

believe. After all, the first onslaught on the independence of the herdsmen came more than a century and a half ago, and as they moved from the forests and the *puszta* to the vicinity of the villages, their group identity slowly disintegrated. Yet the forms of their distinct "pastoral art" have survived long enough to be rescued by the interest that has since emerged in folk art and by official encouragement—to fill the souvenir shops with fancy ashtrays and cigarette boxes.

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ERDÉLY KORMÁNYHATÓSÁGI LEVÉLTÁRAK. By *Zsolt Trócsányi*. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1973. 785 pp.

This impressive, bulky volume is the fifth in a series entitled *Publications of the Hungarian National Archives I: Archival Inventory Lists*. Dr. Trócsányi's book gives a detailed description of the archival material in the Governmental Archives of Transylvania (housed in the Hungarian National Archives of Budapest) and identifies the more important and larger units of that collection. By doing this, the author provides the researcher with a penetrating insight into the treasure house of information on Transylvania's long and eventful past.

Apart from the descriptive part of the volume, the author, in his general introduction and at the beginning of each chapter, also gives a scholarly account of the institution, agency, or branch of government which issued the documents kept in a certain part of the collection. He provides full information on the sphere of authority, *modus operandi*, and restrictions and limitations of the issuing agency in question. All this is done in a meticulous way, in clear and readable style. The introductory material gives the reader not only a clear picture of the collection discussed but also a familiarity with the main lines of the governmental and administrative systems of historical Transylvania, including its system of government during the years of independence in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This is a commendable achievement indeed. It should be added, however, that the most profitable use of this volume rightly presupposes an acceptable background in the history of Hungary and Transylvania.

There are two main sections in the Governmental Archives of Transylvania. The first one is the Archives of the Transylvanian Chancery, an authority residing and operating in Vienna since about 1695. It very soon became a supervisory authority over the local governmental and administrative bodies in Transylvania, including the gubernium itself, the highest body of government established by the Diploma Leopoldinum of 1691, after the disposal of the Apafi family. In 1765–66, during the reign of Maria Theresa, the archives underwent a serious weeding procedure, but the surviving material had been fully registered. From that time up to 1848 and, with a short interruption, to 1867, the material was kept well organized and carefully registered. It has nine separate units, among them the *Libri Regii* of Transylvania, the register of privileges granted since the time of the independent princes of Transylvania. Most of the papers document the day-to-day business of the Chancery. There are a few, scattered reports from special agents, commissioners, and imperial authorities. The material also contains two—rather peripheral—collections: those of Royal Commissioner Vlasits and of Royal Commissioner Prince Ferdinand de Este, both of them from the third decade of the nineteenth century.

The second section is much more extensive, but less well preserved. The Archives of Local Governmental Authorities of Transylvania consist of eleven parts: the archives of the capitular canons in Gyulafehérvár, former residence of the princes of Transylvania (1505–1868), the archives of the Convent of Kolozsmonostor (1438–1868), archives of the Gubernium Transylvanicum (1435–1870), the treasury archives (1527–1870), the comptroller's archives (1692–1872), and several other governmental collections.

It should be mentioned that the collection under review does not include private (family) archives or personal collections. Many of these are shelved outside of the Transylvanian collection or with general Hungarian historical material closely connected with Transylvanian history (for example, documents of the 1848 Hungarian Revolution). Most of these are also housed in the Hungarian National Archives, although some of them are still in Vienna, in Marosvásárhely, or even in Bucharest.

Owing to fire, vandalism, and other misfortunes, these collections are not without serious gaps. Still they include an overwhelming number of important documents concerning the history of Transylvania. One hopes that the microfilming of historical material, which started around 1950 under the supervision of Bálint Ila, came to a successful conclusion and that the tremendously rich material of the Hungarian National Archives in general and the Transylvanian material in particular will be protected in the future against further losses or destruction. Both Dr. Trócsányi and the professional staff of the Hungarian National Archives should be congratulated for this volume, free from politics and propaganda and published in a format worthy of the time-proven cultural reputation of Hungary.

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VASILE ALECSANDRI. By *Alexandre Cioranescu*. Translated by *Maria Golescu* and revised by *E. D. Tappe*. Twayne's World Authors Series, no. 204. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1973. 179 pp. \$5.95.

Son of a Moldavian boyar, educated in France, genial in disposition, with a remarkable propensity for foreign travel, Vasile Alecsandri (1821–90) served the cause of Rumanian nationalism with great distinction, especially in his self-appointed role of cultural propagandist. As the first major national poet and the first collector and interpreter of Rumanian folk poetry, Alecsandri prepared the way for Mihail Eminescu; as a writer of comedies satirizing a corrupt society and of historical dramas (in the manner of Victor Hugo) evoking the glories of Rumania's past, he laid foundations on which Caragiale and Delavrancea respectively were able to build; as a storyteller and memorialist of verve and delicacy, he was—with his friend Costache Negruzzi—"the true creator of Rumanian literary prose." The immense influence he exercised in his own time and on succeeding generations is thus undeniable; what is still open to question, however, is the intrinsic as opposed to the extrinsic merit of his work.

Alexandre Cioranescu tackles this problem head on in the preface to his study of Alecsandri's writings (the first to appear in English) by denouncing the harsh assessment which G. Călinescu included in his monumental *Istoria literaturii române*. This is unwise, because Călinescu fully recognized Alecsandri's place in