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## FOREWORD

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### Description

The *Review of Historical Geography and Toponomastics* is an international biannual publication dedicated to exploring various aspects of historical geography and toponomastics. It features original research papers that appeal to a wide international and interdisciplinary audience. The journal not only publishes these papers but also fosters discussions on new challenges encountered by researchers and engages with conceptual and methodological questions in the field. Additionally, each issue includes a section for book reviews, aiming to enrich the dialogue on historical geography and toponomastics.

The Review actively promotes high-quality scholarship across a range of topics in historical geography and toponomastics.

The themes explored in the journal include:

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

This variety of themes encourages a comprehensive examination of the relationship between geography and history, fostering a deeper understanding of how these fields interact.

The journal emphasizes the publication of high-quality papers that significantly advance the understanding of historical-geographical systems. The editors are keen to receive submissions that explore various aspects of theory, methods, and spatial analysis models. With a multidisciplinary approach, the journal welcomes contributions from diverse fields such as geography, history, economics, environmental studies, and onomastics, fostering a rich dialogue across disciplines.

The 19<sup>th</sup> RHGT volume (issues 37-38) includes six articles on **historical geography and toponymy**.

The first article of the volume examines the recent trends in hiking accidents within the Bucegi Mountains, located in the southern Romanian Carpathians. Researchers Mihai Jula, a young PhD student, and Mircea Voiculescu from the West University of Timișoara analyzed hiking incidents that occurred between 2011 and 2020, utilizing data provided by the Sinaia – Cota 1400 Mountain Rescue Public Service. A total of 800 rescues were investigated, including numerous incidents and accidents. The study area was well selected, with 419 registered injuries and 21 deaths among hikers. Meteorological conditions influenced 402 of these events. The authors noted that 60 percent of incidents occurred during descent, while only 3 percent were unrelated to the travel direction, including dog bites, bee stings, and bear encounters. Nearly half of the injured individuals experienced sprains, fractures, and multiple injuries. Other incidents reported included exhaustion, panic, fatigue, and wandering. Conversely, only a few cases of faintness, hypothermia, heart disease, stroke, hypoglycaemia, and kidney colic were documented. The article concludes that many victims were inadequately equipped for hiking in the Bucegi Mountains.

Giuseppe Greco, an independent Italian researcher, writes the second article in this volume. The author wrote a study on the ancient place of Caesariana in Lucania, Italy. The location of Caesariana has been a topic of considerable debate in prior studies, with many of these studies presenting varying opinions on its exact site. By examining the toponym Caesariana through a multidisciplinary lens, the author has reconstructed the historical narrative of this ancient settlement. Focusing on the evolution of its name and the sociocultural context of Italy during the Augustan Age, the author posits that Caesariana was likely situated on the Tyrrhenian Lucanian coast, close to the ancient site of Nerulum, which is now known as Lagonegro.

The following article, co-authored by Francesco Perono Cacciafoco and his colleagues from Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University in Suzhou, China, and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, explores the heritage and significance of hawker centres in Singapore. The article focuses on the names of food and beverages available at hawker centers in Singapore. The authors investigate etymological claims, integrating synchronic and diachronic linguistics with aspects of history, culture, food sciences, and social studies related to Singapore. They argue that the trustworthiness of etymologies increases when they correspond with the linguistic characteristics of Singapore's language environment, the language of origin, and pertinent historical context. Ultimately, the authors conclude that the naming process in Singapore is significantly influenced by visual associations.

The fourth article focuses on the historical geographies of Compostela, written by Jorge Sobota. He investigates Libredón as a pre-Roman Celtic site associated with Santiago de Compostela. Notably, since about half of Galicia's toponyms are derived from Celtic language roots, Sobota posits that the Celtic language spoken in the region bears more resemblance to Irish (Gaelic) than to Gaulish (Brittonic). Consequently, he explores a purely Celtic interpretation of the toponym Libredón, along with a review of the Latin etymology of Arcis Marmoricis, both of which are referenced in the legends of Santiago.

Sobota also describes the topography, hydrography, and the structures that existed in Libredón from the Celtic era through the Roman occupation. An intriguing aspect of his

research includes the etymology of the toponym 'Duno' and its variations found in Galicia and the Iberian Peninsula. He compares these toponyms with similar roots in France. Additionally, the author speculates on a possible pre-Roman religious context for the site where the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela currently stands, suggesting a connection between Libredón and the worship of the deity Lug. Given that Libredón served as a funerary hill in a region predominantly influenced by Celtic culture, it might have been the dwelling place of Dôn, the Gaelic god of death. In conclusion, this article enriches the discourse surrounding toponymy and the pre-Roman history of Santiago de Compostela.

The next article examines the evolution of street names in Făgăraș, a town located in southern Transylvania, authored by Ionel Boamfa from 'Al.I. Cuza' University of Iasi, Romania. Boamfa investigates street naming patterns from the Middle Ages to the present day. He notes that the earliest documented references to the town relate to its streets, with significant mentions occurring in the 16th century. The article reveals that many of the names of streets and squares, particularly in the central area of Făgăraș, are documented in various sources, including statistical and fiscal records (such as conscriptions), city plans, and press articles, primarily originating from the Habsburg/Austro-Hungarian administration prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As the town underwent considerable changes, shifts in street names began to manifest following the Union of Transylvania with Romania in 1918, during the transition to the communist regime after 1945, and upon the return to democracy after 1989. Additionally, Făgăraș experienced significant territorial expansion, which contributed to an increase in the number of new street names over time. This article highlights the intricate relationship between historical events and the evolving landscape of street naming in Făgăraș.

The sixth study in this volume is authored by Emilia Sarno and Nicole Nunzi from University Telematica Pegaso, Italy. Their research focuses on the recent evolution of the silver economy in southern regions of Italy, exploring how elderly individuals have engaged in various activities related to this economic sector to supplement their budgets. The study highlights how senior citizens are actively contributing to Italy's GDP by taking on part-time jobs within the silver economy. This involvement not only helps improve their financial situation but also underscores the significant role that older adults play in the economic landscape of the region.

In conclusion, this volume fosters new discussions in the fields of place naming and historical geography. The compilation of six papers emphasizes the significance of toponymy and historical geographies as essential areas of study for both the younger generation of researchers and established scholars. This collection serves as a valuable resource, inspiring further inquiry and exploration within these important disciplines.

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

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