

**Ion Popescu-Sireteanu, *Cercetări de antroponimie istorică și etimologie*
(Memoria limbii române, VI), Iași, Editura Printis, 2016, 224 p.
(Loredana-Maria Ghioală)**



The book *Cercetări de antroponimie istorică și etimologie* (Memoria limbii române, VI), by Ion Popescu-Sireteanu, includes a collection of studies and articles on the origin of Romanian historical names: *brodnici*, *bordoni*, *Țara Litua* and *Litovoi*, *Seneslau*, *Basarab*, *Radu*, *Glad*, *Gelu* and some appellations. Some studies in this book are republished with certain corrections and additions, the proper names and appellations being explained through Romanian.

In the present research, Ion Popescu-Sireteanu, unlike other researchers who believe that some proper names and appellations are loans, explains them through the Romanian language. The studies and articles on the origin of Romanian historical names present both historical information and etymological aspects.

The collection contains information about the people who have lived on the Romanian territory since ancient times (*Ethnicity of the Brodniks and Bordones. Linguistic arguments; Dacia in the 11th century and early 12th century*), but mainly since the medieval period of the principalities (*The country of Litua and voivode Litovoi; The Romanian Duke Kean/Chean. Origin of the name; The name of the Romanian voivode Seneslau; The Romanian historical name Tihomir; The Romanian name Basarab; The personal name Udobă; The name Radu; The name of Duke Glad from Banat; The names Ahtum, Othum, Aiton, Oiton=Oltu; The name of the Romanian Duke Gelu; The names Vălc, Vâlc, Vâlcea, Vâlcea and other proper names and appellations*). Anthroponymic and etymological research gives consistency to the historical elements. Many chapters contain onomastic, ethnographic and etymological information (*Ethnographic and etymological considerations; The name Bârlad; The name Hârlău; The name of the town of Dorohoi; The place names Tulova, Tolova, Tolva; Aromanian anthroponymic suffixes; Native lexical nuclei*).

Ion Popescu-Sireteanu, in his etymological research, starts from the ideas published in *Limbă și cultură populară/ 'Language and popular culture'* (1983), which were resumed in this work, in the study *Native lexical nuclei*: “a path to follow in etymological research is that of identifying the nuclei inherited from the native stock and the steps of their phonetic and semantic diversity, under historical and ethnographic circumstances specific to the Romanians” (p. 153).

The author managed to identify such active lexical nuclei in the first centuries of the evolution of Romanian: *mold*, *bold* and *bord*, *hord* and *ord*, *tih-*. We can say that the phonetic and semantic diversification of the terms derived from these nuclei, resulting in the enrichment of the vocabulary, can be shown especially by researching Thracian-Dacian and Illyrian anthroponymy and toponymy “that can still provide

surprising results” (p. 151). Establishing etymology includes the analysis of previous solutions proposed by historians and philologists. The more important the name (*Basarab, Olt, Radu*), the more diversified the number of etymological solutions, and therefore counterarguments require more evidence. Some pages of research are critical, even controversial, but at the same time the author expresses his confidence that the discovery of new documents will lead to confirmations or nuances of the ideas expressed: “We cannot know if the explanation we proposed will be confirmed. It seems important that we open a new opportunity to clarify this historical name (referring to *Glad* – our emphasis) and place names of its family” (p. 78). In addition to historical names (*Seneslau, Basarab, Gelu, Vlad, Litovoi*) the research deals with words of regional circulation (*borlă, hodor, rază/radză*) which prove to be at the origin of the words *Bârlad, Dorohoi, răzeș*.

The study *The noun and the interjection lele* supplements the chapter entitled *Lele in Limbă și cultură populară* ‘Language and popular culture’ (1983). In this regard, the author emphasizes their meanings specified in *Dicționarul Academiei* ‘Academy dictionary’, bringing to the fore the origin of the interjection *lele* from the shepherd’s refrain *oi lele/o lele* and the songs about sheep. The noun *lele* which, on a certain territory, has become a noun, especially when placed before a female name, has the following derivatives: *lelică* and *lică, lelicuță, leliță, lelițică, lelițeană*, etc.

Thus, in conclusion, the author specifies that “the noun *lele* is a typical case of word which came into being in the Romanian language, was borrowed in old Bulgarian and today is regarded as a Bulgarian loan in Romanian from Old Slavic *lělja* (*matris soro*)/(mother’s sister), Bulg. *leľ* (aunt), Rusyn *leľika* (aunt), Serb. *ljene* (elder sister)” (p.167).

It is undeniable that the contributions of Professor Ion Popescu-Sireteanu must be present in the bibliography of any research paper in the field of anthroponymy, toponymy and etymology. The work is helpful to linguists, teachers and students alike in determining the origin of certain historical names. The detailed explanations and the professionalism of the researcher emanate from the entire work.