The shaping of cadaster mapping in Romania

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The modern cadastre was introduced in Austrian Empire by Emperor I at the beginning of the XIX century, using the Milanese model. Based on topographic surveys and triangulation networks, the Austrian cadastre model have evolved continuously during the time by incorporating new concepts and technologies. The model was adopted by other European countries adopted and is still in use today.

In the Romanian Principalities the works related to property inventory and mapping developed gradually under the following regulations and laws: “Al. Ipsilanti Registry Book” (Condica lui Al. Ipsilanti, 1780), “Calimah Code” (Codul lui Calimah, 1817) and “Caragea Law” (Legea lui Caragea, 1819) which required land survey for each domain. The methodology for applying the law were sent through the country using a circular letter called “land surveyor procedure” (procedura hotarnicilor). According with the procedure, the surveys were carried out on field by the land surveyor and the local court were in charge with neighbor land owners citation (Circular letter no. 1481 from 7 December 1837 concerning land surveyors procedure, article 1, emitted by Prince, published in the Official Bulletin no. 60 from 7 December 1837) But, the most important laws released by the Ministry of Justice were “The order from 28 December 1849” regarding the introduction of the land registers in Ardeal and “The land registers rules of procedures”, which were aiming to identify the estate of each owner on the field. The facts were recorded by the “localization commissions” in the “inspection certificates”, also called “protocols”, from which, later on, the land registers were derived. Erasures were not allowed on the documents with data recorded on the field and the maps were verified by “localization commissioners” to see if they correspond with reality. Each map sheet was attached to the parcels registry and the final documentation were stored at the local or regional law court in special fire proof rooms.

The current paper trace the most important milestones which influenced the cadaster development in Romania. Several such studies were performed in the past years for Ardeal, but in the case of Romanian Principalities the literature is still poor. Our undertaking aims to relieve that compelling cadaster works were performed also in this Romanian historical region. A technical case study presented for the cadastral map attached to the land registry of “Odaia Vladichii” domain, also called “Cotroceanca”, from the near vicinity of Bucharest (1874).