

The Hidden Histories of the Republic Of Moldova

Chisinau underground and its usage

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Abstract

Each place has its own more or less known history. But some parts of the past remain to be hidden for various reasons. Chisinau is not an exception from this rule. Chisinau has a reach history, which starts in the 14th century and during centuries developed from a small village to an important market place and urban area. After 1812, Chisinau became the capital of Bessarabia, a new Russian autonomy and later a gubernia. Since 1813 the city became an important political, administrative, economic and cultural center according to the 19th and 20th century urban plans. According archival documents, we know that between 1829 and 1892 was developed a complex underground aqueduct system, which includes tens of kilometers of tunnels. In 1829 Chisinau administration invited Ioan Suioldji from Odessa to plan and build two water basins. Later, in 1869 architect Bernardazzi develops a huge plan of underground water system, which was finished in 1892. Unfortunately, many aspects of urban organization are not so well known. One of these hidden parts is the underground network of tunnels, constructed for various purposes - aqueduct, water pipes, water basins and plant, fountains, sewage, storage, connection tunnels between buildings, etc. Some underground constructions were used by totalitarian regime for query, and even prisoners' execution. As a result of some contemporary activities some parts of these networks were discovered. But, a serious survey and study of them is absent until today. In my presentation I will discuss our new project, which strives to ensure access to the hidden history of Chisinau, and raise public awareness on the role and importance of such constructions for study but also for tourism development.

Figures

References

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