

THE BUZOIANS DURING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNION OF THE PRINCIPALITIES

Marius – Adrian NICOARĂ*

Abstract. *Through the double election, on January 5 and 24, 1859, through the extensive and complex program of reforms carried out during the 7 years of Alexandru Ioan Cuza's reign, the foundations of the modern Romanian national state were laid. The archive documents give us a correct picture of the events and personalities in the Buzău area. Following the elections of September 1857, the 7 deputies of Buzău county were: the bishop of Filotei, Scarlat Voinescu, Nicolae Păcleanu, Costache Ciochinescu, Nae Stănescu, Vasile Serea and Costache Moglan. In accordance with those established in Buzău County, the members of the Elective Assembly were then elected, who on January 24, in the Concordia Hotel in Bucharest, together with the other Wallachian deputies, confirmed the double election of Alexandru Ioan Cuza. They were: Scarlat Voinescu, Ion (Iancu) Marghiloman, Costache Deșliu, Mihail Pleșoianu and the bishop of Filota. In the evening of February 6, 1859, ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza was received by Buzoians with great pomp. A year later, on January 23, 1860, Prince Cuza celebrated the Union of the Romanian Principalities in Buzău.*

Keywords: Alexandru Ioan Cuza, events and Buzoian personalities, deputies, Elective Assembly, Union of Romanian Principalities.

The great success of the 19th century, from January 24, 1859, was characterized by Mihail Kogălniceanu as "*the keystone of the national edifice*". Through the double election, on January 5 and 24, 1859, through the extensive and complex program of reforms carried out during the 7 years of Alexandru Ioan Cuza's reign, the foundations of the modern Romanian national state were laid.



Alexandru
Ioan Cuza

Then all kinds of difficulties had to be overcome, because our powerful neighbors did not want a Romanian national state, as this would cause a major change in the geostrategic situation of South-Eastern Europe. Hence the conditions imposed by the 7 guarantor powers (England, Austria, France, Russia, Turkey, Prussia and Sardinia). The moment was overcome due to the way in which the great political men of the time, from Muntenia and Moldova, thought and acted encouraged by the general enthusiasm of the Romanians from the two

* Associate member of the Romanian Academy of Scientists, Member of the scientific research council of the European Institute for Multidisciplinary Research, Director of the Center for Historical Sciences and Archeology

Principalities, putting into practice the "*policy of the fait accompli*". Thus, on January 24, 1859, the double election of Alexandru Ioan Cuza was confirmed, thereby the Romanians solved the problem of the Union of the Principalities. The guarantor powers were faced with an irreversible historical act, opening the country - and the way to the future.¹

We must not forget the support of France, granted by Napoleon III and Empress Eugenia, who encouraged the National Party and later the ruler Cuza, to achieve and consolidate the Union.

After the end of the Crimean War (1853-1856, between Russia, on the one hand, and the coalition formed by England, France, Sardinia and Turkey, on the other), in an attempt to counteract Russian influence in the Lower Danube and the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, the Paris Peace Conference was held where an agreement was signed in which, among other things, it was stipulated that the Black Sea was neutral space, free movement on the Danube was established, under the control of the European Commission of the Danube; Bessarabia remained part of the Russian Empire, minus the three southern counties, Cahul, Ismail and Bolgrad (the territory that was originally called Bessarabia, a name arbitrarily extended by the Russians to the rest of Stephen's Moldavia, between the Prut and Dniester, in order to claim the territory that today it is called the Republic of Moldova). Also, the Principalities of Moldavia and Muntenia remained under Ottoman suzerainty, but the right to establish ad-hoc Divans was stipulated, whose representatives were to decide, on behalf of those they represented, if the inhabitants wanted the union, but also the establishment of the army national, which was meant to ensure internal order.²

The archive documents give us a correct picture of the events and personalities in the Buzău area, after the Union Committees were established in Bucharest and Iași in 1856. Thus, on March 16, 1857, the District Unification Committee was organized in Buzău, made up of 15 members, representatives of all social categories, with Scarlat Voinescu appointed as president.³

On March 18, the anti-unionist current prints the brochure "*Appeal to voters from a meeting of owners,*" with the intention of preventing the expression of the will of the many to unite, an action that ended in failure, if we consider that on April 25, "*Steaua Dunării/The Star of the Danube*" informed that there were "*only 6 stray individuals*" in the city.⁴

¹ Nicolescu Valeriu, Nicoară Dr. Marius-Adrian, *Union of the Romanian Principalities, - the faith of the Buzoians, the victory of the nation*, in the "Esențe" magazine of the "Alexandru Marghiloman" Cultural and Educational Center, no. IV, 2009, p. 8.

² *Ibid.*

³ Ion Moldoveanu, Scarlat Voinescu, in "*Scoala Buzoiană*", no. 1/ 1973, p. 9-10.

⁴ Nicolescu Valeriu, Nicoară Dr. Marius-Adrian, *Art Cit.*, p. 9

In all the counties of Muntenia, elections were organized for the appointment of representatives in the ad-hoc Council. Following the elections of September 1857, the 7 deputies of Buzău county were: the bishop Filotei, Scarlat Voinescu and Nicole Pâcleanu, from the big owners; Costache Ciochinescu, for the class of small owners; Nae Stănescu, representative of the townspeople (future mayor). the priest Vasile Serea and Costache Moglan, teacher from Grabicina, representative of the peasants from Plaiul Pârscovului.

*Filotei*⁵ (1805-August 16, 1860), bishop, as layman Filip, son of Ion and Dobra Pârșoi, was originally from the village of Cernatu-Săcele, Brașov county. He entered monasticism at the Neamț monastery, after which we find him at the Sinaia, Vătoped (Holy Mountain) and Saint Catherine monasteries in Bucharest. From 1833 he was an archdeacon and steward at the Bishopric of Buzău during the time of Bishop Chesarie, who ordained him an archimandrite and whom he helped to reuse the printing house.



Bishop *Filotei*

Bishop of Buzău between September 14, 1850 and June 19, 1859, Filotei was a talented self-taught, great lover of culture and convinced patriot. He guided the grammar school near the Episcopate and supported the development of village schools. Thus, in a circular from 1851 sent to the priests, he recommended them to urge the villagers *to learn and enlighten themselves*. We owe him the idea of Sunday schools where children learned catechism, learned to read religious texts and received moral advice.

He took care of organizing a library of the Episcopate, buying for this the books from the library of captain Cornescu Olteniceanu. He himself owned a valuable book

collection of 358 volumes, of which 164 were political books, 157 religious and 37 in French, Greek and Russian.

He carried out a tireless activity in support of the Union of the Principalities, in 1857 sending the priests a circular entitled *Circular concerning prayers for the union*, his actions being praised by the Ad-hoc Divan of Muntenia, the Central Committee of the Union, as well as by Buzoian deputies, members of the two political bodies.

Between the years 1852-1857, under his guidance, more than 25 cult or religious-themed books were published. From the time when he was only a church economist, he supported, at his own expense, the printing of reference books such

⁵ Gheorghe Ionescu-Buzău - *The life and activity of Filotei, Bishop of Buzău*, Bucharest, "Gutenberg" Joseph Göbl Printing House, 1909; Gabriel Cocora, *Episcopacy of Buzău, a hearth of Romanian spirituality and feeling*, Buzău, 1986, p. 151-158; Idem, *Bishop of the Filotei of Buzăului, fighter for the union of the Romanian Countries*, BOR, year LXXVII, 1959, no. 1, pp. 44-52; "Buzău Action", V, no. 208-211/8, 15, 22 and 29 May 1938.

as *Theatron politikon* translated by Grigore Pleșoianu. When he renounced the episcopal seat, he retired to the Căldărușani monastery.

Scarlat Voinescu, known pashoptist and unionist⁶ (1818, Bucharest-5 September 1869, Valea Teancului), *praporcic* (second lieutenant) in the army of Muntenia, was a member of the "Brotherhood" Society and the "Literary Association", being among the participants in the movement from 1840.

The revolutionary government from 1848 appoints Scarlat Voinescu administrator, first in Olt County (June 21), and then in Buzău (June 30). Faithful to the ideas of the Revolution and intransigent with its enemies, he replaces some of the administrators of the plots within the county, takes over the leadership of the Revolutionary Club, leads the symbolic actions of burning the Organic Regulation and the Archontology (Book of Boyar Ranks).



Scarlat Voinescu

On his initiative, the National Guard was established, made up of 130 townspeople, Buzău County being among the first to organize such self-defense formations of the revolution. He spoke for the emancipation of the peasants through ownership, putting his ideas into practice by dividing a part of the Zorești-Voineasca estate among 32 villagers from Zorești. After the suppression of the revolution by the interventionist troops (approx. 3000 Russian soldiers in the Buzău area), Scarlat Voinescu, who protested vehemently against this violation of sovereignty,⁷ was arrested and imprisoned in Văcărești until June 15, 1849.

The commission for the investigation of the mixed in revolutionary deeds, declares him guilty and sentences him to 6 years, in Giurgiu's work, being considered one of the most important revolutionaries. After his release from detention, in 1854, he went with other Romanian political emigrants to Paris, where he carried out an intense activity in favor of Romania's interests and for the Union. Returning to the country, in 1857, he was elected deputy in the ad-hoc Divan as a representative of the big owners and also as president of the Union Committee from the Buzău district. He was appointed as a member of one of the working committees of the ad hoc Divan, and in the elections for the Elective Assembly of Romania he was

⁶ *Documents regarding the revolutionary year 1848 in Wallachia*, Bucharest, 1962, p. 34, 262, 341, 432, 484, 588, 591, 593, 595; National Archives Buzău County Service (hereinafter A.N. - S.J.Bz.), Valea Teancului commune death register, act 27/6 September 1869; Fund Buzău Court, Section I, file 729/1869 - guardianship of the house of the deceased Scarlat Voinescu.

⁷ Constantin Corbu, *The peasantry in Romania during the period 1848-1864*, Scientific Publishing House, Bucharest, 1973, p.130.

elected with 18 votes, as a representative of Buzau County, together with Ion Marghiloman, Costache Deșliu, Mihail Pleșoianu and the bishop of Philota.

From February 14 to August 3, 1859, he was the administrator of Buzau county, being transferred with the same position to Prahova county (September 1859). During this period, among other problems, he is also concerned with the situation of rural education, about which he compiles a documented report.

He died on September 5, 1869 in the village of Valea Teancului, leaving behind him, in addition to a valuable library with reference works for legislation and history, and documents related to his revolutionary activity, as a militant for the Union, an example of high moral and patriotic consciousness.

Costache Ciochinescu,⁸ (1821-December 14, 1891), the representative of the class of small owners, was the policeman of the city of Buzău during the events of 1848, appointed at the request of Nicolae Bălcescu, instead of C. Drăgulescu, considered *very reactionary*. Former registrar at Cârmuirea of Buzău county, he was arrested on September 16, 1848 and imprisoned in Văcărești. According to the accusations made by the *Commission for the investigation of those involved in revolutionary acts*, he supported all the actions of the county leadership, being charged in particular with participating in the burning of the Organic Regulation and Archontology. From the interrogation, it appears that *on Wednesday, September 8, early in the morning, he pasted some printed papers on the streets and in public places* demanding the symbolic burning of the two publications. Interrogated on March 10 and 12, 1849, he is kept in custody, having to testify at the investigation of Scarlat Voinescu. He was sentenced to 6 months hard prison and imprisoned in Snagov. After his release, on October 6, 1849, he was elected deputy, being designated by the residents of the Banului slum for the position of communal councilor. He was also designated as a delegate, on behalf of the small owners, in the ad-hoc Divan.

He served as civil engineer, public lawyer, magistrate (1857-1858) and president of the Buzău Court (1859-1864); he was several times a member of the Municipal Council and president of the Permanent Committee, a member, since 1862, of the County's School Inspection Committee. In 1892, he is among the members of the National Liberal Party electoral committee Buzau, established for the purpose of holding the elections. A lover of culture and a supporter of the development of education, he is among the donors who contributed to the establishment of the library of the "*Tudor Vladimirescu*" Gymnasium in Buzău, established in 1873, to which he donated 557 volumes. Another 153 volumes will enter the library fund after his death (December 14, 1891), according to his will and the decision of the Municipal Council of April 4, 1891. The library also possessed a file with Costache

⁸ A.N. - S.J.Bz., Fund Manuscrise, "C-tin Dumitrescu", vol. XII, p. 58-59; Ion Moldoveanu, Costache Ciochinescu, in the "Buzoian School" no. 1/1973, pp. 11-13; *Documents regarding the revolutionary year 1848 in Wallachia*, Bucharest, 1962, p. 9, 34, 590-595

Ciochinescu's personal correspondence, relating to the activity carried out during to the Revolution of 1848, as a deputy in the ad-hoc Divan, as president of the Buzău Tribunal and member of the county and communal councils, as well as 4 paintings, one of which is a portrait of the donor, made by Gheorghe Tattarăscu, heritage values that nothing is known today.⁹

Nae Stănescu,¹⁰ future mayor, unionist, journalist, member of the National Party and deputy in the ad-hoc Divan as a representative of the townspeople of Buzău, was also the mayor of the merchants in the locality. Mayor of the city from June 26, 1864 and May 8, 1876, member of the Communal and County Council and of the Chamber of Commerce. He was the director and owner of the publication "*Unirea*" (August 5, 1885-June 4, 1887; September 22, 1888-1890, industrial, commercial and political newspaper). He died in 1905. His daughter Athina (April 20, 1855-April 27, 1942) was married to Dr. Anton Bărdescu.

*Costache Moglan*¹¹ (1808 or 1815-January 15, 1874), son of a *tribute man* from the village of Beciu, deputy from the peasants in the ad-hoc Divan of Muntenia, was one of the first village teachers (appointed on July 25, 1838), trained, at The Normal School next to the National School in Buzău (active since April 18, 1832). He carried out his teaching activity in Grabicina, going to Buzău in the summer to continue his training. In 1838 he was appointed school inspector in Plaiul Slănic (1838 - 1848), as a result of the diligence he showed in the training courses, and in 1840 he was among the 10 teacher candidates who were awarded.¹² In a report dated January 24, 1848, professor Vasile Grădeanu, referring to the activity of Costache Moglan, sub-inspector in the Pârscov and Slănic counties, stated that he set an example among his people through his strength in teaching, accuracy and conduct. In the period 1848-1857, when the schools were closed, he worked as a private teacher and singer at the village church, and from 1858, when the schools were reopened, he resumed his activity at the school in Grabicina, where he would work until his retirement.

He firmly defended the villagers of Grabicina, dissatisfied with the tyranny of the tenant and the abbot of the Poiana Mărului hermitage, on whose property the village was located. He composed, on behalf of his fellow citizens, several memorials to the ruler, echoing their grievances (the originals of two such memorials are preserved in the collections of the Buzău County Museum).

He is elected deputy from the peasants of Buzău county (16,622 village voters from 216 villages) in the ad-hoc Divan, standing out during the debates as a true orator. He was part of the second working committee of the Divan. On December 7, 1857,

⁹ A.N. - S.J.Bz., Buzău City Hall Fund, file 2/1874; 2/1890, pp. 52-54.

¹⁰ G. Cocora, *work. cit.*, f. 147 – 148.

¹¹ A.N., - S.J.Bz., Grabicina Town Hall fund, civil status, death certificate 3 /15. 08.1874.

¹² Central National Historical Archives (hereinafter A.N.I.C.), M.C.I.P. Fund, file 6704/1837, f. 120; 3391/1840, page 22.

he signed, along with the other peasant deputies, the amendment presented by Tănase Constantin, which demanded that the peasants participate by right in the future assemblies that will make the country's constitution and internal legislation, any laws made without the consent of the peasant deputies going to be considered unfair and swindling.

He continued his work as a teacher in Grabicina, constantly being with the troubles and injustices suffered by the residents from the tenant and the owner. He led the revolt of the villagers in 1866, determined by the way in which the provisions of the Rural Law of 1864 were applied. For this, in a report by the authorities, he was considered *the instigator of the chieftain's disobedience and a continuous disruptor*.¹³

In Muntenia, in accordance with those established and in Buzău county, the members of the Elective Assembly were elected, who on January 24, in the Concordia hotel in Bucharest (located on Lipscani street), together with the other Wallachian deputies, confirmed the double election of Alexandru Ioan Cuz. They were: Scarlat Voinescu, Ion (Iancu) Marghiloman, Costache Deșliu, Mihail Pleșoianu and the bishop of Filotei.¹⁴

Ion/Iancu Marghiloman (1817–1892), the Machiavellian father of Alexandru Marghiloman, was loved and hated at the same time, due to the desire for wealth and power, which animated him throughout his life, as well as for practicing the principle of divide and conquer.

He was mayor of Buzău at the age of 23, an opponent of the revolutionaries from 1848 - which is why Nicolae Bălcescu called him *a very cursed man*; prefect of Buzău county between 1855 and 1859, opponent of the Union of Principalities - then ardent unionist, deputy in the Electoral Assembly, characterized by Duiliu Zamfirescu as: I quote "*a kind of Californian colonist, tenant, entrepreneur, Bărăgan hunter, card player, prefect - in the best relations with the world in Bucharest, ministers, deputies, senators and with the world in the province, voters, sub-prefects, horse thieves ...*"

There are many edifying events with Iancu Marghiloman as the main character.

For example, Iancu subscribes 500 guildens to the country's finances, but since he is not appointed prefect, he demands the money back from Alexandru I Cuza and sues the ruler. He will withdraw his complaint. and for forgiveness, he is supported by his brother Mihalache Marghiloman, the prefect of the capital's police. At the



Ion (Iancu)
Marghiloman

¹³ Idem, background Ministry of the Interior - Rural-Communal Division, file 61/1862, f. 1-22; 201/1866, pp. 31-32, 66-67, 93, 220-224, 230-274.

¹⁴ Nicolescu Valeriu, Nicoară Dr. Marius-Adrian, *Art Cit.*, p. 9

first meeting with the ruler, he asks to give the money back to Iancu, who accepts it without regret.

It is enlightening, for example, that the reserved king Carol I crossed the threshold of his house, rewarding him for the support given in saving the throne in 1888. Then, Hitrovo, the representative of Russia in Bucharest, the great specialist in the disturbances in the Balkans, triggered a series of destabilizing actions for replacing Carol I with George Gh. Bibescu. Hitrovo and Bibescu had distributed money to demonstrators who would shout in front of the Royal Palace "*Down with Brătianu!, Down with the King! Long live Bibescu!*"

Then Iancu's money and Alexandru's actions saved the throne from the hands of Russia. With much larger sums of money, they hijacked the action, causing the demonstrators to shout only ... "*Down with Brătianu!*" The king also found out that Bismarck renounced a war with Russia, dismissed Ion C. Brătianu and never forgot Marghiloman family.

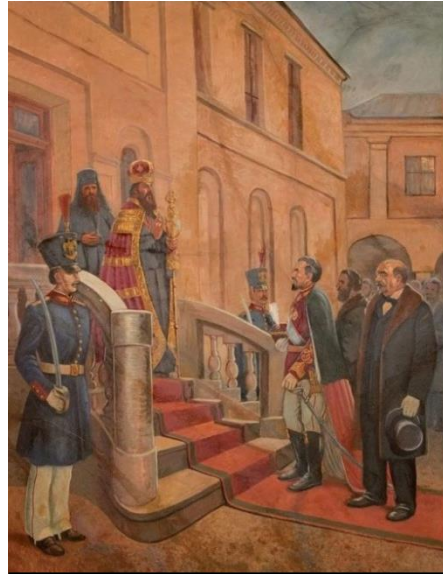
Another incident from Iancu's endless series of abrupt actions. Arriving vice-president of the Chamber, he astonishes the same Ion C. Brătianu to whom, being annoyed, he says: "*I have a big hand for the poor*" with reference to the subscription of 5000 lei made to the Liberal Party.

Costache Deșliu,¹⁵ born in 1820 (?), is sent by Bishop Chesarie, together with Dimitrie Racoviță, to study in Athens. In 1843 he was a cupmaker and represented the Bishopric in the trial with H. Filitti, I. Carp and the mill owners from Buzău. In the electoral lists drawn up on June 5, 1857, he appears as serdar, with 800 jaws of land. Appointed on September 14, 1857 as secretary of the commission for the election of county representatives in the ad-hoc Divan, in 1859 he was elected deputy from the townspeople in the Elective Assembly, which confirmed the double election of ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza. In 1863 he owned an estate in Gura Văii, vineyards in Sărata and taverns in Buzău, and in 1864, after the peasants were given their due lots according to the Agrarian Reform Law of 1864, he bought the rest of the estate. All these lands will return to the villagers in 1921. He also owned properties in Netezești-Brezeanu (Ilfov) and Arbănași. From 1872, he was a deputy, in 1892, his son C. C. Deșliu, the result of his marriage with Ecaterina Costache Filitti, joined him in politics.

The day of January 24, 1859 was called by Buzoians "*The day of the happiness of the Union and the enthusiasm of the revival of the Romanian people*", the joy of the success being marked by several banquets and three congratulatory telegrams: "...

¹⁵ Gaiță Alexandru, Costache Deșliu, in "*Muntenia*", VI, no. 801/18 May 1996.

May Your Majesty rule the country so that the Romanian nation prospers and can give evidence of unity and strength to face its future blizzards and the merits of its ancient rights ...; Our belief was, is and will be, that if in us and in our brothers from across Milcov there is a blood of the same origin, mentioned with respect by historiographers in the annals of the world, if in us a united heart and premonition beats, it is natural probably the air we breathe is homogeneous ..." The last one ended like this: *"We beg you, Your Majesty, to fix your paternal gaze on us, the people, because we are brought into complete hesitation by the strangling hands of the past ... destroy and dissect the roots of the fruits of the treacherous intrigues of the enemies ... to cement light and progress, and let injustice destroy its nest and perish with the past in the abyss of darkness..."*¹⁶



Buzău, 6 februarie 1859,
primirea lui Alexandru Ioan Cuza de
către episcopul Filotei

Between January 24 and 25, 1859, Buzoians took to the streets, in gardens and public squares, happy to hear the news of the election of Alexandru Ioan Cuza to the rule of Wallachia, an act that generated the Union of the Principalities. The most successful banquet was given on January 29 by Captain Nicolae Sabovici, at the Military Barracks, where Hora Unirii was played.

On February 6, 1859, the people of Buzău gave Alexandru Ioan Cuza a triumphant welcome. At Calnău Post Office, the distinguished guest was awaited by the district administrator, along with a massive group of villagers. The ruler was met by *"a deputation from the sixth district, composed of 200 horsemen"*. Near the city of Buzău, wrote the *"Steaua Dunării"* newspaper of February 17, 1859, ruler Cuza *"was presented with the command of the squires, with the tricolor cockade that made a great impression on His Highness the Prince"*. After that, *"His Majesty was received by the townspeople in large numbers and by all the people (...), where through a speech by the municipality, he was presented with bread and salt, symbols of satisfaction"*.

In the evening of February 6, 1859 and on January 23, 1860, ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza was received by Buzoians with great pomp. On February 6, 1859, in an emotional ceremony, professor Dimitrie Racoviță¹⁷ and Irina Marghiloman, the

¹⁶ Nicolescu Valeriu, Nicoară Dr. Marius-Adrian, *Art Cit.*, p. 9.

¹⁷ A.N., - S.J.Bz., Fond Manuscripts, "C-tin Dumitrescu", Documentary material regarding the history of the city of Buzău, mss., vol. V. B, p. 231-232.

mother of the future prime minister of Buzău origin (aged 5 at the time), gave speeches of welcome.¹⁸

*Dimitrie Racoviță*¹⁹ (1820-February 3, 1905, Bucharest), publicist, son of Dumitru Racoviță, was born in Focșanii Munteni. He graduated in 1841 from the Seminary in Buzău, and then attended the "Saint Sava" from Bucharest. In the period 1843-1850 he also attended theological courses and those of the Faculty of Letters at the "Othon" University in Greece, sent to study together with C. Deșliu,²⁰ by Bishop Chesarie.



He worked in the years 1851 - 1875 as a teacher of Greek language, rhetoric and theology at the "*Tudor Vladimirescu*" High School (today the "*Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu*" National College) and at the Seminary, and from 1875 to 1879, only at the high school, being considered one of the pioneers of Buzău education and "*one of the most cultured teachers of Buzău.*"

On April 19, 1866, he was elected deputy of the city of Buzău, and on May 1, the same year, a member of the County Council. In 1875 he retired, but continued to work as a teacher at the gymnasium, but in 1879 he resigned for health reasons.

He has the special honor of having been the spokesperson of the Buzoians, in the evening of February 6, 1859, saying a few words of welcome to ruler Alexandru I. Cuza ... *The Romanian nation is now celebrating another one of the most beautiful and brilliant days of its life, in which the great cause of the Union triumphs through the arrival of Your Highness on the mountain land ... Now Romania and Moldavia, both united sisters, startle with joy from one edge to another, because the threatening black clouds of storms and blizzards that overwhelmed Romania's horizon spread, became invisible before the light of life. Now our horizon is clear and wide, the contagious atmosphere that paralyzes and drowns the spirit and national life has spread. A beautiful perspective is revealed to us and comforting hopes, lift up our souls and cheer our hearts, seeing with our eyes the one that the Romanians sought, that the national assembly unanimously chose and that the hearts and souls of the Romanians in a union and in a verse they acclaimed...*

And on behalf of the female delegation, with her voice choked with emotion in front of the first man of the nation (who was impressed by the beauty of the young Oltsian from the Isvoranu boyar family), Irina Marghiloman said: "*Your Majesty! Under the impression of the brilliant events*



Irina
Marghiloman

¹⁸ "The Romanian", February 17, 1859

¹⁹ Dimitrie R. Rosetti, Dictionary of Romanian Contemporaries (1800-1898), Bucharest 1898, p. 157.

²⁰ Author's note, (hereafter a.n.), Nicu Deșliu prints in 1840 in the printing house of the Bishopric, the translation of the story The Church in the Forest.

*through which our country rises today to the step it deserves, saluting in you the continuity of the glorious ancient days when Romanian mothers shouted to their sons to die or come victorious, we consider ourselves happy to present to you the expression of vivid feelings of joy and national pride with which the mothers and women of this district come to pay you their respectful and sincere tributes through us. Long live His Majesty Alexander I, Lord Ruler of United Romania.*²¹

The atmosphere in the city was magical. The correspondent of the "Românul" newspaper described this extraordinary state of mind in the issue of February 17, 1859: *"lit torches, luminous globes, artificial transparencies and peculiar paintings representing the Union of the United Principalities, their arms, the initials M.S. the prince, various other emblems and inscriptions"*. The imposing manifestation of the Buzoians culminated in the overnight detention of the ruler in the episcopal complex. The next day, Alexandru Ioan Cuza, to the acclamations of the public made up of men, women, young people, children and old people, left for Ploiesti on Strada Mare. Under the empire of emotion, the Buzoians came willingly, they rejoiced, they danced, at this defining moment for our history.²²

One year later, on January 23, 1860, at 6:00 p.m., Prince Cuza stopped again in Buzău, greeted by a large crowd *"who wanted to see the one in whose person the great principles of the Union, the consolidation of our nationality, our hopes and our future"*. The honor was presented by the Cavalry Squadron commanded by Captain Popovici. The next day, during the ceremony marking one year since the Union of the Principalities, among those who welcomed him was professor Dimitrie Chirculescu who, among other things, said: *"...This day is the most expensive national holiday, and for the Buzoians an occasion of double joy and pride due to the arrival in their midst on this day of Ruler Cuza..."* He further assured the ruler of the unhesitating support of the Buzoians, *"whatever the hardships and trials the country will go through, wishing them be a source of prosperity for this country, so much shaken by the misfortunes that have befallen it."*²³

In conclusion, we specify that at the Buzău County Museum, there is an original copy of Cuza's proclamation, sent to the people, regarding the decree of December 2, 1861, which recognized the union of January 24, by Turkey, according to the will of the Romanians.

²¹ X.X.X., *Alexandru Marghiloman, a Great Romanian*, MAD Linotype Publishing House, Buzău, 2018, p. 6.

²² Nicolescu Valeriu, Nicoară Dr. Marius-Adrian, *Art Cit.*, p. 9

²³ Ibid.