

This dissertation is a major achievement. It tackles a highly complex issue - the disputed cartography of the borderlands between south-eastern Hungary and western Rumania, particularly in relation to the territories Hungary was forced to cede to Rumania under the Treaty of Trianon after World War One. It demonstrates in painstaking, but clear detail the manifold problems associated with representing the ethnic "cocktail" of this region in cartographic form, and goes on to evaluate which of the available versions should be considered with greater respect, and why. It should be emphasized here that the task of collecting so many maps from so many disparate sources is a feat in its own right. No less impressive is the care with which the various maps, their methodologies and assumptions, and their authorship are examined. It cannot be stressed too much that this sort of research - for that is what it is - requires meticulous attention to detail, substantial cross-checking and, for want of a better phrase, "devotion" to duty. This reader, for one, found almost every possible angle covered, every potential problem resolved, and the necessary cross-referencing accomplished with diligence and insight. The maps and other information in the appendices are well integrated into the main body of the text, enabling the reader to follow clearly the main points being made.

The result of the author's prodigious efforts is a project which is - in all the best senses - painstaking and comprehensive. The subject matter is not one which lends itself to flamboyant prose and bold generalisation, but demands application, close attention to detail, sensitivity and genuine scholarship. This dissertation shows all those qualities in abundance; it would put many masters theses to shame. The author deserves the highest praise for his achievement.

Ian Farr

Overall: 84% - 8% = **76%** (penalized for excessive length)

Jean Boase Beier