

Vasile Pușcaș. *Philip E. Mosely despre Transilvania și Basarabia*, [Philip E. Mosely on Transylvania and Bessarabia] Cluj-Napoca, Editura Școala Ardeleană, 2017, 303p.

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PHILIP E. MOSELY WAS AN AMERICAN HISTORIAN, graduated from the Harvard University, who was involved in sociological research in rural areas in the Balkans and Romania. He also has been involved in international negotiations during the Second World War, being employed by the United States government. In a volume published not long ago, Vasile Pușcaș focused on the Philip E. Mosely's personality. This book based on the research that the author has done in the United States libraries and archives, within the Fulbright program.

Like professor Vasile Pușcaș mention in the preface that he wrote, by publishing this book, he wanted to realize a historiographical reconstruction of several aspects of Philip E. Mosely's activity that had a direct connection with Romania, little known in Romanian literature. Because Pușcaș wanted to be more eloquent, any reader of this book can easily notice that the author did not distribute the material in several chapters, even if the volume has more than 300 pages. After a brief *Preface*, Vasile Pușcaș, chose a simpler solution, with a first part of evocation and analysis, followed, under the title *Annex*, to publish some studies and articles from the four and five decades of the twentieth century, all related to the Philip E. Mosely personality.

The first part, titled "Philip E. Mosely about Transylvania and Bessarabia", has 13 subdivisions, which can also be grouped according to the themes and topics addressed. As expected in an approach of this kind, the reader receives firstly some bibliographical information about Philip E. Mosely: the context in which he came to do sociological research in Romania; the collaboration with sociologist Dimitrie Gusti; the campaigns led in rural areas; describing in detail the research that took place in Transylvania, especially in the village Șanț, situated in the present county Bistrița-Năsăud.

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Subsequently, Vasile Pușcaș focuses on the evocation of the role played by Philip E. Mosely in supporting the Romanian cause during the Second World War, especially in the problem of Transylvania. Under the titles „Philip E. Mosely și problemele majore ale României în anii ‘40” [“Philip E. Mosely and the major problems of Romania in the 1940’s”]; “La Departamentul de Stat cu teme românești” [“At the State Department with the Romanian themes”]; “Lobby și influență” [“Lobby and influence”]; “Târguieli și negocieri” [“Bargains and negotiations”], Vasile Pușcaș highlights the role played by the „hero” of his book in international debates and negotiations that involved the Great Powers of the time, regarding territorial conflicts that occurred in Central and Eastern Europe; namely the use of those conflicts in the establishment of the spheres of interest. And in that context, the question of the future status of Transylvania has been a concern for Allied diplomatic circles since 1940, but has gained greater importance since 1942-1943, when the certainty of victory over the power of the Axis began to take shape. Taking into account all possible alternatives – the division of this province; its complete *restoratio* to one of the states that claimed it; its autonomy or its independence as part of a largest confederation – various structures and representatives of the European Great Powers, but also of Romania and Hungary, tried to identify solutions regarding the Romanian-Hungarian border. Of course, the United States could not have stayed away. Thus, in February 1942, in addition to the State Department of the United States, an Advisory Committee started its activity (placed under the nominal leadership of the State Secretary). The new Committee had two structures: political and territorial, that had the mission to draw, among other things, the necessary recommendations regarding the settlement of the Transylvanian problem. Readers of this book will find Philip E. Mosely active in disputes and negotiations of territorial issues, working in the State Department during the War (under the leadership of his Harvard professor John C. Campbell), but then as a member of the American delegation to the various sessions held during the Peace Conference.

Then, this book evoked the activity of Philip E. Mosely during the Cold War, including, among many others, the continuation of research regarding Romania. We learn that Mosely, like many other American intellectuals who activated during the War in governmental structures, returned in the academic environment. Columbia University was the institution where Philip E. Mosely surrounded and made research contributing to the gathering of important Soviet and East European space data that were also used by various United States security agencies. Regarding Romania, it remained in the centre of his research. He kept in touch with a number of personalities from the country, having links with the Romanian diaspora in the United States and being aware

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of the event that took place in the country after the communist regime was established.

At the end of this part, Vasile Pușcaș, in a few pages, presents his conclusions about the activity and the role played by Philip E. Mosely. And Annexes are complementary to the evocation and analysis of the first part of the volume. There are documents in Romanian and English, followed by a short summary in English and an Index.

There are just some issues raised by me, readers being those who will discover more interesting and unknown events. Last but not least, I note the exceptional graphic design.