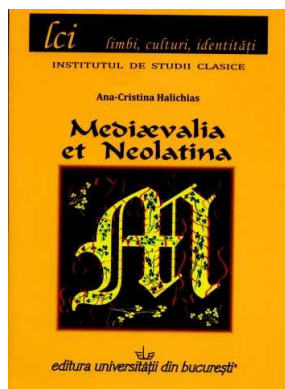


Florentina Nicolae<sup>1</sup>

Ana – Cristina Halichias, *Mediaevalia et Neolatina*, University of Bucharest Publishing House, 2010. 95 pages.



In 2010, University of Bucharest Publishing House published a very special work in the respective area in Romania: Ana - Cristina Halichias, *Mediaevalia et Neolatina*. The special character of this work is visible in the title itself. Theoretical studies on Medieval Latin and especially on Neo-Latin have concerned few Romanian academics, which means that a huge archive of documents has remained unexplored.

The first study, *Pe marginea unui document de la Petru Aron/ On a Document from Petru Aron* (June 29, 1456), is considering a document issued by the royal chancery, an important one because it represents “the first Moldavian document containing a preamble, which is a

diplomatic element with a strictly rhetoric function, probably copied by a notary from forms or other documents” (p. 8). Phonetic, morphological, syntactic analysis and that of the spelling show the influence of the Polish language, the aesthetic trends of the scribe, as well as a series of anthroponyms, oiconyms, and especially Romanian and foreign place names (Camenetz, Soczawie etc.).

The second study, *O revenire necesară asupra privilegiului emis de Matia Corvin la 24 august 1481/ A Necessary Remake of a Privilege Issued by Matia Corvin on August 24, 1481*, proposes to remake the document according to philological criteria: compliance with specific orthographic features of Middle Latin, solutions for abbreviations and especially an analysis of Hungarian terms that explain Latin technical terms regarding fee exemptions awarded to residents of Cluj. The author stresses the importance of a thorough analysis of lexicographic problems, both for historians and linguists.

The third study in the book, *Diplomatică și argumentare în corespondența latină a lui Mihai Viteazul/ Diplomacy and Persuasion in the Latin Correspondence of Michael the Brave*, examines the diplomatic correspondence carried by Michael the Brave between 1595 and 1601 with Western Europe sovereigns or senior officials of those states, to ensure financial and military assistance against the Empire Ottoman. The linguistic research of the documents issued by the Romanian office show the influence of the medieval diplomatic formulae and of the new epistolary rhetoric, “imposed by the Renaissance, which focuses

---

<sup>1</sup> Ovidius University Constanta, Romania

primarily on *elocutio* and secondary on *partitio* (p. 38), as well as the undeniable rhetorical talent of the scriptor.

The chapter *Terminologia realiilor în „Codex Bandinus”/ Terminology of Realie in “Codex Bandinus”* examines two Latin manuscripts, written in Bacau by Archbishop Marco Bandini, representing the report written on the occasion of his visit of the Catholic parishes in Moldova as an apostolic administrator of Moldova. The manuscripts preserved in the Romanian Academy Library, are an “excellent historical source regarding the religious, public and private life of Vasile Lupu” (p. 50), and a very interesting document from a linguistic point of view. That the author was Bosnian, educated in Rome, accompanied by a secretary who knew Romanian and spoke Hungarian as well, is reflected in the manner of rendering the Romanian realie (administrative units and their inhabitants, the royal court, religion, toponymy and anthroponyms, daily life). In Bandini’s text elements of classical and Medieval Latin and Neo-Latin blend with Italian, Hungarian and Romanian terms, in a style of undeniable artistic value.

The study *Fructicosa moenia* examines an inscription in Latin, made a wooden tablet, probably by an officer and placed at the entrance of Sângiorz in the eighteenth century. The inscription contains a message of encouragement to the Romanian recruits. The message is written in an elegant elegiac distich, with Ovid’s influences. The author analyzed the linguistic term *fructicosus*, present in that inscription, with the meaning “overrun by foliage”. The conclusion drawn is that the word that appears in Ovid and Pliny the Elder, as *fruticosus*, was linked by the author of the distich by false etymology to *fructus* (p. 75).

The study *Însemnări pe marginea unui manual de șah: „Informationes speculativae et practicae de ingenioso et artificiali scruporum lusu, schach/ Notes on a Manual of Chess: “Informationes speculativae et et practicae of artificial scruporum ingenioso lusu, schach”* does research on the oldest chess book published in Romania, a translation from French into Latin, printed in Oradea, between 1771 and 1792 (p. 78). In terms of language, the text features characteristics of the Neo-Latin of the eighteenth century, used in Transylvania. Regarding the social aspect, the fact that work has been translated from French into Latin, is evidence of a very broad practice of the nobility and bourgeoisie in Oradea of chess.

The last chapter of the book, *Despre daci, geți și români într-o cronică neolatină de la începutul secolului al XIX-lea/ On Dacians, Getae and Romanians in a Neo-Latin Chronicle of the Early Nineteenth Century* is a linguistic analysis of a chronicle of the Greek-Catholic priest Mychailo Lucikai (1789-1843). The paper, entitled - in short - *Historia sacra et civilis Carpatho-Ruthenorum ...* of 1437 pages, is a writing designed according to the modern techniques of critical analysis of historical sources and is of particular importance for the history of the Romanian people, representing a scientific demonstration on its Roman character.

The work of Ana - Cristina Halichias reflects the importance of reconsidering the interest in Middle and Neo-Latin, in the context of studying the history of Romanian culture and mentality. The seven studies have in common the fact that they examine texts that were written on the Romanian territory and consider Romanian realie, evoked through Latin, the international language of European culture in those periods.