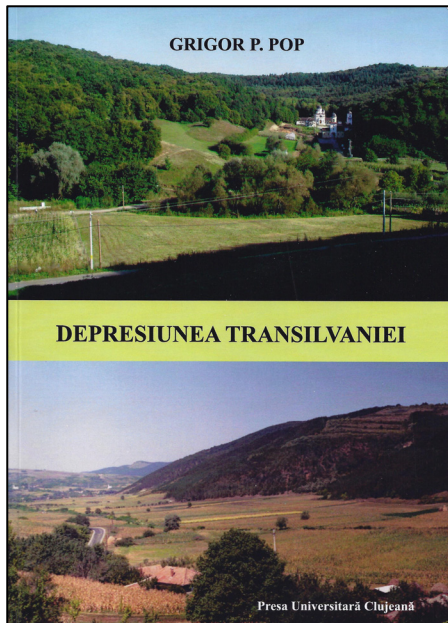

Grigor P. Pop (2012), Depresiunea Transilvaniei [*Transylvanian Depression*], the second edition, revised and enlarged, Edit. Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca, 289 p. (AL. PĂCURAR).

In 2012, appeared the seventeenth book written by Professor Grigor P. Pop from the Faculty of Geography, "Babes-Bolyai" University of Cluj, namely "*Transylvanian Depression*" in a new edition, much enlarged and revised.



The book, in B5 format, published in our university publishing house - Cluj University Press, has 289 pages, includes a preface, forty-two chapters and subchapters, a summary, in English, a bibliography of 180 titles of works in the field and an afterword in which the author points out the main stages of his professional journey, as well as the great directions of scientific research and publishing, in which appears, bringing a substantial contribution in our opinion.

In the *Preface*, the author confesses that following the professional accumulation, combined with a long practice in the field, was able to bring his contribution in the domain of Regional Geography - itself a way through excellence integrating geographic components, in our opinion - publishing a series of synthesis works which were urgently needed, such as: "*Romanian Carpathians and Sub-Carpathians*", in two editions (2000, 2006), "*Transylvanian Depression*" (2001, 2012) and "*Western Hills and Western Plain*" (2005).

In the first chapter, "*General Features*", of introductory nature, the author insists on the genesis and geological composition of the Transylvanian Depression, namely its two major components, foundation, consisting of crystalline schists, ancient mesozoic sedimentary formations and sedimentary formations of the basin, emphasizing the alternation of varied continental and marine sedimentary formations, due to the local tectonism and eustatic movements. Proving a solid background in Geology, the author focuses on the geological periods characteristic formations with an impact in the development of depression. As it is mentioned the formation of Jibou, including the oldest deposits, up to the more recent, pannonian formations of upper-miocene age. A more nuanced statement is made on salt deposits which, having over deposits up to 4000 m thick, migrated to the edges of the basin, generating a typical relief of *diapire creases* outwards and domes and brachianticlinal inwards.

Then, there are highlighted the physical-human geographical features of Transylvanian Depression, in which the author captures the "key" elements, which give the uniqueness and specificity of this unit of almost 26 000 square kilometers within the Romanian Carpathians.

For example, in a concise style that characterizes him, referring to the geographical and human elements, Prof. Pop mentions that across the basin inhabit 2.3 million people in 1870 settlements, of which 44 are cities, degree of urbanization being 59%.

Geographical he encloses the urban settlements of the depression in cities located in the Marginal Unit, which means hills and foothill valleys, in number of 24, and towns of central unit, numbering 20, whose recent and dramatic evolution or rather geodemographic involution! of the period 1992-2011 he surprises in a summary table, in which easily one can see the sharp decline of the urban population, with values reaching 31.4% (Aiud), 31.9% (Făgăraș), or even 32.7% for Mediaș.

In the regionalization of the Transylvanian Depression, the author first reviews the contribution of forerunners in the field, various regionalization which, in most cases, are quite different, not hesitating to amend with scientific arguments, some variants of regionalization proposed over time, based on extensive and thorough knowledge that allowed him to approach the entire space of the logic structure - causality - effect.

With reasons there are highlighted two major units of the Depression: *The hills and foothill valleys* in the framework of what the author calls "Marginal Unit" and the *Transylvanian Plateau*, in the "Central Unit", each with taxonomic hierarchical subunits, presented in a synthetic organization at the beginning of the chapter.

Within the Hills and Foothill Depressions, the author separates the following regional subunits of rank three: Hills between Great Someș and Olt; southern Depressions; Corridors, depressions and western hilly massifs; Lăpuș Depression, gorges and northern lowland basins, in turn, each with subunits of lower rank -five and even six.

In the Transylvanian Plateau, the author follows the "classic" regionalization, ie: Someșan Plateau, Transylvanian Plain; Târnaveilor Plateau; Mureș Corridor as a subunit component, with the features specific to the corridor unit.

In treating any taxonomic level subunits, the author captures with the clarity and concision that characterizes him, what is definitive, typical, specific, showing a remarkable synthesis power.

With objectivity and constructive criticism, where necessary, the author mentions the contribution of researchers in the field, followed by the typical approach of the Regional Geography studies: subunit limits, rigorously marked, geological substratum, morphological, morphographical and morphometric elements of the relief, natural resources, climate with its characteristic elements, the hydrographic network, biopedologic covering.

The considered issue of Human Geography, refers to the population and settlements with frequent forays into their historical background, as well as specific human activities and touristic attractions.

Geodemographic and economic data are updated, are viewed on the correlation and comparison (1992, 2002, 2011), the author succeeding to show the direction of evolution / involution of the analyzed geographic area.

A special quality of the work, otherwise a defining feature of Prof. Pop studies, is that of a rich cartographic material accompanying the text, each subunit having its "map", which contains a huge variety of items that mark its "personality".

The author succeeds the performance, unique in Romanian geographical literature, all the information in the text is marked on the map, but without it being suffocated by written documents and conventional signs, therefore, there is a perfect matching between the text and the cartographic and tabular material.

The author does not hesitate to correct wrong names entrenched in the public mind, as Secașului Plateau and not Secașelor, arguing its approach with solid samples, indubitable, being also very rigorous in delimitation of units and subunits of boundaries, highlighting their characteristic elements, such as *picuiurile* (p. 257) of the above-mentioned subunit.

The paper concludes with a summary in English; and also the content is duplicated in the English translation, which is beneficial, because it enables the consultation and then the adoption of the Romanian regional technology. In fact, he did so in almost all his books which, by the way, are cited as existing in the major university libraries from Europe and North America.

The book can be easily read, despite the high density of information of diverse nature, which makes reading, through the information it sends, very attractive.

It is also distinguished by the skill with which the author manages to capture the specificity of each subunit, of any geographic area as, for example, when treating Sibiu - Săliște Depression, Mărgineni shepherds grazing is synthesized using well-chosen quotes (p.75-76), or how is presented the fruit growing of the region as the main element of the local agriculture in Bistrița and Reghin Hills (p. 43).

The author has approached in a new, personal, innovative and modern way some territorial components (subunits) of the analyzed geographic area, with scientific arguments, as himself wishes to state "*regionalization problems approach in a geographical logical context, according to places reality*" (p. 8), suggesting redefining some of the sections, such as "Hills between Niraj and Olt" in place of "Sub-Carpathians of Transylvania", arguing that they are the result of plaits generated by the movement of saliferous layers of foundation, under the above layers pressure, to the central unit extremities, and not of the crust curling processes of the Carpathian and Sub-Carpathian area outside the Carpathian arch.

Correlations made by the author are interesting and sometimes unexpected.

Thus, when speaking about Dej tuff horizon of Cluj and Dej Hills, he notes that in its upper level "*... stands Bobâlna Hill (693 m), of a remarkable smoothness, with a northerly strong steep and sides that have accented slopes on the other side*", elements that supported the establishment and the organization of the Transylvanian rebel camp in 1437 (p. 132).

"Incursions" in the past of the above mentioned places are so interesting, with references to events that had an impact on regional and national Romanian historical path, thereby enabling the reader to locate them spatially. For example, the mention of Odorheiu Secuiesc city in Odorheului Hills, prepares the mention of its building on the ruins of a Roman fort which "*was part of Roman Dacia's fortifications alignment at the eastern edge of the Transylvanian Depression: Hoghiz (on Olt), Sânpaul and Călugăreni (on Great Homorod), Inlăceni (on Geoagiu Valley), Sărățeni (on Great Târnava), Brâncovenesti (on Mureș), Orheiu Bistriței (on Budacu Valley) and Livezile (on Bistrița Valley)*" (p. 53).

In the same spirit he presents Rohia Monastery (p. 125-126) from Lăpuș Depression, and when dealing Cluj and Dej Hills, describes "*Dăbâca Fortress, situated on a promontory of riodacitic tuff on the left side of Luna Valley*" (p. 135), not even mentioning the "synthesis" of the emergence and evolution of Cluj-Napoca (p. 141-145).

This permanent relationship between natural environment and human activity is particularly interesting, full of wisdom and increases the appetite for reading the book.

It reveals a crucial feature of the author, that of relationship, interdisciplinary approach, with links to various fields in the effort to a synthetic reproduction, but in the same time comprehensive of all that is characteristic for places.

Geodemographic and socio-economic reality is brought up to date, in the current.

For instance, in the Small Someș Corridor the industry is treated so (p. 149-155), the author proving a constant, permanent concern, with which he follows the course of economic activities.

Almost nothing escapes to him, giving us punctual details, as that of modern tram line building in Cluj-Napoca (p. 156).

Logical, accurate approach, indication of predecessors and contemporaries valuable contribution to the study of the geographical features of the region, shading and highlighting the characteristic aspects of subunits, permanent connection between the

substrate-land's reality, cartographic material quality, are attributes which recommend the author and his book, both to the general public, desirous to know our country's geographic features, and to the public that has an opinion, and finds out one of the most comprehensive summary ever published in Romanian geographical literature.

Professor's Pop merit lies in the fact that, overweening at all, he offers especially to the young trainees a quality card, a regional approach model, that combines in a total harmony the exhaustive, complete information, with the synthesis. From now on, it will be the basis of many future

researches as a matrix of valuable database where from one can start in the future researches.

Being given the quality of this book, highly recommend it to students, young studious geographers and those from other activity fields, who are eager to know the realities of a Romanian geographic space component, well known as the "*central pivot*", "*heart*" or "*basic central unit*" (p. 9), as called by the author himself.

ALEXANDRU PĂCURAR

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Romanescu Gh., Stoleriu C.C., Enea A. 2013, Limnology of the Red Lake, Romania. An Interdisciplinary Study, Springer Pub., Dordrecht, Heidelberg, New York, London, 234 p.

A scientific book about one of the most representative Romanian lacustrine unit is an editorial event. Especially if it arises in the care of such prestigious publishers like Springer.

The book's authors anted and succeeded in touching various aspects about the Red Lake – the most known natural barrier lake from Romania. It is unique not only because we know the year when Becaş River valley was retained by the fall – slide of Ghilcoş Mountain's slope, but also because fir logs conserved inside lake's basin in their initial vertical position. Basin's formation and evolution was, of course, influenced by area's geologic and geomorphologic features, but they also influenced the abiotic and biotic properties of water inside the depression. This complexity is well captured and analysed by the authors.

The introduction refers to concept, historic, distribution and typification, and represents a theoretical part based on a large documentation. For this book even the bibliography is a great source of information. The next chapters, the authors locate the lake inside the Cheile Bicazului – Hășmaşul Mare National Park, according to its geology, geomorphology, flora and fauna etc.

A well developed part of this book refers to paleogeographic evolution of river's hydrographic basin and lake's basin. There is made a description of lake's crystalline bed, sedimentation cycles, rock deposits and ground types.

The analysis of lake's hydrographic basin and bed has an important role in developing book's following chapters. First it is a made a petrographic, structural, morphologic (endokarst and exokarst) and fluvial presentation of Hășmaş Mountains, closing with naming the geomorphological zones.

Even though small, The Red Lake's hydrographical basin presents a remarkable complexity. After presenting morphometric parameters, the authors analysed lake's hydrographical network, approaching hierarchic and density aspects, but also slopes exposure and fragmentation. Direct measurement made it easy to update lake's morphometric parameters. There are made statistical analysis of submersed slopes and built hypsographic curves. Research results are represented in maps and graphics.

The next chapter refers to lacustrine sediments that indicate research meticulousity. Like in other chapters, the most used research