

**Constantin Șt. Mihălcescu, *Monografia satului Bâcleș,*
Județul Mehedinți, 1513-1988,
Craiova, Editura Alma, 2014, 160 p. (Maria Dobre)**



This book of exceptional graphic design embodies the duty of a son, Constantin Virgil Mihălcescu, a teacher, towards the author of this volume who passed away two decades ago, to shed light, in printed form, on the work he wrote with great tenderness and responsibility about his native places, the village of Bâcleș, and especially the locals. The book is based on solid documentation, of historical, linguistic, geographical, sociological nature, providing us with data on the village of Bâcleș in space and time, referring to events that marked the life of its inhabitants, information on occupations, education, religion of the villagers, as shown in the *Table of Contents*. After a short *Preface*, a real profession of faith: “We should feel the ancestral hearth where we were born, the lovely nature where we grew up, which have an aura of legend,

not only in the light of childhood, but also in the historical truth of the past and in the brightness of the present” (p.7) and an *Introduction*, the book is divided into the following chapters: I. The village of Bâcleș - Geography (p.15-50), II. History (p.51-64), III. Population (p. 65-90), IV Bâcleșu – social, economic and administrative framework (p. 92-96), V. Toponymy (p. 96-108) VI. Institutions (p.122-140).

A *General Bibliography* and *Appendices* with Documents and Poems belonging to the author and relating to the village of Bâcleș conclude the volume.

From the first chapter, the reader discovers the geographical location, landscape, communication routes, climate, hydrography, soil, vegetation and fauna of the village.

The second chapter aims at the presence in archival documents, from the first mention of the name in 1513 to World War II, the participation of the local people in Tudor Vladimirescu’s uprising and the War of Independence, the tribute of blood given by the villagers in the two world conflagrations.

In the third chapter, *Population*, the author’s attention turns to the villagers, following a number of genealogies: the families of Buzăiți, Bobocei, Bărăști, Lăpădătești, etc., the families of Mihalcea/ Mihălcescu, Magdalena Dumitrașcu, Bără Tudor, Lesne Dumitru, Logofătul Mihail, Duță Nicolae, Tatu Ioana, etc.

Names of places across the village are mentioned in broad contexts, in Chapter V, *Toponymy*.

In the next chapter, the research focuses on local institutions: Church, School, Village Hall, Post Office, Court, Bank, Hospital, Library, Cultural house.

In its entirety, the *Monograph of the Village of Bâcleș* represents an identity document of the village in the county of Mehedinți, a call addressed by the author to his contemporaries to respect their ancestors and honour them through their own actions.