



CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH THE TERMINOLOGY AND IDEAS ABOUT TOURISM ENTERED THE ROMANIAN TERRITORY

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Abstract *We mention, from the very beginning, that the present paper is not intended to be an economic analysis applied to the economic efficiency of the tourism activity but an attempt to bring into the public area a number of penetration channels into the Romanian territory – a territory where the Romanian people originated – of the terminology and ideas about this complex social, economic and cultural phenomenon, namely tourism. We thus understand that we refer to Romanian and foreign bibliographical sources which took into account the aspects mentioned into the title without claiming to deal with all possible aspects, which may be impossible - but with a sincere desire to ensure an attempt to summarize certain trends and ways which have crystallized over time.*

Key words:

Channels, entered, tourism, guide, associations.

Introduction

The dynamics that tourism recorded worldwide, especially since the second half of the XXth century requires a return to its sources in order to better understand the factors that represented and still represent its basis. These approaches are, however, full of risks, because for a very long time in the history of humanity, the tourism, in its simplest forms manifested spontaneously, without specific organizational structures that coalesce and scientifically conduct its evolution.

This "spontaneous" form of manifestation of the typologies that represent the basis of trips have their beginnings in the earliest times, long before our era, at the time of the Babylonian, Egyptian and Chinese Empires and continued until 1841 when the British Thomas Cook launched, led and ended alongside a large number of people - for that time - the first tourist action organized on economic principles.

Some necessary historical references

The issue that needs a scientific answer is what happened inside this form of human expression during this extremely long historical and human civilization arc.

This question is particularly pertinent since written sources are extremely poor and there are nearly 1000 years of imposed silence by the uncertainty of trips, the invasions of migratory populations, the frequent epidemics that raged during those times (Cholera, malaria, etc.) and the ethnic wars. These were so many obstacles placed in the way of normal development.

However, we witness an evolution of the systems of accommodation which, from the major centers where they appeared, they progressed and expanded to extremely large spaces, including other continents.

We here consider the case of the simplest and oldest accommodation structure of the Eastern European territory which was the "Surla", followed by the inn, with a large widespread in Ancient Egypt, in the Roman Era and the eras that followed, a structure which underwent changes and survived even to this day.

The cult of utilizing thermal and mineral waters, especially in the Roman area of influence, with its key center - Rome - a city where, at some point 854 popular baths and 14 luxurious baths were in service - lead to the development of balneology with specific influences in terms of tourist accommodation types, namely the "villas".

The mountain tourism has developed the main type of accommodation, the "cottage" and later on the "hotel" type of accommodation emerged; the automobile led to the birth of the "motel" type of specific accommodation. *Today one can distinguish a certain correlation among the structure of transportation and accommodation forms and those of the tourism industry.*

This long period in the history of mankind highlights an evolution of the transport systems utilized in the purpose of tourist trips.

The first form of transport was cheaper and greener - we would say today - namely walking with its

advantages and disadvantages and became a beneficial practice we know and appreciate today.

Then the usage of various types of boats followed for the water transport as form of tourism, which is still very successfully practiced today on quite extensive areas even if, in the meantime, strong competitors appeared.

The horse with more than 3000 years of utilization represented - with a specific civilization that was thus created - the main and useful means of transportation for an extended surface of the globe followed, in other specific areas, by the utilization of the donkey, the elephant, the camel, the yak, and so on.

With a spectacular evolution in the tourist utilization, the "train" followed by the "automobile" and the "plane" appeared with their known effects in terms of tourism movement dynamics and the globalization phenomenon that we are currently witnessing.

From the analysis we can conclude the following:

- Once man appeared on earth, he was forced to move in order to acquire his basic needs, followed by the need to acquire safety in life and, at a certain level, the need to get to certain know areas and places including the need to meet other populations. These displacements, by the current definition may be considered to frame the tourism purpose.
- There is a strong correlation and mutual influence among the transport structure, the forms of tourism and the forms of accommodation.
- There is an extension in the terms utilized in tourism in the country of origin in almost every country worldwide which are specific to these languages and having a common root.

Analysis and research of the tourism phenomenon from its beginnings to the present day

We are certain of the fact that long before the daring and revolutionary action of Thomas Cook in 1841, under the pressure of the tourism movement and its accompanying benefits first under a form of referral of the issue, certain methods and research and analysis techniques appeared and extended.

This was possible due to the appearance of valuable centers for higher education such as the universities of Bologna (1119), Rovena (1130), Sorbonne (1200), Cambridge (1209), Oxford (1214), Heidelberg (1386), Cologne (1388), Harvard (1636), etc., which, in some point of their evolution began to analyze and investigate factors related to the tourism phenomenon.

This was possible not only due to the decision of Queen Elisabeth I (1583-1603) of England and Ireland

to foster the leave of the young Brits to study and travel to other countries, leading in time to the practice of "Grand Tour", but also to answer the evolution necessities of the evolution of traveling.

The experience gained following the practice of traveling, but also under the pressure of time, such an evolution in the history of tourism shows us that:

- Approximately 600 years B.C., in Babylon, there was a museum of antiquities open to the public;
- 500 years B.C. there was tourism movement of the Greeks to the temples dedicated to their gods (the temple of Delphi), the religious and sporting events. The first written guides appeared here (Athens, Sparta, and Troy).
- The Egyptians took part in various religious activities and could spend time in mini resorts;
- In the Roman Empire traveling was quite intense due to its degree of safety, the lack of borders and the ubiquitous inns existing along trade routes.
- The publication of the first travel books - Herodotus being considered by the literature as the father thereof, - pioneering Mediterranean countries.
- By the year 1200, after the writings of Marco Polo, in China there was a network of inns which appear in the IInd – IIIrd centuries and the first written information, for the officials, the "Bulletin of the court" written on silk was issued in the years 713-734 A.D.
- Since 250-300 A.D. the Holy Land is increasingly being sought by the pilgrims from the Christian world.
- In Venice in 1556 under the government auspices the newspaper entitled "Notizie scritte" is issued.
- The editing and publication in the year 1130 of the first comprehensive tourist guide written by a French monk by the name of Aimeri, which was continued by a series specific for many countries such as those in the very popular collection "La Belle Epoque" since 1832.
- The appearance in 1816 in Rigi of the first mountain hotel and in 1832 of the first hotel for holiday-makers in Bordeaux.
- The establishment in 1841 by Thomas Cook of the first company in the world in the field of tourism.
- The modernization of the means of transport: steam engine boats, boats on diesel engine, the advent of the train and of the dirigible.

All these achievements had a major influence on the tourist traffic, on its scientific analysis and they heavily impacted upon the Romanian territory.

Short notes on the terminology of the Romanian tourism

No matter how well the borders of the countries were guarded, they could not stop the access of information coming from other geographical areas. This is a natural process manifested with various intensities throughout the historical periods over the course of time.

This phenomenon also occurred in the field of tourism activity where we are dealing with a large volume of specific terms alongside other terms borrowed from other disciplines and economic activities depending on the activity profile.

Moreover, it is well known the truth stating that language is, generally speaking, a living organism that continuously enriches its accumulated fund of words. While some words disappear, numerous new words appear, depending on the evolution of life, technique, concerns, the cooperation between countries.

This phenomenon is especially present in the tourist activity, since this is in full process of physical and economic expansion.

The category of specific terms comprises all the terms which form the basis of the activity and are linked to general denominations (tourism, tourists, etc.), the accommodation structures (surla, inn, villa, hut, hotel, etc.), the means of transport (on foot, on horseback, by train, by car, by plane, by boat, by ship, etc.) the types of meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) of certain terms used in rest tourism - circulating, recreation, spa, pilgrimage, etc.

These terms have largely an international evolution, many of which have been utilized for centuries, such as:

a) the terms relating to the designation of "tourism" and "tourists" which, apparently, are derived from English, although their primary origins are still undergoing debate;

b) the term "inn" comes originates in the Egyptian and Roman era and the eras that followed;

c) the terms "guest house" and "hotel" were in use 2000 years ago in the Hebrew and Aramaic languages. We recall the text of the Holy Gospel of Luke, Chapter 10, 25 to 37 in the Samaritan parable which states that: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him

to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have' and on Chapter 2 to 7, on the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ the text states" she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them." These are undeniable truths and as we have seen, there were "guest houses" providing "hosting" for money. These houses could have been inns or mini hotels.

d) the terms relating to the tourist means of transport are largely universal in use.

Regarding the borrowed terms, they are numerous and are utilized according to the profile of the activity; many of them have a restricted circulation (zonal or local) which gives them certain specificity.

We remind that such terms from the field of gastronomy, which have a broader use in other fields of activity, are borrowed from the field of tourism, and the terms from the field of balneology are borrowed from the medical terminology, and so on.

When we deal with the terminology utilized in tourism, we can state that in addition to the denominations taken from other languages, there were situations when the field of tourism landed its terms to other languages concerning the kitchen-related field, the Romanian medicine and so on. Overall, most of the terms were taken from geography, agriculture and transports.

Channels through which ideas about tourism entered the Romanian territory

The Romanian territory has never been, throughout its history, isolated in terms of the interest and the access of tourism related information and activities.

As of its location in the center of Europe, with an indigenous population living on this territory for thousands of years, creating a civilization which proved to be original and alive this geographical space could not remain isolated from the ideas and practices relating to traveling. Moreover, a constant characteristic of the Romanian people, besides searching and developing original techniques in various fields, was the careful observation of the results that other European nations have achieved. Thus, the Romanian people tried and managed to appropriate these achievements in order to continuously maintain on a course of evolution.

This aspect of the issue is present in the field of tourism where, the whole range of ideas projects and denomination was known and critically analyzed depending on the concrete conditions.

Quite understandably, with a temporary time lag, advanced ideas about tourism and its practice as well as its terminology reached the Romanian territory.

Thus the multitude of forms, channels and ways of the penetration into the Romanian territory of ideas about tourism the following are worth remembering and presenting since we consider them as being key:

1. By the help of studious Romanian youth who, throughout the centuries have followed vocational courses, went to schools and universities in the central and western European countries.

2. Through foreign travelers who, throughout the centuries have visited various areas of the Romanian territory.

3. Through the contribution of tourism associations and clubs which were founded and acted in the historical Romanian provinces and who were inspired by the similar clubs from central and western European countries.

4. By the endeavor of certain passionate and great lovers of hiking, domestic and foreign pilgrimages and tourist travels.

5. The efforts of Romanian travelers and explorers in other geographical territories of the world.

6. Through magazines, directories, guides and travel impressions.

7. Through the usage of outdoors curative baths by Romanian travelers and of domestic curative baths by foreign travelers, etc.

1. *The most allowable channel for the access of ideas about tourism to the Romanian territory was represented by the Romanian youth who attended various types of educational institutions, namely doctoral, university, secondary and vocational.*

These young people spoke the foreign languages of the countries where they studied:

a) They were in close contact with their peers both in the country where these institutions were located and in other countries; the Romanian youth were communicating upon various issues including the places and objectives that were worth visiting – so these were conversations about tourism – and thus they were in a permanent exchange of ideas.

b) Through the newspapers and books and maybe through courses and seminaries they would gather information from the field of tourism and through the exchange of ideas on this aspect of the human life.

c) Through the direct contact with the local population from the area where these education institutions were located.

d) Not least through the areas and cities they would cross from their homes to the place of study, during which they gathered data on the objectives, forms of tourism and places of practice.

This category of young people had a tremendous contribution in introducing and popularizing the ideas about tourism on the Romanian territory. Upon their return home, they would bring with them leaflets, guides and towards the end of the XIXth century, they would bring even books on the theory and practice of tourism. In parallel, these young people were the carriers of theoretical and practical information about tourism that they previously acquired. The pieces of information were the most diverse, including organizational aspects and practices, in other words the organization of the tourism activity.

If we consider the enthusiasm that characterized most of those young people and their sincere desire to see their native villages and cities on the path of progress and civilization, we understand better the key role that they played.

The number of the young people from the three Romanian provinces who studied abroad was so great that the list is very long. This is the very reason we will retain only a few of the most prominent names: Vasile Alecsandri, Mihai Kogălniceanu, Nicolae Filimon, Ion Codru Drăgușanu, Mihai Eminescu, Nicolae Iorga, Miron Costin, Andrei Șaguna, Gheorghe Asachi, Dimitrie Cantemir, Gheorghe Sincai, Samuil Micu, Ion Ghica, Dimitrie Bolintineanu, Iancu Văcărescu, Alexandru Odobescu, Petru Maior, August Treboniu Laurean and Alecu Russo.

2. *The second most important channel for the access of ideas about tourism on the Romanian territory was the number of foreign travelers (merchants, soldiers, spies, or just enthusiasts; many of them left us written texts on their impressions accumulated about the visited places.¹*

Upon their contact with members of the local community or with the administration members of the time, they would, among other things, discuss about the places they visited, objectives worth visiting as tourism experience in their home countries.

The motivations of these foreign travelers were the most diverse, namely:

- *Political*₁ to gather intelligence useful to the chancelleries in their home countries (it is mainly the case of imperial capitals) but also to other countries with interests in the area;
- *Economical*₁ for the sale of certain goods and market testing and not least for the purchase of local products that were very cheap (honey, sheep, cattle, horses, salt etc.);
- *Military*₁ to know the defense power and systems, to prepare useful drawings and maps for potentially future invasions;

- *Religious*, to know the actual state and attempts to bring in a particular religion – hence a missionary purpose;
- *Lucrative*, through which physicians, linguists, craftsmen, traders, military instructors were looking for work in the Romanian Countries.

Many of these travelers, in addition to presenting the general situation (industrial, commercial, religious etc.) in their countries and a number of them, since the XVth century left us written pages upon their impressions following their visits on: customs, traditions, road conditions, means of transport and also the beauty of landscapes, etc.

In our opinion the following are worth mentioning:

- Paul of Aleppo, The trips of Patriarch Macarius of Antiochia in the Romanian Countries, 1653-1658 where many aspects he directly came across are mentioned.

- Francois de Pavie, in 1585 on his way to Constantinople passing through Wallachia mentions the “olac” as a single person means of transportation,

- Domenica Sestini publishes in 1788 a book entitled „Viaggio în Valachia e Moldavia”

- Marcus Bandinus, a missionary, the Pope’s emissary in the Romanian Countries in the years 1644-1650, who through letters and reports sent to Rome presents an impressive amount of information about the places he visited (Codex Bandinus)

- The English Merchant La Motraye visits Muntenia, Dobrogea and Basarabia at the beginning of the XVIIIth century and provides written information upon customs, traditions, population and so on.

- Ludovic von Stürmer writes a book at the beginning of the XIXth century about some parts of the Romanian Countries, namely Valea Oltului, Turnu Roșu, the travel by cart and so on.

- The French Professor J.A. Vaillant, who during the XIXth century lived in Muntenia for 34 years and made numerous trips including in Moldova, climbing the Bucegi Mountains (in 1839) together with the governor Angelescu and in 1841 he climbed the Ceahlău mountain;

- The French Ulysse de Marssillac, upon his visit in Muntenia publishes in 1873 a Voyage Guide to Bucharest;

- The Swiss physician Ioannes traveled in the Carpathian Mountains of Transylvania in 1683, including in the Apuseni Mountains;

- In 1846 Stanislas Bellanger provides useful information in the work “Travel wagon to Moldo-Wallachia”;

- In 1840 Jean Paget (English tourist) mentions the Ialomicioara hermitage and, of course, its monks;

- The Italian travelers Giovanni Antonie Magini (in 1596), Antonio Passevino (in 1583), Francesco Massaro (1520) and Francesco Grisellini bring their own share of information;

- The German Shür, travels in 1894 in the Bucegi Mountains and mentions the Hermitage he found there;

- The Greek historian Daniel Dimitrie Philippide, writes and publishes in 1816 in Leipzig a book called “The History of Romania” etc.

3. *The third way of access in a much broader and more applicable manner* of the ideas related to tourism is represented by the existent, presence and the activity of tourist associations and clubs which activated on the Romanian territory during the second half of the XIXth century:

- The Alpine Club of Transylvania established in Brașov in 1872 with the lawyer Karl Schnell as its first president;

- The Transylvanian Carpathian Society (SKV – Siebenbürger Karpaten Verein) established in 1880 with Karl Conrad as its first president;

- The Club of hikers established in 1891 in Bucharest;

- The Transylvanian Carpathian Society established in 1885 in Cluj-Napoca;

- The Sinaia Carpathian Society established in 1890;

- The Gymnastics, Sport and Music Society established in Iași in 1902;

- The Tourist Society of Romania (STR) established in 1903 in Bucharest;

- The “Frăția Munteană” Tourism Society established in 1920 in Cluj-Napoca;

- The Hikers Inn established in 1920 in Bucharest;

- The Touring Club of Romania established in 1926;

- The Brașov Tourist Society established in 1929;

- The Association of the Hikers in the Beloved Mountains of Romania (ADMIR), established in 1929;

- The Romanian Carpathian Club established in 1929;

- The “România Pitorească”/Picturesque Romania Tourist Association established in 1930;

- The Romanian Alpine Club established in 1934.

- The activity of these clubs and associations was oriented towards several major areas, such as:

- The popularization of the beauties of Romania, especially in the mountain areas;

- Organization of excursions and hiking;

- The organization of scientific conferences;
- The performance of tourist markings and trails;
- The building of shelters and chalets;
- The training of staff, especially guides;
- The issuance of guides, bulletins, books related to tourism.

4. *The forth channel for the access and popularization of the ideas about tourism* was performed by the contribution of enthusiasts, great lovers of hiking, pilgrimages and domestic or foreign travels.

Their role in the emergence and growth of the domestic and foreign tourist movement in Romania is far from being fully known because the number of these people is fairly large and they were people with strong personalities and inhabited by a life-long passion for tourism. Thus, the environments they would come in contact with were favorable for the predominant popularization of impressions about the places they visited.

In this case also we will cite a few names: the Governor Angelescu, the guides Stoica Vodă, Ion Puiu, Nicolae Butmăloi, Constantin Gătej, Ioan Gătej, Nicolae Gelepeanu, Nicolae V., the Engineer Iosif Sângiarzan, Take Ionescu, Robert Gutt, Veniamin Costache, Mihai Sturdza, Vasile Măcărescu, Constantin Calmuschi, Spătarul Gane, Radu C. Gălescu, Al. N. Kretzulescu, Cezar Baliac, N. Bălcescu, Alexandru Golescu Arăpilă, Nicolae Grigorescu, Alfred Bernath, D. Grecescu, Dimitrie Brândză, Spiru Haret, N.D. Popescu, G. Istrati, Nicolae Bogdan, Nită Enache, Iosif Pușcariu, Emil Racoviță, the legendary Emilian Cristea, Nae Popescu, Gh. Pânzaru and so on. We must pay the due respect to the valuable contribution of certain important personalities in the field of tourism, namely Bucura Dumbravă, Mihai Haret, and Gh. Tițeica.

5. *It is worth mentioning the contribution to the propagation of the ideas about tourism* of a few significant Romanian travelers and explorers in other countries and even in the New World: Dumitrie N. Ghica Comănești, C. Pruniu, Basile G. Assan, Sever Pleniceanu, Ion Catina, P. Mahau-Mihăilescu, S. Simionescu, G. Flaișen, Jean Campineano-Cantemir and I. Chiru-Nanom.

We also note the significant contributions of Mihai Țican Romano, Gh. Ghimpu and many others. These personalities besides the fact that they highlighted the spirit of adventure of Romanians, the yearning for the discovery of new worlds and civilizations left us unforgettable pages that have inflamed the minds of many generations of young and old. Thus they performed their successful role of ambassadors of Romanians.

Again we present a few eloquent examples: "Călătorie împrejurul pământului"/Journey around the earth (Vasile G. Assan), "O expediție română în Africa"/A Romanian expedition in Africa (by D. N. Ghica Comănești), "Pe Căile Profeților"/On the footsteps of Prophets (by I. Chiru-Nanov), Din călătoriile unui roman în Africa/The travels of a Romanian in Africa (by Scarlat Ciornei) and so on.

6. *During the XVIIth, XVIIIth, XIXth and XXth centuries and important means of disseminating ideas about tourism* in the Romanian territory was represented by travel journals, magazines, newspapers, year-books, books, guides and the reports of the tourist associations and clubs to which, in time, pictures, motion pictures and especially journals were added.

In this case also the list is long and we will mention but a few works without claiming they are the most suggestive: "Însemnare a călătoriei mele"/Notes of my trip by Constantin Radovici of Golești, made during the years 1824, 1825, 1826. Dincu Golescu, the author of the first travel diary printed in Romanian: "Dochia și Troian după zicerile populare a românilor cu itinerarul muntelui Pionul"/Dochia and Troian in the popular sayings and the itinerary of the Mountain Pionul (by Gh. Asachi in 1840) - the first tourist guide in the Romanian literature; "Excursiuni în Germania Meridională"/Trips to Southern Germany (by Nicolae Filimon 1858-1860); "Peregrinul transilvanu sau Epistole scrise de tinere străine unui amic în patria de la anul 1835 până inchisive 1844/The Transylvanian pilgrim or Epistles written by young foreign ladies to a friend from 1835 to 1844" (by Ion Codru Drăgușanu); "Cartea munților"/The book of the mountains (by Bucura Dumbravă in 1920) - a true an them and poem dedicated to the mountain; "Turismul și pregătirea turistică în apărarea națională"/Tourism and tourist training in the national defense (by Spiru Haret in 1926); "Dans les Carpathes roumains"; "Robinsonii Bucegilor"/The Robynsons of the Bucegi Mountains; "Umbletul pe Jos"/Traveling on foot (by Nestor Urechia); "Pe drumuri de munte"/On mountain roads (by Calistrat Hogaș).

Among the travel magazines, we mention: The SKV Yearbook published between 1881-1944; The TCR Travel and Tourism Encyclopedia calendar, The SAT Romania Bulletin, The ADMIR Alpine Bulletin, the "România Pitorească"/Picturesque Romania written by Al. Vlahuță, the "Carpații de la Cluj" Magazine and so on.

We mention, only as examples the titles of a few tourist guides: "Guide de Sinaia și Câmpina"/The Guide of Sinaia and Câmpina, "Manualul Voiajorului"/The travellers Handbook (1885), "Călăuza Bucegilor"/The Stalker of Bucegi Mountains (by Alexandru Agapie in 1899), "Excursiuni pe munții terei, Bârsei și ai

Făgăraşului din punctul “La Om” de pe “Buceciu” până, dincolo de “Negoiul” (by Ioan Turcu in 1896).

7. *The utilizing of curative baths was a means of disseminating ideas about tourism*, through Romanian and foreign travelers represented an effective channel of information.

The Romanian territory is favored in terms of natural healing factors including thermal and mineral waters:

a) a number of researches lead to the idea that about 1/3 of the mineral waters of Europe are to be found on the territory of Romania;

b) the experience in utilizing thermal waters is 2000 years old from the Dacian and Roman era. Here are a few locations: Herculane, Germisara, Călan and Cozia.

The use of these waters throughout time resulted in the popularization of the places of practice of tourism among both Romanian and foreign tourists.

We consider that case of Herculane is significant for the above statements. There is a plaque there mentioning in written form the names of all the personalities that came there to be treated with thermal waters. There are heads of states, writers, poets and many others. The National Art Museum of Serbia in Belgrade displays two paintings of the two most representative Serbian artists with landscapes from Herculane.

The Borsec resort is another example of a resort with widespread European acknowledgement for the curative effect of its waters.

Chemists and balneology physicians also played an important role in popularizing the spa tourism after they have analyzed the chemical composition of mesothermal and mineral waters. Here are some prominent names: Carol Davila, Dr. N. Mazer, Saabner Tuduri, Dr. Zotta, Dr. Vasile Pop, Andreas Wolf, Dr. Karel Fridrich Eduard Siller who, in 1840 publishes in

Havara a book entitled “Die Mineralquellen der Wallachei”.

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13. Saabner Tuduri Al. (1890) *Apele minerale și stațiunile climaterice din România*, Editura 11, București;

ⁱ We acknowledge the merit of the Romanian Academy which, through its specialized institutions, managed to research and issue until 2001 10 volumes of works describing the journeys of certain foreigners across Romania; they thus present different written aspects of the social, economic, cultural and military life thereof.