«A sanguine bunch». Regional identification in Habsburg Bukovina, 1774-1919
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Research and writing accountability

Research for this study was conducted mainly between August 2007 and November 2009. Particularly useful were the collections of the university libraries of Amsterdam (UvA), Budapest (both CEU and ELTE), Bucharest, Chernivtsi, Iaşi and Suceava; the Austrian National Library (Vienna), the Library of the Romanian Academy (Bucharest) and the National Széchényi Library (Budapest).

The turbulent history the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its successor states accounts for the geographical dispersion of archive materials which has been meticulously described by Kurt Scharr in his Die Landschaft Bukowina (2010). For this particular project, the starting point was the Austrian State Archive. Particularly useful there was the Viennese War Archive (General Staff, Joint Central Verification Office) with its collection of censorship analyses from the years 1914-1918. However, most of its resources regarding Habsburg Bukovina, originally belonging to the Austrian Ministry of Internal Affairs, were transferred to Bucharest between 1921 and 1926 after Bukovina had become part of Romania. At the time of my research, many of these documents were still being catalogued by the Romanian National Archives and were therefore accessible only up to a point and only after specific permission had been granted. Apart from a rather modest collection at the regional branch of the Romanian National Archives in Suceava (the lion’s share of its collection refers to post-Habsburg Bukovina), the principle repository of documents from the Habsburg era can be found in the Chernivtsi District branch of the Ukrainian State Archive.

Newspaper collections proved to be best accessed according to (national) language: all German-language Bukovinian newspapers are available in the Austrian National Library, those in Romanian in the Library of the Romanian Academy and those in Ukrainian/Ruthenian in the library of Chernivtsi’s Yuriy Fedkovych University. However, this last collection is marred by gaps and the condition of the available issues sometimes in such bad state that they are no longer available to the public. Only in the case of one periodical (Bukovyna/ Буковина), the originals had been digitalised at the time of my research, but then only partly: as such, a number of issues remained behind closed doors.

The multi-ethnic character of the region would require all toponyms in this study to appear in several languages. For the sake of clarity, I decided to use the official names as they were known during the Habsburg days, i.e. in German. A list of the relevant toponyms with their equivalents in different languages is offered as an appendix. I applied the same method to the names of individuals: only when they specifically identified themselves as Romanians or Ruthenians, the relevant spelling/transliteration is observed (Tomasciu instead of Tomaszzczuk, Vasylko instead of Wassilko). Transliterations from Cyrillic are mine, unless otherwise indicated. The same applies to the translations into English from the various source languages.

The title quote (“Wir sind ein sanguinisches Völklein”) originates from an article in Czernowitz Allgemeine Zeitung: ‘Eingeschlafen”, p. 1, 11 April 1912.