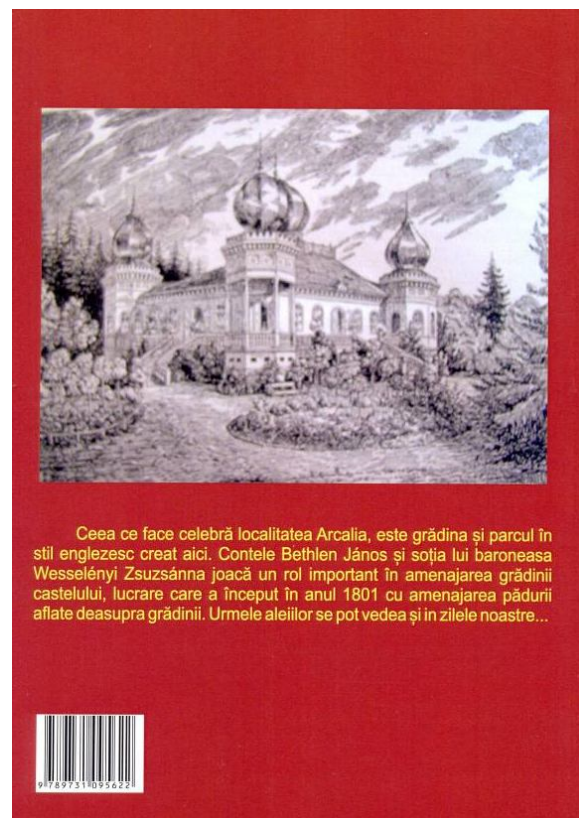




Book review: Parcul Dendrologic Arcalia - trecut și prezent. László Berkesy, Corina Berkesy, Ilona Farkas. 2017. Argonaut, Cluj-Napoca. 140 pages + 30 pages of Annexes. ISBN 978-973-109-562-2

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Front cover (left) and back cover (right).

Arcalia village from Bistrita-Nasaud county, Romania, is one of the oldest settlements from Bistrita-Nasaud, having several different names in time. In 1673, the Arcalia village is in possession of the noble family Bánffy, becoming the property of the noble Bethlen Adam in 1731. After that, in the village a castle is build, along with its surrounding domain, where in 1801 the Botanical (Dendrological) Park has been founded; on that time, the domain around the castle was the property of the count Bethlen János.

After the World War II, the property is administered by GOSTAT Lechinta, being used as a general store in the village, and then, between 1960 and 1963 becomes a camping place for students. In 1963, the University Babes-Bolyai from Cluj-Napoca creates here a research base, which was used by the biology students during the

summer. Finally, starting with the year 2000, the site becomes the Regional Centre of Francophony, still belonging to the University Babeş-Bolyai.

What makes the Arcalia village to be well known is the existence of the above mentioned Botanical Park on the former domain of Bethlen noble family.

This book presents for the first time the complete history of this Botanical Park, from the beginning until the present days. The book has 13 chapters, 140 pages, 78 references along with 5 Annexes (comprising another 30 pages).

Within the Introduction, the authors wrote a summary of the book's content and they also briefly describe the geographical characteristics of the area. Then they describe the Bethlen domain during time. After that, we have the first list of plants which were planted inside the Botanical Park in the beginning, then another list of plants from 1964, then in 1970 and finally in 2006. Some remarkable species inside the Park are described in another chapter. We also find a list of scientific papers and studies on the plants from the Park during different periods of time.

In the end, we have to say that the authors made a rigorous documentation in different kinds of libraries and archives, providing within the book dozens of original documents and photos.

References

Berkesy L., Berkesy C., Farkas I., 2017 Parcul Dendrologic Arcalia - trecut și prezent. Argonaut, Cluj-Napoca, 140 pp + 30 pp of Annexes, ISBN 978-973-109-562-2.