

MUZEUL BRĂILEI

**ISTROS
XVII**

MUZEUL BRĂILEI  **EDITURA ISTROS**

**BRĂILA
2011**

REDACTIONAL BOARD:

- Prof. Dr. **VICTOR SPINEI** – „Al. I. Cuza” University of Iași and Institute of Archaeology Iași, member of Romanian Academy (Romania), *honour president*.
- Prof. Dr. **JAN BEMMANN** – Institut für Vor - und Frühgeschichtliche Archäologie, Rheinische „Friedrich-Wilhelms” - Universität Bonn (Germany), *honour member*.
- Prof. Dr. **JAN BOUZEK** – „Charles” University Prague (Czech Republic), *honour member*.
- Prof. Dr. **FALKO DAIM** - Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum Mainz (Germany), *honour member*.
- Prof. Dr. **DIANA GERGOVA** – The National Institute of Archaeology and Historical Museum Sofia (Bulgaria), *honour member*.
- Prof. Dr. **ION NICULIȚĂ** - The State University, Chișinău (Rep. of Moldova), *honour member*.
- Prof. Dr. **IONEL CÂNDEA** – „Lower Danube” University of Galați and Museum of Brăila (Romania), *editor in chief*.
- Dr. **VALERIU ȘÎRBU**, Museum of Brăila and Institute of Archaeology „V. Pârvan” Bucharest (Romania), *scientific secretary*.
- Dr. **CRISTIAN LUCA** – „Lower Danube” University of Galați (Romania), *member*.
- Dr. **STĂNICĂ PANDREA** - Museum of Brăila (Romania), *member*.

Computer processing: EVDOCHIA SMAZNOV

Orice corespondență referitoare la revista ISTROS se va adresa:
Muzeul Brăilei, Piața Traian 3,
810153, BRĂILA,
e-mail: sediu@muzeulbrailei.ro

Any remark concerning ISTROS must be addressed to:
Muzeul Brăilei, Piața Traian 3,
810153, BRĂILA,
e-mail: sediu@muzeulbrailei.ro

ISSN: 1453-6943

SUMMARY

Ancient history and archeology

VALERIU ȘÎRBU, GEORGE PASCU HUREZAN, <i>The Dacian deposit of iron items from Neudorf – Pârăul Roșia, Arad County. A new assesment</i>	11
ION T. DRAGOMIR, COSTIN CROITORU, <i>La nécropole sarmatique de Largu (dép. de Buzău)</i>	31
VASILE MĂRCULEȚ, “ <i>The archontate of the Paristrion cities</i> ” or “ <i>of the cities from the Istros</i> ” – a thema with a single name in the byzantine literary sources	55
IONEL CÂNDEA, COSTIN CROITORU, <i>Résultats préliminaires des fouilles archéologiques préventives de Brăila, le lieu-dit « la ville ancienne ». Campagne 2010</i>	69
IONEL CÂNDEA, COSTIN CROITORU, <i>Résultats préliminaires des fouilles archéologiques systématiques de Măxineni (dép. de Brăila), le lieu-dit Monastère. Campagne 2010</i>	81

Merchants, Markets and Commerce in Late Medieval and Early Modern Times

CRISTIAN NICOLAE APETREI, <i>Greek merchants in the Romanian Principalities in the 16th century: the case of Nikolaos Domesticos Nevridis</i>	95
CRISTIAN LUCA, RAFAEL-DORIAN CHELARU, <i>The Levantine merchants Antonio de Via and Bartolomeo Locadello – protectors of the Catholic missionarism in Wallachia (first half of the 17th century)</i>	123
FLORINA CIURE, <i>The contribution of the Commercial Companies in Transylvania to the development of the Romanian foreign trade in the 17th century</i>	145
VLAD MARAVELA, <i>The geographical and economical aspects of the muntenian nobiliary residences from the second half of the seventeenth century</i>	161
RAFAEL-DORIAN CHELARU, <i>Merchants and Catholic missionaries in the Romanian Principalities (17th-18th centuries ..</i>	175

LAURENȚIU RĂDVAN, <i>On usury and usurers in Moldavia: the Turkish usurers (latter half of the 17th century – latter half of the 18th century)</i>	193
--	-----

Boyars and High Priests in Romanian Principalities

PAUL DANIEL NEDELOIU, <i>Contributions to the history of the family of Oană Headman of Suceava (15th-17th centuries)</i>	215
ȘTEFAN AFTODOR, <i>The land estate of boyar Hrizea from Bălteni</i>	235
ANIȘOARA IONAȘCU, <i>Greek high officials in seventeenth century Moldavia. Their role in Moldavian domestic politics – strategies of power</i>	259
EUGEN ZUICĂ, <i>The image of the Catholic priest in 17th century Moldavia. Preliminary remarks</i>	269
BOGDAN-PETRU MALEON, <i>Preliminary notes on public exposure of Convicts' Corpses in Medieval Moldavia</i>	285
MARIUS PĂDURARU, <i>The testament of the Housekeeper Marica, the daughter of the swordbearer Diicu Buicescu and the wife of the great cupbearer Staico Bucșanu (Merișanu)</i>	305

Varia historica

ANDREA FARA, <i>Consuetudine orale e tradizione scritta nella prassi giuridica delle comunità sassoni di Transilvania (secc. XII–XVI)</i>	317
ALEXANDRU SIMON, <i>The Western impact of Eastern events: The crusader consequences of the Fall of Caffa in the light of new Italian sources</i>	369
CRISTIAN NELU PLOSCARU, <i>Political Imagery and Group Loyalties in Romanian Principalities at the beginning of the 19th Century</i>	383

THE DACIAN DEPOSIT OF IRON ITEMS FROM NEUDORF – *PĂRĂUL ROȘIA*, ARAD COUNTY. A NEW ASSESSEMENT

VALERIU SÎRBU (BRĂILA - ROMANIA),
GEORGE PASCU HUREZAN (ARAD - ROMANIA)

Keywords: Dacian deposit, Second Iron Age, Lower Mureș.

Abstract. The need to republish this deposit is the result of the graphic conditions of the initial publishing – the photographs are, for all intents and purposes, incomprehensible, there are no drawings (Pădureanu 2006, p. 219-233), and the typological identification of several items is erroneous.

The deposit was found close to the Neudorf, Arad county, in the summer of 2002, when a mobile telecom cable was being buried, at a depth of 0.75m, in the place called *Părăul Roșia*, on the left bank of Mureș River. Based on the way in which the items were found, one presupposes that they were deposited in a wooden trunk (Pădureanu 2006, p. 219 and footnote 1). The deposit seems to have included 28 iron items, some of them being recovered and then offered for sale, in two lots (27 items and, then, the fighting knife), to the Arad Museum Complex (AMC), by Eugen Pădureanu, the same person that also published them for the first time (Pădureanu 2006, p. 219-233).

First, we will introduce the catalogue of items and then we will make some observations on the composition of the deposit and some general assessments.

LA NECROPOLE SARMATIQUE DE LARGU (DEP. DE BUZAU)*

**ION T. DRAGOMIR,
COSTIN CROITORU**

Mot-clef: nécropole sarmatique, Largu, dune de sable

Résumé. L'article valorise une série d'informations et matériels inédits concernant la nécropole sarmatique de Largu (départ. de Buzău), identifiée dans le lieu dit «Cornul Malului», à 200 m ouest de la voie ferrée Făurei-Bucarest.

Connu dès 1953, grâce à des découvertes fortuites, l'objectif archéologique de Largu fut fouillé trois ans plus tard, d'une manière en quelque sorte systématique, en deux campagnes et 23 sections creusées. Les résultats de ces fouilles sont présentés d'une façon succincte, sans dessins, seulement la mention des principaux artefacts identifiés, sans les distribuer par complexes. D'ailleurs, l'auteur des fouilles s'était proposé de rédiger une étude spéciale à cet égard. Enfin, la nécropole de Largu se retrouve dans quelques études et articles qui portent sur la présence des Sarmates au Bas Danube.

“THE ARCHONTATE OF THE PARISTRION CITIES” OR “OF THE CITIES FROM THE ISTROS” – A *THEMA* WITH A SINGLE NAME IN THE BYZANTINE LITERARY SOURCES

VASILE MĂRCULEȚ (MEDIASĂ – ROMÂNIA)

Keywords: Dristra, Paristrion, Paradunavon, archontate of the Paristrion cities, archontate of the the cities from the Istros”, archontate of the cities and territories from the Istros

Abstract. «L’archontat des villes paristriennes» ou «des villes de l’Istros» – un thème avec une dénomination singulière dans les sources littéraires byzantines. La disparition du Tsarat Bulgare en 1018 a permis à l’empereur Basileios II d’organiser dans ses anciens territoires plusieurs unités militaires-administratives. Les territoires du Bas-Danube en amont de Vidin et jusqu’au littoral de la Mer Noire ont été organisés par Basileios II dans une unité militaire-administrative propre qui fonctionnera, sauf quelques périodes d’interruption, pendant les XI^e-XII^e siècles. Dans les sources byzantines du XI^e et XII^e siècles desquelles nous disposons – sigilographiques ou littéraires – le thème du Bas-Danube paraît sous différentes dénominations: le katépanat de Dristra, le katépanat ou le duché de Paradounavon, le duché Paristrion, respectivement l’archontat des villes d’Istros ou dans une formule plus large l’archontat des villes et des régions d’Istros. Parmi les dénominations les plus fréquemment utilisées par les sources littéraires pour désigner le thème byzantin du Bas-Danube ou compte aussi celles de l’archontat des villes d’Istros ou dans un sens plus large l’archontat des villes et des régions d’Istros. Le parcours des sources littéraires desquelles nous disposons au présent nous conduit à la constatation qu’une telle dénomination utilisée pour désigner une unité militaire-administrative est unique. Pour aucun autre thème byzantin des XI^e et XII^e siècles les sources existantes n’utilisent pas la dénomination d’archontat des villes ou des villes et des régions de quelque part. La dénomination a sa justification dans la vie demi-urbaine et urbaine intense qui palpait dans ces régions.

**RÉSULTATS PRÉLIMINAIRES DES FOUILLES
ARCHÉOLOGIQUES PRÉVENTIVES DE BRĂILA, LE LIEU-DIT
« LA VILLE ANCIENNE ». CAMPAGNE 2010**

**IONEL CÂNDEA (BRĂILA – ROMANIA),
COSTIN CROITORU (BRĂILA – ROMANIA)**

Mot-clef: fouilles archéologiques préventives, foyer médiéval de Brăila

Résumé. La sollicitation d'autorisation pour la construction d'immeubles nous a déterminés à faire des fouilles archéologiques préventives dans les endroits que nous allons présenter dans ce qui suit (*A. 37 bis, rue Mărășești, B. 26-26A, rue Gh. Marinescu, C. 51, rue Mihai Eminescu, D. 2, rue Rossetti*). Dans toute l'investigation archéologique nous y avons mis au jour de nombreux fragments céramiques provenant de récipients du type « bocal » au fond perforé, mais aussi des fragments céramiques émaillés, les uns avec un décor graffiti, plusieurs pipes, récipients en verre, deux plaques céramiques fragmentaires, monnaies, anneau etc., datables au XVII^e -XVIII^e siècle.

**RÉSULTATS PRÉLIMINAIRES DES FOUILLES
ARCHÉOLOGIQUES SYSTÉMATIQUES DE MĂXINENI (DÉP.
DE BRĂILA), LE LIEU-DIT MONASTÈRE. CAMPAGNE 2010**

**IONEL CÂNDEA (BRĂILA – ROMANIA),
COSTIN CROITORU (BRĂILA – ROMANIA)**

Mot-clef: Monastère de Măxineni, Matei Basarab, rivières Buzău et Siret

Résumé. Pendant l'été 2010 nous avons fouillé dans la zone de la confluence des rivières Buzău et Siret, tout près des ruines du monastère de Măxineni. Afin d'accomplir les objectifs proposés, nous avons creusé plusieurs sections et sondages, dans le prolongement de ceux des campagnes précédentes. Nous avons surpris, autant au nord qu'au sud de la muraille (donc à l'extérieur aussi bien qu'à l'intérieur de la cour), 12 tombes d'inhumation (dans S₁). Dans la superficie fouillée on a trouvé quatre tombes et une installation saisonnière dont on a fouillé un four en briques (dans S₈).

Les informations recueillies lors de la campagne archéologiques de cette année contribuent, à côté de celles déjà connues, à dresser un historique des fouilles destiné à soutenir un projet de restauration de l'habitation du prieur avec la cave princière, l'aménagement de la cour et des murs d'enceinte du monastère de Măxineni.

GREEK MERCHANTS IN THE ROMANIAN PRINCIPALITIES IN THE 16TH CENTURY: THE CASE OF NIKOLAOS DOMESTICOS NEVRIDIS

CRISTIAN NICOLAE APETREI (GALAȚI - ROMANIA)

Keywords: merchants, trade, Greek diaspora, Moldavia, Poland.

Abstract: The paper aims to reconstitute the biography of one of the most important Greek middlemen in the trade between Lemberg (Lwów) and the East – the merchant Nikolaos Domesticos Nevridis of Chios, better known in Poland as “Niccoresio Nevridis”, and in Moldavia as “Nicorizi Nevrudul”. Involved as early as the period of his apprenticeship in the profitable trade which linked the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, through Poland and Moldavia, to the Mediterranean Sea (especially the Eastern Mediterranean), Nikolaos Domesticos Nevridis intuited correctly the place of Moldavia in the European economic trade, as well as the opportunities which this position brought. The choice of a residence in Moldavia led him further to the involvement in credit relations with the local elite and increased his chances of profit by getting key positions in the local fiscal system. In a short time, the combination of his trading abilities with the privileges granted by the Moldavian princes turned him into one of the greatest Moldavian businessmen from the end of the 16th century. The amounts of money he invested and the complex networks of agents, partners and creditors he developed demonstrate, undoubtedly, the great amplitude of the commercial traffic he carried. Importer of expensive furs in Moldavia, exporter of wines and Moldavian oxen to Poland, Nikolaos Domesticos Nevridis was also involved in an important transit trade. This is proven by the existence of two types of high quality merchandise which are repeatedly mentioned in relation to him, but which were, certainly, only subsequently destined to the Moldavian market: the Cretan Malvasia wine, mainly destined to the Polish market, and the Western cloths, which, most probably, were not sold in Moldavia, but went to the Constantinopolitan market. Nevridis’ destiny reveals not only the profit opportunities determined by Moldavia’s geographical position and the privileged relations with its princes, but also the immense risks generated by such activities.

**THE LEVANTINE MERCHANTS ANTONIO DE VIA
AND BARTOLOMEO LOCADDELLO – PROTECTORS
OF THE CATHOLIC MISSIONARISM IN WALLACHIA
(FIRST HALF OF THE 17TH CENTURY)**

**CRISTIAN LUCA (GALAȚI - ROMANIA)
RAFAEL-DORIAN CHELARU (BUCHAREST- ROMANIA)**

Keywords: Antonio de Via, Bartolomeo Locadello, Wallachia, catholic missionaries, merchants.

Abstract: On the basis of some unpublished sources from the Archives of the Sacred Congregation “De Propaganda Fide” and following a critical analysis of the relevant scholarly literature, the present article attempts to make a synthesis of the activity of two levantine merchants, Antonio de Via, descendant from a Genoese family residing in Pera, and Bartolomeo Locadello, Venetian citizen, as protectors of the Catholic missionarism in Wallachia. Both merchants, before establishing in Wallachia, were involved in commercial activities in the Ottoman capital. Antonio de Via came in the Northern Danubian Principality as member of prince Alexander Iliăș’s court, being granted the office of great cupbearer during 1627-29, probably as a reward for his financial support offered to Iliăș to get the throne. After 1635, de Via held the office of second cupbearer for several years during the reign of prince Matthew Bassarab. Bartolomeo Locadello arrived in Wallachia as commercial agent working for Constantine Battista Vevelli, the brother in law of prince Alexander Iliăș. The second reign of prince Alexander Iliăș in Wallachia (1627-29) and then in Moldavia (1631-33) witnessed an almost continuous presence of the Venetian merchant in the Romanian Principalities, motivated by his commercial affairs. Starting with Matthew Bassarab’s reign, Locadello definitively established his permanent residence in Bucharest. During their presence in Wallachia, Antonio de Via and Bartolomeo Locadello maintained a close communication with the Patriarchal Vicar from Constantinople and the cardinals of the Sacred Congregation “De Propaganda Fide” in Rome, acting as protectors of the Franciscan missions active in the few Catholic communities from the Romanian Principalities.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE COMMERCIAL COMPANIES IN TRANSYLVANIA TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROMANIAN FOREIGN TRADE IN THE 17TH CENTURY

FLORINA CIURE (ORADEA - ROMANIA)

Keywords: Transylvania, Greek Companies, merchants, commercial exchanges, foreign trade.

Abstract: From the second half of the 16th century many Balkan and Levantine merchants arrived in Transylvania, their growing number and the ever increasing quantity of commercialized products determined the authorities to give them some privileges. In the 17th century the Greek Companies of Sibiu and Braşov were funded; their members included not only Greek but also Bulgarian, Serbian, Hebrew, Macedonian or Armenian had an important role in the Transylvanian foreign trade development. The “Greek” Companies meant to be an association of merchants united by common interests; their purpose was to obtain privileges that might allow members a better development of their commercial activities. These companies had a particular statute among the other companies of the time for they didn’t have the direct support of the Ottoman Empire authorities to who belonged most of its members. To carry out the optimal conditions for commercial activity and to share risks and profits, the merchants often joined each other directly, so that two or three people contributed to the necessary capital, and then caring for the purchase and sale of goods. More contemporary documents attest the collaboration between the members of the company from Braşov and merchants from the Romanian Principalities and Moldavia. Goods purchased by merchants in the Romanian Principalities or taken from different economic centres in the South–Eastern Europe (Ioannina, Kozani, Thessalonica, Serres, Adrianople, Filipopolis, Sofia, Tărnovo) and Asia Minor (Smyrna, Trebizond, Sinope, Constantinople) reached the members from Venice, transiting Valona or Durazzo. Goods were purchased from the lagoon city arriving for sale in the markets from Hungary, Austria, Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia. The highest percentage of products purchased from the Romanian Principalities and sent to Venice had the wax, as evidenced by numerous documents from that period. Certainly, commercial companies in Transylvania played an important role in the transit of goods between the Central Europe and Orient, while helping to boost the economic life in the Romanian space.

**THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND ECONOMICAL ASPECTS OF THE
MUNTENIAN NOBILIARY RESIDENCES FROM THE SECOND
HALF OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY**

VLAD MARAVELA (BRĂILA - ROMANIA)

Keywords: muntenian nobiliary residences, Wallachia, 17th century,
geographical and economical aspects

**MERCHANTS AND CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES
IN THE ROMANIAN PRINCIPALITIES
(17TH-18TH CENTURIES)**

RAFAEL-DORIAN CHELARU (BUCHAREST - ROMANIA)

Keywords: Catholic missionaries, merchants, Wallachia, Moldavia, 17th-18th centuries.

Abstract: On the basis of published and unpublished sources (identified in the archives of the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples), the present article synthesizes the main features of the sinuous relations between the Catholic missionaries active in Moldavia and Wallachia during 17th and 18th centuries, addressing the following points of analysis: a) the percentage of merchants among the Catholic communities; b) merchants as protectors of the Catholic missions; c) merchants as donors and creditors of the missionaries, and d) the commerce as a source for the sustenance of the missions. The conclusion of the article is that the merchants represented a specific group within the Catholic communities, providing an essential support for the missionary activity developed in both principalities.

**ON USURY AND USURERS IN MOLDAVIA: THE TURKISH
USURERS (LATTER HALF OF THE 17TH CENTURY –
LATTER HALF OF THE 18TH CENTURY)***

LAURENȚIU RĂDVAN (IAȘI - ROMANIA)

Keywords: usury, credit, interest, Lazi, Moldavia.

Abstract. The present study seeks to focus on a less researched Medieval practice in the Romanian Principalities, usury. Among those who practice usury in late Medieval and pre-modern Moldavia we found many Turks and this study is an attempt to show how great was the Turkish merchants' involvement in lending money to local princes, boyars or townspeople. We looked at for what and to whom the Turks have borrowed money and how high was the interest rates. We also tried to answer the question why had the Turks gained extensive control over money lending in Moldavian towns in the former half of the 18th century? On the one hand, the Romanian Principalities were deprived of the right to coinage. Also, after 1711, the Ottomans preferred to appoint rulers from a restricted group of families, who had close ties with Greek circles in the Phanar quarter of Istanbul. They also placed these rulers into permanent rotation, without any chance of consolidating their rule. The princes were also engaged in competition, since the price paid for appointment by the sultan was always on the rise. Whereas the money for buying off the throne was usually lent by major creditors in Istanbul, the amounts needed to confirm the instatement, or for the *haracı* (=haraç), *mucarer* (=mukarrer) and the many gifts given to grand and local officials in the Empire were derived from in-country taxation. As they were often not enough, because of the chronic lack of coin, the contenders resorted to loans from Ottoman creditors. This was compounded by the townspeople' demand for cash, who were affected by this shortage, and by that of the boyars, who also had to answer to various requests by the rulers. The Turkish merchants in the Empire were quick to seize the opportunity and filled this need in the Romanian Principalities. Many of them settled north of the Danube. The effects are noticeable in the size and strength of local urban economy, where foreign merchants, with easier access to foreign money, had an important say.

THE LAND ESTATE OF BOYAR HRIZEA FROM BĂLTENI

ȘTEFAN AFTODOR (BRĂILA - ROMANIA)

Keywords: boyar Hrizea, Wallachia, 17th century

Abstract. Hrizea from Bălteni was one of the most important high officials in Wallachia in the third and fourth decade of the 17th century. A favourite of Radu Mihnea and a boyar with an unknown origin (we do not know exactly whether he belonged to the local elite or only a Levantine from the hospodar's clientele), Hrizea managed to hold the most important offices in the state from 1621 until the end of his life, in 1642: great treasurer, great chancellor and ban. This paper aims to present a less highlighted aspect of his career: the way in which these high offices enabled him to acquire a solid economic base, the ground for the consolidation of his political and social position in the Wallachian society.

**GREEK HIGH OFFICIALS IN SEVENTEENTH CENTURY
MOLDAVIA. THEIR ROLE IN MOLDAVIAN DOMESTIC
POLITICS – STRATEGIES OF POWER**

ANIȘOARA IONAȘCU

Keywords: Greek high officials, Moldavia, 17th century, strategies, power

THE IMAGE OF THE CATHOLIC PRIEST IN 17TH CENTURY MOLDAVIA. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

EUGEN ZUICĂ (GALAȚI - ROMANIA)

Keywords: Catholic missionaries, Moldavia, Catholic parishes, diocese of Bacău.

Abstract. The careers of several Catholic missionaries, lay prelates or apostolic visitors in the Romanian Principalities in the 17th century, are briefly presented, as well as the way in which they were perceived, from the views of their attachment to Roman-Catholic spiritual values and to social morality. Definitely, the few examples given above can not pretend to create the perfect image of the Catholic prelates' *image* in contemporary Moldavia or Wallachia in the consciousness of ecclesiastical figures or of the representatives of the local lay and religious authorities. In this picture of the religious life of the Catholic communities from the Romanian extra-Carpathian territory, Catholic prelates esteemed for their culture, zeal and morality stand beside characters for whom Christian Roman-Catholic values occupied a secondary plan.

PRELIMINARY NOTES ON PUBLIC EXPOSURE OF CONVICTS' CORPSES IN MEDIEVAL MOLDAVIA*

BOGDAN-PETRU MALEON (IAȘI - ROMANIA)

Key words: punishment, corpses, public executions

Abstract. This approach aimed at analyzing what happened to the prisoners' bodies in medieval Moldavia, from the moment sentencing to that when they were taken from the place of execution. It was considered that sentences were related to the seriousness of committed acts, and social status of the doers. In relation to these preconditions, the measures taken against the body went from simple humiliation to extreme ordeals ending in its destruction. A special emphasis during the research was placed on the exemplary dimension of the punishment, which highlighted the prestige of the court and prevented similar actions.

**THE TESTAMENT OF THE HOUSEKEEPER MARICA,
THE DAUGHTER OF THE SWORDBEARER DIICU BUICESCU
AND THE WIFE OF THE GREAT CUPBEARER
STAICO BUCȘANU (MERIȘANU)**

MARIUS PĂDURARU (PITEȘTI - ROMANIA)

Keywords: testament, Marica Buicescu, the cupbearer Staico Bucșanu (Merișanu), funeral, Strâmbu Convent, Găiseni Parish, Giurgiu County.

Abstract: This paper is based on the content of an inedited document from January 25th 1704, the testament of Marica's, the daughter of the great swordbearer Diicu Buicescu and the second wife of the great cupbearer Staico Bucșanu (Merișanu), one of the biggest intriguers of the second half of the 17th century, who also was a pretender to the throne of Wallachia for almost 15 years during the reigns of the voivodes Șerban Cantacuzino and Constantin Brâncoveanu. The document published here completes the biography of this character; it includes information unknown till now: he and very probably his wife, too, were buried in Strâmbu Convent, today Găiseni Parish, Giurgiu County.

CONSUETUDINE ORALE E TRADIZIONE SCRITTA NELLA PRASSI GIURIDICA DELLE COMUNITÀ SASSONI DI TRANSILVANIA (SECC. XII–XVI)

ANDREA FARA (ROMA - ITALIA)

Keywords: Transylvanian Saxons, Consuetudinary and written law, Normative production and juridical institutions, Institutional evolution and economic performance.

Abstract: Institutions are one of the essential driving force behind an economic system, and can represent a key to explain the economic success or failure. In a medieval society, the existence of efficient and preminent judicial institutions guaranteed the political representation, the economic affairs recognition, the economy government, the market formation and protection, the conflicts resolution. The evolution of normative production of Transylvanian Saxons perfectly follows this scheme, keeping in mind the lateness caused by the political and geographical perifericity of this region. During the medieval centuries the transylvanian saxon communities obtained or provided themselves with efficient juridical institutions and tools (among which the *Privilegium Andreanum* granted by Andrew II of Hungary in 1224, the *Codex Altemberg* in 1481, the *Statuta juriurum municipalium Saxonum in Transylvania* by Mathias Fronius in 1583). This is an element that contribute to explain the transylvanian *hospites* extraordinary political, economic and social development during the Middle Ages. Law particularity, administrative liberty and economic privileges allowed the progressive constitution of a coherent political structure, up to the *Universitas Saxonum Transsylvaniae* recognition in 1486. But when institutions operate in appropriate way and for a long time, often the renewal and the adjustment to a new political and economic context become difficult: the institutional conservatism can slow down the economic growth. In this way the *Universitas Saxonum Transsylvaniae* with its *Statuta juriurum municipalium Saxonum in Transylvania* represented the most elevated moment in the political, economic and juridical life of Transylvanian Saxons; but *Universitas* and *Statuta* marked a final point too, contributing in substantial way to an excessive consolidation both of autonomy and privileges of the saxon *hospites* between the end of the XVIth and the second half of XIXth centuries, first in the autonomous Principality of Transylvania and then in the Habsburg Empire.

**THE WESTERN IMPACT OF EASTERN EVENTS:
THE CRUSADER CONSEQUENCES OF THE FALL
OF CAFFA IN THE LIGHT OF NEW ITALIAN SOURCES***

ALEXANDRU SIMON (CLUJ-NAPOCA - ROMANIA)

Keywords: Caffa, Mehmed II, medieval geopolitics, Later Crusades, Ottoman warfare.

Abstract: As several other major Ottoman successes, the conquest of Caffa was no real surprise neither for the “Free Christian World”, nor for the unstable “Crusader Commonwealth”. The main features that enabled this conquest to sink into contemporary politics and ideology derived from the close connection, of virtually modern geopolitical nature, between three different levels of geographical and political determinations. The first level was established by the power relations between the states of East–Central Europe (namely Hungary, Poland and Moldavia at that time), trapped on Christian soil between their Italian and Ottoman counterparts. The second was built by the already traditional pontic connection between politics and commercial interests at that Dniestr and Danube Mounds and in the Crimean Peninsula. The third level was chiefly a product of Ottoman attempts to establish the empire’s hegemony in both the Black and the Mediterranean Sea. All three levels played a considerable role in shaping the military and political events of 1475 in particular and of the 1470’-1480’ in general and helped (re-) establish what would be viewed as the main features of the that age of the later crusades in East–Central Europe: domestic limitations of potential anti-Ottoman action, political and dynastical Christian rivalry that stretched beyond the so called East–Central European area and Ottoman military superiority on land and sea.

**POLITICAL IMAGERY AND GROUP LOYALTIES
IN ROMANIAN PRINCIPALITIES AT THE
BEGINNING OF THE 19TH CENTURY**

CRISTIAN NELU PLOSCARU

Key words: Political imagery, prophecy, „brotherhood”, conspiracy, protest

Abstract. The climate of religious fervor, extended by Russia's main offensive actions on the Danube, by the pan-Orthodox political ecumenism with insist on proselytizing and proclamations of the Russian Tsars court, by the rise of the Russian influence on the monastic environment by the late prophetic scenarios associated with steep involvement of France in the East, by the persistence of religious attitudes related to the imaginary „salvation” has favored the emergence of a type of political solidarity boyar - *boyar brotherhoods* - reinforced the „oath of allegiance” of the conspiracy „before the living God” to save the heathen Muslim orthodoxy of persecution and „homeland” oppression by „foreigners”.

Political means used by these boyar „brotherhoods” or „union” combine tradition with innovation, seeking to overcome one of the most difficult obstacles, namely the opportunity to express their grievances, claims and political views in some other ways than those adopted by the boyars' „pillars of the country”. The desire to make themselves heard, breaking the monopoly of the „protipendada” in politics, the urge to act secretly and to imitate the methods that made use of foreigners in the capital (Iasi) under the protection of the French Consulate, where possible, without undermining their social equity position considered degrading for a native boyar. The preference for collective action, hatched in secret, on condition of anonymity was not necessarily a reflection inspired by the fear of the rulers, but also a normal attitude, specific to the traditional boyar behavior, verified over a long historical experience.