

CONSTANTIN PALADI

Dimitrie Cantemir recorded in his "Description of Moldova" that the Pălădești boyars were originally from Greece, a hypothesis accepted in the later studies developed by Constantin Sion, Gheorghe Ghibănescu and Octavian Lecca. According to them, in the 17th century, the Paladi family, originally from Thessalonica, settled in Constantinople, dealing with trade.

The first mention of the Paladi boyar family in Moldova dates back to the time of ruler Vasile Lupu, when a "Palade căminar" is mentioned in a document, sent as a messenger to Russia between 1636-1637.

The family's prosperity was immediate, as can be seen from a deed of purchase of an estate by "Visternicul Paladi" on January 25, 1637 from the great Medelnicer Simion Gheuca, namely his homestead, in the village of Portărești on the Simila stream, in the Tutovei area, with site of a pond and a mill, as well as a part of the farm in the village of Păulești, also from the land of Tutova with the amount of 350 thalers". The purchase was confirmed by the Divan lui Vasile Lupu on January 26, 1637.

The closeness to the Moldavian gentleman and the consideration that he shows to this "true boyar of our faithful, Palade the great taxman served righteously and faithfully to other holy late gentlemen who were before us, and today he serves my lordship and our country, with justice and faithful service" is attested by the record of April 7, 1637, by which Vasile Lupu gave a veil to the publican Palade, Cetățuia, for his faith.

The properties of the Paladi boyars located in the southern part of Moldavia, in the lands of Tutova, Covurlui and Tecuci will grow constantly, leading to the formation of a vast domain. As an example, a single member of the family, the treasurer Toader Paladi, owned over 60 entire villages in the fall of 1745, parts of 27 other estates. At the beginning of the 19th century, purchases of estates in the north of Moldova are archivally attested.

Documentary information related to the personality and activity of Constantin Paladi is scarce. He was born in 1792, son of Gheorghe Bogdan (1767-1830) and Nastasia Paladi (1772-1794). After the death of his mother, a descendant of the Costăchești family, he was raised by his maternal grandfather, Constantin Paladi, and after his death, in 1798, he was raised by his maternal grandmother, Ilinca Paladi. He was married to Ralu (daughter of Scarlat Calimachi and Smaranda Calimachi), who gave him a daughter, Lucia. After the death of his wife, in 1821, he will remarry Elisafta (Eliza) Paladi, who will give birth to two sons, Carol and Alexandru.

Data on his public position are scarce and mostly circumstantial. Thus, in the volume "Memories. What I've heard from others. From childhood. From the first youth", Radu Roseti, historian, genealogist and writer mentioned Constantin Paladi occupying in 1830 the position of commander of the guard of the Public Assembly of Moldova, which debated the draft of the Organic Regulation. Also here he makes a short portrait that captures the qualities and defects of the Moldavian boyar, "Hatman Constantinică Paladi enjoyed public sympathy, because he had an open character, manly nature and as disinterested and generous as Mihai Sturdza was stingy and greedy. By birth, he belonged to the Bogdan family and had been adopted by a very rich Pălădă relative, on the condition that he took the name of Paladi. His rivalry

with Mihai Sturdza at the seat of Moldova took a spicy turn due to the fact that Paladi, a widower from a first marriage, had married Mihai Sturdza's ex-wife, Eliza Rosetti, after Sturdza had left her. He was far from possessing the culture and qualities of a completely exceptional ruler and statesman of his rival, but it is true that his reign would have been much less corrupt and demoralizing than that of Sturdza, at least the example of venality would not come from above."

The new documentary material identified in the library's collections and used in the exhibition for the first time reveals important aspects related to the Roma settlements owned by Constantin Paladi (demographic and occupational structure), being at the same time an attempt to reconstruct the life and personality of the hetman of Moldova.