

A NEW & FASCINATING WORK ON TRABZON MONUMENTS¹

Throughout history, Trabzon has been hosting and sheltering numerous civilizations. Due its rich past and preserved culture, the city could have brought much of its heritage to the present day. Trabzon's heritage and natural beauty may well exceed one's expectations. It is placed on the route of Historical Silk Road, as a port initially reached by ships and then by camel caravans throughout Macka district, Zigana Mountain Chains, Bayburt and Erzurum cities, as a passage for travelers and commodities. The city also was a stage for everyone who intended to go Central Asia or China. Because of this reason, the city of Trabzon has been settled since Antiquity, being mentioned by Xenophon and Arrianus. Trabzon housed numerous monuments of different civilizations due its long past.

In the first years of Turkish Republic (1923), due to the construction of Ankara-Erzurum Railway, Trabzon lost its commercial gravity but has always protected its historical and cultural importance. Edged by the angry waves of the Black Sea, blue and greenness are close friends and woven like embroidery frame, championing a unique city in Anatolia. Despite cursory preservation of its monuments, Trabzon is currently an open air museum for fine art researchers, archeologists, historians and anthropologists. All those scientific branches could find something appropriate for their works or unearth a new invention bringing a different aspect to the known realities.

Professor Vasile M. Demciuc from the Suceava University/Romania paid several visits to Trabzon over the last decade. During these visits, he worked on Byzantine Monuments in the city and its vicinity. His work entitled *Trapezunt – Byzantine fascination and spiritual landmark* is an accumulation of information focusing on detailed features of Byzantine period monuments in Trabzon. The book consists of almost all distinctive monuments in the city; it starts with a comprehensive historical

¹ Vasile M. Demciuc, *Trapezunt: fascinație și reper spiritual bizantin*, București, Editura Basilica, 2014, p.310.

explanation of the city. During his studies on Trapezunt, the author tried to see all related sources including Greek and Turkish works regarding the city. That is why his work has a comprehensive bibliography and a lot to contribute new findings into the history of the city.

The first monument the book tackled with is the Monastery of Vazelon located in Macka sub-district of Trabzon. I remember, four years ago we had climbed up the said monastery together with Professor Vasile M. Demciuc and worked in the ruins all the day. There was a small chapel in front of the monastery in which some pieces of frescoes were still visible. In his book, Professor Demciuc adds a drawing of the chapel and gives distinctive information about remaining fresco pieces of small chapel. He also gives the measures of the chapel and monastery defining main areas which accessible through ruins. One of the most important information regarding the Monastery of Vazelon and its chapel is the drawing showing internal perspective of building. The aim of the drawing is to mark the fresco narrative of the Chapel by numbers. Despite his hard work arranging an internal plan for such a ruined construction, the author had done a fascinating job.

The famous Monastery of Sumela is the second monument analyzed in the book. It was built clinging to a cliff face, on a sharp sloping rock in the Altındere Valley National Park, at the borders of Macka district. It is located on the Historical Silk Road, at the north eastern side of Turkey, and at 43 kms away from Trabzon. As it was dedicated to Mother of Jesus, Virgin Mary, the local people call it Mother Mary Monastery ("Meryemana Manastırı"). Its original name is "Panaghia tou Melas" meaning "The Virgin of Black Rock". There has been ongoing restoration works in Sumela since 1990's. At the beginning of 2016, because of growing danger of falling rock pieces from the top, no visitors are allowed to enter into the monastery. This case makes Professor Demciuc's book more important than ever because it is delivering vital information about the internal features of building. However, he spared special time on the monastery and tried to unearth some new findings regarding the building. Sumela is the most famous monastery bearing almost 200 fresco scenes which mostly visible and distinguishable at present. Focusing on the history of the Monastery, Professor Demciuc gives impressive knowledge regarding the building.

In addition, the author focuses on the monuments located mostly in the center of Trabzon. Many of these monuments were converted into mosques during Ottoman period and they are still in use. Professor

Demciuc enriched his book with drawings including outer and inner perspectives of these buildings. The drawings are splendid works and give an idea about the monument. The “Haghia Sophia” is also included in the book; during the last years, it has been reconverted into mosque while being a museum. The inner and outer drawings and knowledge regarding “Haghia Sophia” worth to talk about. At the last pages of the book there are color pictures showing some of the monuments explained in the book.

Professor Demciuc’s book is 310 pages, including a Trabzon map and important Byzantine monuments marked on; it also has a rich bibliography. Finally, it is clear that *Trapezunt – Byzantine fascination and spiritual landmark* is an exciting book written after a rigorous survey process and brings out some new findings regarding the city of Trabzon and its monuments.

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THE RZECZPOSPOLITA POLITICAL CRISIS IN THE MID-SIXTEENTH CENTURY: THE HISTORIOGRAPHICAL DEBATE CONTINUES²

The subject of the review is a book written by PhD. Ewa Dubas-Urwanowicz under the title: *O nowy kształt Rzeczypospolitej: kryzys polityczny w państwie w latach 1576-1586*. The author is a lecturer at the University of Białystok at the History and Social Faculty. In her historical studies she is interested in the modern and common history of Poland from

² Ewa Dubas-Urwanowicz, *O nowy kształt Rzeczypospolitej: kryzys polityczny w państwie w latach 1576-1586* [The new shape of the Republic: the political crisis in the country between 1576-1586], Warszawa, Wydawnictwo DiG, 2013, 250 s.

the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, including the operation of parliament and politics of the Republic of Poland. The reviewed item concerns the political crisis in Polish-Lithuanian state during the reign of Stefan Batory, particularly with regard to his internal policy. It was divided into four chapters, each of which contains political forces affecting the political situation in Polish-Lithuanian state (the king, the nobility, Jan Zamoyski and Zborowski family).

This book is about a ruler who, in order to achieve his objectives in the internal and external policy is able to do everything, even almost completely break off cooperation with the chamber of deputies during the general parliaments, what was undoubtedly seen at that time as one of the foundations of mixed monarchy system of the Republic of Poland. The author very well highlighted some moments where transylvanian king "collaborated" with the nobility, but with each such case she indicated that this was not due to the kindness of the king, but other causes that were largely favorable to the monarch.

Ewa Dubas-Urwanowicz underlined in her thesis, that in a large extent to the image of the ruler, who was insensitive to attempts of repairing the state by the chamber of deputies, had an influence Jan Zamoyski, who helped him as he could betraying at the same to his convictions and betraying the idea of the needs to reform the state (including the initiated ones during enforcement movement) as also the noble society, to whom he owed among other the position he has achieved in the state.

A very important issue in the book was to show that the noble guild all the time of Stefan Batory reign did not fight against the ruler himself, but with the situation in the country (no possibilities of reforms). Until the end they believed that their demands will be fulfilled, but as the author pointed out, since the parliament in 1582, the nobility has been losing confidence to the transylvanian ruler. An extremely important argument portrayed in the book is that the members of the lower house of the Old Polish Parliament were not mindless group of people, who could be exploited by the opposition oligarchs (including the Zborowski family) for their own purposes using their passwords. On the contrary, the nobility took the opportunity to strengthen their struggle for changes in the state using for that the influential people.

The author also presented the disastrous role of the Zborowski family in deepening political crisis of the state. It was shown especially in the last

chapter where Ewa Dubas-Urbanowicz concentrated on attempts of Zborowski family to regain its political position before 1576. Everything started from dissatisfaction with the neglecting of them during distributing authorities by Batory at the beginning of the reign. Zborowski thought that they deserved many offices because they contributed to that Stefan Batory was enthroned. However only one of the brothers named Jan became Castellan of Gniezno nad Court Hetman of the Crown. There are three essential periods in relations between monarch and Zborowski house. First, after 1580 (then died Piotr Zborowski, the leader of family). Since then all brothers, except Jan, escalated the conflict with the king using methods which were a threat to inner peace and politics of Republic of Poland. Second date is 1583. In this year was born an idea (Stefan Batory and Jan Zamoyski) concerning a political destroying of Zborowski house, that is Samuel, Krzysztof and probably Andrzej.

Last date is 1584 when Samuel was decapitated and Zborowski family has lost irreparably its political position in country. After that brothers united (except Jan) to fight against king. Final settlement come up next year when Krzysztof had a trial during general parliament. It's all decided about hatred against the ruler, and any subsequent action directed against the own king, what resulted in even greater aggravation of the social and political tearing of the state, which broke out with a full power at the end of 1586.

In my opinion, the whole book has a pessimistic overtone. No efforts of the king to improve the functioning of the state, where he had to rule, striving with all the power in foreign policy by all possible means to regain Transylvania and if it would be only possible also the whole Hungary (about what it is difficult to have a resentment to the king in his situation), complete ignoring of an existing law (convocations of the senate), the dispute throughout his whole reign with Zborowski family, and ending with the leaving of the Republic of Poland in complete political ruin, with the great divisions of the society, during the III interregnum.

The author, however, also noted the benefits of the monarch reign, (including the Moscow defeat to the east and guaranteeing the peace for long years), what certainly proves that this book was not written unilaterally to only defame Stefan Batory.

At the end Ewa Dubas-Urwanowicz pointed out that only the king and the nobles aspired to political change in the country. Zamoyski was only interested in increasing his position in the state and planning for his future,

perhaps as a ruler of the Republic of Poland, and Zborowski family was pushed forward against the king only in revenge.

A huge number of sources, including those foreign (for example austrian and lithuanian) and studies shows good preparation of the author to write selected topic. It is very important that at this book we can find not only polish sources. It helps readers with understanding a political situation in Republic of Poland by showing an external opinion about Poland and Lithuania in XVI century. Readable page and annotation layout should also be counted as a plus of this book. It is very intelligible for people who did not study history or were not interested in it. In the thesis I was unable to provide more extensive information contained in the last chapter, which dealt with the role of the Zborowski family in the deepening of political split of Polish-Lithuanian state. Ewa Dubas-Urwanowicz did not put up everytime enough information about convocations of the senate or assemblies of council after the general parliaments. She reduces to showing sometimes what the topic of assembly was and points some people who took part in it. In my opinion there should be more details about a subject of conversations and a list of people who were there ought to be longer and more detailed. In some parts of book, I found mistakes.

Sometimes the author wrote wrong specific date. Once wrote something what surprised me. According to it Jan Zamoyski in some moment forgot that without cooperation with the nobles it is hard to lead to "create political construction". I think this thesis is wrong and Zamoyski could not forget about it. Undoubtedly, presented by the author issue will broaden knowledge about the reign of Stefan Batory, which, when it particularly comes to internal policy, was often presented in a cursory and usually the most positive way. Surely this book has a scientific character and I encourage to read it everybody who is interested in history, want to get to know something more about polish history or desires to get interesting book.

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SYNTHESIS ON THE EDUCATION IN BUKOVINA DURING THE AUSTRIAN RULE³

Constantin Ungureanu (born April 17, 1968, Cupca village, Hliboca District, Chernivtsi region, graduate of the Faculty of History of the "Ion Creanga" University in Chernivtsi), is a prominent researcher in the history of Bukovina, who completed his PhD in 1997 on the *Ethno-demographic evolution of Bukovina during 1774-1850*. Author of more than 100 studies and scientific articles mainly on the history of Bukovina during the Austrian Rule, published in specialized journals and collective volumes in Romania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - has benefited by several documentation and research scholarships in Germany (Munich and Augsburg) and Austria (Vienna). His most important works on the history of Bucovina are: *Bucovina during the Austrian Rule, 1774 - 1918. Ethnic demographics and religious aspects*, Chisinau, Civitas Publishing, 2003, 304 p. *Primary Education in Bukovina (1774-1918)*, Chisinau, Civitas Publishing, 2007, 336 p. He is currently employed as a coordinating scientific researcher at the History Institute of Moldova Science Academy.

This paper successfully completes his previous research on the evolution of education in Bukovina under the Austrian rule. The book uses an exhaustive bibliography comprising a plurality of funds from the *State Archive of Chernivtsi Region, Bucharest National Archives, National Archives - Suceava Department* and various sources, yearbooks, school statistics (in German and Romanian), periodicals, general and specialized papers (Romanian, German, Austrian and Ukrainian).

The work of Mr. Constantin Ungureanu - *Education in Bukovina during the Austrian Rule (1774-1918)* is remarkable for its excellent structure and quantitative and qualitative symmetry of chapters. The book contains an extensive *Introduction*, in accordance with academic rules; five chapters (pursuing in parallel the chronological and thematic evolution of all levels of education on the territory of Austrian Bukovina); a *Conclusion* (which contains summary information about primary, secondary and higher

³ Constantin Ungureanu, *Sistemul de învățământ din Bucovina în perioada stăpânirii austriece (1774-1918)*, Chișinău, S. n., 2015, p.456.

education); annexes consisting of 70 statistical tables and the description of Chernivtsi University Senate during the Austrian rule; bibliography (judiciously structured); a summary in German and English.

The value of Mr. Constantin Ungureanu's work is given by the following:

- richness of unpublished sources used (over 15 funds from Chernivtsi Region Archives; seven funds from the National Archives of Romania, three funds from the National Archives - Suceava Department and the unprecedented work - the manuscript of George Tofan, *Public Education in Bukovina*).

- use of numerous collections of documents, yearbooks and school statistics (90% German and 10% Romanian).

- periodicals (falling chronologically between the last decades of the nineteenth century and the 2000s) published in: Bucharest, Suceava, Radauti, Chernivtsi, Chisinau, Vienna, Augsburg, Stuttgart etc.

- an impressive number of general and special works (mostly German and Romanian).

- highlighting the place and role of education at all levels in the Duchy of Bukovina, in the school and higher education system of Cisleithania.

- outlining the multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic, multi-confessional specificity of education in Bukovina during 1774-1918.

- he established an analytic-synthetic and highly accurate description of the mosaic-like picture of nationalities and their importance in the development of education, culture and spirituality in Bucovina.

Although at first glance the style the book is written in appears to be technical, due to the enormous amount of facts and figures, these elements are actually very relevant considering the fact that they are a product of the historical and statistical interpretation of mostly unpublished or inaccessible information (being written in German).

The monographic work *The Educational System in Bucovina during the Austrian Rule (1774-1918)* is a very valuable contribution to the historiography of Bucovina, benefiting by the double cultural-linguistic Romanian-German quality.

The author believes that at the beginning of the Austrian rule the education level in Bucovina had outrun that of the rest of Moldova, in that this territory had a multitude of schools dependent on churches and monasteries (notably the *Episcopal School of Radauti* and *Putna Theological*

Academy). However, most of the population remains quasi-illiterate in the early stages of evolution of Bukovina under the Austrian rule.

During the military administration (1774-1786), the education system was reorganized and nationalized. Gradually, the old Moldovan schools were closed, new ones were opened in German and Romanian teaching. At the end of the military administration, the education system in Bukovina was still underdeveloped.

During the Galician administration (1786-1848), education in Bucovina was characterized by stagnation. There followed a brief period of progress (1786-1793), after which the education system had regressed again. The most important educational institution teaching in Romanian was the Clerical School of Chernivtsi (functional between 1786 and 1818). It was a notably unfortunate time period for the Romanian education in the province during 1815-1844, when primary schools were under the jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic Consistory of Lemberg.

Between 1848-1869 the network of primary schools in Bucovina had significantly developed, the number of educational institutions tripled compared to the year 1850. However, enrollment rate remained at a very low level. In the last decades of the nineteenth century, the number of students was between 7300 and 8300.

During the sixth-seventh decades of the above-mentioned century, the Austrian Parliament adopted a number of important laws on the modernization of society and the economy. These laws included education, so that the separation of education from church authority was proclaimed in 1869. In 1873 the Bukovina Diet adopted the legislation which established the types of schools and how they functioned.

At the end of the Austrian rule, the Provincial School Board was made up of 16 people, divided by nationality: six Germans, four Romanians, four Ukrainians, 1 Polish and a Jew.

A highlight of education in Bucovina is the establishment in 1875 of the Franz-Josephs Universität Czernowitz, as a counterweight to the universities in Romania - Iasi (1860) and Bucharest (1864).

Before the beginning of World War I, the primary education in the duchy was superior to the one in Bessarabia, Romania and even to Transylvania and Banat (during this time period, only 62% of Romanian children of school age were enrolled in primary education, whereas in Bucovina there were 95%).

The work of Mr. Constantin Ungureanu is a highly important landmark for the studies of cultural history of the Duchy of Bukovina, as part of Cisleithania and the dualistic Empire, remarkable for the clarity of analysis, scientific accuracy, use of a large variety of sources and also for the interconnection between history, demography and statistics.

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