

ABSTRACT OF THE PHD. DISERTATION

The Organizing and Functioning of the Prince's Court and Office in Wallachia in the Reglementar Period

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The epoch of the reglementar rules represents one of the most important moments in Romania's recent history, opening a new path towards a profound change and modernization of Romanian society.

Represented in Wallachia by Alexandru Dimitrie Ghica (1834-1842) , Gheorghe Dimitrie Bibescu (1842-1848), followed then by Barbu Dimitrie Stirbei (1849-1856), the reglementar rules, set up as a result of Russian military occupation, which seriously stressed the economic and financial resources of the country, had to lay the basis of the development and organization of a modern society.

Although they had to rule in a developing society, with Assemblies whose members had not had developed yet the civil spirit and responsibility of the political act within a legal, institutionalized frame, the initiatives and achievements of Alexandru Dimitrie Ghica, Gheorghe Bibescu and Barbu Dimitrie Stirbei regarding the organization and functioning of the court and office did respond to the need of Romanian society.

This paper, which starts with an analysis of the main sources referring to the prince's court and office is structured into two parts, each having two chapters and several subchapters.

The synthesizing of the main information conveyed by historiography regarding the place of the rule as state central institution has been done in

order to point out once more the importance held by its other two structures, The Prince's Court and Office.

If in the Middle Ages The Prince's Court was the centre of state by means of which the „ prince and ruler ” pronounced his provisions („ orders “) and displayed all kind of prerogatives, and The Prince's Office functioned as a ruling device meant to ensure the carrying out of the ruling functions in all fields of socio-political life, representing actually „ the structure on which was based the entire institutional system proper to each epoch “, the two received by the Organic Regulations a new inter-institutional positioning. About the new status of these two institutions 500 years old within the state of Wallachia, we deciphered published and unpublished sources of a historical epoch remained referential in its documentary richness and by the founding and organization of the National Archives. But the most important source remains the Organic Regulations with its two editions from 1832 and 1847. Out of the sources from the Historical Archives, the most interesting are those from the funds of „ State Secretariate “, „ Inside Ministry “, and „ Ministry for Internal Affairs “.

Most of the information regarding our paper, especially about the life at the Prince's Court, were found either in state publications named *State Almanac in the Principality of All Wallachia*, or *Court and State Almanac*, printed in the years 1837, 1838, 1842, 1850 and 1853. Moreover, several other works written by politicians of the time, authors, historians and foreign intellectuals (N. Balcescu, Ion Ghica, G. Ganescu, St. Golescu, , G. Miculescu, I. Heliade Radulescu, I. G. Valentineanu, A.J.Vaillant, Elias Regnault, s. a.) or the writings of travelers and foreign councils that completed the source of documentation.

Rich in information are also the numerous printed documentation volumes (*The Year 1948 in the Romanian Principalities. Papers and Documents, 1902-1910*; Balcescu Nicolae, *Opere IV. Corespondenta. Scrisori. Memorii. Adrese. Documente. Note si materiale*, Editie G. Zane, Bucuresti, 1964; Bibescu Gheorghe, *Domnia lui Bibescu*, vol.I, Bucuresti, 1893; vol.II *Legi si decrete 1843-1848. Razvratirea din 1948. Istorie si legenda*, Bucuresti, 1894; Filliti Ioan C. *Documente din vremea Regulamentului Organic*, Bucuresti, 1935; Iorga

Nicolae, *Corespondenta lui Stirbei Voda*, vol.I., *Corespondenta politica*, Bucuresti, 1904; Idem, *Marturii istorice privitoare la viata si domnia lui Stirbei Voda (ca urmare la Corespondenta lui Stirbei Voda)*, Bucuresti, 1905; *Raportul lui Barbu Stirbei catre Chisselef*, in *Convorbiri literare*, anul XXII, 1888, nr. 9, p. 737-751; anul XXII, 1889, nr.10, p.841-857, anul XXII, 1889, nr.12, p. 1025-1043; anul XXIII, 1890, nr.1, p.26-43; nr.2, p.153-177; *Acte si documente privitoare la Renasterea Romaniei*, Seria I, vol. IV, *Brosuri si extrase romanesti si straine 1777-1872*, Bucuresti, 1908; Sturdza D.A., Colescu-Vartic C., *Acte si documente privitoare la istoria renasterii Romaniei*, vol VI, partea a II-a, Bucuresti, 1896) that regard the Reglementar Epoch, they being the proof of historians' insistence on the beginnings of Romania's modern history, period in which were constituted the state fundamental structures with existential projection until the present day.

Chapter I *Provisions of Organic Regulations and of Balta Liman Convention and the Crowning of Wallachia's Princes*.

The first subchapter presents the provisions of the Organic Regulations and of Balta Liman Convention regarding the selection of princes in Wallachia.

In subchapter two *Crowning Ceremonies of Wallachia's Princes in the Reglementar Epoch* were analyzed the crowning ceremonies of the three princes (Alexandru Dimitrie Ghica, Gheorghe Dimitrie Bibescu, Barbu Dimitrie Stirbei) in the reglementar period.

In subchapter three are analyzed the residencies of the three princes in the reglementar period. Besides the prince's court, they also had some summer residences, situated outside Bucharest.

In subchapter four is presented the clothing of Romanian princes and of boyards from the prince's court. As regards the clothing of princes one may say that they give up the old oriental costume, adopting the Western fashion. Boyards also start giving up the old fashion, at first the younger ones.

In subchapter five, *The Reign's Flag*, all princes' flags are described.

Chapter two *Meetings , Official Receptions and Princes' Visits in the Country* analyze the princes' travels in the country, the receiving of travelers and consuls.

Part II , entitled *The Organization and Functioning of the Office in Wallachia in the Reglementar Period, is structured in two chapters.*

In the first chapter, *The Prince's Office before 1831*, is analyzed the evolution of the office in the XIV- century and until 1831.

The Prince's Office was a medieval institution, solidly organized since the XIVth century, which functioned in the Romanian countries around the prince's court until 1831, having the task of drawing up diplomatic papers , of all documents resulting from juridical acts, or, at request, of foreign correspondence.. Generally speaking, the main part in the prince's office is held by the great chancellor, who was the keeper of the prince's signet and the subprefect of issued documents. It is him also who is in charge of their authentication. In the prince's office also functioned: the second chancellor, the third chancellor, the quill driver (the little quill driver), various clerks, etc.. We mention as a special characteristic of Wallachia's office the rich adornment that surround the text of the documents, in some of them being present remarkable miniatures, even portraits, artistically realized, whereas the aspect of those from Moldavia and Transylvania is more solemn. The Wallachian princes had permanently in their office clerks and scribes for external correspondence , who knew, besides Slavonic, Latin, Polish, Turk, Greek, Russian, etc.. The official language of office language from the Romanian counties was Slavonic-Romanian, that is an old Slavonic language abounding in pure Romanian phrases, lexical items, topic and onomastic words. In the XVIIth century the Romanian language is introduced step by stem into the prince's office, so that in the second half of the same century, documents issued in Slavonic are rare. In Transylvania Latin was used, but in Moldavia and Wallachia the Cyrillic alphabet was used until the reign of Alexandru Ioan C uza , who declared official the writing in the Latin alphabet. Also in this chapter I have tried to draw up a presentation of the writs issued by the prince's office before 1831.

Until the XIXth century both in Wallachia and in Moldavia the prince's office writs were drawn up first in Slavonic, then in the national language, but with Cyrillic alphabet. In their structure are present various elements as origin, that came by means of political, cultural and matrimonial links. Some come from the far away Byzantium, by means of the Serbian and Bulgarian offices, some from the Polish, Lithuanian and Russian offices. The prince's office received these loans, which were subject to a process of selection and adaptation to Romanian realities.

The office papers were drawn up in the Romanian environment, on essentially Romanian problems and by Romanian clerks and officials-therefore, naturally, the nearest source for improving the text was Romanian. One can find in the papers – especially in those of transmitting the propriety right-a passage, called of border delimitation, in which local micro-toponymy abound.

The problem of writing material is one of utmost importance in paleography , as this problem is closely linked to the fundamental problem of paleography: the evolution of graphics. The Slavonic-Romanian paleography, like the Slavonic paleographies, in general , have as writing material leather, in the processing for writing called parchment and paper.

In the series of papers issued in the prince's offices, we differentiate firstly two categories: internal and external. The first category includes the papers in which the addresses are monasteries, churches and high officials, whatever might be the nature of the transaction or the juridical report between the issuing and addressee; the other includes letters addressed by our princes to persons and cities from abroad, political and commercial treaties signed with foreign sovereigns, homage papers, as well as the donations granted to founders and monasteries , usually in the Balkan Peninsula.

The main type of papers issued were:

Anafora , a written report of the prince's high offices addressed by high officials or supreme courts to the prince or, in his absence, to the divan, in connection with an administrative or law problem, by means of which

conclusions of some investigations were communicated and solutions were suggested.

The term *arhondologie* (*arhondologhie*) (juridical and diplomatic) was used for naming the register in which were mentioned all boyard families in the country. This file was called „ the roll of boyard ranks” in 19th century Wallachia. During the 1948 Revolution between 16-18 of September, in Bucharest , Arhondologia was burnt together with the text of the Organic Regulations by the crowd who was demonstrating , showing their attachment for the revolutionary ideas and as a sign of protest regarding the intervention of the troops led by Fuad Pasha.

Hotarnicia represented the clear adjustment, by an official act, of the limits of one or several farming properties or of a town territory registered in the category of juridical-administrative papers, in which are mentioned, based on probation and probative papers, the borders of a property. In the Romanian Countries, this term was closely linked to the financial right and, generally speaking, to the old Romanian law. Those charged with establishing borders were high officials, such as: the high chancellor in Moldavia and the great porter in Wallachia.

Hrisovul. (The Charter). An official paper of the reign in Moldavia and Wallachia, legalized with one or several hung seals. It was used primarily in XV-XVIII centuries. It was drawn up in the prince's office and referred to the awarding by the prince (together with the prince's council) of donations, privileges and immunities, the strengthening and acknowledgment of a property transfer and other matters.

The term „ *zapis* ” (with the meaning of *written document, act*) was used in Slavonic-Romanian documents for naming a written proof or a text. Document, certificate, selling-buying act, written proof in Wallachia. It has in view any act with juridical character, signed between two or several physical or juridical persons. More often than not was required a confirmation from the subprefect or from the court. In case of destruction or loss, one could reconstitute by means of witnesses statement.

Dregatorii. Cancelariile domnesti. The most important high offices are presented.

In the period 1834-1856, generally speaking, the central high offices had kept their general features from the preceding period,; but, there appeared due to the economic, social and historical conditions specific to this period , new aspects regarding to the naming of high officials, criteria of selection, attributions, modality of payment, hierarchy, classification.

Just like in the past, high officials were appointed and revoked by the prince, according to a fundamental criterion-trust derived from kinship, wealth and skills of the candidate-which often was associated with another criterion specific to this epoch- venality. The appointment was done at the enthroning of the prince and at the beginning of a new year, when all high officials were exhibiting the trumps of their high office, and the prince confirmed them again or replaced them. The appointed or confirmed high officials were sworn, just like in the previous period, whereas the revoking could take place in the course of the year.

The high officials were selected from around the boyards; the prince was allowed to appoint in high office a common man, a fact that implied the ennoblement of the appointed one. High officials often continued to have some attributions other than the specific of their high office, by means of a prince's delegation.

Logofatul (from Neo-Greek *logothetis*) (*cancellarius*) was a high official and head of prince's office in Moldavia and Wallachia. He was the prince's deputy as head of divan, watched the drawing up of papers and their delivery. As part of his position, he applied the prince's seal, and, starting with the 17th century, countersigned the official high office papers. He was the keeper of the great prince's seal. The chancellor could investigate the causes at a juridical level , for example delineating estate borders, and sometimes assuming attributions of a political nature.

Marele logofat (The Great Chancellor)

(in Moldavia) , the first boyard in the divan, who ruled the prince's office and, in the prince's and bishop's absence, presided the divan

(in Wallachia) one of the most important boyards in the divan, following after the ban.

Logofat al doilea- deputy of the great chancellor.

Logofat de obiceiuri-high official in charge of master of ceremonies

Logofat de taina (domnesc) (in Wallachia)-*un camaras de izvoade* (in Moldova)-prince's private secretary

Logofat de visterie- secretary of prince's treasury

In the second half of the 18th century , the great chancellor's office was doubled in both principalities. In Wallachia, the doubling was done under the rule of Alexandru Ipsilanti; in 1775, in the documents appear two vel chancellors, one for the Upper Country, another for the Lower Country.

Generally speaking, *marele logofat (the great chancellor)* kept his former responsibilities : he was the keeper of the state seal, signed the court documents , he was the referent of the prince and divan in juridical and judiciary matters and subprefect of princely papers. In general, princely documents were valid only with the princely seal and signature of vel chancellor. According to The Organic Regulations , this high official was mentained as ministry of justice, with the title of *great chancellor of justice*.

Logofat al doilea (vtori logofat- second chancellor), the first subordinate of the high chancellor , in both principalities had extremely important prerogatives, working directly with the prince, to whom he presented all petitions, and drew up the answers according to the princely decision. He explained to the prince, before their debate, all principles that were to be judged in the divan. As he knew the laws, he usually kept his job, even if the prince was changed.

The high officials' subordinates were: *logofatul al treilea* (*treți logofat-the third chancellor*) -the second subordinate of the high chancellor , having important prerogatives, among which the keeping of the little princely seal , which he applied on the letters drawn up by the second chancellor, named first secret chancellor; *logofetii de divan* (*divan chancellors*)- having the same number with the districts included in the Upper or Lower Country, under the jurisdiction of the respective high chancellor.

Ispravnicul (*subprefect*) was the representative of the state supreme authority in the trial of some boyards , the drawing up and strengthening of some will, the investigation on the spot of some penal causes. The first documentary mention appears in 1481 in Wallachia, and in the second half of the 16th century in Moldavia. Starting with the 18th century , they became the representatives of the prince in territorial-administrative units, leading a district or a region.

The first subchapter of chapter II , *The reforming of the princely office through organic regulations. The reorganization and modernization of the working system in offices* is presented the creation and functioning of each department.

Preoccupied by the decrease of the bureaucratic apparatus and of administration efficiency, they diminished, they reduced the dimensions of the administrative central apparatus, as well as its prerogatives. This was done by the elimination of all unnecessary high offices. It is about the suppression of those high offices that, even since the Middle Ages, had served for the ostentation of the central power and ensured different stipendiums for the persons in the princely entourage. Consequently, were kept only those high offices that had concrete prerogatives linked to the practicing of functions assumed by the reglementar state. Prerogatives limitation was done by eliminating of law attributions from the competence of all bureaucratic categories. Thus, activities of clerks were linked exclusively to the sphere of executive power. These changes had transformed the old high offices in real ministries, and their occupants in ministers subordinated to public interests.

The fact was implemented also at the level of official entitling, the former high officials being given the official name of ministers.

Each minister led a ministry organized as a public central service. The latter had well established prerogatives and functioned full time. The material competence of ministries was specialized and was exercised in relation with the whole territory of the country.

In the central administrative structure were found six ministries. **The Internal or Inside Business Department** was led by the minister of internal affairs (the former high vornic), **The Department of Finance**, led by the minister of finance, **The State Secretary** or the high seneschal, **The High Chancellor's Office of Justice** was led by the justice chancellor, **The High Chancellor's Office of Faith** or **Ministry of Church Affairs**, **The Chief Of Militia** in Wallachia was the high spatharus , in Moldavia the high hetmen.

Subchapters two and three are dedicated to the seals of the three princes and to the residence of the high office, the former Romanit House, rented for this purpose by Prince Alexandru Dimitrie Ghica (1834-1842).