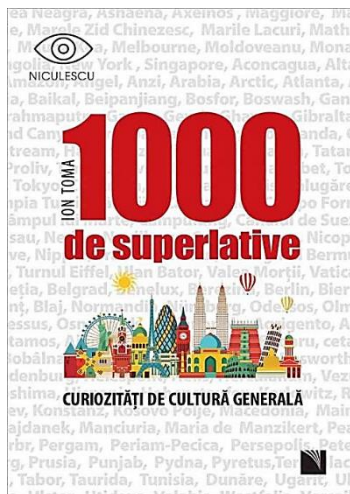


**Ion Toma, *1000 de superlative și curiozități de cultură generală*,  
București, Editura Niculescu, 2018, 131p. (Floriana-Diana Pirlogea Naghibaur)**



Conceived as a continuation of the book *101 nume de locuri*, this work of Professor Ion Toma focuses on the linguistics of proper names, a field that requires rigorous research from a linguistic, geographical, historical, and sociological perspective. Although it is undoubtedly a work intended for an informed public, the author tries, as much as possible, to make it not only a scientific research, but also a teaching resource (which teachers can use whenever needed) thanks to the fact that place names “constitute true ‘landmarks’ of orientation in the vast territory of culture and civilization” (p. 31).

Consequently, Ion Toma’s book is built on two levels: one intended to present the theoretical aspects and another intended to bring to the readers’ attention a selection of toponyms that have acquired the status of superlatives.

In this sense, the first level – the theoretical one – highlights the route of a superlative which, from an ordinary toponym, under the incidence of linguistic, sociogeographical, historical, economic, commercial, cultural factors, acquires fame or a new name. In other words, chapters such as From zonal individuality to extra-zonal notoriety, Metamorphoses of place names, Gradation of toponymic significance: from geographical individualization to sociogeographical notoriety and sociocultural imaginary, Hypostases of onymisation of Romanian toponyms, Inherited, borrowed, doubled, or deonymized names of Romanian places, Superlative place names, How place names become landmarks of culture and civilization aim at researching the mechanisms of the metamorphosis of place names which, exceeding the horizon of local and zonal individualization and transferring notoriety at national and international level, become superlatives, a phenomenon presented as supertoponymisation.

The second level – the applicative one – consists in the classification of place names “according to the field of knowledge in which the quality that highlights them as superlatives lies” (p. 33). Thus, Ion Toma offers for analysis a wide selection of examples of superlatives whose notoriety was given by sociogeographical prominence, characters, or real historic events that were associated with some places, by various aspects of science, philosophy, and art, by personalities, sacred events, and cultural and artistic moments, by the names of some heroes and the places where they lived, by the pseudo-reputation of some places, the new names and fame acquired through appellative or anthroponymic descendants. In addition, the section reserved for examples is completed by a chapter in which Ion Toma provides explanations on the close

connection between the notoriety of the place and the reputation of the name that designates it. Therefore, it is important to mention that, most of the time, the national and international knowledge and recognition of a place name is the result of the human environment which observes the potential of that place and promotes it. The name of this place acquires the quality of superlative and becomes “the basis of some lexico-toponymic families” (p. 125), point at which the laws and mechanisms of language act.

All these make Ion Toma’s work an in-depth study of a complex field that requires a sustained and demanding investigation, using both linguistic and social, cultural, historical, and geographical tools.