

BOOK REVIEW ON THE GREEK PRESENCE IN TULCEA

(AUTHOR: VICTOR HENRICH BAUMANN)

Paula SCALCAU

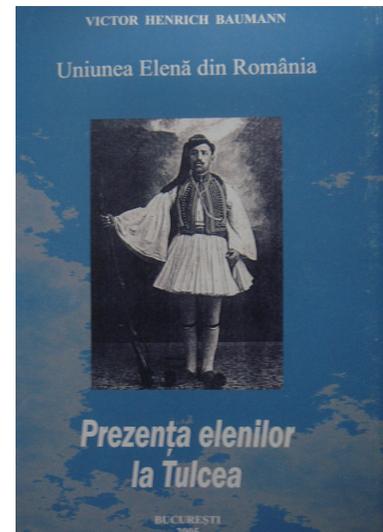
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"*The Greek Presence in Tulcea*", written by Victor Henrich Baumann, is one of the works that have recently been published by the Greek Union of Romania. Its writer is from Tulcea and he is an expert on ancient universal history and archeology. The son of an Austrian from Banat and a Greek woman from Kerkira, he has always been fascinated by the "scent of the lemon trees in bloom", as he confesses in the book prologue, and he has never been able to cut the roots that go deep in the holy soil of Kerkira. The touching preface to the book was written by PhD. Prof. Vasile Calcandi, who is also a Greek son of Tulcea.

The book describes the traces left by the Greek tradesmen present in that area during the Hellenic epoch and the Roman occupation and the Middle Ages testimonies, which also show the Greek presence. It insists on the families which settled down in Tulcea during the 19th century and it ends at the half of the 20th century.

The book mirrors in its 159 pages the active role played by the Greeks throughout the history of the place. The genealogies, the documents and the illustrations (family photos, buildings, monuments) complete its contents.

The book shows the continuous relation between the Greeks from Tulcea and their new fatherland. One proof is the high number of Greeks who fought for the Romanian cause in the two world wars. The



publication of this book proves how active the present Greek Community in Tulcea is nowadays. We become aware of this if we check the bibliography and we notice that most of the sources come from family collections. The following archives are mentioned: *Petala*, *Vergu*, *Calcandi*, *Ionescu-Stamatiu*, *Andonini*, *Utanu-Stratiotis*, *Caliga*, *Mihailopol-Baumann*, *Covaropol-David*, *Valcu-Papadopol*.