Russian troops, the armed Ukrainian gangs, as well as a part of the population, especially the non-Romanian elements, but also the freedom of action of the legislative and executive structures established in Chisinau to manage the destinies of the population in the Romanian territories seized in 1812 by the Tsarist Empire” (p. 20); and he also confesses that “The elaboration of the work is an older desire, which was only completed now, after extensive documentation in the archival funds in Bucharest” (p. 22).

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The monograph by military historian Vitalie N. Ciobanu, *Armata Română și Basarabia ianuarie-martie 1918* [The Romanian Army and Bessarabia January-March 1918] – also published this year, also in Chișinău –, is no less substantial (346 pp., A4 format) and also benefits from illustrations, facsimiles, maps, sketches and plates.

And for this monograph, the thematic novelty is a pleasant – and beneficial, informationally – surprise for the reader. As the author shows, “Until now,

historiography has incompletely reflected the aspects related to the context and opportunity of sending Romanian troops to Bessarabia, the mission and actions of the Romanian Army in the territory between the Prut and the Dniester, the attitude of the Romanian military towards the locals and their sacrifice for the liberation and defense of the Bessarabian population during the years 1917-1918. For the most part, these are separate articles, which partially describe some aspects of the problem, or general studies, which refer in passing to this topic. Even after the opening of the archives and the declassification of the special reserves (which somewhat changed the situation in the historiography of Bessarabia), no synthesis works have been developed regarding the role of the Romanian Army in the liberation of the province between the Prut and the Dniester, the writings being mostly limited to articles published in specialized magazines or to collections that refer mainly to the social and national movement in the territory. It was only during the preparation of the present study that put into the historical circuit a pioneering work dedicated to the role of the Romanian Army in Bessarabia: the volume *Generalul Ernest Broșteanu. Eliberator al Basarabiei* [General Ernest Broșteanu. Liberator of Bessarabia], signed by the well-known military historian Ion Giurcă. The study refers to the presence of the 11th Infantry Division in Bessarabia and describes in great detail the actions of the large unit in the territory to the left of the Prut River” (p. 7).

The content of the volume, segmented thematically, is as follows:

Notă introductivă [Introductory Note] (pp. 5-7), *Prezențe militare românești în Basarabia anului 1918. Istoriografia problemei* [Romanian Military Presences in Bessarabia in 1918. The Historiography of the Problem] (pp. 7-36), *Contextul politic și militar al trimiterii trupelor române în Basarabia* [Political and Military Context of Sending Romanian Troops to Bessarabia] (pp. 37-42), *Organizarea și misiunile Corpului VI Armata* [The Organization and Missions of the VI Army Corps] (pp. 73-93), *Prima mare unitate românească în Basarabia: Divizia 11 Infanterie* [The First Large Romanian Unit in Bessarabia: The 11th Infantry Division] (pp. 95-161), *Contribuția Diviziei 13 Infanterie la restabilirea ordinii în sudul Basarabiei* [The Contribution of the 13th Infantry Division to the Restoration of Order in Southern Bessarabia] (pp. 163-199), *Participarea Diviziei 1 Cavalerie la operațiunile din nordul Basarabiei* [The Participation of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Operations in Northern Bessarabia] (pp. 201-230), *Acțiunile Diviziei 2 Cavalerie în zona de sud-est a Basarabiei* [The Actions of the 2nd Cavalry Division in the Southeastern Area of Bessarabia] (pp. 231-255), *Flota de operațiuni în luptele din sudul Basarabiei* [The Operational Fleet in the Battles in Southern Bessarabia] (pp. 257-270), *Prezența Misiunii Militare Franceze în spațiul dintre Prut și Nistru* [The Presence of the French Military Mission in the Space Between the Prut and the Dniester] (pp. 271-290), *Dispozitivul trupelor române după pacea cu Puterile Centrale* [The Disposition of the Romanian Troops after the Peace with

the Central Powers] (pp. 291-302), *Organizarea Comandamentului Militar teritorial al Basarabiei* [The Organization of the Territorial Military Command of Bessarabia] (pp. 303-313); and this volume is also completed with segments indispensable to a scientific work: *Bibliografie* [Bibliography] (pp. 315-320), *Indice geografic* [Geographic Index] (pp. 321-330), *Indice de nume* [Name Index] (pp. 331-337), *Indice tematic* [Thematic Index] (pp. 338-346).

The Chisinau author of this volume, like his fellow military historian from Bucharest, also reveals, in *Notă introductivă* [Introductory Note], that “The study is structured on the basis thematic axes, reflecting the development and organization of the Romanian military intervention in Bessarabia. The first section offers a critical look at the way in which the Romanian military presence in the years 1917-1918 in the Bessarabian space was treated in historiography. The political and military context that preceded the sending of the troops, the organization and missions of the VI Army Corps, as well as the role that fell to the main units involved: the 11th and 13th Infantry divisions, the 1st and 2nd Cavalry divisions and the operations fleet are then analyzed. The paper also addresses the presence of the French Military Mission in the space between the Prut and the Dniester, as well as the subsequent organization of the Romanian military apparatus after the conclusion of peace with the Central Powers” (pp. 5-6).

As the reader can see, the structuring of the work is strictly and well-delimited chronologically; however, the author undertakes extensive digressions - circumstantial to the topic (such as the numerous instructive microbiographies of military and political personalities, Romanian/Bessarabian and/or foreign), which contribute to a more complete understanding of the narrated events.

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During the past year, the circumstantial theme of the history of the Romanian counties between the Prut and the Dniester – *recte*, regions of Moldavia beyond the Prut/historical Bessarabia, within Greater/Unified Romania, as it was constituted in *the Year of Grace 1918* – was enriched with a special work, occasioned by the centenary of events that targeted, in September 1924, the national-territorial undermining of the Romanian Kingdom.

On which occasion, the aforementioned diligent historian Ion Giurcă (together with another military historian-archivist, Col. Ph.D. in History) brought out another substantial one (320 pp.). volume (in Bucharest) of documents – ***Tatar Bunar 1924. Documente***. Ediție de Ion Giurcă, Liviu Corciu (although she is not listed on the title page alongside the two, doctoral student Cosmina Lăzărescu is nevertheless mentioned alongside those mentioned, under “Identification and selection of documents”).

The structuring of this precious documentary testimony is specific to such a historiographical approach – *Cuvânt înainte* [Foreword] (pp. 7-15), *Acronime și abrevieri* [Acronyms and Abbreviations] (p. 17), *Lista documentelor* [List of

Documents] (pp. 19-28), *Documente* [Documents] (pp. 29-309), *Indice nume* [Name Index] (pp. 311-319).

In the first years after its reintegration, through the Act of Union of March 27, 1918, into the area of Romanian statehood – from which it had been dislocated by Tsarist Russia in 1812 –, the Romanian space between the Prut and the Dniester/Bessarabia experienced a complex process of integration into the new state and civic-behavioral structures, specific to Romanianism and to Modernity. It was not, however, an easy process, given the historical context and background. As the two authors show from the beginning, “The event of September 1924 constituted the peak of the anti-Romanian movement organized by the Soviet, Russian, and Ukrainian authorities, starting with 1918, having as its center of gravity the North and South of the territory between the Prut and the Dniester, with a large alien population, largely Bolshevized, dissatisfied with the new status, citizens of Romania, whose political regime was considered to be at odds with the political and ideological principles that guided them.

Therefore, it was not difficult for the Soviet authorities to organize and order activities and propaganda actions of a hostile nature, armed attacks on Romanian administrative and military structures, capitalizing on the elements between the Prut and the Dniester that harbored anti-Romanian sentiments and, moreover, they considered that the political regime installed by the Bolshevik revolution of October 1917 better represented their interests” (p. 7).

And they also explain: “Considering that, in the approaches carried out to date, military archival funds are little or insufficiently exploited, I considered it necessary to bring to attention some documents relevant to understanding the preparation and unfolding of the events of the fall of 1924, as they were interpreted by the structures with responsibilities in the security and defense of the country, their intervention to restore order, the instrumentalization of the case, the detention, trial and conviction of those initially considered guilty of the preparation and execution of destabilizing actions” (p. 13).

The vast majority of the 378 documents (extracted from the Historical Register. Operations Journal of the 3rd Army Corps – reports, orders, telegrams, telephone notes, ordinances, information notes, operational information reports, minutes, instructions, operational information bulletins; documents issued by the 12th Division, 12th Infantry Brigade, Danube Division) are, of course, from September (over 200 documents issued in just ten days: September 17-27) and they constitute a faithful mirror of what happened then. As the two authors rightly point out, “The actions in Southeastern Romania in September 1924 were classified in Moscow, Kharkov and in Bolshevik influenced circles as a Bessarabian movement, which was completely false, as was proven from the moment the arrested persons were identified, then gave statements, from which it is clear that everything was organized in the political, intelligence and military laboratories in Moscow, which

used the territory of Ukraine as a base of operations, both in the preparation, deployment and recovery phases of those who managed to avoid capture by Romanian troops and cross to the east of the Dniester.

The prompt intervention of Romanian military structures (infantry, cavalry, artillery units, border guards, gendarmes, river naval forces, etc.) had the effect of defeating the hostile forces, followed by the detention of large number of people, the interrogation, trial, and conviction of some, in accordance with the gravity of the acts committed.

Contrary to Soviet propaganda before and after the events in the Tatar Bunar area, the Romanians between the Prut and the Dniester, as well as the ethnic German population in area of operations, were not involved in actions hostile to the Romanian authorities and army. The list of defendants, those tried and convicted is proof of this” (p. 11).

A very timely achievement of our Historiography today, the professional approach to this subject – practically non-existent after World War II in the Romanian political-scientific sphere of interest –, with a certain sensitivity, but approached with an honest understanding of the psycho-social-historical context, is also an indicator of the scientific probity and devotion to revealing the historical truth on the part of the two valuable servants of the Clio Muse.

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During the period of the popular/socialist (“multilaterally developed”) democracy regime (1948-1989), within Romanian Historiography – adjusted with strong political-ideological tendencies, the intensity of which varied from one period to another – there were a number of historical periods – and, especially, their themes – that were more or less researched and presented distortedly or not addressed at all.

This is the case of our country’s participation in the Eastern Campaign of World War II, incidentally and with parsimony allowed by the political authorities – and, consequently, by the professional-institutional ones – to be researched by historians, and a subtheme of this participation not to be addressed at all. It is about the occupation, organization and administration of the territory between the Dniester and the Bug, known as *Transnistria* (1941-1944).

Only in the first years of our Millennium, parts of the issue in question (specifically – the situation of Jews and Roma) began to be revealed, in scientific works, to the general public (signed by Viorel Achim, Diana Dumitru, Radu Ioanid, Teșu Solomovici, Ana Bărbulescu, Adrian-Nicolae Furtună); in order to outline the general framework, those interested were able to become acquainted, since the 1990s, with the works (some republished) regarding Transnistria signed by N. Iorga, Teodor T. Burada, Florin Rotaru (ed.), Jean Ancel, Nichita Smochină, Anton Golopenția, Ioan Silviu Nistor, Șerban Alexianu.

Following these concerns, the recent appearance, in 2024, of a documentary volume of a specific nature, dedicated to Transnistria, constitutes a remarkable fact – through its uniqueness, as well as the specificity of the author – a reserve officer, with historical studies (including a PhD), passionate about researching the history of the Second World War, with direct reference to Romania.

The independent **scientific researcher Marin Voicu** (B. 1963, Jilavele/Ialomița County; reserve Lieutenant Colonel), graduate in History (2003) and PhD (2011) at „Ovidius” University of Constanța – is the author of several volumes in the same thematic area (Romanian Army on the Eastern Front in WWII): *De la ultimatumul URSS la porțile Stalingradului. Starea de spirit a Armatei Române în perioada 26 iunie 1940-septembrie 1942* [From the USSR Ultimatum to the Gates of Stalingrad. The State of Mind of the Romanian Army Between June 26, 1940, and September 1942] (2012; a new edition, in 2019, under the title *Pentru neam și țară. Starea de spirit a Armatei Române în perioada 26 iunie 1940-septembrie 1942* [For the Nation and the Country. The State of Mind of the Romanian Army Between June 26, 1940, and September 1942]), *Din istoria Armatei Române, 1940-1942. Documente* [From the History of the Romanian Army, 1940-1942. Documents] (2015), *Sacrificiu și supraviețuire. Armata Română la Cotul Donului și Stepa Calmucă, 1942-1943* [Sacrifice and Survival. The Romanian Army at the Don-Bend and the Kalmyk Steppe, 1942-1943] (2018; a second edition in 2019).

The work to which we refer is a book of documents (2 volumes), of almost 1,000 pages – ***Transnistria 1941-1944. Adevărul din testimonii. Volumul I: Viața sub guvernământ românesc. Volumul II: Între resemnare și nesiguranță*** [Transnistria 1941-1944. The Truth from Testimonies. *Volume I: Life under Romanian Government. Volume II: Between Resignation and Insecurity*]. Ediție de Voicu Marin (București, 2024: 440+508 pp.).

The content of the volume, segmented thematically, is as follows:

Vol. I – *Cuvânt-înainte* [Foreword] (pp. 7-8) Profesor dr. Valentin Ciorbea Membru corespondent al Academiei Oamenilor de Știință din România [Professor Dr. Valentin Ciorbea Corresponding Member of the Academy of Romanian Scientists]. *Studiu introductiv* [Introductory Study] (pp. 9-30), *Lista abrevierilor* [List of Abbreviations] (pp. 31-32), *Argument* [Argument] (pp. 33-34), *Lista documentelor* [List of Documents] [1-181] (pp. 35-49). I. *Permanența românilor la est de Nistru* [The Permanence of Romanians East of the Dniester] (pp. 51-72). II. *Transnistria, după retragerea armatei roșii* [Transnistria, After the Withdrawal of the Red Army] (pp. 73-104). III. *Doriința profesorului George Alexianu* [The Wishes of Professor George Alexianu] (pp. 105-106). IV. *Preluarea siguranței, administrării și exploatării economice a Transnistriei* [Taking Over the Security, Administration, and Economic Exploitation of Transnistria] (pp. 107-145). V. *Normalizarea vieții transnistrene* [The Normalization of Transnistrian Life] (pp.

147-189). VI. *Viața socială. Secvențe transnistrene* [Social Life. Transnistrian Sequences] (pp. 191-244). VII. *Propaganda românească în Transnistria* [The Romanian Propaganda in Transnistria] (pp. 245-262). VIII. *Iridenta ucraineană în Transnistria* [Ukrainian Iridenta in Transnistria] (pp. 263-280). IX. *Pagubele suferite și cheltuielile efectuate de România în Transnistria* [The Damages Suffered, and Expenses Incurred by Romania in Transnistria] (pp. 281-288). X. *Învățământul* [The Education] (pp. 289-305). XI. *Activitatea comercială. Schimburile economice cu România* [The Commercial Activity. Economic Exchanges with Romania] (pp. 307-324). XII. *Aprovizionarea trupelor germane staționate în Transnistria* [The Supply of German Troops Stationed in Transnistria] (pp. 325-327). XIII. *Funcționarii* [The Functionaries] (pp. 329-340). XIV. *Odessa* (pp. 341-379). XV. *Viața spirituală. Misiunea Ortodoxă Română în Transnistria* [The Spiritual Life. The Romanian Orthodox Mission in Transnistria] (pp. 381-435). *Bibliografie selectivă* (pp. 437-440).

Vol. II – XVI. *Deportarea evreilor în Transnistria* [The Deportation of Jews to Transnistria] (pp. 25-123). XVII. *Evacuarea țiganilor în Transnistria* [The Evacuation of Gypsies to Transnistria] (pp. 125-174). XVIII. *Organizarea evacuării Transnistriei* [The Evacuation of Gypsies to Transnistria] (pp. 175-205). XIX. *Vinovat de a fi fost funcționar român în Transnistria* [Guilty of Having Been a Romanian Official in Transnistria] (pp. 207-216). XX. *Jandarmeria raportează. Memoria documentelor* [The Gendarmerie Reports. The Memory of Documents] (pp. 217-504). *Bibliografie selectivă* [Selective Bibliography] (pp. 505-508).

As emphasized by Professor Valentin Ciorbea – the PhD supervisor of the meritorious researcher and history lover –, “It is worth noting the concern of Dr. Marin Voicu to bring to light historical sources from which the specialist or those interested in the historical truth regarding the situation in Transnistria between 1941-1944 can judge the reality for themselves, as revealed by the 327 testimonies” (p. 8).

As for the author, he wants to emphasize from the beginning that “The historical importance of the period of administration of the territory between the Dniester and the Bug lies in the uniqueness of the historical event for the Romanian people: it was the first and only time in the thousand-year history of the Romanian people when the Romanian state was put before an extremely difficult test, that of demonstrating the capacity to administer and restore normal life to a geographical space that did not belong to it, with a completely different social, political and economic structure and, moreover, disorganized and destroyed as a consequence of the military operations and deliberate actions of the Soviet army in the summer of 1941” (p. 14); and, at the same time, to “argue”: “Even though the Romanian government in Transnistria has been the subject of several works (It refers to the two works of a specific nature: Olivian Verenca, *Administrația civilă română în Transnistria* [The Romanian Civilian Administration in Transnistria] 1941-1944

(Chişinău, 1993, 159 pp; 2nd Edition, edited by Şerban Alexianu: Bucharest, 2000, 399 pp.; respectively: Vladimir Solonari, *Imperiul-satellite. Guvernarea românească în Transnistria. 1941-1944*, Bucharest, 2021, 400 pp.; translation of the princeps edition, published in New York in 2019, under the title *A Satellite Empire. Romanian Rule in Southwestern Ukraine, 1941-1944*; 328 pp. – our note), we consider it necessary to publish the documents kept in the archives, regarding the takeover of the administration and economic exploitation of Transnistria, as well as the activity of the Transnistrian Government, during the period 1941-1944, as a research tool for historians, but also for the public interested in the subject itself. The need to edit this volume of documents lies in the contradictory information and conclusions arising from reading the works that treat the subject under discussion, a situation that creates confusion and bewilderment for the reading public, so that providing primary sources excludes any kind of inaccuracies on the issue under discussion” (p. 33).

The author also shows in *Studiu introductiv* that “In Marshal Ion Antonescu’s understanding, the position and arguments of the Romanian state during the negotiations, at the end of the war, for the recovery of the territories lost in the fateful year of 1940 would depend on the way Romania managed to demonstrate its administrative capacity in Transnistria, a point of view specified during the meeting of November 13, 1941 of the Council of Ministers: «For us, first of all, Transnistria is a guarantee in our hands. Secondly, when the question of the total and definitive reorganization of Europe will be raised, Romania, in this situation, could speak differently than it could speak during Molotov’s ultimatum (of June 26 and 28, 1940 – our note) and until September 6, 1940, and how it could speak from September 6, 1940, until June 22, 1941. It [Transnistria] is a guarantee in our hands, and we have the duty to prove it before history that we are able administer a large country. All this must be considered because only in this way will we be able to carry out all the demands for which we are all fighting»” (pp. 14-15).