

**A FIGHTER FOR THE UNION OF THE PRINCIPALITIES:  
ANASTASIE PANU**

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"I wish to restrict my speech for the time being and just praise with papers and documents the action of a statesman, who had *a great and overwhelming influence on removing the obstacles that hindered the third phase of our national renaissance.*

This statesman was *Vornic Anastasie Panu*, Member of the Kaymakam rule of Moldavia in 1858"<sup>1</sup>.

Dimitrie A. Sturdza, 16 May 1911

**Abstract.** Between 20 October 1858 and 5 January 1859 (according to the old calendar), Anastasie Panu was a member of the Three-Kaymakam rule, installed in Moldova under a provision of the Paris Convention on the definitive organization of the Romanian Principalities. He was, in that capacity and for that 77-day period, the most important Unionist politician, with a decisive role in the "course" of the Moldavian events that preceded the election of Alexandru I. Cuza as ruler.

It is to him that we owe, to an overwhelming extent, the restoration of the freedom of the press (by reinstating Grigorie Al. Ghica's law of May 1856), the full affirmation of the country's autonomy through an effective exercise, ensuring a (relative) majority of the National Party in the Elective Assembly of Moldavia, the introduction of the letterhead of the United Principalities on all official documents; finally, through the so-called "*Panu Plan*", "paving" the road to the throne of Moldavia for Colonel Alexandru I. Cuza.

Therefore, this Unionist leader should be given not only our modest presentation, but a monument more enduring than bronze - if we may paraphrase the ancient poet: and not (almost) the oblivion bequeathed by an unjust posterity.

**Keywords:** the Three-Kaymakam rule, Ad-hoc Divan, Elective Assembly of Moldavia, 5 January 1859, Anastase Panu, Metropolitan Sofronie Miclescu, Alexandru Ioan Cuza.

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<sup>1</sup> Dimitrie A. Sturdza, *Însemnătatea Divanurilor ad-hoc din Iași și București, în istoria Renașterii României*, Excerpt from "Annals of the Romanian Academy. Memories of the Historical Section", București, 1912, p. 502, our emphasis (hereafter, quoted as DAS). D. A. Sturdza presented a "series" of seven communications at the Academy, between 4 March and 2 Dec. 1911, which he collected in the volume with the above-mentioned title the following year. It was, in fact, *an annotated selection* of the massive collection (ten volumes, eleven tomes!) *Acte și documente relative la istoria Renascerei României* (hereafter, cited as AD).