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FOREWORD

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As the *Review of Historical Geography and Toponomastics* (RHGT) marks 10 years of existence, the editors are delighted to offer special thanks to the members of the Editorial Board and to all those who have contributed so far to creating a sense of historical geography and place-name studies in this corner of Central and Eastern Europe. The recent inclusion of the RHGT in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) international database acknowledges the strong impact of the journal and is also a recognition of its quality.

The present volume of RHGT follows the previous pattern and is structured on seven papers and several reviews of books and scientific events. All the papers have passed through a rigorous peer-review process and for the second time in the decade of the journal's existence a wide spectrum of papers dealing with toponymy can be seen.

Paul Woodman launches a toponymist's observations on memory. Taking memory as a crucial component in toponymy, the paper ranges in time from the French Revolution to the present-day economic difficulties in Greece, and geographically from Europe through the Middle East to the Pacific Rim. Woodman's perspective is not a conventional approach on 'toponymy and memory', but rather a journey exploring memory in its own right, with acknowledgements to toponymy along the way.

Another interesting paper is presented by Peter Jordan. It highlights the concept of language geography, defined as the relationship between language and space from the geographical perspective. In this theoretical paper, the author explores selected spatial aspects of language, from languages as reflections of the spatial context of cultures, spatial spread and retreat of languages and the powers behind them, to the role of language for space-related identity, trade and educational languages and their processes of expansion and regression. The function of place names in relating man to space is also depicted in a thought-provoking manner.



Duoduo Xu presents two river islands in the city of Nanjing, China, based on a toponymic analysis of a collection of ancient maps. Besides clarifying the historical toponymy and cartography of the two islands, the paper inserts their history among other cases of ‘exchanged’ place names. The author shows that both natural and human factors contribute to the toponymic replacement of islands. He also demonstrates the relevance of changes in the hydro-geo-morphology of river islands, due to the instability of river phenomena, as influences on their naming process.

Another place-naming paper is written by Francesco Perono Cacciafoco. As a specialist in the toponymic archaeology of Indo-European place names, Cacciafoco’s aim is the reconstruction of the remote naming process and toponymic stratigraphy of the place names Bistagno and Sessame, in Piedmont, Italy, proposing two new etymological reconstructions for them, in order to recover the prehistoric origins of the two toponyms.

The section dedicated to historical geography studies comprises three papers. First, Emilia Sarno aims to reinterpret southern Italy’s current urban processes through the lens of agro-towns and territorial poles in the French Decade (1806-1815). Second, a paper co-authored by Ioan Sebastian Jucu, Remus Crețan and Fabian Timofte is focused on post-socialist spatial shifts in urban areas under post-1990 economic restructuring. Taking as a case study the spatial impact of urban restructuring in the municipalities of Timiș County in Romania, the paper argues that the processes of urban restructuring are accompanied by divergent policy interventions in urban planning, generating negative outcomes for the local communities and obvious spatial contrasts in urban regeneration. Third, Mirabela Petculescu reveals historical patterns in the traditional involvement of sanitary institutions in population healthcare in Romania.