

Baron Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim, *Jurnal de pe frontul românesc 1916-1917* [Diary from the Romanian Front 1916-1917], edited and annotated by Silviu Miloiu (Târgoviște: Cetatea de Scaun, 2010), 175pp., ISBN: 978-606-537-062-3

by **Costel COROBAN***

Although this fact is less known, the Romanian front during World War I has also hosted the future Marshall Mannerheim of Finland, and this fact has been reminded to us by the recent publication of Mannerheim's journal thanks to the care of Professor Silviu Miloiu from the Valahia University of Târgoviște. Dr. Silviu Miloiu is the author and co-author of over 5 volumes in the fields of the history of international relations, also having edited more than 7 volumes of historical studies. He has published extensively (over 50 articles) in journals abroad as well as in Romania, has participated in over 60 international scientific conferences, and has also taught at universities abroad. Given this image and adding the fact that he is the president of the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies, one can definitely be sure that the book presented here is a fine example of scholarly and editorial work.



The volume contains a “Note” by Professor Silviu Miloiu, a “Foreword” by His Excellency Irmeli Mustonen, the Ambassador of Finland in Romania, and a “Preface” by Dr. Ion Calafeteanu. The “Introduction” is signed by the editor of the book and is followed by the main part of the publication, the diary that General (at that time) Mannerheim wrote while serving in Romania during World War I (p. 39-74). The “Afterword” is signed by Professor Gheorghe Sbârna, and the volume closes with a very useful Name

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Index, Geographic Index and an Appendix. The Appendix contains interesting photocopies of the actual handwritten diary of Mannerheim, and also several very helpful maps.

Overall the diary is written in a very professional and exact style, but it still is highly readable. For the Romanian public one of the most engaging parts are those where Mannerheim is describing the actions of the Romanian troops. Here is an example: “In the South, on the left flank of the division, the situation continues to be extremely alarming: the Cossack regiment of Orenburg, weakened and extremely spread, and two regiments of the 1st Romanian Division, could barely deal with the pressure of the enemy on the Southern hillock”. And there are many other such examples inside the volume, which is why I am compelled to recommend this book to fellow researchers of the First World War as well as to amateur readers. In the end please allow me to express my gratitude to Dr. Silviu Miloiu and the Cetatea de Scaun publishing house (and all those who directly or indirectly made the publication of this work possible), for thus increasing the pool of available primary sources regarding the evolution of the Great War on the Romanian Front.