

**Mile Tomici, *Onomastica sârbilor și a croaților din România (nume de persoane și nume de locuri)*, București, Editura Academiei Române, 2006, 523 p. (Cristina Radu-Golea)**



*Onomastica sârbilor și a croaților din România (nume de persoane și nume de locuri)/ The Onomastics of Serbs and Croats in Romania (Names of Persons and Places)* is the first lexicographic study on names of persons and places belonging to Serbs and Croats in Romania, collected between 1963 and 2006 in the 71 localities of Arad, Caraș-Severin and Timiș counties, where Romanian citizens of these nationalities live. The names were excerpted from *Registrul agricol/ The Agricultural Register*, but the information was completed during the investigations performed on the spot, with the help of some local subjects (as the source of phonetic and morphological variants, of diminutives, hypocoristic names, appellations, etc.) The onomastic corpus

published in the form of a dictionary, in two parts (I. *Names of persons*; II. *Names of places*) contains more than 10,000 names (7,252 anthroponyms and 3,042 toponyms) analyzed from linguistic and onomastic standpoints (etymology, onomastic category, distribution, etc.).

The two parts of the onomastic dictionary are preceded by concise studies on the structure and typology of anthroponyms (first names, surnames, appellations), as well as toponyms used by the Serbs and Croats living in Romania, a sort of brief introduction to the anthroponymy and toponymy characterizing these nationalities.

The work contains original materials, collected and interpreted by high-standing professionals, materials available to those studying Slavic and Romanian linguistic contacts at the level of an onomasticon or dialect in general, constituting a valuable source for the reconstruction of the etymology and genesis of names and common words in the Romanian regions where the South-Western Slavic influence is strong. There are rare forms among the morphological ones and lexical units, in particular those concerning appellations, or, as the author specifies, lexical unique forms, which are to complete *Tezaurul lexical și onomastic al României/ The Lexical and Onomastic Thesaurus of Romania*.

The *Introductory Study* of the book outlines in a concise and concentrated manner the most important historical and linguistic aspects of the Serbian and Croatian population in Romania, as well as of the Croats living in the seven localities of Caraș-Severin county, who made the object of a rich historical and cultural literature, and of the Serbs near Lugoj, known as the “*muntenegreni*” (meaning “the inhabitants of Montenegro”) of Banat.

One should also mention as essential contributions to Slavic and Romanian dialectology, the classification of Serbian dialects in Romania and their connection

with the reappearance of the Serbian language in a dialectal form in general, as well as the stratification of Serbian dialects in Romania “in terms of the preservation of archaic elements” (p. 10). Considering that Mile Tomici carried out a systematic activity of research on Serbian and Croatian dialects and onomastics in Romania, we agree that we should seriously take into account his suggestion to continue research in this domain (he proposes 11 necessary and possible titles on topics related to folklore, dialectology and onomastics and in the end, *Istoria sârbilor și a croaților din România/ The History of Serbs and Croats in Romania*), and to perform similar research with regard to Romanians in Serbia.