

ECHOS OF THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE IN BLAJ

SUMMARY

The war for the state independence of Romania of 1877—78 raised a strong echo also in the Romanian provinces submitted to foreign domination. Many young Transylvanians crossed the mountains, creeping along secret foot paths and joined the Romanian army as volunteers, taking part in the fights against the Turks in Bulgaria.

The struggle to obtain Romania's independence met with considerable response in Blaj as well, that small town at the confluence of the two Tîrnava rivers, dwelling place of light for all Romanians. Several times, young men from the local college crossed the Carpathians and, as volunteers, took part next to the Romanian soldiers in the fights in the Balkan peninsula. The women created committees of assistance to the wounded soldiers, collected funds and various objects which were sent to the Red Cross in Bucharest. These deeds were mentioned in all the Transylvanian press: *Gazeta Transilvaniei*, *Telegraful Român*, *Familia*, *Observatorul* etc.

In those days, the students from the boys' college developed a vast activity through the handwritten school reviews: *Dacia ferice*, *Filomela*, *Speranța* and others, where, with a great deal of courage considering the circumstances they were living in, they prompted the people to fight against the age-old enemy. The content of these reviews incensed the hearts of the young in the struggle for social, cultural and political emancipation of the nation.