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BOOK REVIEW

ATLASUL ETNOGRAFIC AL BANATULUI ISTORIC, DKMT, VOL. I(V), ZONA VÂRȘEȚ, (ETHNOGRAPHIC ATLAS OF HISTORICAL BANAT, DKMT, VOL. I[V], VÂRȘEȚ AREA)

Ioan Viorel BOLDUREANU, coord., Edit. Eurostampa,
Timișoara, 192 pages

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The Ethnographic Atlas of Historical Banat, Vârșeț Area represents an important contribution in the fields of historical and cultural geography of Romania. It brings together the valuable work of various researchers of different backgrounds coordinated by Ioan Viorel Boldureanu. The work bases on a mix-method approach, with participant and ethnographic observation, in-field investigation, quantitative and qualitative analysis being the most important methods. Its findings and results are professionally illustrated through significant maps of the investigated area. The first part of the atlas is dedicated to the general background of Vârșeț Area by setting the social and cultural features in the local rural landscape.

Therefore, the place meaning through monographic analysis is strongly argued by relevant core arguments and research hypothesis. Against such a background the second part of the book is dedicated to the cultural landscape representation, using key rural features in spatial and temporal investigation of the Vârșeț Area. This part includes three sections focused on the following topics: firstly, a specific attention is drawn on traditional rural habitat, with different perspectives in the present research (the analysis of the rural typologies considering the rural ages, rural size and the local patterns of rural habitats), on traditional architecture as well as on the rural traditional activities of the people; secondly, another section examines the rural traditional arts, highlighting particular aspects of domestic textile industry, of rural houses inner landscapes and traditional clothes; thirdly, the final part is concerned on the local folklore and rural ethnology. Throughout the book the narrative is widely argued by photographs and



original maps. The final part of the book is filled with thematic cartographies, mapping the spatial distribution of rural settlement, their architecture, the rural activities and rural monographs, the maps of local rural traditions in terms of local clothes, of local inner houses landscapes, of rural folklore and other artistic features. The ethnographic atlas reveal both the local cultural identities and certain models of inter- and multiculturalism that frame this particular area of the Historical Banat. This ethnographic atlas is a fruitful reference for further research in the field, thus contributing to the specialized literature focused on the ethnographic identity of the Vârșeț area as an important part of the Historical Banat.
