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FOREWORD

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The 14th volume of *Review of Historical Geography and Toponomastics* (RHGT) is grounded on the contribution of four works dealing with toponymy and other two studies based on historical geographies. This volume brings new debates in the toponymy research of different issues worldwide, or in European and Asian contexts as well as new empirical evidence on the study of historical music geography of pop rock music of Celin Dion and even the local historical geographies of preserving ethnic symbolism in the south area of the Banat Plain. The volume is completed by two book reviews and an obituary dedicated to professor Ronan Paddison.

The first contribution is by Paul Woodman. His work on the role of numbers in toponymy brings into focus a subject that has rarely been touched on previously. He notes how numbers, being part of language, naturally also form part of toponymy. For the most part, toponyms incorporating numbers are unexceptional, though always interesting, but some toponyms created arbitrarily with numbers are not at all normal and may even be unwelcome. The paper includes a poignant tale of one person's encounter with the concentration camp at Auschwitz.

Antonia Maria Popp from University of Zurich and Francesco Perono Cacciafoco from Nanyang Technological University examine the etymological origins of the ancient toponym of (Bad) Kreuznach placed in south-west Germany. Choosing a comparative methodology, the authors highlight the assessment of the relations among the different linguistic groups living in the area throughout its history, thus applying a toponymic stratigraphy approach. The article presents one possible paronymy for the place name by investigating the implications that it could have on the perceptions of this place name viewed through the voices of people living in the area and thus its indirect influence on the further historical development of the toponym.



An important contribution to this volume is made by Daniele Rizzi from the University of Pisa. The evolution of the settlement Ameglia (province La Spezia, in Liguria, Italy) is taken into consideration. The time-frame considered was between the Ancient Era and the Middle Ages. After bringing some discussions on disproving the most widespread hypothesis which locates its origin in the Latin Age, the author determined the affinity of this toponym to a protoceltic-Ligurian linguistic basin. By comparing the toponym with other toponyms from the same area, Mr Rizzi focused mainly on the meaning of toponym's primary root.

Another place-naming contribution to this volume is based on three cases of Italian names which are analyzed for determining the pre-Indo-European or Indo-European origins. Francesco Perono Cacciafoco reconstructs the etymology of three Italian place names from the current regions of Piedmont and Liguria (North-Western Italy). The toponyms analyzed in this study - Vinchio (Piedmont), Laigneglia (Liguria), and Lingueglietta (Liguria) - allow the assessment of epistemological issues connected with the dynamics proto-Indo-European in the reconstruction of European toponymy. The aim of this paper is to fill the research gap affecting the etymological reconstruction of the three toponyms and their onomastic relations.

Historical geographies is represented in this volume by two articles focused on music geography and on ethnic issues related to the population living in the south Romanian Banat region. They are presented by Lecturer Dr Sebastian Ioan Jucu and by Dr Covaci Raluca.

Sebastian Jucu highlights the necessity of reflecting on Celin Dion's historical geographies of worldwide recognition. The article advances the relevance of time and space in music geography and presents Dion's outstanding contribution to music from the local to the global. Basing on specific methods as biographic analysis, internet research, visual methodologies and geographic information systems (GIS), the author illustrates the spatio-temporal distribution of the multiple awards received by the artist. The findings of the research spotted the highest scale of appreciation that an artist can achieve, providing significant information about Dion's artistic participation to the global popular culture.

Raluca Covaci presents some of the discussions regarding how traditions and folk issues are still preserved by different ethnicities in the south Banat Plain, Romania, an interesting multiethnic area situated at the border with Serbia. The author considered several findings related to the fight of preserving traditional values for most of the ethnicities living in the area and how they function as active ethnic forms of symbolism nowadays.