

NEW BOOKS

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**”ROMÂNII DIN ȚARA FĂGĂRAȘULUI PARTICIPANȚI LA PRIMUL RĂZBOI
MONDIAL”
[”ROMANIANS FROM FĂGĂRAȘ COUNTRY PARTICIPATING IN THE FIRST WORLD
WAR”]
BY VASILE TABĂRĂ AND RADU TABĂRĂ**

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| Abstract: | <i>The monograph "Romanians from Făgăraș Land Participating in the First World War" published in 2024 by the Andreiana Publishing House and Astra Association Publishing HOUSE represents a relevant assessment dedicated to remembering events, facts and certain events regarding the Făgăraș town inhabitants. It includes data about each village related to the consequences of the First World War. The main aim of this book is to present accurately a possible answer to how today and future generations can know the special deeds of their forebears, accurately, so that their sacrifices may receive their reward of eternal appreciation and gratitude.</i> |
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The work, with a number of 638 pages, is of particular importance for what the patriotic spirit and respect for the sacrifices of our ancestors mean, as it was created based on the nominal tables of the localities in Făgăraș Country that were drawn up by ASTRA in 1922 and transcribed. The authors specify that these tables prepared in the ASTRA¹ survey have the value of standardized questionnaires. Due to the size of their target population, they can generate relevant statistical indicators with a low error margin². The historical incursion necessary for this endeavor considers the human and material contribution of the Romanians in Transylvania to the First World War, the authors referring to a series of previous harsh bibliographic references³.

The book is divided into five chapters: "Brief history of the approach of recording the human and material contribution of Romanians in Transylvania to the First World War", "Methodological considerations on the work"; Romanians from Făgăraș Country participating in the First World War"; "The participation of the inhabitants of Făgăraș Country and Transylvania in the First World War. Summary table", followed by annexes showing pages from the original tables and photographs of war monuments.

¹ Asociația Transilvană pentru Literatura Română și Cultura Poporului Român, established in Sibiu, 1861

² Ioan Popa, *Ancheta ASTREI privind jertfele românilor transilvăneni în Primul Război Mondial. Noi valorificări metodologice*, "Astra Sabesiensis", No. 3, 2017, p. 239

³ Teodor Păcățian, *Jertfele românilor din Ardeal, Banat, Crișana și Maramureș, aduse în Războiul Mondial din anii 1914-1918*, "Transilvania", Vol. LIV, No. 1-2; Sebastian Stanca, *Contribuția preoșimii române din Ardeal la războiul pentru întregirea neamului (1916-1919)*, Argonaut, Episcopia Devei și Hunedoarei, Deva, 2015; Augustin Bunea, *Stăpânii Țării Oltului*, Institutul de Arte Grafice Carol Göbl, București, 1910; Constantin Băjenaru, *Făgărașenii și Primul Război Mondial. Memorii și istorii (III)*, "Acta Terrae Fogorasiensis", 2014

The authors present statistical data showing the number of 12,710 participants in the First World War, representing a percentage of 16.55% of the total population at the time, 76,808 people; information is presented regarding the number of deaths, invalids, wounded, and missing persons, which represented 5.05% of the total population¹. The work materializes in a meticulous approach of centralizing the data for drawing up the tables, referring to biographical data of the inhabitants, based on the nominal tables of the localities of Făgăraș Country drawn up by Astra in 1922.



Vasile Tabără and Radu Tabără refer to the historical aspects of the time, familiarizing the reader with the political and social context, to create an overview of the main documents that accomplished the basis of this book. Each of the statistical data collected by the authors is centralized to facilitate their understanding and interpretation, beyond a simple enumeration of names.

The calculations were made by relating the resulting figures from each table to the Romanian population of the localities and to the participants in the events imposed by the war. Some tables are completed with additional data, identified from other sources, with reference to specific individuals. Vasile Tabără and Radu Tabără highlight the details that differentiate a locality, from the participation in the First World War perspective. The authors also present the ethnic structure of the localities, which was taken from the census conducted in 1910² by the Austro-Hungarian authorities. For an adequate understanding of the methodology

¹ Vasile Tabără, Radu Tabără, *Românii din Țara Făgărașului participanți la Primul Război Mondial*, Andreiana Publishing House and Astra Association Publishing House, Sibiu, 2024, p. 611

² Traian Rotaru, Maria Semeniuc, Elemer Mezei, *Recensământul din 1910 Transilvania*, Staff, Cluj Napoca, 1999

used by the authors, they specify certain clarifying aspects. Each locality's population was taken into consideration in accordance with the data existent in a certain section of each table. Where specific information was incomplete, data from the 1910 census were used, and where this was the source, mentions shall be marked in a specific way. The numerical results of the percentage calculations have 2 decimals. If the third decimal place was greater than or equal to five, the result would be rounded up to the next decimal. When transcribing names and surnames, the original spelling was generally preserved, and certain adaptations were made to facilitate reading, especially in the case of names or surnames originally written in a too phonetic manner. The meticulousness of the authors can also be seen from the accuracy with which they managed to transcribe the handwriting of certain names and surnames, mentioning that the ones that are not fully intelligible are signaled by a question mark.

The surnames at each table were arranged in alphabetical order rather than in the order in which the people presented themselves to the city hall or in which the censors surveyed each house. All tables have been prepared in accordance with the instructions sent by ASTRA.

As the authors point out, the only exception is the way refugees are registered. The requirement of writing down only the head of the house and the total members of the family was observed in most localities, while in others, each person was written down separately. The numbers presented in the nominal tables were taken into consideration for establishing the Romanian's participation in the First World War. However, the authors create the summarizing table in complete disregard to the initial structure, delivering certain changes meant to provide more clarity and more statistical data.

It is worth appreciating the meticulousness and rigor of this research, especially the impressive documentation that includes a consistent archival component, books, and specialized articles. The approach of the authors Vasile Tabără and Radu Tabără must be appreciated, and it is necessary, not only for Făgăraș Country, but also at national level.

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