Book Review

Daniel Dumitran and Marius Rotar (eds.), *Places of Memory: Cemeteries and Funerary Practices throughout the Time*, Annales Universitatis Apulensis, Series Historica, **19/II (2015), 270 pp., colour illus. throughout. ISSN: 1453-9306.**

The *Annales Universitatis Apulensis, Series Historica* is a biannual journal published by the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, but with the appearance of a book. Vol. 19/II is devoted to 'places of memory'. All articles are in English and the approach is truly international.

The period covered in this volume ranges from the Roman period to the modern era, while some of the articles in this volume concern burial and funerary practices outside Europe. However, scholars specialising in medieval *memoria* and tomb monuments will find interesting material in this volume and others in the series. For example, there is the first-ever field survey of stone memorials from the territory and era of the Transylvanian Principality (1541–*c.* 1700) by Dóra Mérai, which is part of the author's PhD research; her inventory identified approximately 330 surviving stone memorials in varying states of conservation, the majority being rectangular ledger stones decorated with heraldry or with a full- or half-length effigial representation along with an inscription. Mérai discusses the problematic the term 'epitaph' in international scholarship, also in relation to the memorial to the infant Despina (d. 1575), daughter of the Antitrinitarian theologian Jacobus Paleologus who had left Poland to seek refuge in Transylvania. Despina's monument may have been inspired by Polish child memorials of the period, although this type of 'chrysom' effigy is much older: one can find examples in England dating back to the fourteenth century, while Bronze Age votive images of swaddled babies attest to the antiquity of this practice.

Jewell Homad Johnson's article discusses the medieval type of *stećak* or tombstone that is unique to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the neighbouring regions, and the ways in which these *stećci* and their carved symbols inspired the Bosnian poet Mehmedalija Mak Dizdar (1917–71). With a strikingly modern twist, Cristina Bogdan's article entitled 'Recalling Devices: From Ossuaries to Virtual Memorials' juxtaposes ancient and modern ways of commemorating the dead by comparing the *real trace* (physical remains, *e.g.* as preserved in ossuaries), the *symbolic trace* (*e.g.* photos, films and possessions), and the *virtual trace* (*e.g.* Facebook pages that become sites of memory or – more rarely – are specially created *post-mortem* as online memorials).

English abstracts of all articles are available online. Here one may also find links to earlier volumes in the series, such as Mihai Gligor (ed.), *Archaeothanatology: An Interdisciplinary Approach on Death from Prehistory to the Middle Ages*, Annales Universitatis Apulensis, Series Historica, 18/II (2014), while vol. 18/I is devoted to 'Sacred Space' and the 2015 Special Issue to monastic life, art and technology in the 11th to 12th centuries. The present volume contains maps, a list of abbreviations, and a list of authors with their contact details. The journal is nicely produced and really merits a closer look.

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Note: for the full version of this issue of the newsletter *Medieval Memoria Research*, see: http://mmr.let.uu.nl/pdf/MMR_017.pdf