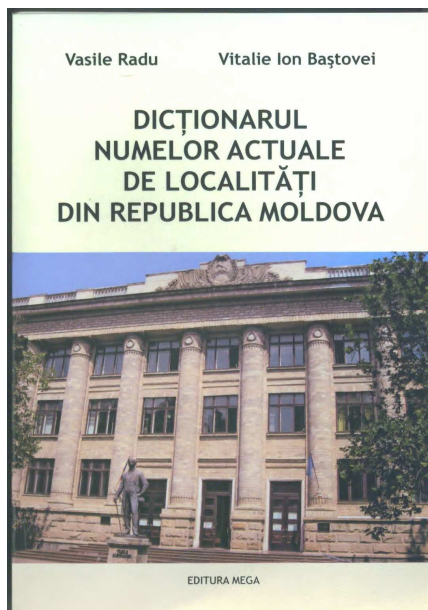


Vasile Radu, Vitalie Ion Baștovei, *Dicționarul numelor actuale de localități din Republica Moldova*, Editura Mega, Cluj-Napoca, 2008, 143 p. (Maria Dobre)



*the dictionary structure* (p. 9-10).

The name inventory is systematized in six sections: *The alphabetic index of the localities from the Republic of Moldavia* (p. 11-87), *Communes and their centers*, (p. 88-117), *The municipia and towns in the Republic of Moldavia* (p. 118-122), *The present-day names of the districts from the Republic of Moldavia* (p. 123-125), *The localities from Găgăuzia* (p. 126-128), *The localities on the left side of the Nistru River* (p. 129-138).

The dictionary ends with a short bibliography, *Surse informative/Information sources*, (p. 139-140), and with a map of the country (p. 141).

The introduction mentions that the material was selected from two main sources: *Legea privind organizarea administrativ-teritorială a Republicii Moldova/The law regarding the administrative-territorial organizing of the Republic of Moldavia* issued in November 1998, and *Legea privind organizarea administrativ-teritorială a Republicii Moldova/The law regarding the administrative-territorial organizing of the Republic*

Recently, *Mega Publishing House* in Cluj-Napoca published a *Dictionary of Contemporary Place Names in the Republic of Moldavia/ Dicționarul numelor actuale de localități din Republica Moldova*. The dictionary is coordinated by professors Vasile Radu from Romania and Vitalie Ion Baștovei from Moldavia. DNALRM opens with a short preface, written by Vasile Radu, followed by other two introductory parts: *Din istoricul împărțirii administrative/A short history of territorial divisions* (p. 7-8) and *Despre structura dicționarului/On*

of *Moldavia* issued in December 2001. According to the 1998 Law, the country territory was divided into “8 counties with 8 municipia, 22 communes and 111 villages” (p. 7). The process of enforcing this law resulted in the publishing of a volume containing *Codurile poștale ale Republicii Moldova/The Zip Codes of the Republic of Moldavia*, following the new administrative-territorial structure. It appeared in Chișinău in 1999.

The statistic analysis of the names registered in *The Zip Codes* evinces that there are “1680 (1681) localities, 15 municipia, 50 towns and 658 communes, grouped into 6 counties, the administrative-territorial units: the municipium of Chișinău, Găgăuzia and Transnistria” (p. 7-8).

According to the 2001 Law, “the territory was divided into administrative-territorial units, districts, towns and villages, establishing two levels of organisation: the first level is represented by villages, communes, towns and municipia and the second by districts. This law presents a new reality (...) which means 1678 localities, 5 municipia, 60 towns and 915 communes” (p. 8).

In the part *Despre structura dicționarului/On the dictionary structure* the following are mentioned: “the book presents the country’s localities alphabetically considering the present-day administrative organization and the changes appeared regarding the administrative territorial structure since the 2001 Law began to be reinforced” (p. 9).

The notion of *locality* is used throughout the book with two meanings: the general meaning is ‘human settlement’, and it appears in the book title; the narrow meaning is ‘small village’ and the term appears with this meaning in the first part of the inventory, chapter III (p. 11-87). Every village name, registered both using the Latin and the Cyrillic alphabet, is located at the level of the commune and of the district. For example: Abaclia – *Абаклия* –, village, commune Abaclia, the Basarabesca district.

The dictionary represents the first stage in elaborating an ample lexicographic book on Basarabia’s oiconymy, including historical and etymological elements. This first stage was a necessary one, since it has a wide addressability, being a useful instrument both for the specialists and for the public, in schools, administration, communication, etc. in the Republic of Moldavia.

The publication of this dictionary is salutary to any Romanian considering the relations between the Romanians from both sides of the Prut and also the fact that for decades in a row the average Romanian had limited possibilities of knowing something about the lifestyle and spirituality of the Romanians from Basarabia. What is the oiconymy of a territory but the condensed history of that land's inhabitants?

Therefore, professor Vasile Radu warmly addresses the book to whoever "wants to get informed" but, first of all, the inhabitants of Basarabia (p. 6), at the same time making an appeal to all those who could contribute to elaborating an encyclopedic volume. We think that the author refers mostly to the intellectuals from the villages and communes in Basarabia, who can provide information about local history, beliefs, customs and legends, precious information to any lexicographer interested in the origin of place names.

We should also mention that the spelling with *î* is used throughout the dictionary, since this corresponds to the current regulations in the Republic of Moldavia: *Rîșcani, Sîngerei*, etc.

A short analysis of the lexicographic inventory shows that Basarabia's oiconymy has a composite character, explained by the ethnic composure of the country. There are encountered names with historical and cultural resonance (*Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Cantemir, Decebal, Ion Vodă, Regina maria, Ștefan Vodă*, etc.), names which preserve regional linguistic characteristics (*Chetrișul Nou, Chetroasa, Corpaci, Horodiște*), Russian terms and proper names (*Ciorna, Crasnaia – Basarabia –, Iasnaia Poleana, Lisaia Gora, Ecaterinovca, Gaidar, Lenin, Miciurin*) or terms of other origins (*Ceadâr, Cealîc, Chiurt, Enichioi, Huzun*).

The oiconymy of the Republic of Moldavia is a source of language facts comprising popular and official elements, lay and religious influences, phonetic and morphological variants of the popular geographic terminology as it appears in toponyms.