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FOREWORD

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Description

An international biannual, *Review of Historical Geography and Toponomastics* publishes articles on all aspects of historical geography and toponomastics. As well as publishing original research papers of interest to a wide international and interdisciplinary readership, the review encourages debates over new challenges facing researchers in the field and discussion of conceptual and methodological issues. Each issue includes a book review section.

It encourages high quality scholarship on a broad range of historical geography and toponomastics topics.

Themes covered in the Review include:

- The geographies of places in the past
- The dynamics of place, space and landscape
- The geographies of place-names
- Methodological problems in historical geography
- Landscape, history and environment

The journal publishes high quality papers that make a new contribution to the understanding of historical geographical systems. The editors invite submissions dealing with theory, methods and models of spatial analysis. The journal has a multi-disciplinary outlook and includes contributions from geography, history, economics, environment and onomastics.

The 2022 RHGT volume (issues 33-34) includes eight papers on place naming and **historical geographies studies**.

The first part of the volume is made up of articles focused on toponymy studies. Babatunde Adedayo Ogundiwin from University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, brings an interesting perspective on the Yorùbá landscape in the southern part of the USA in the mid-nineteenth century and how place-naming were inscribed on American southern Baptist maps. The author interprets the maps as a cultural interface on which indigenous language, topographic geographies and orthographic developments intersect. By using a cultural-historical analysis, this paper has the value of collecting indigenous toponyms revealing geographical images, orthographic developments and the toponymic labelling of the landscape as a socio-cultural practice. Moreover, these toponyms have constituted cultural layers of landscape identities and have had the role to shape the geographical knowledge of the Yorùbáland.

Second study in this volume is written by Shaun Tyan Gin Lim and Francesco Perono Cacciafoco, Nanyang Technological University (NTU). This paper brings new perspectives on a linguistic analysis of Singapore's mid-tier hotel names. Following a sociolinguistic perspective, authors are interested to reflect the intersections between tourism and language, in particular looks on the naming strategies of Singapore's mid-tier hotel names. From the 122 mid-tier hotels analyzed in this paper, the study reveals keywords used to describe the type of accommodation provided, and how frequently they appear, the naming strategies used to name mid-tier hotels in Singapore and the specific words used to marketization of the services and experiences that hotels provide? Among the findings of the paper is that mid-scale hotels often clearly indicate the service they provide with the word "Hotel" in their name, often owned by hotel chains. Moreover, hotel names use certain lexical items and function as a means of social communication between the hotel workers and guests.

The third paper on place-name geographies is written by Kinga Xénia Havady-Nagy, Faculty of Geography, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The paper explores place names and landscape aspects in Romanian, German and Hungarian sayings and proverbs. The author highlights that proverbs and sayings seem to be some of the most fascinating defining elements of national identity. They store the vernacular popular wisdom and the native humor of people. The selected proverbs and sayings resort to the quality of the toponyms, the connotations they bear and developed in the course of history of certain regions and people. They reveal the symbolic power and the capacity of the place names to activate emotions and geographical imaginations determining positive or negative connotations. By applying a content analysis on the proverbs with place names in Hungarian, Romanian and German, the author identified similitudes and differences that exist between the proverb material of the three languages. The study illustrates singularities and particular elements in the cultural heritage of the three selected languages and their geographical proverbs.

An interesting toponymy case study is brought to the fore by Boon Yong Teo and Francesco Perono Cacciafoco. The article focuses on the linguistic landscape of tourist attractions in Singapore by observing the languages of signs at eight different tourist locations. Whether the languages on signs reflect the nationality of tourists visiting them is also analyzed. The paper also examines the commodification of language in Singapore's tourist attractions. Authors show that few tourist attractions reflect the nationality of tourists who visit them, but the exclusion of languages does not mean that the number of tourists visiting from certain countries is low. A few differences including differences in code preference of signs in Chinatown and also the low percentage of Malay and Tamil on bottom-up signs were observed. In order to give

tourists a specific experience of the two attractions, Mandarin Chinese and Tamil can be seen to have been commodified in Chinatown and Little India.

The place name section of this volume ends with a study by Nicolae Hurduzeu on the toponyms and hydronyms of the Inferno as well as on the characters of the underworld which, by transposition, will shape the Christian landscape of the afterworld through *interpretatio Christiana*.

The second part of this volume is dedicated to more historical geography studies. Jorge Sobota proposes a study on finding the so-called Strabo's lost island and what the etymology of Moron could mean. The city of Mōron was mentioned by Strabo and historians considered it would be identified either with Santarém or Chões de Alpompé, or even with Almeirim, a city eight kilometers south of Alpiarça. This confusion comes from a restricted understanding of the full meaning of the Greek word *κατά*. The author clarifies the most used meaning of *κατά* and proposes a new etymology for Mōron.

Emilia Sarno, Italy, presents an interesting paper connected to kindergarten and spatial experiences by bringing several suggestions and proposals for a childhood education based on geography. These solutions are provided for the construction of the curriculum considering the child-space relationship as the core of the didactic activities. Epistemological reflection on the disciplines appears in relation to geography, on how to activate observational and exploratory processes by following guidelines from both geography and psychology. Therefore, the author considers that geographic education has the opportunity to become central in the nursery school curriculum.

Ana-Neli Ianăș and Ramona Ivan analyze land cover and use changes in Romanian Banat taking Corine Land Cover data as a database. The main objective of the present study is to inventory all these changes in one of the most developed regions of Romania, the Banat region. By following a comparative analysis between the transition period (1990-2000) and the post-transition period (2000-2018), the CORINE Land Cover data were grouped into several transitional dynamics aspects: urbanization/industrialization, development of agriculture, abandonment of agriculture, deforestation, afforestation, floods. The results revealed more intense changes in the post-transition period, being concentrated in 14 hotspots overlapping the relief units. Therefore, the most intense changes have appeared in the hilly areas, depressions, and valley corridors, spaces that are dominated by the abandonment of agriculture and deforestation, followed by lowland areas where the development of agriculture and urbanization are more visible in the landscape.

The second paper proposed by Emilia Sarno focuses on the period of Enlightenment in the Kingdom of Naples and the civil role of geography at that time. Enlightenment paved the way to geography and Antonio Genovesi and his school of thought were important for his multifaceted view of culture that included the study of geography. The paper uses some little-known old documents from Genovesi's times and highlights how Genovesi realized that the civil role of geography was useful for the southern part of Italy's cultural development.

Finally, the paper of Vlad Cumpănaș, Sorin Costel Pavel, and Ioan Sebastian Jucu discuss issues connected to the impact of Iulius Town mall in the development of Circumvalațiunei Neighborhood in Timișoara, Romania. The authors consider that the appearance of Iulius Town brought with it unprecedented development in all its neighborhood areas. The aim of the paper is the relationship between this socialist-built neighborhood and the biggest mixed-use development. This paper uses historical analysis and geospatial analysis, linking the studied area to the main events before and

after the 1989 Romanian Revolution, such as industrialization, housing development, deindustrialization, tertiarization, landscape reconversion, and commercial developments.

Summing up, this volume provides challenging ideas and debates to studies in toponymy and historical geography. The collection of eight papers triggers the reality that place naming and historical geographies are important practice that deserves more attention for future research.

Free online access to this journal is available within institutions in the developing world.

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