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Coordinator's Foreword

The present issue of the *Studia UBB. Digitalia* is exclusively dedicated to articles written by students of the Babeș-Bolyai University. The idea of this special issue was born during a module of digital humanities we taught in the spring of 2020. The course was dedicated to students from different social sciences and humanities faculties from the university. Some of their final projects were so well accomplished and interesting, that we considered publishing them, and thus a special issue of our journal appeared as the best option. Given these prerequisites, we stress on the fact that all authors are at their first (major) editorial experience and while the peer-reviewers suggested many improvements for the texts – which were subsequently taken into account – their greenness might still be noticeable. Upon reflection, we did not consider this as a drawback, but rather a refreshing feature, pointing to the future of digital humanities research.

The contributions are original, methodologically correct and well-written, but their main accomplishment is the valid use of digital methods and tools, in order to highlight a research idea or to obtain an instrument potentially useful for a wider group. Through this issue, we try to support and encourage young researchers and help them further uncover the potential and beauty of employing digital techniques in humanist research. The texts go from the very practical, community-oriented, to academic endeavours building-up for future larger research.

The articles are diverse in nature, as they all revolve around historical research questions and problematics, but employ very different digital tools. Worth mentioning is that they all showcase samples, rather than work on exhaustive datasets, and have the potential to be further developed in the future. The first contribution deals with the pupils of the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș in the 1876-1877 school year. The author's purpose is to ingest the information extracted from the school's yearbooks into an Airtable database and make certain geographical annotations and visualizations with QGIS. The database facilitates systematization and opens the possibilities for more profound analyses – especially given the fact that the author also encoded the occupations of the fathers in HISCO. The geographical annotation, made on a historical 19th C map, highlights the predominant area of provenience of the students. The conclusions are nicely drawn and show the potential of the undertaking. The second contribution aims at creating an interactive map comprising certain cultural personalities from the Sibiu area, from the modern era. As in the case of the previous study, the first step was creating an Airtable database. This time, as we are dealing with major personalities, the database doesn't offer all available information, but concentrates on external links and geographical information – the map being, in this

case, the final product. The map shows the important geographical locations from each personality's life course, with biographical data and additional information available. As this map basically tells a story, it was imagined as a touristic tool, destined for the wider public. The next text is a network analysis on the foreign travelers who left accounts on the Romanian provinces, during the 1831-1840 period. The research employs Nodegoat and visualizes, besides geographic itineraries on historical maps, networks on education and professions, purpose of journey, as well as visited principality. The analyses results are valuable, serving as an example on how a relatively simple management and visualization tool can be used in historical research. The final article tackles a contemporary historic event, namely the Romanian 1989 revolution and works on interviews of eye witnesses. As digital technique, it uses text encoding, following the TEI guidelines and employing Oxygen as a tool. XML encoding proves, of course, very effective in systematizing the information and making them searchable and transposable into an online environment. This type of enterprise is worthwhile when working on oral sources. The review enclosed in the issue presents an important piece of bibliography, namely a book on the employments of GIS, photogrammetry and geophysics in Romanian prehistoric archaeology. Besides the numerous useful and punctual information it contains, the book is valuable because is one of the few overviews of these tools written in Romanian.

Digital humanities, when applied scientifically, has two main stakes: one is advancing knowledge on a certain field and getting to scientific results otherwise 'invisible', and the second is creating tools and instruments which can be used by other scholars or by the general public. Both these ends were met in the case-studies published in this issue. The thematic of the selected papers is very diverse, but all presented projects are characterized by solid methodology, original research scheme and desire to give back to the community through open access resources.

Rada VARGA

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The Construction of a Database with the Pupils of the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș and the Geographic Visualization of their Birthplace (1876/1877 School Year)

Alexandru-Augustin Haiduc[1]

Abstract: The article discusses the implementation of a database presenting the pupils that studied at the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș in the 1876/1877 school year and presents a series of geographic annotations made on a map of the Habsburg Empire, opened in QGIS, consisting in the birthplaces of the aforementioned pupils. The database and the geographic annotations presented here are already being developed to include further pupils that studied at the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș subsequent to the 1876/1877 school year. Therefore, the database and the geographic annotations are a pilot version of a broader project meant to conclude into a monograph regarding the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș in the 19th century and first quarter of the 20th century.

Keywords: database, Airtable, QGIS, Beiuș, high school, 1876/1877 school year

Argument

The historian Blaga Mihoc remarks, in one of his works, that the history of the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș/Belényes is largely cleared, despite few and less exploited primary sources being left aside[2]. At first sight, it seems tempting to subscribe to Mr. Mihoc's assertion, but a thorough analysis brings up the fact that actually no solid historical monograph of the respective school has been published. As detailed below, the historical literature of the topic is either methodologically outdated or it deals with only minor aspects of the High School. Therefore, I believe a

[1] 2nd year MA student, History; haiduc_alexandru1996@yahoo.ro.

[2] Mihoc, Blaga. *Biserică și societate în nord-versul României. Contribuții monografice* (Church and Society in Northwestern Romania. Monographic Contributions), Editura Logos '94, 2003, p. 117.

re-evaluation is not only legitimate, but also highly needed and the present paper is a step forward towards this aim.

The Historiography of the Subject

The historiography of the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș largely overlaps the historiography of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Oradea/Nagyvárad/Großwardein. However, if historical research about the eparchy was prohibited during the communist regime, literature on the high school has been published, within the framework of the larger topic of the Romanian national movement.

The historiography of the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș published prior to 1948 is mostly laudatory and lacking in critical perspective. This owes substantially to the social background of those who wrote about education within the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Oradea, mostly clerics or teachers. The two monographs, written by Traian Farcaș[3] and Constantin Pavel[4], are illustrative for the aforementioned historiographical context. The first one was published following the mandatory stipulations of the Hungarian legislation, while the second one was published on the centenary of the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș. Further information is also provided by the works of Petru Tămăian[5] and Petru Papp[6], but also by the monographs of the Greek Catholic Bishopric of Oradea[7] and its bishops (e.g. Mihail Pavel)[8].

After 1948, the research on the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș became scarcer, yet more methodical, as those preoccupied with the subject were professional historians from institutions such as The 'Criș Country' Museum[9], the Bihor County Service

[3] Farkas, Traian. *Istoria Gimnaziului gr. cat. de Beiuș (1828-1895)* (The History of the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș. 1828-1895), Tipografia Aurora, 1896.
[4] Pavel, Constantin. *Școalele din Beiuș. 1828-1928. Cu o privire asupra trecutului Românilor din Bihor* (The Schools of Beiuș. 1828-1928. A Look on the History of the Romanians from Bihor County), Tiparul Tipografiei Doina, 1928.
[5] Tămăian, Petru. *Istoria seminarului și a educației clerului diecezei române unite de Oradea* (The History of the Seminary and of the Education in the Greek Catholic Diocese of Oradea), Tipografia și litografia românească, 1930.
[6] Papp, Petru. *Din trecutul Beiușului, pagini de glorie și de jertfe* (From Beiuș' History, Pages of Glory and Sacrifices), Tiparul Tipografiei Doina, 1928.
[7] Radu, Iacob. *Istoria diecezei române unite a Orăzii Mari, 1777-1927. Scrisă cu prilejul aniversării de 150 de ani dela înființarea aceleia* (The History of the Greek Catholic Diocese of Oradea, 1777-1927. Written with the Occasion of the Celebration of 150 Years since Its Founding), Chiriașii tipografiei românești, 1932.
[8] Georgescu, Ioan. *Episcopul Mihail Pavel: viața și faptele lui (1827-1902). La o sută de ani dela nașterea și la douăzeci și cinci dela moartea lui* (Bishop Mihail Pavel: Life and Deeds (1827-1902). On the Occasion of 100 Years since His Birthdate and 25 Years since His Death), Tipografia și Librăria Românească Societate Anonimă, 1927; Bojor, Victor. *Episcopii Diecesei Gr. Cat. de Gherla acum Cluj-Gherla (1856-1939): biografii precedate de o introducere istorică documentară, cu mai multe ilustrații în text* (The Bishops of the Greek Catholic Diocese of Gherla, now Cluj-Gherla (1856-1939): Biographies Preceded by a Historically Documented Introduction, with Multiple Illustrations), 2nd ed., Editura Viața Creștină, 2000.
[9] Dudaș, Florian. "În legătură cu cel mai vechi anuar al gimnaziului din Beiuș" (About the Oldest Yearbook of the Beiuș High School). *Crisia*, no. 34, 2004, pp. 171-179; Faur, Viorel. "Din istoricul preocupărilor etnografice și folcloristice referitoare la așezările din Depresiunea Beiușului (1816-1918)" (About the History of the Ethnographic and Folkloristic preoccupations regarding the Beiuș Depression. 1816-1918). *Biharea*, no. 2, 1974, pp. 107-118; Faur, Viorel. "Istoricul bibliotecii Societății literare „Samuil Vulcan" din Beiuș (1862-1918)" (The History of the Library of the "Samuil Vulcan" Literary Society from Beiuș. 1862-1918). *Biblioteca și școala*, 1976, pp. 157-171; Faur, Viorel. "Societatea literară „Samuil Vulcan" din Beiuș" (The "Samuil Vulcan" Literary Society from Beiuș). *Crisia*, no. 4, 1974, pp. 246-298

of the National Archives[10] or the University of Oradea[11], but also from neighboring counties[12]. After 1989, the history of the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș gains a place in the revived historical writing on the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Oradea[13].

Sources and methodological aspects

Despite the rich and apparently thorough literature on the topic, the research supporting this paper is rooted mainly in unpublished sources preserved in the High School's archival fund at the Bihor County Service of the National Archives, mostly the yearly evidence of the pupils. Further information can be found in the fund of the Greek Catholic Bishopric, hosted by the same archival service. The yearly evidence registers the name, surname, confession, birthdate and birthplace, conduct, grades and other information about the pupils, such as the name, surname and social status of the

[10] Călușer, Iudita. "Un moment semnificativ din relațiile stabilite între școlile românești din Blaj, Beiuș și Năsăud în lupta pentru învățământul românesc" (An Important Moment in the Relations between the Romanian High Schools from Blaj, Beiuș, and Năsăud in the fight for Romanian education). *Crisia*, no. 8, 1978, pp. 417-431; Călușer, Iudita; Mălinaș, Constantin. "Contribuţii la cunoaşterea vieţii şi activităţii cărturarului bihorean Ioan Munteanu (1806-1860)" (Contributions regarding the life and the activity of Ioan Munteanu, scholar from Bihor. 1806-1860). *Crisia*, no. 11, 1981, pp. 141-160; Milian, Radu. "Școala ortodoxă și greco-catolică în Bihor în a doua jumătate a secolului XIX" (Orthodox and Greek Catholic Schools in Bihor in the Second Half of the 19th Century). *Crisia*, no. 30, 2000, pp. 229-255.

[11] Crăciun, Corneliu. *Sub destinul care arde. Ioan Bușiția*, Editura Logos '94, 2003; Hădăreanu, Gavril. *Torțe arzânde în țara Beiușului* (Burning Torches in the Beiuș Country), Editura Buna Vestire, 1995; Indrieș, Magdalena. Studiile clasice la gimnaziul din Beiuș (Classical Studies at the Beiuș High School). in Buzalic, Alexandru; Popescu, Ionuț Mihai, *230 de ani de la înființarea Eparhiei Române Unite de Oradea Mare*, Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2008, pp. 483-494; Mălinaș, Constantin. "Anuarul Liceului de la Beiuș la anul 1845" (The 1845 Yearbook of the Beiuș High School). *Crișana plus*, 16th of March 2003, p. 6.

[12] Andea, Susana; Andea, Avram. "Ratio educationis" și înființarea districtului școlar Oradea" ("Ratio educations" and the Foundation of the Educational District of Oradea). Crisia, no. 23, 1993, pp. 175-185; Neagu, Răzvan Mihai. "Studenți din comitatul Bihor la Facultatea de Teologie a Universității din Cernăuți (1875-1918)" (Romanian Students from the County of Bihor at the Faculty of Theology from the University of Cernăuți. 1875-1918). *Crisia*, no. 47, 2017, pp. 127-140; Pop, Aurel. "Theodor Köváry (Chioreanu), un vestit profesor la Beiuș născut la Portița". (Theodor Köváry (Chioreanu), a Famous Teacher of Beiuș born in Portița) *Acta Musei Porolissensis*, no. 34, 2012, pp. 173-176.

[13] Călușer, Iudita. *Episcopia greco-catolică de Oradea. Contribuții monografice* (The Greek Catholic Bishopric of Oradea. Monographic Contributions), Editura Logos '94, 2000; Călușer, Iudita. *Liceul român unit de fete din Beiuș. 1896-1948. Monografie istorică* (The Girls' Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș. 1896-1948. Historical Monograph), Editura Logos '94, 2011; Mălinaș, Constantin. Călușer, Iudita. *Biblioteca Gimnaziului Greco-Catolic de Băieți din Beiuș: 1828-1918* (The Library of the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș: 1828-1918), Editura Logos '94, 2006; Călușer, Iudita. "Instrucția preoților greco-catolici din episcopia de Oradea în secolul al XIX-lea" (The preparation of the Greek Catholic Priests from the Bishopric of Oradea in the 19th Century). *Crisia*, no. 26-27, 1996-1997, pp. 97-117; Călușer, Iudita. "Repere privind asociațiile și reuniunile cadrelor didactice greco-catolice din comitatul Bihor (1875-1923)" (Landmarks Regarding the Associations and Reunions of the Greek Catholic Teachers from the Bihor County. 1875-1923). *Crisia*, no. 23, 1993, pp. 215-222; Mihoc, *Biserică și societate*; Mihoc, Blaga. *În sprijinul cetății. Studii, articole și o addenda* (În sprijinul cetății. Studies, articles, and an Addendum), Editura Primus, 2019; Mihoc, Blaga. "Salarii, burse și împrumuturi. Contribuții la istoria Eparhiei greco-catolice de Oradea" (Salaries, scholarships, and loans. Contributions to the History of the Greek Catholic Bishopric of Oradea). *Crisia*, no. 43, 2013, pp. 131-150; Sana, Silviu-Iulian. *În slujba neamului: aspecte din istoria Episcopiei Greco-Catolice de Oradea* (În slujba neamului: Aspects of the History of the Greek Catholic Bishopric of Oradea), Editura Primus, 2017; Sana, Silviu-Iulian. *„... pentru sufletele credincioșilor săi...". Structuri bisericești și școlare în Eparhia Greco-Catolică de Oradea-Mare (1850-1900)* („... pentru sufletele credincioșilor săi...". Church and Educational Structures in the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Oradea. 1850-1900), Editura Universității din Oradea, 2011.

father, mother and/or guardian. The documents are written in Hungarian, in a standardized, easily understandable, form.

The information they provide was complemented by data from the school's yearbooks. The latter had been published regularly beginning with the 1876/1877 school year, and were edited by the head teachers of the high school starting with Petru Mihuțiu[14]. Corroborating the above-mentioned sources, and by means of digital tools, I aim at constructing a database with the high school's population in the medium- and long-term, in order to provide statistical series suitable for analyses.

Given that the main actors of the educational process are the students and the teachers, and taking into account the level of biographical information provided by the sources, my main approach will be prosopographical. Thus, the general goal of my research is to illustrate the evolution of the high school in the medium- and long-term, during the second half of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century, in terms of social structure of its population. To this end I have turned towards quantitative methods and digital tools, in particular historical data structuring, database construction and digital geographic annotations.

Why 1876/77? Prior to 1876, the high school's yearbooks have been published irregularly and the information they provide is lacunar and hard to associate with the data from the yearly evidence of the pupils[15]. While future research will most certainly cover earlier decades too, at this point I chose to focus on the first school year fully covered by both categories of sources.

The presentation of the database and of the geographic annotations

So far, the optics of my analysis moved from general to specific, from the history of the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș to the present research. Hereinafter, I will present the subject of my research from specific to general, from the case-study of a randomly selected student to the database and the geographic annotations.

4.1. The construction of the database

The pupil I will refer to is *Bálta Nicolau*[16] and, as mentioned above, was selected arbitrarily. The database was created in Airtable[17] and consists of a main table and other secondary tables linked to it. In the main table, each student was assigned an ID, based on the order recorded in the archival file, usually alphabetically for each grade (e.g. *Bálta Nicolau* was assigned ID no. 3). Further, I used different columns for the surname; Hungarian name of the pupil, as in the yearly evidence; Romanian name of the pupil, as in the yearbook (i.e. *Bálta*, *Miklós*, *Nicolau*). I also created three columns with predetermined options, one for the grade of the students, one for the confession of the

[14] Mihuțiu, Petru (ed.), *Reportu despre Gimnasiulu sup. gr. cat. de Beiusiu pentru anulu scol 1876-1877* (Report Regarding the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș in the 1876/1877 School Year), Tipariulu lui Ludovicu Hollósy, 1877.
[15] Dudaș, *În legătură cu cel mai vechi anuar*; Mălinaș, *Anuarul*.
[16] See the appendices.
[17] The database is available at the following link: https://airtable.com/shri1nSNjci1BgOwz.

students, using the terminology from the yearbook (*greco-catolică*, *greco-orientală*, *romano-catolică*, *helvetică*, *augustană*, *israelită*), and a column with other information, such as if the student was given a scholarship or not, if the student was repeating the school year or not and so forth. In *Bálta Nicolau*'s case, his grade was *1*, the confession *greco-orientală*, i.e. Orthodox, and there were no mentions added. In some cases, mainly private students, the yearly evidence only offers information regarding the name and surname of the pupils and, occasionally, also the confession.

Fig. 1. Screenshot with the main table of the database (https://airtable.com/shri1nSNjci1BgOwz, accessed 30 July 2020)

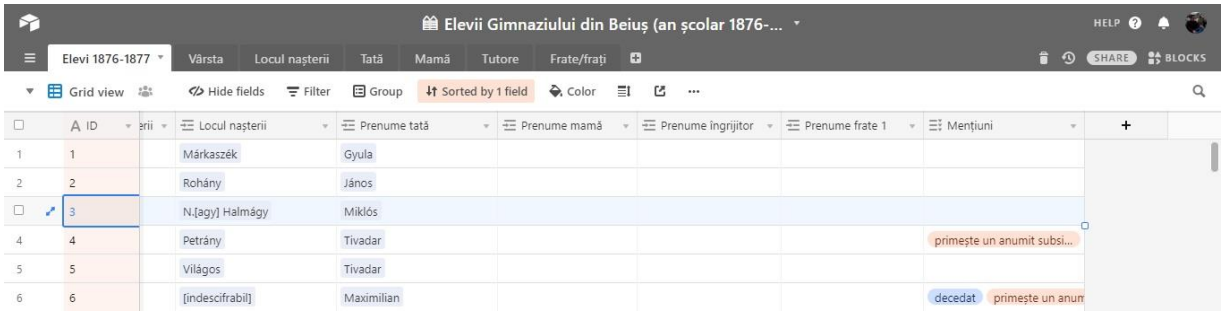


Fig. 2. Screenshot with the continuation of the main table of the database (https://airtable.com/shri1nSNjci1BgOwz, accessed 30 July 2020)

As for the secondary tables, one table illustrates the birthdate of the students. Each column, where the information was available, presents the year of birth, the month of birth (predefined selection) and the birthday. In *Bálta Nicolau*'s case only the information regarding the birth year is available: *1863*.

Fig. 3. Screenshot with the table presenting the birthdates of the pupils (https://airtable.com/shri1nSNjci1BgOwz, accessed 30 July 2020)

Another secondary table presents the birthplace of the students: the name of their birthplace in Hungarian, as in the yearly evidence, the present-day name of their birthplace, the county and the country or province of the Habsburg Empire. In *Bálta Nicolau*'s case it is *Nagy Halmágy*, *Hălmagiu*, *Zarand*, *Ungaria*. Of historical interest is the fact that even in the cases of students born prior to the incorporation of Transylvania to Hungary (1867), some teachers make distinction between Transylvania and Hungary, while others do not.

Fig. 4. Screenshot with the table concerning the birthplaces of the pupils (https://airtable.com/shri1nSNjci1BgOwz, accessed 30 July 2020)

The tables *Tată* (Father), *Mamă* (Mother) and *Tutore* (Guardian) have a similar structure and consist of columns presenting the name, surname, social status and mentions regarding the social status. When the yearly evidence indicated an occupation, I introduced codes from the HISCO/HISCLASS[18] classification systems of historical occupations: HISCO code, status code, relation code, product code, and HISCLASS code. For *Bálta Nicolau*, the name of the father was *Miklós* and his social status was that of farmer – *țăran (földmivelő)*. Other frequent occupations are those of teacher (*tanító*), priest (*lelkész*), notary (*jegyző* or other forms), retailer (*kereskedő*), craftsperson (*kézmüves*). The HISCO code for *țăran (földmivelő)* is *61110* and the assigned HISCLASS code is *12*. The HISCO/HISCLASS codes were added based on the sparse information offered by the yearly evidence and further information could determine the modification of the codes assigned. In *Bálta Nicolau*'s case, I could not assign codes for status, relation and product. Usually, the column *Mențiuni* (Mentions) shows the place where the father, mother or guardian lived, and when they were well known persons, I added links to information from different online sources. Generally, the name and social status of the mother are mentioned in the yearly evidence only

[18] Historical International Standard Classification of Occupations (HISCO) is a system of classification of the historical occupations, based on ISCO-68, developed in the late 1990s. Complementary to the ten major groups associated with the occupations, HISCO uses codes for status, relation and product. Based on HISCO, International Social Class Scheme (HISCLASS) was developed, a scheme meant to place the individual in a historical social hierarchy made of 12 major groups. For further information, see: van Leeuwen, Marco H.D.; Maas, Ineke; Miles, Andrew. *HISCO. Historical International Standard Classification of Occupations*, Leuven University Press, 2002; van Leeuwen, Marco H.D.; Maas, Ineke. *HISCLASS. A Historical International Social Class Scheme*, Leuven University Press, 2011.

when the father is deceased. Therefore, the status of the father was noted as deceased and that of the mother as widow - *văduvă* (*özvegy*, *ozv.*). Even though I encountered some cases of orphan pupils, the name and surname of guardian is not known in all cases and other pupils not mentioned as orphans have guardians.

Fig. 5. Screenshot with the table *Tată* (Father)
(https://airtable.com/shri1nSNjci1BgOwz, accessed 30 July 2020)

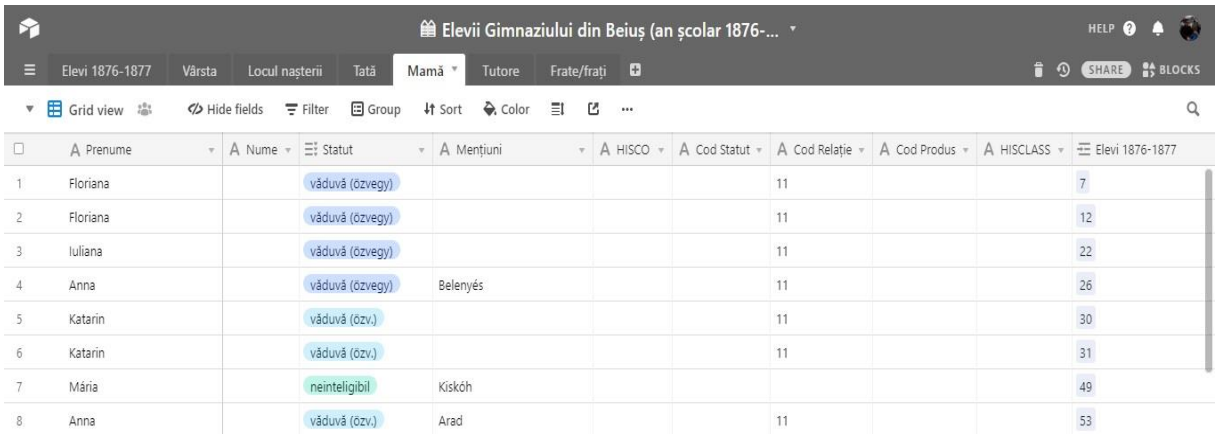


Fig. 6. Screenshot with the table *Mamă* (Mother)
(https://airtable.com/shri1nSNjci1BgOwz, accessed 30 July 2020)

Fig. 7. Screenshot with the table *Tutore* (Guardian)
(https://airtable.com/shri1nSNjci1BgOwz, accessed 30 July 2020)

In the case of some students, certain clues indicated that they were brothers. For instance, in the case of a pair of students bearing the same surname, with the same name of the father, the same occupation of the father and the same birthplace (for example, priest of the same confession, from the same village), I concluded that they were brothers and added them to the secondary table *Frate/frați* (Brother/brothers).

Fig. 8. Screenshot with the table *Frate/frați (Brother/brothers)* (https://airtable.com/shri1nSNjci1BgOwz, accessed 30 July 2020)

To summarize, a number of 203 students from the eight classes of education of the 1876/1877 school year were recorded. The subsequent school years are already being added to a different database that continues the database presented here[19]. The *Clasă* (Class) column was modified into *An și clasă* (School year and class), and the classes were noted as follows: 1876/1877_1, 1876/1877_2, 1876/1877_3, and so on. HISCAM[20] codes were also added to the extended database.

Airtable also offers a personal record for each pupil introduced in the database. The personal record presents the aforementioned information for each student.

[19] The database can be accessed at the following link: https://airtable.com/shrw3ycmoXbQ2gBYC.
[20] Lambert, Paul S. et alii. "The Construction of HISCAM: A Stratification Scale Based on Social Interactions for Historical Comparative Research." *Historical Methods. A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History*, 46, no. 2, 2013, pp. 77-89.

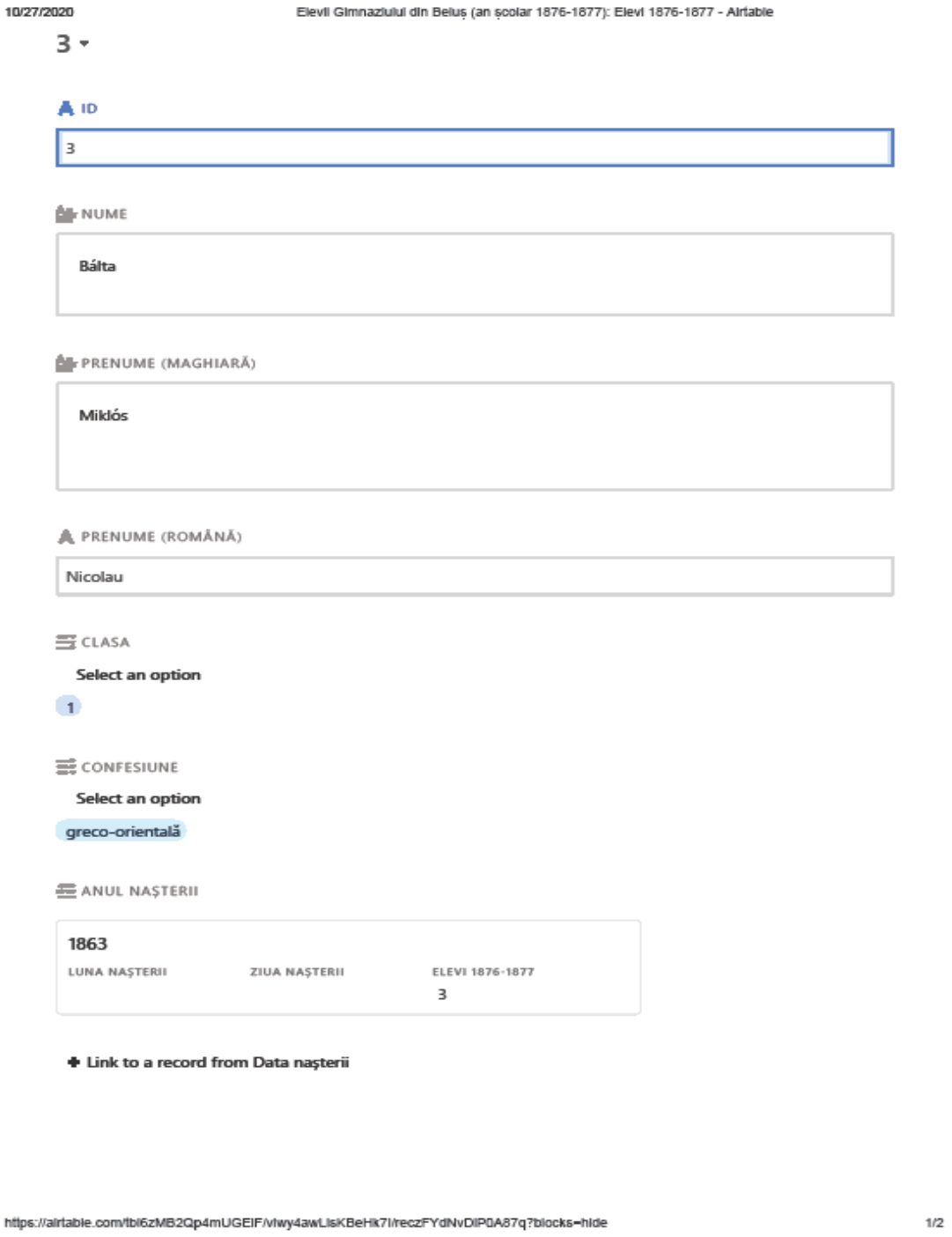


Fig. 9. Screenshot with the personal details of *Bálta Nicolau* (source: https://airtable.com/shri1nSNjci1BgOwz, accessed 30 July 2020)

4.2. The geographic annotations

The geographic annotations were added using QGIS on an 1856 map of the Habsburg Empire, realized by Joseph von Scheda[21]. Although the map is apparently

[21] The map is available at the following link: https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~201922~3000980:Composite-20-sheets--Karte-Des-

bygone compared to the school year 1876/1877, it is actually useful to recognizing the birthplace of the pupils, because their birthdate is more relevant to the date the map was published on than to that of the starting point of the school year.

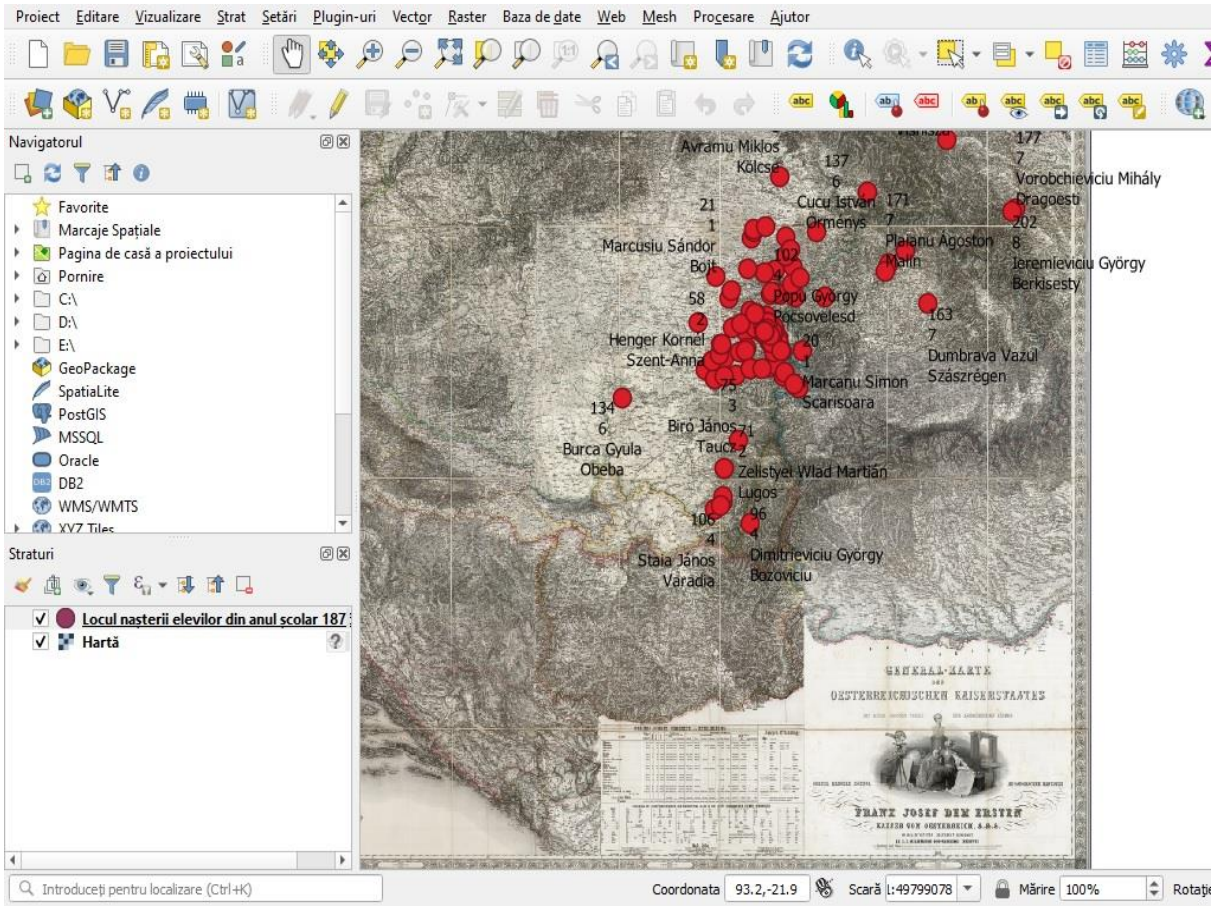


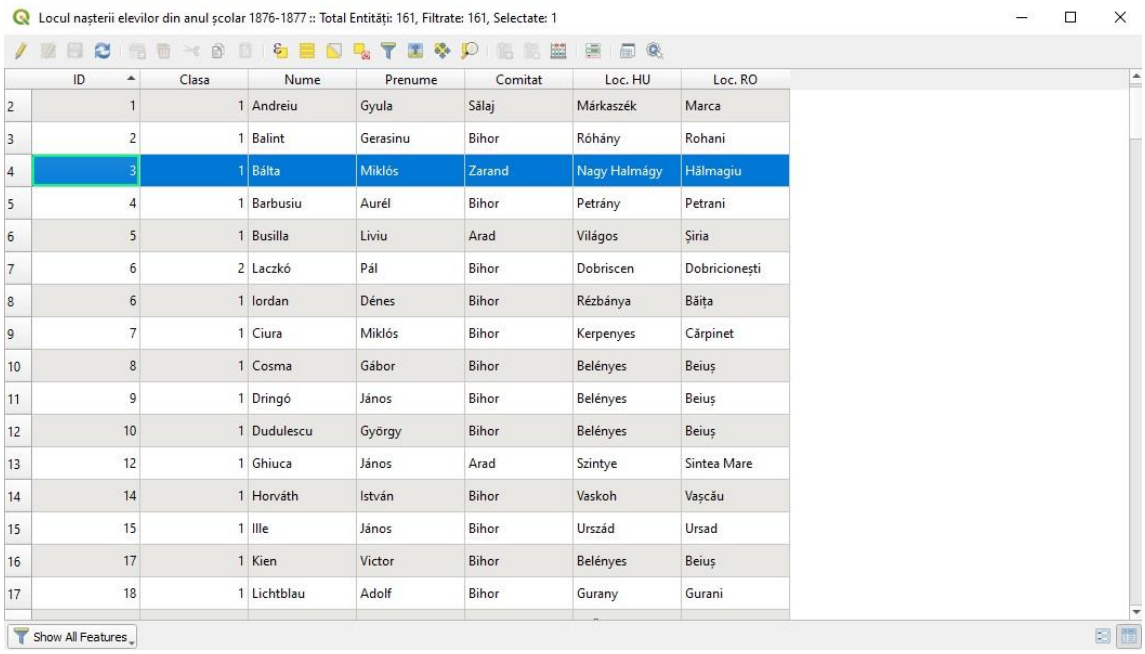
Fig. 10. Screenshot with a part of the map opened with QGIS

The aforementioned map was introduced as a layer in QGIS and the birthplaces of the students were marked as points on the map. Information regarding the ID from the database presented above, the grade, the surname and name in Hungarian, the county and the name of their birthplace, both in Hungarian and in their present-day Romanian counterpart, was attached to each point. Therefore, our sample student was noted as follows: ID *3*, *first* grade, surname *Bálta*, name *Miklós*, county *Zarand*, birthplace *Nagy Halmágy* or *Hălmagiu*.

Oest?sort=Pub_List_No_InitialSort%2CPub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No&qvq=q:hungary;sort:Pub_List_No_InitialSort%2CPub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=71&trs=1374

Fig. 11. Screenshot with a part of the map opened with QGIS, where Nagy Halmágy or Hălmagiu can be seen

The ID, grade, surname and name, and the name of the birthplace of the students in Hungarian is also available on the map, next to the point, not only in the attribute table. To outline, I attributed the birthplace of 160 students from the total of 203 students recorded in the database, because in some cases the name of the birthplace was illegible or not mentioned. The geographic annotations are currently being extended to the following school years, and the information regarding the class of the students was eliminated from QGIS in the new set of annotations.



	ID	Clasa	Nume	Prenume	Comitat	Loc. HU	Loc. RO
2	1	1	Andreiu	Gyula	Sălaj	Márkaszék	Marca
3	2	1	Balint	Gerasinu	Bihor	Róhány	Rohani
4	3	1	Bálta	Miklós	Zarand	Nagy Halmágy	Hălmagiu
5	4	1	Barbusiu	Aurél	Bihor	Petrány	Petrani
6	5	1	Busilla	Liviu	Arad	Világos	Șiria
7	6	2	Laczkó	Pál	Bihor	Dobriscen	Dobricionești
8	6	1	Iordan	Dénes	Bihor	Rézbánya	Băița
9	7	1	Ciura	Miklós	Bihor	Kerpenyes	Cărpinet
10	8	1	Cosma	Gábor	Bihor	Belényes	Beiuș
11	9	1	Dringó	János	Bihor	Belényes	Beiuș
12	10	1	Dudulescu	György	Bihor	Belényes	Beiuș
13	12	1	Ghiuca	János	Arad	Szintye	Sintea Mare
14	14	1	Horváth	István	Bihor	Vaskoh	Vașcău
15	15	1	Ille	János	Bihor	Urszád	Ursad
16	17	1	Kien	Victor	Bihor	Belényes	Beiuș
17	18	1	Lichtblau	Adolf	Bihor	Gurany	Gurani

Fig. 12. Screenshot with the Attribute table presenting the points added to the layer in QGIS.

Conclusions

To conclude, using the information provided by the yearly evidence and the yearbooks about the pupils that studied at the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș in the 1876/1877 school year, I constructed a database in Airtable and a series of geographic annotations in QGIS. These instruments facilitate a more intricate overview of the pupil's personal information, and with it they support the elaboration of future research hypothesis and questions, the some of which are addressed below.

At the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș, an educational institute supervized by the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Oradea, the majority of the students seems to be Orthodox. As a majority of the students seems to be born in the limits of the Eparchy, I believe that the High School served not only the interests of the Greek-Catholic population, but of the entire population that inhabited the territory of the Eparchy. Such a hypothesis could be tested by corroborating the information generated by the database and the geographic annotations with information provided by certain *schematismus*[22] of the Eparchy.

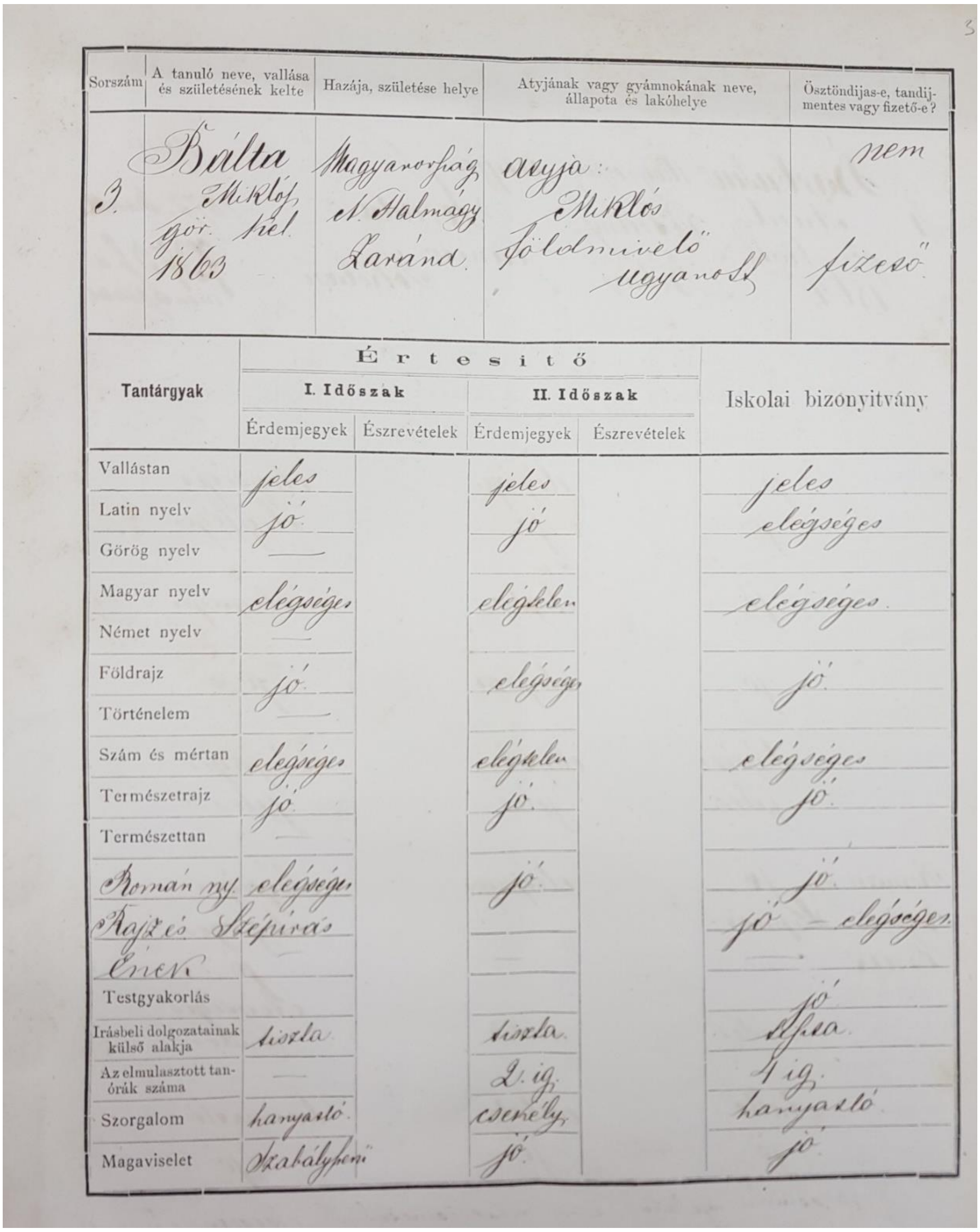
Corroborating data from a *schematismus* with the information facilitated by the database, it could be observed if the population of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Oradea reached universal education. Precisely, it could be checked if the concept of *fulfilment*[23], introduced by Raymond Grew, Patrick J. Harrigan and James Whitney to describe the moment when 85% of the children from a French department were scholarized and, thus, the department reached universal education, could be also applied in the case of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Oradea. For instance, when I will have recorded, in the database, all the children from the county of Bihor, born in 1862, that studied at the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș, I will be able to compare that number to the number of the entire population of Bihor, born in 1862. Furthermore, I could only consider the Romanian students, the vast majority of the students from Beiuș, and, thus, determine the scholarization of the Romanian population from Bihor, born in 1862, and even compare it with other geographical areas.

[22] Annual handbooks of institutions.
[23] Grew, Raymond; Harrigan, Patrick; Whitney, James. "The Availability of Schooling in Nineteenth-Century France." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 14, no. 1, 1983, p. 50.

Appendices

Appendix 1	[1877]	The yearly evidence of the pupil Bálta Miklós, for the 1876-1877 school year.
Appendix 2	1877	The list of the pupils from the first grade of the 1876-1877 school year.

Appendix 1

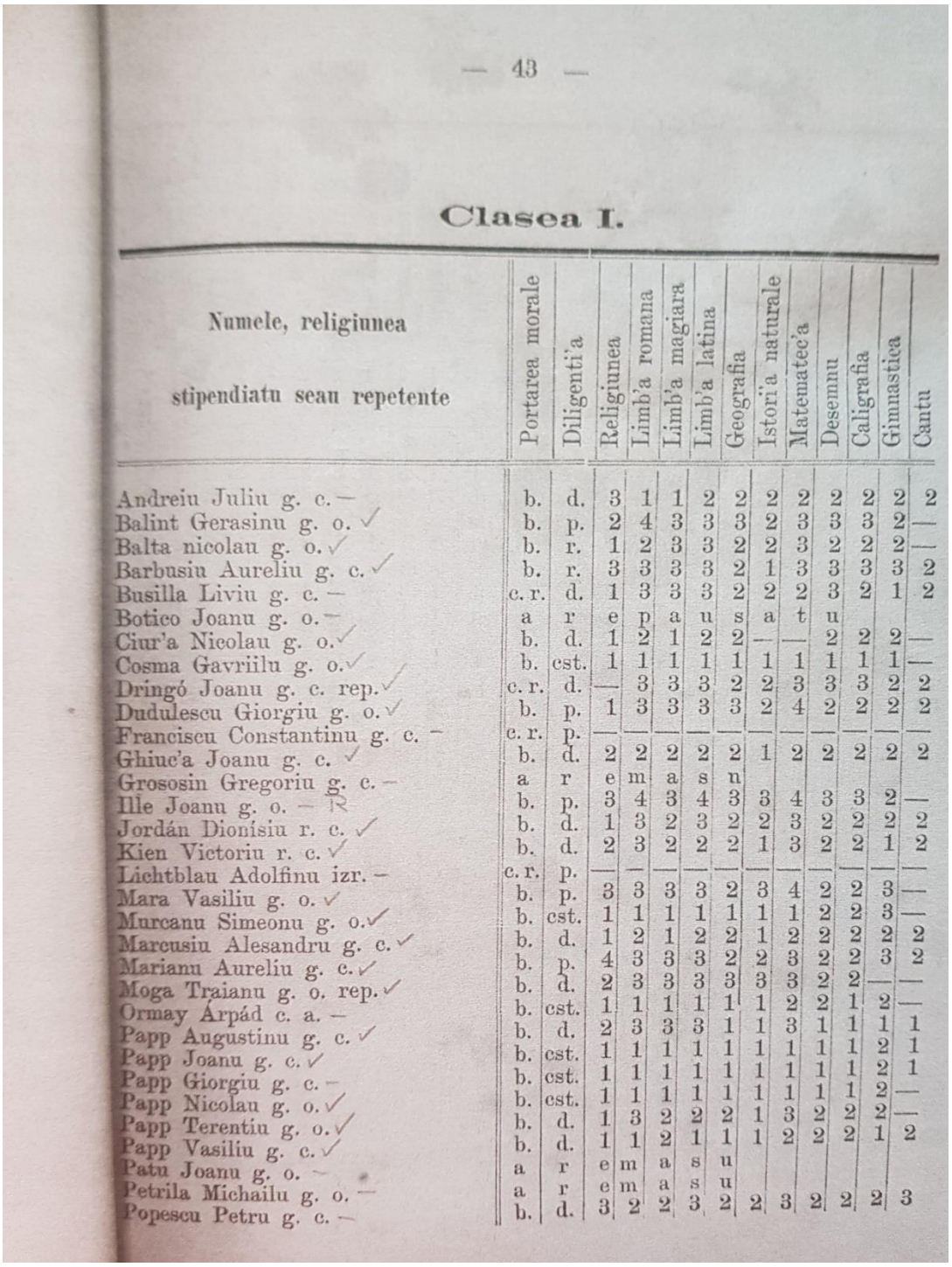


Sorszám	A tanuló neve, vallása és születésének kelte	Hazája, születése helye	Atyjának vagy gyámnokának neve, állapota és lakóhelye	Ösztöndijas-e, tandij-mentes vagy fizető-e?
3.	Bálta Miklós gör. kel. 1863	Magyarország N. Halmagy Zaránd	Atyja: Miklós földmivelő ugyanott	nem fizető

Tantárgyak	Értesítő I. Időszak Érdemjegyek	I. Időszak Észrevételek	II. Időszak Érdemjegyek	II. Időszak Észrevételek	Iskolai bizonyítvány
Vallástan	jeles		jeles		jeles
Latin nyelv	jó		jó		elégséges
Görög nyelv	—				
Magyar nyelv	elégséges		elégtelen		elégséges
Német nyelv	—				
Földrajz	jó		elégséges		jó
Történelem	—				
Szám és mértan	elégséges		elégtelen		elégséges
Természetrajz	jó		jó		jó
Természettan	—				
Román ny.	elégséges		jó		jó
Rajz és Szépírás					jó – elégséges
Ének	—				
Testgyakorlás					jó
Irásbeli dolgozatainak külső alakja	tiszta		tiszta		tiszta
Az elmulasztott tan-órák száma	—		2 ig.		4 ig.
Szorgalom	hanyatló		csekély		hanyatló
Magaviselet	szabályszerü		jó		jó

Bihor County Service of the National Archives, „Samuil Vulcan" High School in Beiuș. Transcripts and other registers: inventory no. 1020, dossier no. 27, file no. 3.

Appendix 2



— 43 —

Clasea I.

Numele, religiunea stipendiatu seau repetente	Portarea morale	Diligenti'a	Religiunea	Limb'a romana	Limb'a magiara	Limb'a latina	Geografia	Istori'a naturale	Matemateć'a	Desemnu	Caligrafia	Gimnastica	Cantu
Andreiu Juliu g. c. —	b.	d.	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Balint Gerasinu g. o. ✓	b.	p.	2	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	—
Balta nicolau g. o. ✓	b.	r.	1	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	—
Barbusiu Aureliu g. c. ✓	b.	r.	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	3	3	3	2
Busilla Liviu g. c. —	c. r.	d.	1	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	1	2
Botico Joanu g. o. —	a	r	e	p	a	u	s	a	t	u			
Ciur'a Nicolau g. o. ✓	b.	d.	1	2	1	2	2	—	—	2	2	2	—
Cosma Gavriilu g. o. ✓	b.	cst.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—
Dringó Joanu g. c. rep. ✓	c. r.	d.	—	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2
Dudulescu Giorgiu g. o. ✓	b.	p.	1	3	3	3	3	2	4	2	2	2	2
Franciscu Constantinu g. c. —	c. r.	p.											
Ghiuc'a Joanu g. c. ✓	b.	d.	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Grososin Gregoriu g. c. —	a	r	e	m	a	s	n						
Ille Joanu g. o. — R	b.	p.	3	4	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	2	—
Jordán Dionisiu r. c. ✓	b.	d.	1	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2
Kien Victoriu r. c. ✓	b.	d.	2	3	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	1	2
Lichtblau Adolfinu izr. —	c. r.	p.											
Mara Vasiliu g. o. ✓	b.	p.	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	2	2	3	—
Murcanu Simeonu g. o. ✓	b.	cst.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	—
Marcusiu Alesandru g. c. ✓	b.	d.	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Marianu Aureliu g. c. ✓	b.	p.	4	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	2
Moga Traianu g. o. rep. ✓	b.	d.	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	—	—
Ormay Árpád c. a. —	b.	cst.	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	—
Papp Augustinu g. c. ✓	b.	d.	2	3	3	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1
Papp Joanu g. c. ✓	b.	cst.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Papp Giorgiu g. c. —	b.	cst.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Papp Nicolau g. o. ✓	b.	cst.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	—
Papp Terentiu g. o. ✓	b.	d.	1	3	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	—
Papp Vasiliu g. c. ✓	b.	d.	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2
Patu Joanu g. o. —	a	r	e	m	a	s	u						
Petrila Michailu g. o. —	a	r	e	m	a	s	u						
Popescu Petru g. c. —	b.	d.	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	3

Mihuțiu, Petru (ed.). *Reportu despre Gimnasiulu sup. gr. cat. de Beiusiu pentru anulu scol 1876-1877* (Report Regarding the Greek Catholic High School in Beiuș in the 1876/1877 School Year), Tipariulu lui Ludovicu Hollósy, 1877, p. 43.

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The enlightened minds of the pastoral land of Mărginimea Sibiului

Teodora Maria Pițˇ

Abstract: This project aims to configure a map of the most important personalities in the Mărginimea Sibiului. The present research presents practically the methodology of all the stages completed. Starting with the selection of information, its organization in tables and up to the geographical representation of the information gathered about intellectuals. The career path of each one is not a complex one, but the idea started from the fact that we wanted to demonstrate how a rural, agrarian area, restricted from a geographical point of view, offered to the national culture several paramount intellectuals such as Ioan Lupaș, Octavian Goga, Emil Cioran, Samuel Micu.

Keywords: digital humanities, Airtable, Qgis, database, maps, Google Maps, Transylvania

Introduction

The consequences of the digitalization of humanities are varied, but impactful nonetheless. Whether we are referring to how research is conducted or how people perceive data, it becomes apparent that the process of digitalization greatly increased accessibility to different sources of information. More than this, nowadays, a researcher who wants to achieve international recognition is almost obligated, to utilize interdisciplinary methods. Thus, digital humanities prompted the combined use of disciplines which, so far, have been regarded as being completely separate. The research at hand represents such an example. By merging history, geography, informatics and their specific work instruments we have created a map used to underline a certain geographical region in which numerous cultural personalities originate.

The present research brings to light technical and methodological aspects that can serve a historical-geographical research, but with more accents in the spatial, territorial field. The border of Sibiu is a less researched area, which is why it is worth focusing on its importance in the history of Romanian intellectuals.

To fully understand the implications of the research at hand and why it became an object of study it is imperative to provide a short description of the region. The two points of view followed were: historical and geographical. The region's historical significance can be traced back to its traditions and the authentic Romanian nature of the area. Historical sources mention the first settlements in the early 13th century (Cisnădie, Amnaș), followed by later ones in the 14th-15th centuries (Tălmaciu, Orlat, Săliște). People residing in this Transylvanian nook were able to maintain traditional Romanian customs despite the tumultuous Hungarian administration due to their main occupation: sheep shepherding. This allowed such people, known as "mocani" or "mărgineni", to maintain close ties to their brothers in Valahia/Walachia/Țara Românească, across the Carpathian Mountains.

Although it is a predominantly agricultural area, many of the shepherds here have supported their children in their education. Some of the descendants of the sheep shepherds became priests, teachers, educators, scholars, and even saints. This offers us a more profound understanding of the historical and geographical region known as Mărginimea Sibiului

Therefore, education in local schools proved to have a major impact on the life of the community previously described. Such an example is the school in Sălişte, first mentioned, in historical documents, in 1616 and towards the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, there was an explosion of such institutions. Notable ones were two local branches/departments of ASTRA (The Transylvanian Association for Romanian Literature and the Culture of the Romanian People), the ,,Gathering of craftsmen" (1882) and the ,, Gathering of firefighters" (1882). Apart from these, a number of literary societies can also be identified.

Structure and research methods

Database

The present research has three main pillars: a database constructed with **Airtable**, a geographical representation in **QGis,** and a map created with **Google Maps.** The copious information gathered was first introduced into the aforementioned database to facilitate its further usage. Thus, the key element of the research lies with Airtable. Firstly, it is important to establish clearly how Airtable operates. It can be defined as a cloud-based software company that blends a traditional spreadsheet with a database. Moreover, bases can be built from existing templates or they can also be built from scratch.

As a first step, we created a table in which the information was organized on rows and columns in the following order: **Number, Name, Birthplace, Date of Birth, Death place, Date of Death, Professional Path, Highest-ranking occupation** (Fig.1).

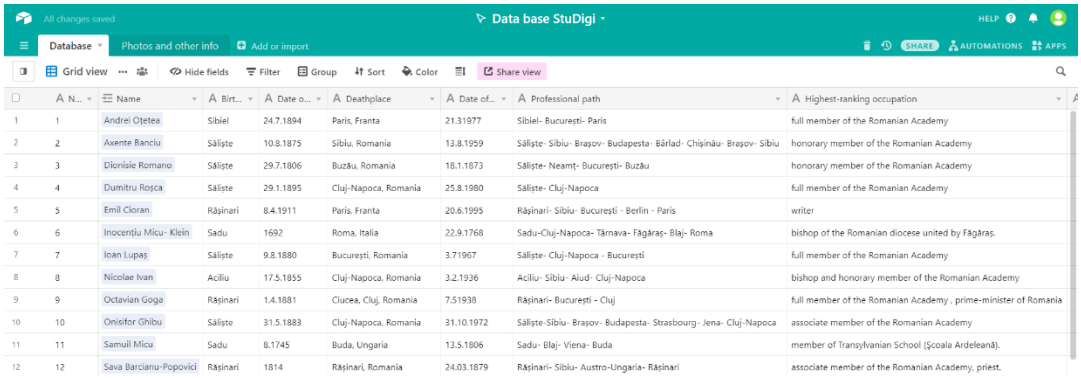

Fig.1 Creating the main table

To increase the complexity of the table, we then created another table, containing mainly images and further links towards information/documents/webpages about each individual. They were grouped in columns in the following order**: Name, Number, Photo, More Information**. This was then linked to the first table that we created (Fig. 2).

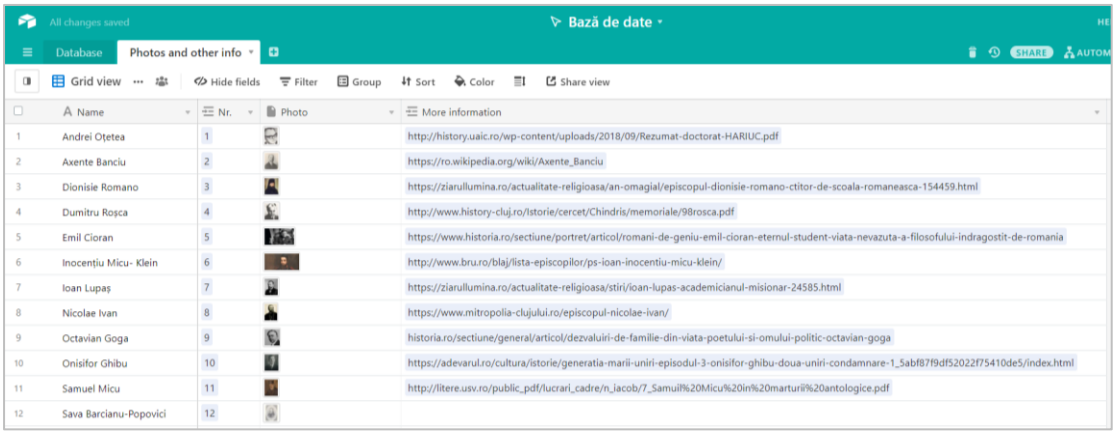

Fig. 2 Photos and other info Table

In order to facilitate the access to the different information types referring to a single individual, we created links between spreadsheets and records. (Fig. 3, Fig. 3.1).

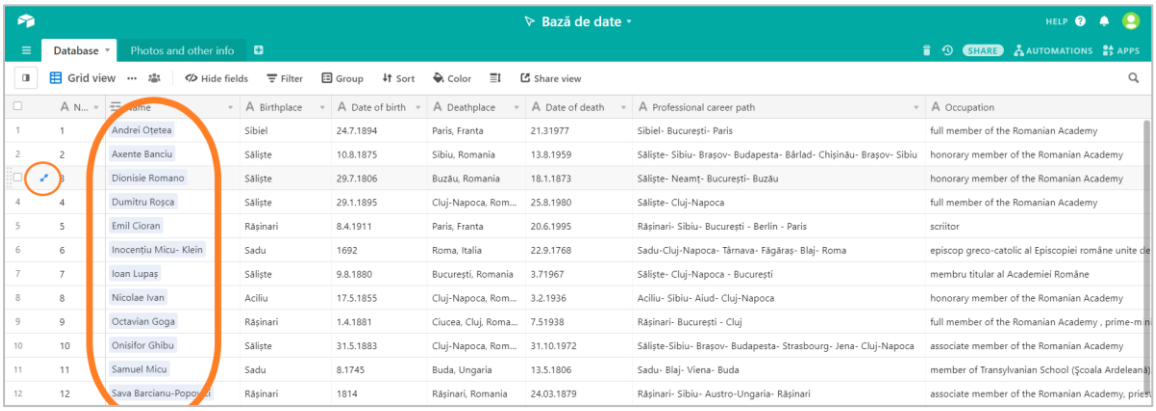

Fig. 3. Links between **Name** from spreadsheet **Database** and spreadsheet **Photos and other info.**

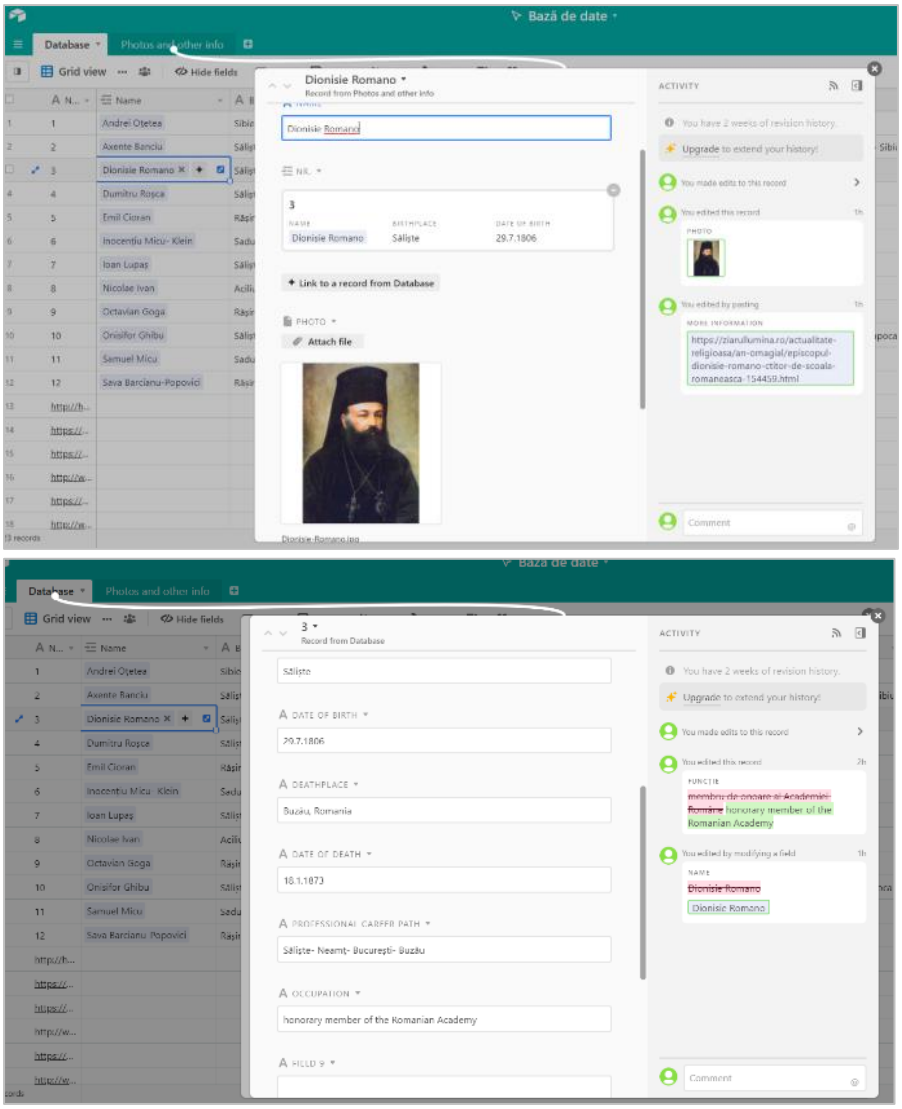

Fig. 3.1. Example

Geospatial representation

Just as with the construction of the database, to create a geospatial representation that was used in further steps, we relied on a particular tool: **QGis**. It can be defined as a collection of software that allows you to create, query, and analyse geospatial data. Geospatial data refers to information about the geographic location of an entity. This often involves the use of a geographic coordinate, like a latitudinal or longitudinal value. Spatial data is another commonly used term, as are: geographic data, GIS data, map data, location data, coordinate data, and spatial geometry data. To use it, we were required to install a new plug-in: Quick Map Services (an easy basemap in Qgis).

In order to save the data imported into QGis, we had to create a new type of layer, called **Shapefile**. This is an Esri vector data storage format for storing the location, shape, and attributes of geographic features. It is stored as a set of related files and contains one feature class. (Fig.4)

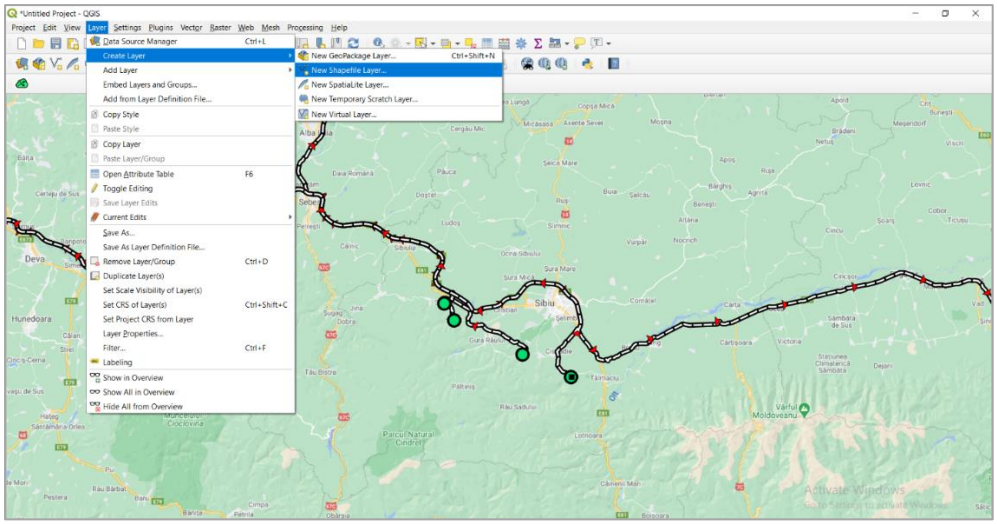

Fig. 4. Making the new Shapefile Layer. It was created based on minimal data such as number, birthplace, death place, occupation (Fig. 5)

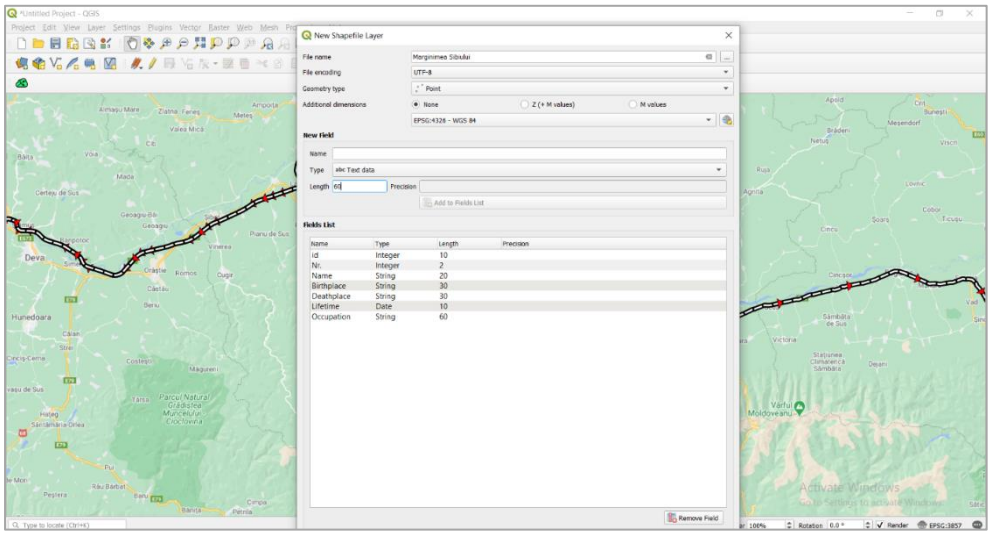

Fig.5. Creating new fields.

Marking the place on the map was possible with the use of the **Add Point Feature** function (Fig.6). This way, the exact spot was created on the map, furthermore requiring only the completion of the newly made table with information (Fig. 7).

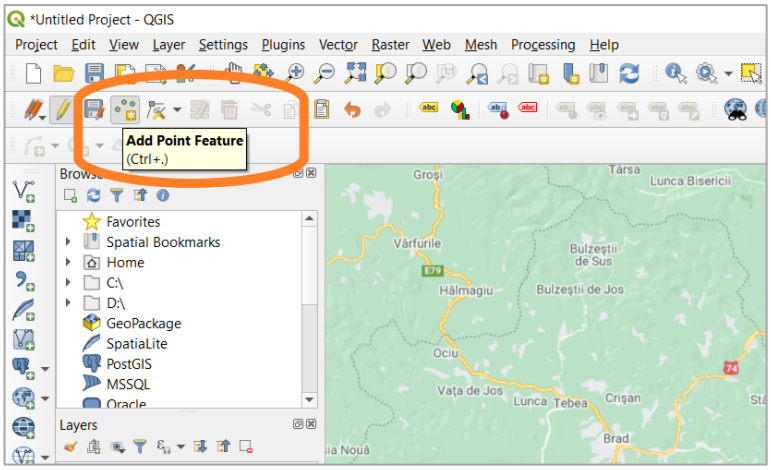

Fig.6. Add Point Feature function

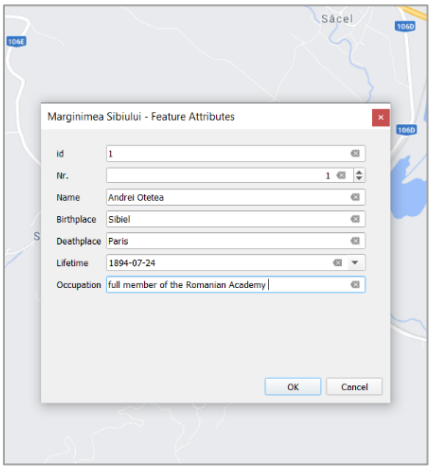

Fig. 7 Filling the table with data

Additionally, using the **Add Polygon** feature we were able to trace the territorial footprint of the area we named Mărginimea Sibiului. This stage was crucial due to the fact that it offered visibility to the discussed area. (Fig. 8)

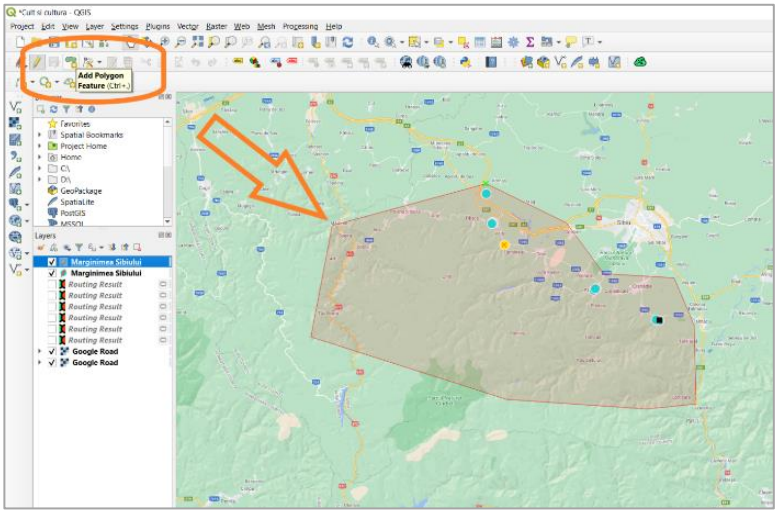

Fig. 8. The footprint of the area Mărginimea Sibiului

As a result of QGis offering a wide array of options concerning ways of personalizing maps and different elements, the next step included customizing some symbols using **Layer Properties**. We adjusted them using the categorized function with the value Birthplace. This way, individual from the same village was marked with a distinct colour (Fig. 9).

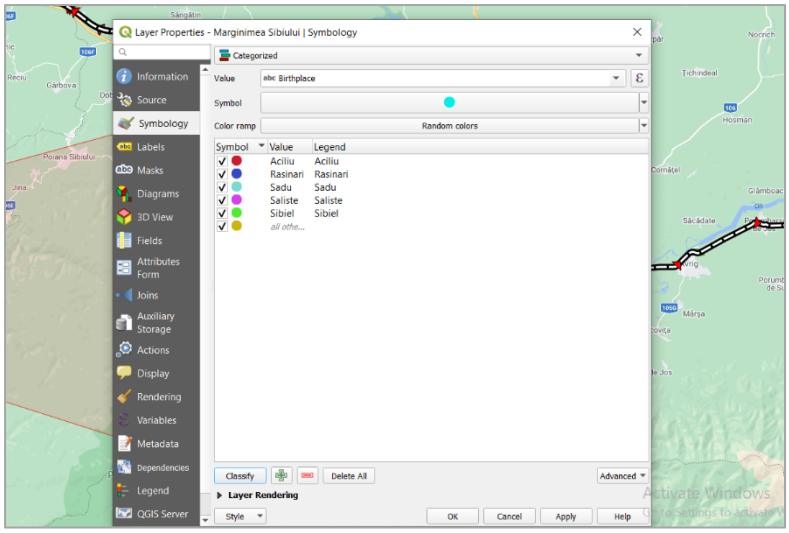

Fig. 9. Editing Layer Properties

The main reason that influenced us in choosing to work with Qgis is its **Field Calculator** function (Fig. 10) . Using it we were able to calculate the latitude and longitude specific to each person of each place marked on the map. The points marked on the map are not precise locations, but they have been marked separately to differentiate one person from another. The numbers were generated automatically on two separate columns: x_long and x_lat (Fig. 11).

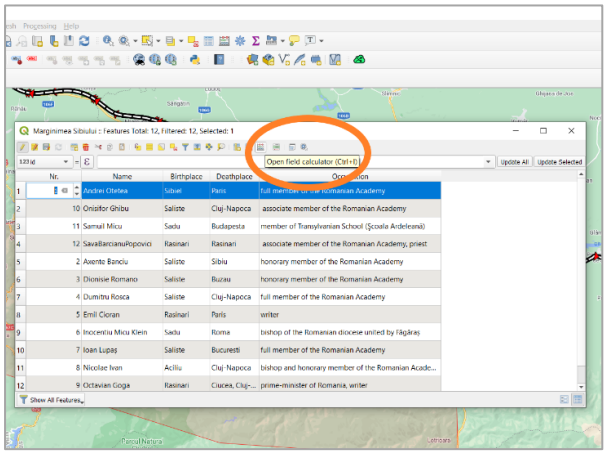

Fig. 10. Field Calculator

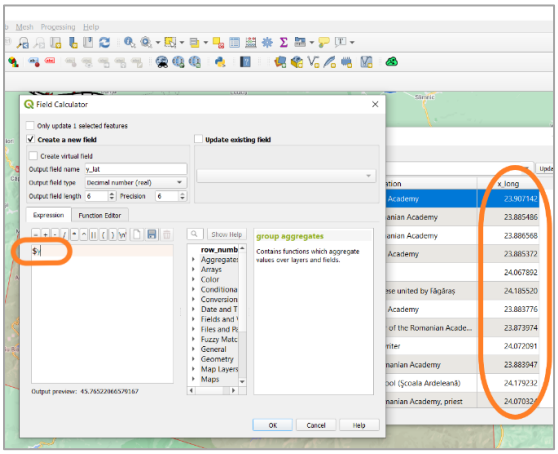

Fig. 11. Columns x_long și x_lat

With all the preparatory work finished, the final step in QGIS included exporting the content created in a compatible format to the **Google Maps** program. We are referring to a **.CSV** type of document (Fig. 12). Thus, we accessed Google Maps using Google Drive, where we had the possibility of creating a new map by importing the table saved in QGIS (Fig. 13).

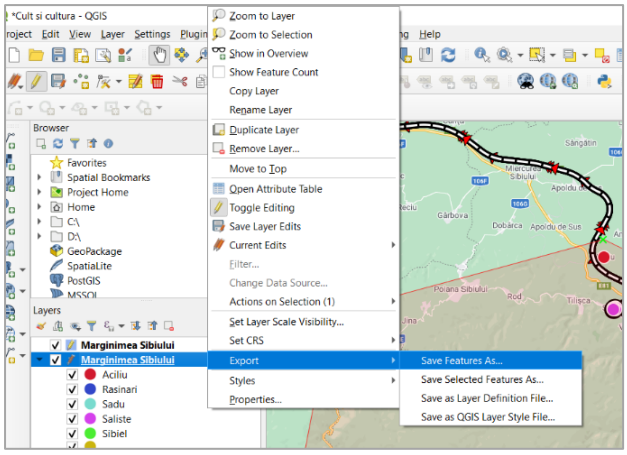

Fig. 12. Save Features As .CSV File.

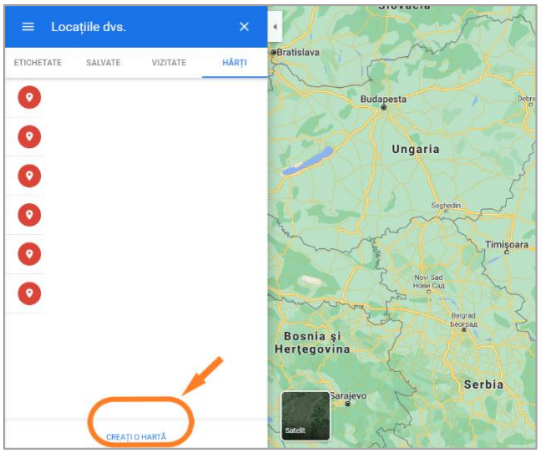

Fig. 13. Create a Map

The new map was named accordingly: *The enlightened minds of the pastoral land of Mărginimea Sibiului*. Its reference points were the coordinates calculated in QGIS and the markings were named after the data included in the Name column. Thus, analyzing the example of fig.14 illustrates the fact that the data gathered with the help of Airtable (organised in QGis and then transposed to GoogleMaps) created an interactive map. A person accessing it can see much more than a simple map, each location having embedded information regarding different individuals.

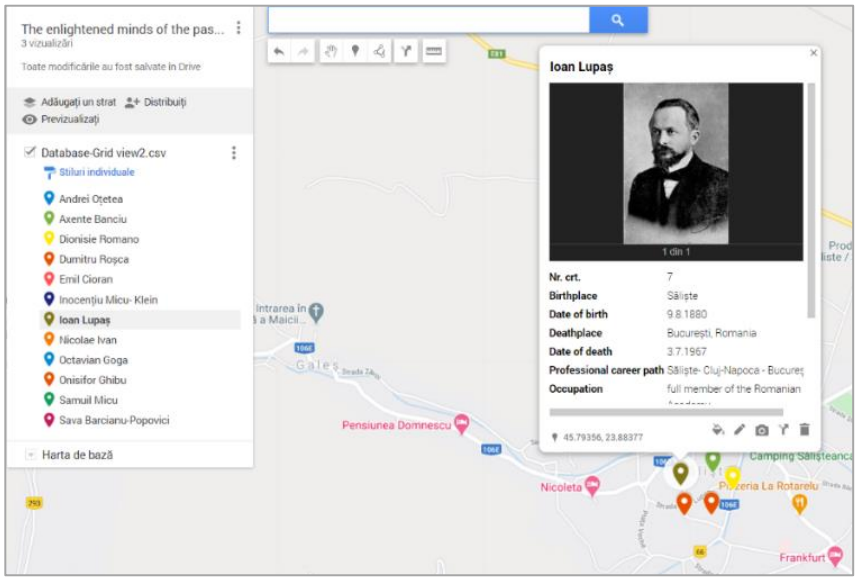

Fig. 14. Example

The final step of our procedure involved tracing a similar form to the geographical area of Mărginimea Sibiului, as shown in the example. This was necessary in order to better visualize it in Google My Maps. A similar step was done in QGIS.

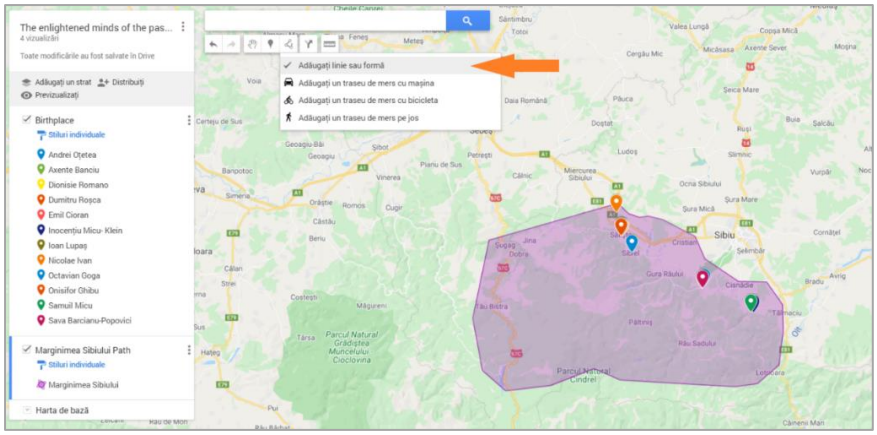

Fig. 15. The footprint of the area Mărginimea Sibiului

Conclusions

The steps taken and thoroughly presented in the previous lines had as a result the construction of a map suggestively titled “The enlightened minds of the pastoral land of Mărginimea Sibiului”. This map wishes to bring forth, to the attention of the general population, a narrow, rural, and historical area from the heart of Transylvania. Its relevance becomes apparent once one takes into account the intellectuals that draw their origins from this area.

The research undertaken can be viewed as a stepping stone in the further development of similar projects that investigate the cursus honorum of Romanian intellectuals. More so, it is a useful tool in the development of tourism in the area due to the fact that through this map, those who will visit the Mărginimea Sibiului area, will know more about its importance considering the number of intellectuals here.

Acknowledgments

This research would not have been possible without the skills cultivated during the pilot-module regarding Digital Humanities, organised by the Star UBB Institute and Digi HUBB. With these lines, we would also like to bring thanks to scientific researcher Mrs. Rada Varga for organising and facilitating such ways of interdisciplinary learning.

The map can be seen by accessing the link: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?hl=ro&mid=1XZIuxSM0w3BWOROQXDK-k147qABQgxhm&ll=45.69343169703502%2C23.900137299999987&z=11

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Network analyses of foreign travelers through Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania between 1831-1840

Andrei Petruș[1]

Abstract: Foreign travelers backgrounds alongside journey routes followed into Romanian Lands between 1831-1840 were placed into a database and mapped into different geographical, social or chronological visualizations in a unique approach for Romanian historiography. Making use of Nodegoat, a platform that allows researchers to compile large databases and to analyze these data, relying on network-type connections, I created various easy-readable and modellable graphs which shows differences and similarities between travelers. Less effort is now needed for complex analysis which could have taken weeks or months back then, because all of these were made by the platform within few clicks with the help of various filters. Building profiles and comparing them, analyses traveler's studies according to professions and seeking for their motivation behind journey and travel path followed are just some of the analyses made by this project. Even though it comprehend only 46 travelers from a decade this project have a great potential in near future by integrating all of the volumes coordinated by Paul Cernovodeanu into a single database.

Keywords: foreign travelers, network analyses, geographical visualizations, social visualisations, Nodegoat

1. Introduction

Each person has a different view of the human beings they interacted with, of the events they took part in or about the places they traveled to during their life. Whether these perspectives remain hidden in the depths of the memory or they are shared on various occasions, they form nevertheless one's unique perception of the world. Thus, for a historian aiming to reconstruct a "world of the past", the impressions

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of those persons about the contemporary life are most valuable, and variety only increases their significance. Moreover, if they are the product of individuals coming from abroad and that are less accustomed with the realities they write about, they will usually outline a new perspective, different in a multitude of ways from the one provided by locals and local sources.

Such people are generically called by historians "travelers", a term whose meaning can be vague and all-encompassing. One of the Romanian scholars who has dedicated her whole life to studying "travelers", Maria Holban, defines the traveler as being a person who passed through or stayed on foreign territories and left written testimonies from their journey[2]. Another Romanian historian, Victor Papacostea, highlights the valuable information provided by the travelers, arguing that often "their stories are really interesting" due to the accuracy with which they describe the historical background, as well as to their critical perspective on the visited society[3]. Even though some of them were in a rush while writing their memoirs, while taking a break from their journey, quite a few of them managed to conduct rigorous analyses of the Romanian society and their depiction of the local political, economic and social realities became increasingly detailed over time[4].

The writings of foreign travelers thus provide an insightful perspective on the early-modern and modern Romanian society. Such primary sources are most valuable for the historians trying to recreate the day-to-day life atmosphere of the time, but also for those keen on studying the image of the otherness. In regard to the latter, Sorin Mitu points out that scholars often dealt with the way in which a historical reality is perceived by "somebody else" in the political or cultural relations between different people. He also highlights that the study of travelers' and foreign observers' testimonies about local realities represented a type of imagological approach cultivated *avant la lettre* by historians[5]. These types of sources shed light on the darkest and most inaccessible corners of the society, where historians could hardly reach without the help of those who traveled through or even settled down in foreign lands. Coming into contact with the natives and having a different cultural or educational background, foreign travelers are the fiercest critics of the space they pass through. The contrasts are noticed immediately and the long travel experience they gained helps them to spot both the positive things and the shortcomings of the regions and societies they eyewitness. Therefore, Sorin Mitu also highlights that historians of the small nations tend to pay more attention to foreign accounts narrating about their own historical reality, testimonies that weight heavily in all sources of Romanian history[6].

Consequently, there is a tradition among Romanian historians, dating back to the 19th century, to search, find and translate testimonies of foreign travelers. Historians of the Romantic period (e.g., Nicolae Bălcescu in *Magazin istoric pentru*

[2] Paul Cernovodeanu (coord.), *Călători străini despre Țările Române în secolul al XIX-lea,* serie nouă, vol. III, Editura Academiei Române, București, 2004, p. 7.
[3] *Ibidem*, p. 7.
[4] *Ibidem*, vol. III, p. 8.
[5] Sorin Mitu, *Transilvania mea. Istorii, mentalități, identități.,* Polirom, Iași, 2006, p. 62.
[6] *Ibidem*, p. 64.

Dacia, Alexandru Papiu-Ilarian in *Tezaurul de monumente istorice pentru români* or Timotei Cipariu in *Arhiv pentru filologie și istorie*) all tried to restore the charm of the Romanian space as viewed by otherness. Later on, Nicolae Iorga initiated a systematic work in this field, resulting in the first collection of such narrative sources, entitled *Istoria românilor prin călători* (History of The Romanians through Foreign Travelers). This approach was pursued and institutionalized throughout the second half of the 20th century, resulting in a collection of ten volumes covering the period prior to 1800[7], followed by nine volumes covering a large part of the 19th century[8].

2. Nodegoat. A different approach on data

This brief foray into what foreign travelers represent for the Romanian lands and how one can encounter their writings was necessary for understanding the reasons of my approach. I wanted to underline from the very beginning the increased interest of Romanian historical writings for testimonies written by foreign travelers and the fact that their opinions were very important to the local scholars. Moreover, this effort was spanned on many decades and it consisted in collecting, translating, annotating and publishing the information gathered over time by dedicated teams of researchers. Other decades had to pass before historians became truly concerned with analyzing these sources, by means of comparing the biographies and social background of the travelers, studying their travel routes, finding patterns and stereotypes in their writings, as well as highlighting their preconceptions regarding the space they were visiting. Although much has been written and is still being written on this topic, most of the papers do not go beyond a traditional approach which still favors the narrative against structured perspectives. However, with the development of Digital Humanities, the traveling impressions of the pilgrims can be easily placed in another paradigm.

Therefore, I have developed a project aiming to approach from a different point of view the biographies and testimonies of those who travelled through the Romanian territories, by making use of Nodegoat[9], a platform that allows researchers to compile large databases and to analyze these data, relying on network-type temporal and spatial graphs. Tracking such databases in a diachronic manner, together with the associated filters, offers a clear and flexible perspective on the data and makes Nodegoat useful especially for large-scale research, because of the interactive way of controlling and modeling the data entries, which saves time and effort in building a prosopographical dataset, but also due to the complex analyses allowed by the digital platform.

3. Project objectives

There is a valid question growing in the historian's mind: "Why is such a project important?" Firstly, this type of approach upon this topic is unique in Romania. Until now, historians wrote about the foreign travelers' writings exclusively in a traditional way, without trying to involve technology in the analytical process. Thereby, one can

[7] Paul Cernovodeanu (coord.), *op.cit.*, vol. I, pp. 5-6.
[8] *Ibidem,* vol. I-IX, 2004-2015.
[9] https://nodegoat.net/about, last time opened on 31.10.2020.

make use of digital tools in order to gain a completely fresh perspective on these data, and furthermore, such a perspective can be made available publicly to a wider spectrum of researchers by means of the above-mentioned platform. Secondly, the scientific results and the historical knowledge resulting from this fresh perspective could actually constitute a leap forward for the Romanian historical writing on the topic. By mapping the routes of a large group of travelers into a single geographical graph covering several decades, and building on the adjacent data (e.g., comparing the travelers' background with their expressed views on local realities), one can place under scrutiny the findings resulted from traditional approaches and most probably complement the respective conclusions.

The objective of the project, and subsequently the aim of this paper, was to map, by means of Nodegoat, a series of variables related to the biographies of the foreign travelers and test the analytical possibilities emerging from such an approach. Among the former we have included information on the geographical space of origin, where they studied, the frequency of short and long-term trips and theirs purpose and duration, the route but also places that made travelers divert from the original itinerary. In addition to the geographical analyses, we also envision social and chronological ones that complete the image of the biography and of the places visited by each traveler.

4. Sources and methodology

The main sources used by the project are the travel memoirs of the foreigners visiting the Romanian space in the 1830s, to be found in the third volume of the above mentioned collection[10]. The choice of not starting with the older writings, from early 1800s, has to do mainly with the author's experience in dealing with this timespan, as well as the desire to focus on the period following the Treaty of Adrianople (1829) which ended most of the Ottoman political influence in the Romanian space and also opened the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia to the European commerce. The volume includes notes translated from different languages (the majority of them from English, French and German, but there are also translations from Russian or Italian) belonging to 46 foreign travelers whose testimonies date from between 1831 and 1840. The texts differ in size, from extensive analyses of the Romanian society of that time, covering dozens of pages, to small notes describing the visited places or regular meetings. Such variations depended on the purpose of the author's journey, respectively his availability and inclination towards taking notes. They cover a variety of topics, from culture, economy or politics to day-to-day life, drawing a vivid picture of the Romanian lands as seen by through the lenses of the otherness.

Each traveler benefits from a biographical note provided by the editors of the volume, which includes references to the route and the most important places they went through during their journeys. The biographies are however unequal in size and details, depending on the availability of other secondary sources. Despite such shortcomings, the information provided is usually enough as to allow the building of geographical, social and chronological networks to fulfill the aim of the current

[10] Paul Cernovodeanu, *op.cit.*, vol. III.

research. Where necessary, online sources, including Wikipedia, have been used for filling in biographical data, vital information and in some cases pictures of the travelers. Even so, biographical data could not be gathered for all research subjects. Some of them, such as the Russian hieromonk Partenie or the mineralogist D. Lovi remain half-anonymous, consequently I tried as much as possible to draw up the initial categories by adapting to this situation.

Therefore, the structure of the database is the following: name, date and place of birth, date and place of death, noble status, first field of study and place of study, second field of study and place of study, profession, purpose of the trip, whether or not he undertook multiple trips, the regions / provinces visited, a picture of the traveler and finally the travel itinerary.

Regarding the travel itinerary, I chose to list the main cities or boroughs / market towns described in the traveler's notes and to register them in the accurate chronological order of the visits. However, this was often difficult. Although the travelers noted, with no exception, the year of the trip, most of the time they did not mark the day, and sometimes not even the month of certain events. Due to the lack of these data, which made it difficult to visualize the route, I had to introduce some fictional dates (most of the time a fictional day and less often a fictional month) in order to be able to generate the network visualisation. Lacking a timestamp, Nodegoat could not display a reliable diachronic geographical representation, which would have been instead only a chaotic clew of nodes deforming the historical reality. Another situation involving the mandatory inclusion of fictional timestamp, this time, actually timespans, concerned the period and location of the studies, for the same reasons. Unfortunately, Nodegoat does not currently include an option to flag fictional data, hence it has to be kept track of independently. In order for the user to have a better image of Europe between 1830 and 1840, I have introduced a historical map on the background of the geographical representation. Drawn by Adrien Hubert, it depicts Europe in 1830, thus adding accuracy to the project[11].

5. Data graphics

a. The geographical visualization (the place of birth and the place of studies)

It should be underlined from the start that Nodegoat includes two categories of information. The first category is called Object, in which all the data is non-mappable. It may also be called “the human one”, because one can easily build biographies for a person which will not be shown in the geographical representation. In the second category, called Sub-Object, one can introduce spatial data (e.g., cities, towns, boroughs) and can map them in strong connection with temporal data (e.g., date of birth, date of death, other event date, etc.). Consequently, if one needs to project on a map certain information about a traveler (e.g., where he completed his studies and how long did, they take), this will have to be introduced in the Sub-Object category.

[11] https://davidrumsey.georeferencer.com/maps/acd31471-ea16-5992-843f-07ad1b5d9ceb/, last time opened 30.10.2020.

Fig. 1. Geographical overview of D. Lovi's journey

Figure 1 provides a geographical display of all data that can be visualized in this type of graphs. The visible links between certain points / nodes represent the connections between the various types of data entered on the platform. Each node represents a specific city where an action took place. A node has different dimensions, depending on how many times the respective place is mentioned in the database, or within the data sample subjected to analyses. For example, the itinerary of the mineralogist D. Love features places such as Buzău, Focșani or Râmnicu Sărat (smaller blue dots, because they are mentioned only once), but also București, (larger blue dot) where Lovi went twice during his journey. Also, the edges between the nodes indicate a sequence of actions based on temporary data. For example, D. Lovi was in București on the 5th of August 1834 and then he traveled to Buzău a day later. On the map, this travel stage is highlighted by a link (an edge) between the two cities indicating a continuity of the respective traveler's actions.

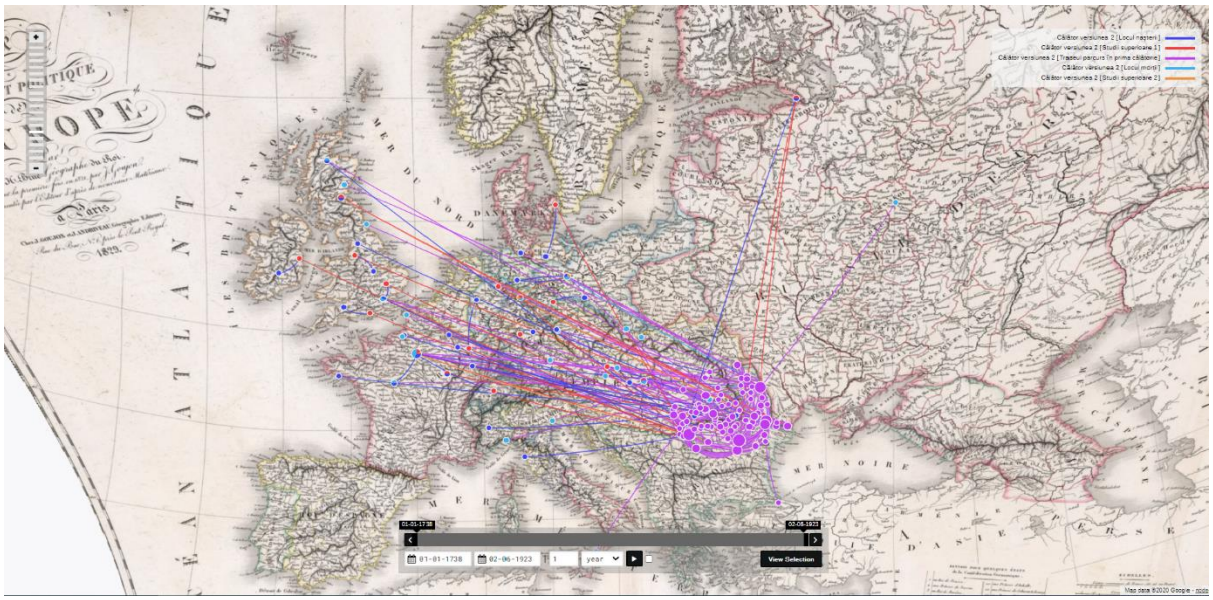

Fig. 2. Geographical overview of all relations

Nodegoat can also display multiple relations simultaneously (**Fig. 2**). The geographical visualization has a caption and different working tools. The categories displayed on the map are detailed in the upper right corner and projected on the map by means of distinct colors. They can be select or deselected according to the user's needs. The categories covered by the current case study are: place of birth (dark blue), place of first higher education stage (red), place of second higher education stage (orange), place of death (light blue), respectively the traveled route (purple). In addition, the timeline at the bottom of the map allows the user to customize the chronological period under research, but also to identify more easily particular subjects of interest. Moreover, by means of the timeline bar, one can develop interactive animations, which allow a diachronic visualization of the routes traveled and the frequency of foreign visitors through the Romanian space.

Fig. 3. Geographical overview of the travelers' birthplaces

In order to better understand the travelers' perspectives about the Romanian space, it is necessary to see where they come from (**Fig. 3**). Unsurprisingly, most of the travelers were born somewhere in Central or Western Europe. Eleven of them were born in the French area, nine of them in the British Isles and six of them in the German-speaking area. Other two were born in Transylvania, respectively in Italy, and one in Russia. Specifically, we know the exact place of birth for 31 out of the 46 travelers entered in the database, to which several cases in which only the larger space of origin that is known should be added (e.g., Nathaniel Burton[12] from Britain and hermon Partenie[13] from Russia). These latter instances pose a problem, because Nodegoat only works with exact locations, therefore they do not appear in previous statistics or on the map. It must also be underlined that knowledge about the place of birth does not necessarily imply knowledge about the place from where these travelers started their

[12] *Ibidem*, vol. III, p. 580.
[13] *Ibidem*, p. 684.

trip towards the Romanian space. In this sense, the example of Vincent Otto Nolte is relevant. Born in Livorno, he was considered an American by Daniela Bușă[14] especially because of the long time he spent across the Atlantic, from where he then had to return to Europe for business reasons[15]. The gathered data shows that, during the 1830s, most of the travelers which visited the Romanian space and left written notes on their trips, which were identified and recovered by historians, came from Central and Western Europe. This, of course, says very little about the bulk of the travelers, which left no written testimonies of their interaction with the Romanian Principalities.

The place of birth can also be the place where some of the future travelers completed their studies. Some enrolled in a university study program in their hometown, while others did not attend university at all. Thus, a brief analysis from the point of view of their higher education shows that 21 out of the 46 travelers were college graduates, of which six also undertook a second field of studies. As for the location of the higher education institutions, they were situated either in the hometown of the future travelers (as it is the case of the clerics Robert Mc Cheyne and Andrew A. Bonar, who studied theology in Edinburgh), or just a few hundred miles away (as it is the case of Eugene Stanislas Bellanger, a native of Tours, but a law student in Paris). A few of them, however, chose to attend studies far away from home (sometimes even more than 500 km away). Denis Auguste Marie Raffet was born in Paris, but he went to study far away, somewhere in Switzerland (the exact university is unknown). Among the latter one also finds the famous Field Marshal Helmuth von Moltke. He was originally from Parchim (nowadays in Mecklenburg region of Germany) and went for military studies in Copenhagen. Of all of those who pursued a form of higher education in a distant place, Miklós Barabás traveled the longest distance: almost 1000 km separated his home village in Transylvania from Vienna, where he was studying Arts (**Fig. 4**).

Fig. 4. Geographical overview of travelers' birthplaces and places of study.

[14] *Ibidem*, p. 9.
[15] *Ibidem*, p. 856.

As previous paragraph shows, long distance travelling was not suitable for everybody, especially when the main education centers were far and often poor connected with larger parts of the countries. Lack of fast transport alternatives, expensive and high travel times were also a drawback for potential students to attend universities hundreds of miles away. Hence, it can be seen that we are still witnessing in the European daily life, even in Central and Western Europe, what Eric Hobsbawm called the time of a "wagon speed". Although the transport system, especially the postal system, reached a remarkable development somewhere between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (the amount of time required to transport a letter was reduced from days to hours), the transport of passengers did not benefit from the same advancements. With the exception of couriers who traveled long distances at short intervals of time, for most of the world, the speed of the teamster who walked nearby his horse or his donkey ruled land transport[16].

Moreover, travelers are divided between several study fields covering some of the main higher education specializations of the time: five studied law, four studied theology, four studied medicine, four studied military sciences, two studied arts, and another two natural sciences. Of these 21 higher education graduates, six opted for a "complementary" specialization by pursuing a second faculty: philosophy (Adolf Schmid, practicing law and Franz Joseph Adolph Schneidawind, physician), letters (Saint Marc Girandin, who had originally studied law and Charles B. Elliot who had originally studied theology) or geography (Ami Boue, who initially specialized in natural sciences). Another one, Karl Otto, studied law at two faculties in Germany: Halle and Göttingen (**Fig. 5**).

Fig. 5. Social network of travelers' fields of study

[16] Eric Hobsbawm, *Era Revoluției,* Cartier: Codex 2000, București, 2000, pp. 18-19.

b. Social visualization (professions according to studies, social status and purpose of the trip)

If information about studies was only available for less than half of our subjects, profession was identified for most of them (41), although the diversity of occupational titles is even higher than in the case of studies. Several professions cover groups of 5-6 persons: six were writers and publicists, respectively military; five were priests, or diplomats, or politicians. Other professions, shared by 1-2 travelers, include: merchant, geologist, painter, philosopher, pharmacist, sailor, doctor, military doctor, mineralogist, botanist or teacher. Heterogeneity best describes the travelers' professions, although it should be noted that the first main groups account for two thirds of the travelers.

Given the above, a legitimate question emerges: how relevant are studies in choosing a profession, i.e., did foreign travelers pursued a profession related to the field of their formal education? From among the 21 travelers with known courses of studies, the profession is also mentioned for a number of 20, Charles B. Elliot remaining the only one without a clearly identified profession. Out of these 20 travelers, 16 had occupations complementary to their field of study (e.g., theology – priest, military sciences – army officer, medicine – physician, law – politicians and diplomats, letters – teacher, natural sciences and geography – geologist, geographer or botanist, arts – painters). Some exceptions did occur: John Paget studied medicine but became a farmer; Herman Puckler-Muskau studied law but became a military; Adolph Schmidl studied law and philosophy, but became a geographer; Eugene Stanislas Bellanger studied law, but he presents himself as a publicist. Therefore, 80% of the mentioned travelers naturally developed a profession deriving from their field of study, with a minority of 20% pursuing a different professional path. In terms of social coverage, most of the travelers were members of the Central and Western European middle class, with noblemen forming less than one fifth of the sample: three barons, three counts, a duke and a marquise.

There is also the question of the reasons driving these travelers towards the Romanian space. Their purposes are diverse, from the most common one, referred to as "exploration" (perceived also as a life experience), to more professional ones (e.g., geological research activities, mineralogy, etc.), or just transit to or from Constantinople. For the 43 travelers whose journeys' official aims and reasons have been identified the figures are as follows: 13 were "exploring", eight were in transit to the Orient/Constantinople, five were present in this space for professional reasons, another five for research reasons, four for missionary activities, another four in transit from the Orient/Constantinople, three of them undertook diplomatic initiative, and one was here because a military conflict was taking place (**Fig. 6**)

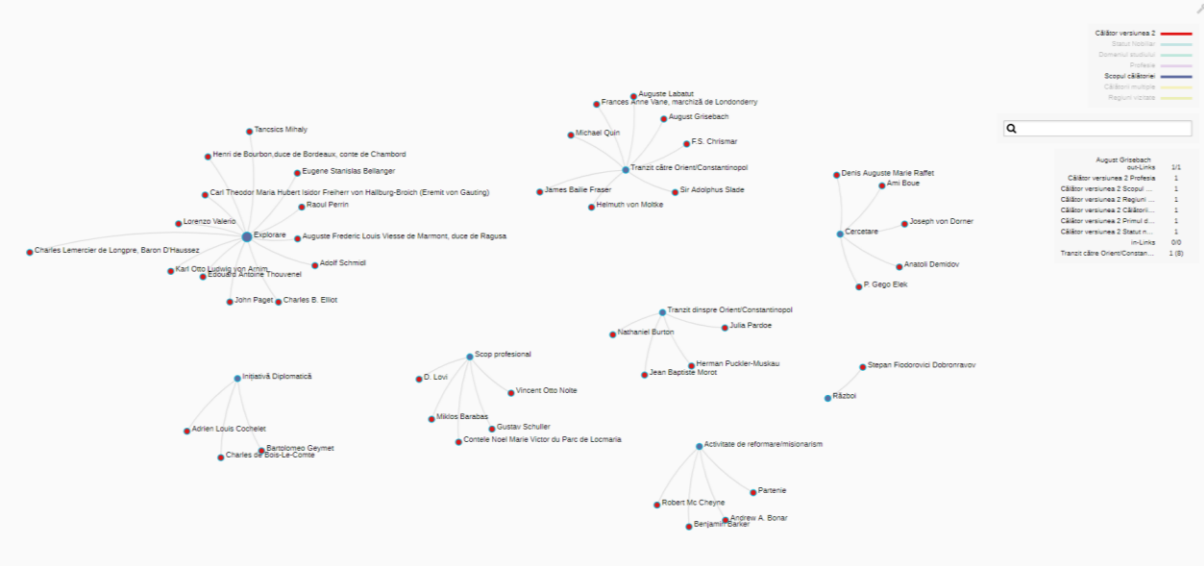

Fig. 6. Social network of travelers' main reasons for journey

The purpose of the trip often determines how much time the travelers have spent in this area, but it also influences the focus of their observations. Some of them seem to have developed a better understanding of the day-to-day life in Romanian lands and provided rigorous analyses of the society in these parts of Europe. For example, we have Eugene Stanislas Bellanger's and Adolf Schmidl's desire to explore lesser-known regions in Central and Western Europe. Both of them have inborn writing skills and their extensive and interesting texts on everyday realities visited are a valuable source for historians. Also, France's desire to establish factors of influence in the area brought for a few years the diplomat Adrien Louis Cochelet in the position of General Consul of France in the Danube Principalities. The professional goal pushes Miklós Barabás to wander through the Romanian space in search of portrait-loving clients. And the Russo-Turkish war of 1828-1829 brought Stepan Fiodorovich Dobronravov into Romania, and later he became the head of all the temporary hospitals set up in north of the Danube by the Russian administration until its withdrawal in 1834.

Others have written their journals in the rush of the journey that often forces them to make quick judgments about the geographical and social landscape they pass through. For example, Julia Pardoe, a British writer, records her impressions about Mihail Sturdza, whom she briefly meets in Galați, after she came back from Constantinople by boat on the Danube. The German physician F.S. Chrismar stops on his way to Constantinople for several days in some cities in the Banat, Transylvania, but also in Wallachia, writing impressions on the respective places before embarking, in Galați, on a ship to Constantinople. There were also those like Helmuth von Moltke – who stopped for a short time in Bucharest – who are trying to make the most of the limited time they spend here and provide a detailed as possible depiction of the visited environment.

c. Geographical and chronological visualization (travel routes and visited region)

The road network of the Romanian Principalities was at the time in a rather poor state of development. Several main itineraries were established and were intensely used by all the travelers. Those who came from Transylvania in order to reach the capital of Wallachia had three possible major routes. The first one started in Sibiu, continued towards Turnul Roșu and Râmnicu Vâlcea, then Pitești and finally Bucharest. The second one started in Brașov, went through the Rucăr pass towards Câmpulung, Târgoviște and Bucharest. Finally, the third route starting also in Brașov, continued through the Prahova valley towards Ploiești, then reaching Bucharest. From there, those who wished to pursue their journey towards Constantinople crossed the Danube into Bulgaria, either at Giurgiu and Rusciuk, or at Călărași and Silistra. From Moldavia, travelers went South to Wallachia on the route Iași – Roman – Bacău – Focșani or if they wanted to reach the Black Sea they went towards Fălciu and Galați. Those who came by water followed the route Orșova – Giurgiu – Brăila – Galați. From that point onward, the journey either continued on one of the arms of the Danube (towards the Black Sea and the Orient), either went north by land towards the capital of Moldavia[17]. In general, those who were only in transit used mostly the main roads of the regions. Others, who had more time, reasons or just a desire to know more, also used side roads.

The choice of routes thus generates patterns in the travelers' impressions. The depiction of common routes provides many details which can be used by the researcher in order to identify changes over a period of time, especially within the main travel hubs. The latter attract the bulk of the traveler's attention and written testimonies. In the Austria Monarchy, Timisoara, alongside Lugoj, Sibiu and Brașov were important transit places for those who aimed at reaching the Principalities. Cluj was not only the provincial capital, but also an important hub, gathering travelers from all lands. However, geographical location was sometimes more important than size or economic development. It comes as no surprise that Orșova, a small and poor border town, yet strategically positioned on the Danube, at the border between the Habsburg Monarchy and Wallachia, became a landmark in the writings of many visitors who wanted to discover Wallachia or Moldavia and reached these regions by boat. Down river, Calafat, Giurgiu, Galați and Brăila took over the entire transit of passengers on the Danube and with it a fair share of mentions in the travelers' logs. The town of Focșani represents a reference place on the land route between Iași and Bucharest – the capitals of the two Romanian Principalities. In quantitative terms, Galați, the main hub of transit between Danube and the Black Sea is mentioned by 19 of the 46 travelers, Orșova and Brăila by 15, Giurgiu by 13, Sibiu by 10 and Timișoara by nine.

[17]Paul Cernovodeanu (coord.), *op.cit.,* vol. I, pp. 15-16.

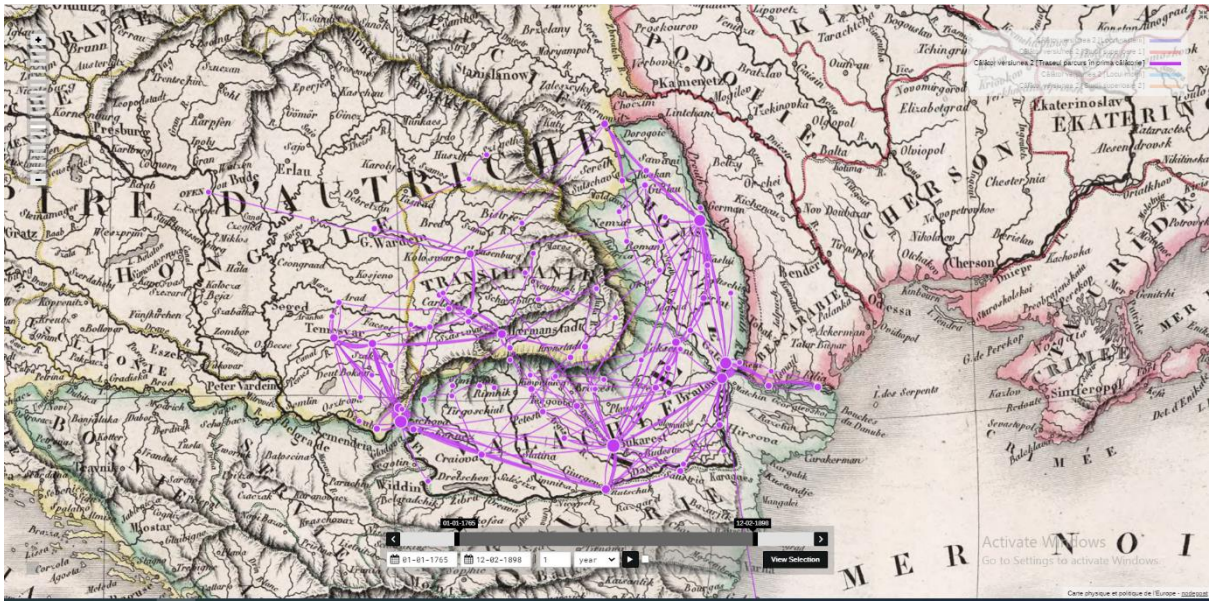

Fig 7. Geographical overview off all routes and stops

The map showing the travelers' mobility is more than eloquent in this regard (**Fig. 7**). The most frequently mentioned places are by far the ones nearby the Danube, alongside with those located on the main land routes towards Iași or Bucharest. It is also obvious that these two capital cities attract most of the travelers passing through the respective country. More precisely, 47% of the foreign travelers mention Bucharest at least once (22 out of 46) among the visited places, while Iași is mentioned by 43% (20 out of 46). If those visiting only Transylvania are excluded from the initial figures, percentages raise further: 64% of the travelers present in one form or another in Wallachia visited Bucharest, and 95% of those who decided to explore Moldavia went to see Iași.

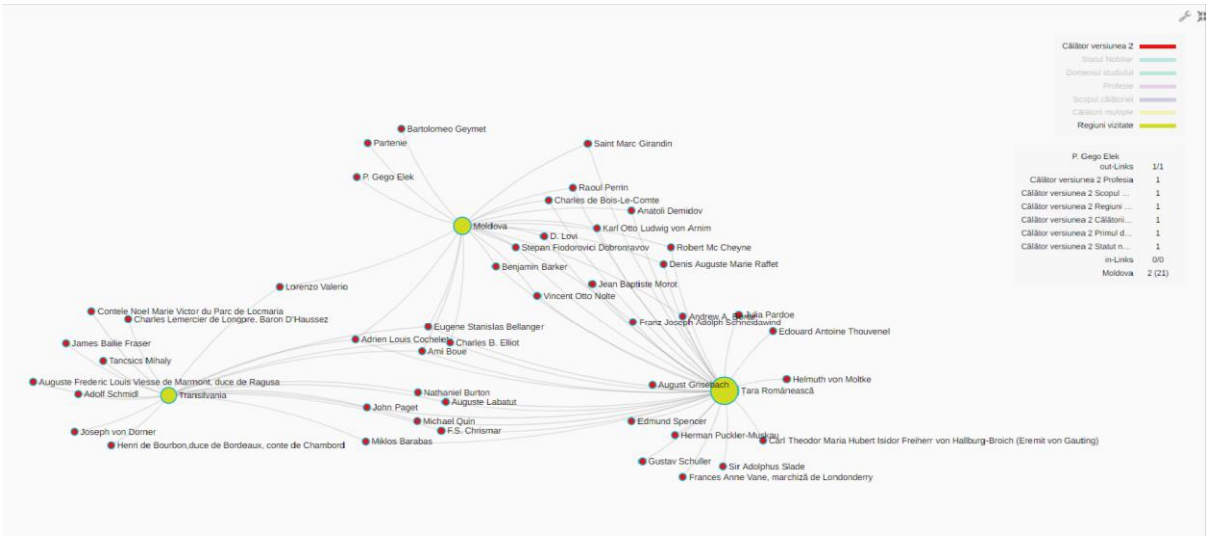

Fig. 8. Social network of relationship between travelers and regions visited

It should also be kept in mind that not all travelers visited the entire Romanian space, many of them journeying through only one of its three large regions: Wallachia, Transylvania or Moldavia (**Fig. 8**). Eight travelers visited only Transylvania, 11

journeyed only through Wallachia and another three have only seen Moldavia. Moreover, only four of them (Ami Boue, Eugene Stanislas Bellager, Charles B. Elliot, and Adrien Louis Cochelet) passed through all three regions. The map also highlights an interesting feature, namely that only five foreign travelers continued from Transylvania into Moldavia and other ten into Wallachia, while those visiting both of the Danube Principalities amounted to 17.

Such dry and seemingly irrelevant data actually highlights the travelers' preferences for different itineraries, most probably on the background of their relevance in fulfilling the purpose of the trip. On the one hand Transylvania attracts the fewest travelers (19), while on the other hand those visiting the province manifest a tendency not to cross the Carpathians and pursue their journey into Wallachia or Moldavia. This probably has to do with the different political situation of Transylvania (part of the Habsburg Monarchy) as compared to the other two regions (autonomous under Ottoman suzerainty). Moldavia is mentioned by 21 visitors and Wallachia by 34 of them. Therefore, there is a much larger foreign presence in the Danube Principalities, as large numbers of ordinary travelers go between the two regions. One reason may be that the path to get there was easier (including traveling by water, on the Danube), not being blocked by a significant geographical barrier. Another reason may have to do with the travelers' aim being the Levant, which does not necessarily imply going through Transylvania, as the fastest route would have been on Danube and further on the Black Sea.

As for the rest of the cities, market towns or villages, there are a number of travelers who, out of necessity or out of their own desire, deviate from the main routes and choose to visit places like Alba Iulia, Sighișoara, Bistrița, Bacău, Târgu Jiu, Suceava or Botoșani – localities mentioned by no more than a few travelers, if not only by one. D. Lovi explored the foothills of the Subcarpathians, John Paget passed through many Transylvanian villages, Partenie went through many Moldavian localities and monasteries and Adolf Schmidl discovered every single corner of Transylvania. However, most of the travelers kept straight to the main road, to the Danube transit points or the capital cities. Few of them ventured further within the visited territory and numerous places, harder to reach or less crowded, have been left out of their itineraries, or just not mentioned in the travel logs.

Geographical and social projections in Nodegoat can be complemented by time stamps and intervals, allowing the user to compare different chronological periods in terms of dynamics of the researched topic (in this case, number and itinerary of foreign travelers). Increases and decreases in the frequency of trips obviously have to do with historical reasons. For example, at most five travelers leaving memoirs are registered before 1834, when the political situation was not yet very stable in the two Danube Principalities, still under Russian military rule. Franz Joseph Adolph Schneidawind embarked on a journey in Central and South-Eastern Europe, passing through the Romanian space somewhere between 1824-1832. Stepan Fyodorovich Dobronravov went there alongside the Russian administration following the Russo-Turkish War of 1828-1829. Miklós Barabás crossed the Carpathians in search of a place to practice his profession. F.S.Rosen Chrismar passed through here in 1833 on the occasion of

a trip to Constantinople, and Ami Boue probably started his research trips somewhere in 1833 and completed them in 1840, but without knowing exactly when he passed through this space. Therefore, apart from those five mentioned above, who undertake trips before 1834, the rest of the travelers come to the Romanian space after 1834. However, we should underline again that the primary source used for this research paper is not exhaustive. Testimonies discovered, preserved or published are subject to hazard of history. So, we could see a trend that the majority of travelers were after 1834 in Romanian Principalities, but this rule is strong biased by lack of sources talking about pre-1834 period. (**Fig. 9**).

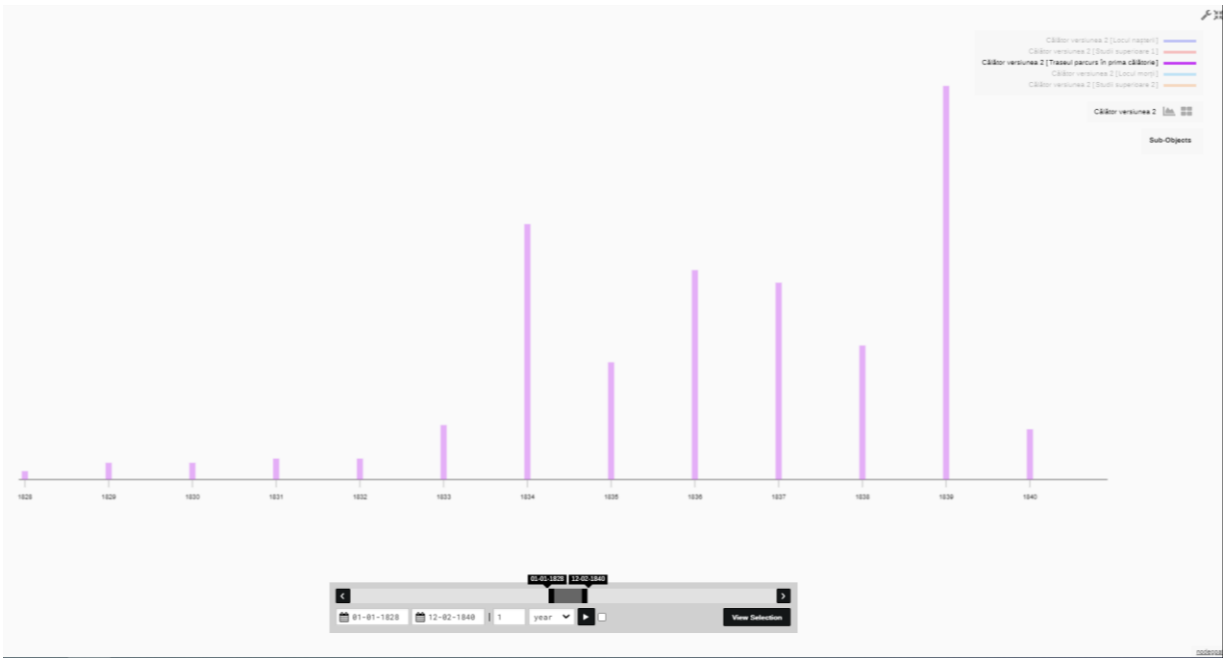

Fig. 9. Yearly display of the number of places mentioned by travelers

However, in light of **the second criterion**, the situation changes a little, shading light on the relativity of the previously discussed data. Each traveler has a certain style of recording testimonies. Some just try to capture a brief picture about the regions they pass through, as is the case of the publisher Raoul Perrin. He entitles his section dedicated to the Principalities: “General view on Wallachia and Moldavia 1839”[18]. That is why, in Perrin's notes, there are only two places mentioned: Iași and Bucharest, although he must have passed through others, at least along the main roads. The opposite situation involves, Gustav Schuller, who came to Wallachia to study the effects of the earthquake from 11/23 January 1838 in the counties of Buzau, Ialomița and Prahova. He rigorously recorded all the villages and places he passed through (possibly even some he did not visit personally), some of which remain unidentifiable today. Thus, as in the case of other travelers, although he mentions a high number of visited places, only the most important ones have been selected and inputted in Nodegoat. Selection also came as a consequence of the platform not allowing the

[18] *Ibidem*, vol. III, p. 748.

registration of more localities through which the travelers passed in the same day. Consequently, only seven important localities have been selected from this traveler's itinerary, from among the dozens mentioned in the source. The case of Adolf Schmidl is equally eloquent in this regard, as he noted every locality that came in his way, in order to draw up a comprehensive travel guide within the Habsburg Monarchy.

Those three cases underline that no matter how many travelers were in Principalities in one year, the mentions of localities through they went may vary a lot. As **Figure 10** shows, from 1834 and 1836 we got testimonies from an equal number of travelers (10), but places worth mentioned were slightly different 61 to 50. Prior 1834, both number or travelers and travel mentions were low, 1833 was a peak with 4 travelers and 13 mentions. From 1834 onward the increase of travelers generates a higher mention of places, but with high fluctuations between years. Although in 1839 were the most travelers and mentions 1840 have only four travelers and 12 mentions strengthening the whole relativity of travelers and their way of writing.

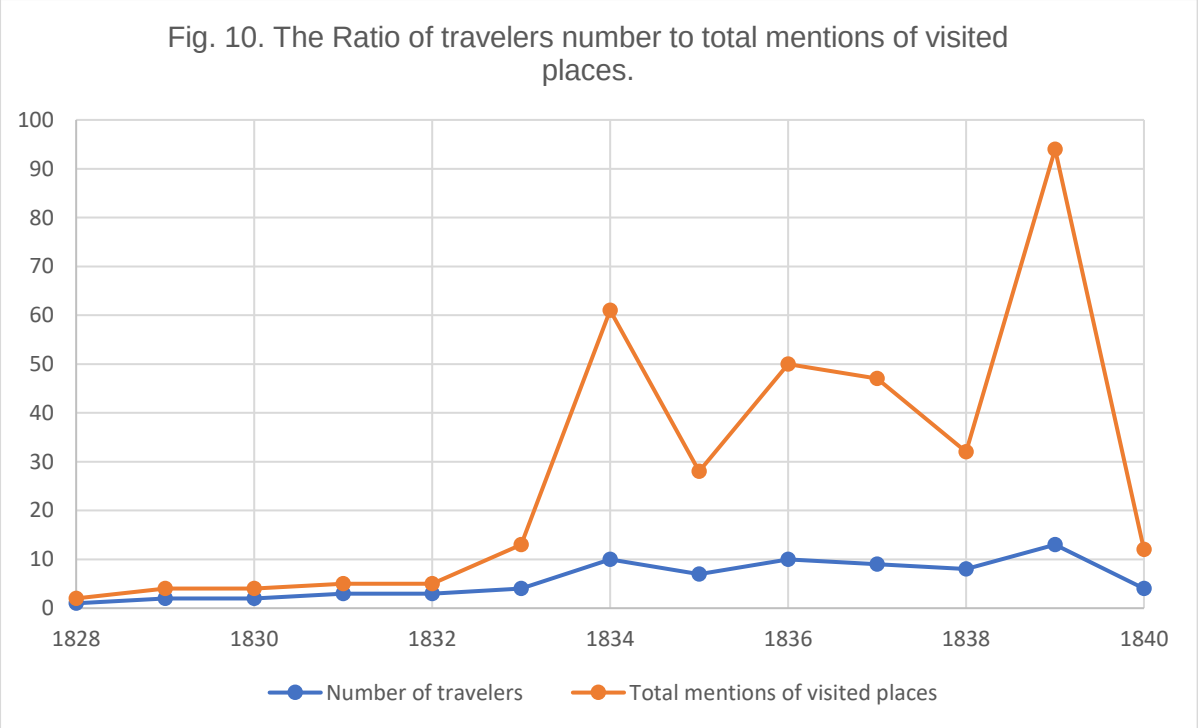

Fig. 10. The ratio of travelers and total mentions of visited places

6. Conclusions

Transposing narrative information into structured data and further on into geographical visualizations is most helpful for historians, and in particular for students who find themselves in the process of getting acquainted with both the realities of the time and the research methodology required in order to analyze them. In this regard, Nodegoat represents a useful and user-friendly tool. This type of visualization, projecting the text onto a map, together with a variety of details whose composition can be modified according to the requirements of the research, allows a much thorough understanding of the data and at the same time it helps identify possible new

research tracks, harder to spot in the original narrative. Comparison between different research sub-topics (e.g., between different foreign travelers in our case) is also aided by the modelling possibilities deriving from the use of a database. Whether geographical, social or chronological, visualization rendered through Nodegoat is particularly useful when used on large data sets. The three types of data visualization are not distinct, but complement each other in order to render as accurately as possible a vanished world.

The present paper was based on a limited sample of travelers, its aims being first and foremost exploratory in regard to the employment of Nodegoat in the research of this particular topic. This makes general historical conclusions harder to draw, but even so, a series of conclusive remarks should be made, based on the aforementioned complementarity of the projected data, which allows the sketching of a profile of the foreign traveler in the Romanian space in the 1830s that left travel notes. Most of the originated from Central or Western Europe, and their great majority (82%) came from bourgeois, or at least non-noble, families. At least half of them had a university degree, which placed them on the mid-upper social strata, a position also underlined by their professional background (politician, writer, military, priest – these four professions accounting for cca. 60% of the travelers). Among the most frequent reasons for traveling through Transylvania or through one of the Danube Principalities, one can identify exploration, research, and diplomatic activities (accounting for cca. 70% of the travelers). Thus, quite a few of them were not only passing through, but also discovering and getting to know more about these lands, on which however, most of them (80%) never returned for a second visit.

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Encoding youthful perspectives of the Anti-Communist Revolution

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Abstract: Encoding youthful perspectives of the Anti-Communist Revolution" presents in a captivating manner two interviews dating back to the time in the history of Romania when the country was struggling with the Communist revolution which started in Timisoara. The perspective in which this information is described is the XML language. In order to simplify the data and to make it more accesible, there were used tags in a scheme. By using this method, the readers can have a better understanding of the text while having an over-all look upon the discussed historical issue.

Keywords: XML, Text encoding, Anti-Communist Revolution, Testimonies, Oxygen XML Editor

Reasons for Choosing this Theme

For this article, I have chosen the theme "Text encoding", and I have worked on texts concerning the 1989 Romanian revolution. I have managed to realize the project by using the XML Editor which is in my opinion, a very handy encoding language because it gives its users the chance to create any tag they desire, according to their own way of interpreting a text. By using the XML language I wanted to reveal how much easier the researchers task becomes when given the possibility to access a lot of data organized in a more compact yet smarter way. Let's take for example a text that is dense in information regarding many individuals and many more events. It would take a big amount of time to assimilate properly everything that the text has to offer. The XML Editor allows its user to arrange all the data in a more symmetrical way. The reader can access information about an event that is reffered in the text by simply moving the mouse cursor on the words containing the events name, making a tiny tab pop up. Even though, the tab will not contain as much data as a plain text, it

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will sum up just enough to give the reader an idea about what happened during that event, giving him or her the opportunity to fully understand what they are reading about. If the reader will seek further information, he or she will know where to find it.

This paper is based on 2 testimonies given during the Anti-Communist Revolution in Timisoara, 1989. The two individuals that were interviewed narrate with their own words the events that took place between 16th and 17th of December 1989(the interviews can be found by visiting the website http://memoriatimisoarei.ro/ (last accessed 26.10.2020)and , the individuals that were interviewed are Boțoc Cristina and Ardelean Gheorge; the journalist that interviewed them both is Onica Adrian).

One of the reasons for choosing this theme is the fact that the Communist Revolution served as a stepping stone for the evolution of Romania. It was a turn point that consisted of protests, fights between the civilians and the authorities, crossfires and many more actions that had devastating consequences upon the civilians caught in the middle of a political regime change.

I have chosen the XML language because its closely related to the HTML language which I would like to base my bachelor's degree on. Furthermore, XML is a metalanguage that has its own methods of use, methods that I would like to study more to become capable of defining my own markup tools.

XML is a markup language that defines a set of rules for encoding documents in a human-readable and computer-readable format. So what exactly is a markup language? Marking is the information added to a document that improves its meaning in certain ways, by identifying the parties and how they relate to each other. Specifically, a markup language is a set of symbols that can be placed in the text of a document to mark and label parts of that document.

XML has six important features that make it useful in a variety of systems and solutions:

- XML is extensible;
- XML allows you to create your own self-descriptive or language tags that fit your application;
- XML carries the data, not presents it;
- XML allows you to store the data no matter how it will be presented;
- XML is a public standard;
- XML was developed by an organization called the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and is available as an open standard.

This metalanguage helps me to enlarge my knowledge related to the computer field and at the same time, to be able to structure a text at first sight with more ease, to find different labels through which to divide a text much faster and to understand by methods for schematizing the content and use of data in a text.

Personally, I have chosen this topic due to the historical value of the testimonies and the ease of the mechanism of structuring some old texts with great significance, through XML, an application that offers an accurate character to the data

in the online environment. This language fits perfectly with my way of thinking and interpreting a text, of any type.

Data description

I have done a detailed research in order to find information as old and authentic as possible.The source that gave me the most information was " http://www.memoriatimisoarei.ro/timisoara-povestita/povestiri-de-viata/remember-89---marturii-inregistrate-la-7-ani-de-la-revolutia-din-1989.html "(last accessed 26.10.2020). Here was able to find various interviews, taken by Adrian Onica on April 11, 1997, with individuals that played an active role in the Anti-Communist Revolution in Timisoara. Also, we found interviews with persons that had a family member involved in the atrocious event.

I have picked up the 2 interviews that moved me the most. The deep tragedy that came upon those involved and the atrocious consequences that followed leave us speechless.

The first interview is with Cristina BOŢOC. She lost her 13-year-old sister during 17th of December when she left home with a group of children and never returned. Initially they looked for her at her friends place and then at the hospital where they found out that she was shot in the heart area. Later, by coincidence when looking for her at the morgue they found out that her autopsy had been done there. The search continued, until they came across the information that she was buried in the Heroes' Cemetery.

The second interview with Ardelean GHEORGHE, reveals us information about the vandalisation of the shops in Piata Operei, information regarding the crossfire from which he had initially escaped. When he joined another group of revolutionary he was shot in the leg and taken to the hospital. There, he was treated by doctor Barany and doctor Rădulescu, who also guided him not to tell the security guards that he participated in the Revolution. After recovering from his injuries, he returned home. Later, he began to attend hearings at the Prosecutor's Office where he was suggested constantly, that the army did not fire.

In order to structure these texts as well as possible, I've used the program Oxygen XML Editor and I have created multiple labels between paragraphs or words. After creating these labels, a schema can be generated.

Oxygen XML Editor is a program made for editing XML documents and also for validating the XML as it is entered. Usually, for additional schema types, a validation is generated and it allows Oxygen to use another programs to realize validation.

My goal was to create a schema as similar as possible for both texts.

Schemas can be viewed in four ways: text mode, grid mode, author mode and design mode.

So, after generating the schema I can see, from the Design mode, on the right side of the Palette screen, its components (what type of label I applied): a string, a group, an element, an attribute, a group of attributes, a complex or simple type. At the same time, I can see the composers and wildcards (sequence, choice, all, any, any

attribute), but also the directives (import, inclusion, redefine) and constraints (key, key reference, unique, selector, field).

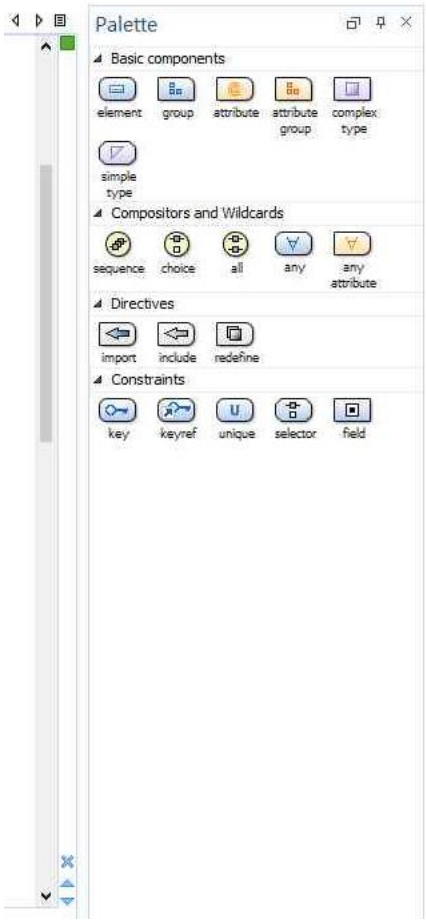

Fig.1. Oxygen XML Editor, Design Mode, Palette

In text mode, the schema can be viewed in code form, similar to the html language, the difference being the extensions at the beginning of the tags.

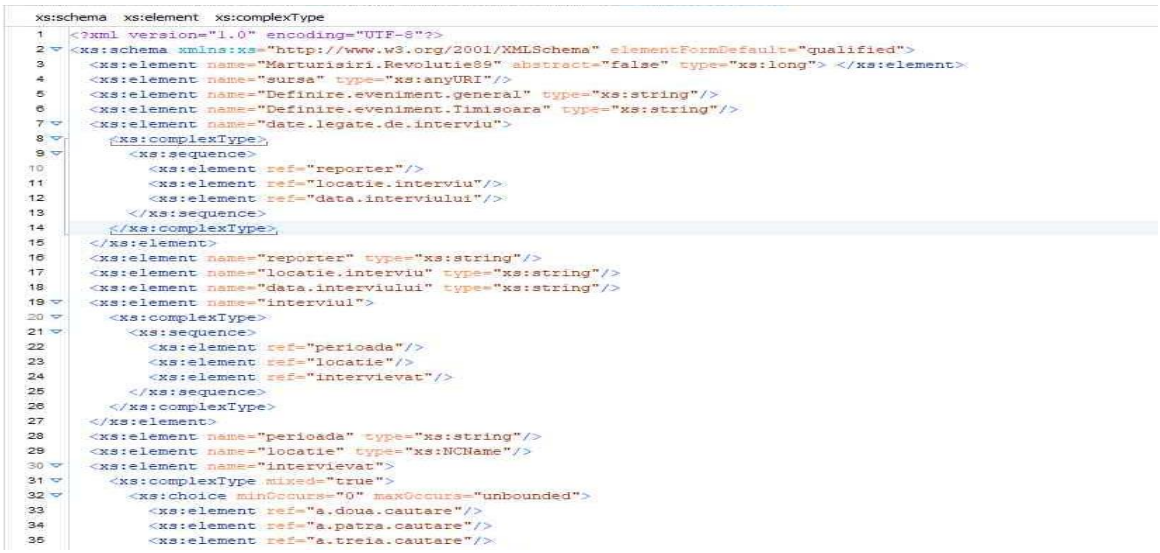

Fig.2. Oxygen XML Editor, Text Mode

In Grid mode, the schema can be viewed as a table, and can be seen on the left, the title of the schema, the schema form, and its elements, and as columns are distinguished: name, whether the element is abstract or not, the type of element and if it is complex.

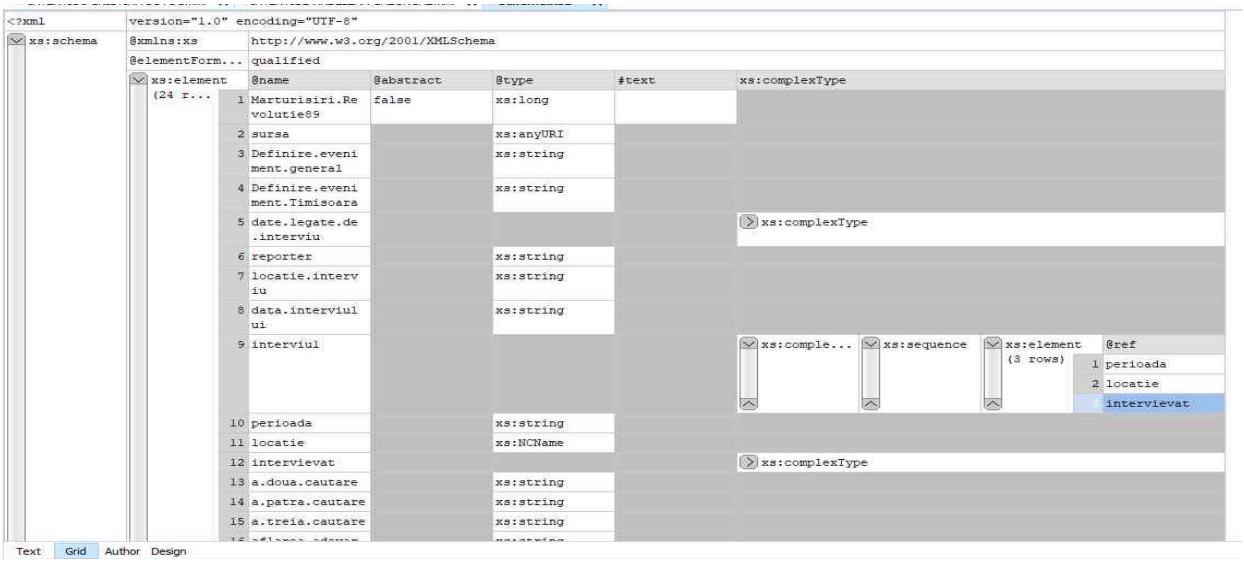

Fig.3. Oxygen XML Editor, Grid Mode

In Author mode, the schema can be viewed as a C / C ++ code. All the elements with their name and type appear.

Fig.4. Oxygen XML Editor, Author Mode, XML Schema

Project presentation

After choosing the interviews, both based on the events of December 16-17, 1989 in Timisoara, I began to create the schema by adding as similar labels as possible.

The first label is entitled "Confessions of Revolution 89" so that from the beginning I can frame the text in a historical context. All other labels that will follow are contained by.

In the following I will list and explain the labels used in the tag "Maturisiri Revolutie 89":

1. <Source>: Contains the URL link from where I extracted the interview. The site is entitled "Memory of Timisoara"

2. <General event definition>: Through this label I tried to place the reader in an authentic spacial-temporal framework, which presents in the foreground the revolution developed at national level.

3. <Defining the Timisoara event>: Through this label I tried to place the reader in an authentic spacial-teime framework, which presents in the foreground this revolution that took place in Timisoara.

4. <Interview data>: Within this label we have introduced others 3.
   a. <reporter> includes the name of the reporter
   b. <interview location> includes the place where the interview took place
   c. <date of interview> includes the date on which the interview was conducted

5. <interview> This tag is a more complex one because it contains the interview itself but also multiple other tags such as:
   a. <period> Presents the period in which the action is described.
   b. <location> Shows the location where the action is described.
   c. <interviewee> This label contains all the information provided by the interviewee. Thus, it will contain some different labels due to the various stories of the interviewees.

I. The first interviewee "Cristina Boțoc"
- <interviewee name> Contains the name of the interviewee in this case Cristina Boțoc
- <interviewed status> Describes the place of birth, nationality, studies performed.
- <temporary placement of the action0> Commencement of the actual action, dating on December 17th, Sunday.
- <spatial placement>
- <event awareness> Represents Cristina's first interaction with the events that took place in front of the cinema. Which causes her to turn around and see what happens.
- <loss of sister> Presentation of the sister and her departure with another group of people that determined her final loss.

II. The second interviewee "Ardelean Gheorghe"
- <interviewee name> Contains the name of the interviewee in this case Ardelean Gheorghe
- <interviewed status> Describes the place of birth, nationality, studies performed and the job from the date of the interview.

- <temporal placement of the action> The beginning of the actual action, the dating on December 16th, but also spatially through the label <spatial placement of the action> which reflects the initial location of the action.
- <temporal placement of the action1> The label contains the date on which the action took place (December 17), but also the label <spatial placement of the action> which places Ardelean G. in the Opera Square.
- <event awareness> Represents Gheorghe's first interaction with the events that took place in the Opera Square. The multitude of people present and the deeds committed by them, the theft and vandalism of the shops determined him to stay.
- <store vandalism> This label contains details about the vandalism of shops and buildings in the Opera Square by various young people
- <army attack1> Gheorghe hears the first series of gunfire
- <constining the gravity of the situation> The label contains: the paragraph in which Gheorghe realizes that everything is real and wants to leave, but also the label <the involvement of the army> the blocking of the streets by the military
- Escape from the military
- <army attack2> The label contains the initial when Gheorghe joined another group of demonstrators.
- <shooting by the army> The tag contains: information about the moment when Gheorghe was shot, but also the tag <reporter question>.
- <reporter question>
- <description of the wound> Shows information about the wound in the foot made by the shot.
- <arrival at the hospital> The demonstrators transported Gheorghe to the hospital, New, Emergency Clinics.
- <security interrogation> Contains the temporary placement label, dated December 19, but also the arrival of the security guards in the hospital. Patients were helped by doctors (this label <doctor's help>), who advised them to lie to the security guards about the cause of their injury.
- <hospital conditions> This section describes how patients were treated by doctors.
- <hiding the facts> Starting the hearings at the Prosecutor's Office, where the involvement of the army was denied

Conclusions

Following a search for Cristina Botoc's interview, another site that offers information is http://memoriatimisoarei.ro/ (last accessed 26.10.2020) which, although it provides the necessary information, structures it in the form of a journalistic article difficult to read in the online environment and more disadvantageously structured, vital information being difficult to find.

In the case of the interview with Ardelean Gheorghe, the search for this interview on Google was inefficient, the results on the first page not being able to offer a platform for presenting the interview, while on the memoriatimisoarei.ro website it offers a search bar through which can reach the interview directly with him.

In conclusion, I considered that the use of the XML Editor program, in order to outline and label the two interviews on the events of the 1989 revolution against the communist regime was an effective method of simplifying, understanding and transposing historical information into a court with applicability in the online environment.

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Published Online: 2021-01-25

Book Review

Andrei Asăndulesei, *GIS (Geographic Information System), fotogrametrie şi geofizică în arheologie. Investigaţii non-invazive în aşezări Cucuteni din România* (*GIS (Geographic Information System), photogrammetry and geophysics in archeology. Non-invasive investigations in Cucuteni settlements in Romania*), Iaşi, ed. Universităţii "Al. I. Cuza", 2015, 274 p., ISBN 978-606-714-215-0

Andrei Asăndulesei completed his doctoral studies in 2012, in the field of History at the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi under the guidance of Prof. Univ. Dr. Nicolae Ursulescu; his doctoral thesis is the basis of this paper. He is currently a researcher in the Interdisciplinary Department of Science at the graduated university, continuing to work in the field of non-invasive research of archaeological sites in Romania and abroad.

From the title of the paper, the author outlines two main lines of study of Cucuteni settlements in the micro-region known as the Bahluieţ basin (Romania): the classical, archaeological research and an innovative, complementary, method, known generically as non-invasive research methods of a site or a complex of archaeological sites. We must mention from the beginning that the subject of the book is approached coherently throughout the work, the author opting for a theoretical approach, followed by a part of practical exemplifications. The 225 pages of text are accompanied by a rich visual material consisting of photos, drawings, tables, etc. In addition to web sources, the author used over 270 foreign or Romanian specialized works, most of them being abroad, which indicates a careful and thorough documentation of the topic.

The book is structured in five chapters, each with several subunits. The first chapter, Introduction, is dedicated to clarifying the working methodology and terminology used by the author such as: environmental and landscape archeology or geoarchaeology. As the author rightly points out, some of these concepts are more recent and specific to post-processual archeology and can be analyzed through interdisciplinary research methods due to technological development in recent decades. The next three chapters address one by one the non-invasive research methods, the Geographic Information System (GIS), aerial photography,

photogrammetry and geophysical methods, made within the archaeological sites belonging to the Cucuteni culture in the mentioned space.

In the second chapter, the author deals with the Geographic Information System (GIS) method, first presenting some theoretical aspects, followed by performing the spatial analysis of the river basin of Bahluieţ River, thus offering a unique perspective of the habitat from the Eneolithic period. In his approach, the author correlates the information obtained through non-invasive research methods with those already existing, the latter obtained from archaeological research (whether we are talking about systematic archaeological sites, surveys and rescue or surface analysis). The combination of this information resulted in the creation of an archaeological and spatial database, a true repertoire of settlements belonging to the Cucuteni culture. A number of 104 sites were indexed, out of which 62 with recorded GPS coordinates and another 33 points could be placed accurately due to analysis of topographic maps, ortho-photoplans or data obtained by the LIDAR method.

In the category of non-destructive methods of remote sensing research on an archaeological site are: aerial photography, photogrammetry and LIDAR technique (Light Detection and Ranging). Aerial photography has been successfully applied in archeology for more than a century, being used mainly for the identification of new archeological sites. This is an excellent method of monitoring archaeological sites over time, an aspect that the author emphasizes in the paper. As Mr. A. Asăndulesei states in chapter three, these research methods have their own limitations, which is why one, two or even all three methods can be applied to “scanned” the area, depending on its morphology mentioned above.

The fourth chapter is dedicated to the geophysical methods of prospecting in archeology, magnetometer prospecting, the method of electrical resistance of the ground and GPR (*Ground Penetrating Radar*). These methods have a complementary character of research of an archeological site, very efficient in obtaining information prior to the archeological research. The most used of these is magnetometry given the fact that through it you can quickly acquire data in a short time and the results are reliable. The author of the paper opted for the cross-application of these methods on three settlements from the Eneolithic period, obtaining a set of information that he interspersed by providing a rich informational material about the extent and occupation of space within them. This is essential information for future archaeological research campaigns but also an increase in knowledge about the Eneolithic habitat in Romania.

The last chapter presents the author's conclusions regarding the results obtained by applying the non-invasive methods of researching an archaeological site, more precisely those included in the Bahluieţ river basin. In addition to identifying and mapping these sites, Andrei Asăndulesei managed to enrich the level of knowledge of the habitat of settlements belonging to the Cucuteni culture by: establishing the extent and internal organization of a site, identifying structures of different shapes, sizes and different functionality based on analogies already known as well as the possible relationships between settlements but also between communities and the environment.

This paper is not just an extra knowledge for what the Eneolithic means on the territory of Romania, it shows above all how important it is to use complementary methods and at the same time preceding the archaeological research. Non-invasive research methods cannot replace archaeological research but they can give us a different set of information as well as a more complete picture of past communities.

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