

**THE RACOVIȚĂ-CEHAN FAMILY IN A GENEALOGICAL SKETCH  
AND IN DOCUMENTS KEPT AT MEHEDINTI COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

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Racoviță-Cehan is the name of one of the long-standing and prominent boyar families from Moldova. Its origin and genealogy were clarified in the 1940s, thanks to reference historiographical work published under the patronage of the Romanian Academy by one of the representatives of the Racoviță family, General M. Racoviță-Cehan<sup>1</sup>.

Therefore, this article does not aim to correct what was already established by General Racoviță-Cehan, but it will exclusively point to an earlier record attempting to draw the genealogy of the family, which in its turn uncovers documents relating to the members of the family throughout 200 years (the 16th-18th centuries).

All these records can be found at Mehedinți County Office of the National Archives, in a collection named after Dr Constantin I. Istrati<sup>2</sup>, an important Romanian public figure from late 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. He was born in the city of Roman in 1850, in an affluent Moldavian family.

Speaking of the origin of the Racoviță-Cehan family and starting from the Archontology of Moldavia and from statements by “paharnic”<sup>3</sup> Constantin Sion, General Racoviță-Cehan mentions that the Racoviță family was located in the land of Vaslui, but its original name was Cehan and that its founder, Racoviță-Cehan, “was given birth during exile at the bottom of the Racova valley” and “for remembrance, they baptised him Racovita”<sup>4</sup>. The General had also heard this story in his family, except that the birth “would have taken place at the Racoviță

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<sup>1</sup> *The Racoviță-Cehan family. Genealogy and history by General M. Racoviță-Cehan*, Monitorul Oficial și Imprimeriile Statului Imprimeria Națională București, 1942.

<sup>2</sup> For the history of the collection, its content and the circumstances in which it arrived at Turnu Severin, see Dr. *Constantin I. Istrati Collection 1429-1945, Archives inventory*. 13. Prepared by Nicolae Chipurici and Tudor Rățoi, Bucharest, 1988, 511 p.; Tudor Rățoi, *Mari colecționari: Dr. Constantin I. Istrati*, in vol. *Valori bibliofile din patrimoniul Cultural național. Cercetare. Valorificare. Ediția a XV-a, Craiova 14-15 noiembrie 2008, Editura ALMA, Craiova, 2008, p. 257-264; Idem, Expoziția generală română din 1906*, in „*Analele Universității din Craiova. Istorie, Anul XIII, nr. 1(15), 2009, p. 367-382.*

<sup>3</sup> “Paharnic”, approx. English translation “cup-bearer” was a high-rank officer in royal courts, whose duty was to serve drinks on the royal table.

<sup>4</sup> *The Racoviță-Cehan family. Genealogy...*, p. 7.

monastery", which still existed "at the bottom of the Racova valley, past the village of Pungeşti, in Vaslui county"<sup>5</sup>.

According to genealogy established by General M. Racoviţă-Cehan, from the first documentary testimony of the Cehan name, dating October 7, 1487, during the reign of Ştefan cel Mare<sup>6</sup>, and until the moment when the Racoviţă family was created, there were five generations<sup>7</sup>.

The first Cehan seems to have lived around 1460-1500 and was married to Maruşca, daughter of Grozea and granddaughter of Coman Mărghilat, lord of Comăneşti, at the source of Lăpuşniţa river<sup>8</sup>.

In the first half of the following century, 1500-1550, Cehan the Elder, the son of Cehan and Maruşca, is mentioned as married to Lazea, daughter of Stan Horja, on Elan, in the land of Fălciul. This Stan Horja came from from Tintiul. Cehan the Elder and Lazea had five children, Toma, Nichifor, Petre, Muşa and Măgdălina, the most important of them being Petre Cehan, married to Stana and became "pârcălab"<sup>9</sup> in 1558<sup>10</sup>.

Meanwhile Petre Cehan, became "vătah"<sup>11</sup> of Vaslui and had five children with Stana, Bălan, Ionaşcu, another Petre, Toader and Marica. Ionaşcu lived in 1580-1639, married Anastasia and held the titles of "pitar"<sup>12</sup> (1616), "vornic"<sup>13</sup> (1623) and great "vornic" (1639). Toader became "pârcălab" of Lăpuşna in 1590, but the most prestigious of the brothers was Petre Cehan, who married Ileana, died on April 24, 1631 and was buried in Bodeşti Precista (Neamţ). They had 7 children (Apostol, Zosin, Constantin, Zlata – married to Ionaşcu Toader Murgulet, Andrei/Andreas Racoviţă, Toader and Racoviţă-Cehan), who represented the fourth generation of the Cehan family<sup>14</sup>.

Amongst them, the most prominent through their progeny were Apostol Cehan, "vornic", married to Ana Ionaşcu Bolea, with whom he had six children (Gheorghe, Nicolae, Zlata, Nastasia, Maria and Grozava) and Racoviţă-Cehan, married to Tofana P. Şoldan, and who became "logofat"<sup>15</sup> (1634) and great "logofăt" (1653), died on 15 December 1664 and was buried at the Dobrovăţ monastery.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Ştefan cel Mare, in English Stephen the Great.

<sup>7</sup> *The Racoviţă-Cehan family. Genealogie....*, pp. 8-9.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9.

<sup>9</sup> "Pârcălab", approx. English translation "burgrave" was the official title of the ruler of a royal or episcopal castle.

<sup>10</sup> *The Racoviţă-Cehan family. Genealogie....*

<sup>11</sup> "Vătah", was the official title of the head of servants at royal courts.

<sup>12</sup> "Pitar", was the official title of the head of bakery at the royal courts.

<sup>13</sup> "Vornic", was an official in charge of justice and internal affairs at the royal courts.

<sup>14</sup> *The Racoviţă-Cehan family. Genealogie....*

<sup>15</sup> "Logofăt", approx. English translation "logothete" was an administrative title equivalent to a minister or secretary of state.

Racoviță-Cehan had two sons, Nicolae and Ion, who called themselves Racoviță, after their father's baptismal name, thus the new family of Racoviță was created, with antecedents in the Cehan family<sup>16</sup>. Apart from the two, Racoviță-Cehan also had a daughter, Safta, married to a certain Alexandru “paharnic”.

We can now bring up the genealogical sketch kept by the Mehedinți County Office of the National Archives. It is a genealogical concept document, anonymous and incomplete, which records the names of some members of several generations of this Moldavian family, from its founders to the descendants of Mihail Racoviță vv<sup>17</sup>. There are some inconsistencies between this concept document and the genealogy drawn up by General M. Racoviță-Cehan in 1942.

Thus, while the genealogy based on the Ghika family and the work of General M. Racoviță-Cehan of 1942 begins with the first Cehan, the founder in the masculine line of the family<sup>18</sup>, the mentioned concept document starts with the female line of the family, started by Tintul/Tintiul, whose "descendant"<sup>19</sup> was Stan Horja, the father of Laza, the wife of Cehan the Elder, according to M. Racoviță-Cehan. However, the same genealogical sketch mentions another character, Horja “paharnic” the Elder, between Tintul/Tintiul and Stan Horja. He is followed by Stan Horja, and further Cehan the Elder.

There are also other inconsistencies regarding the descendants of Cehan the Elder, because the genealogy of 1942 retains five of his descendants (Toma, Nechifor, Petre Cehan, Mușa and Magdalina), while the concept document mentions only three (Bălan, Ionașco and Petre). In fact, this seems to be an alteration of generations, because Bălan and Ionașco belong to the following generation, as in the 1942 genealogy they are the children of Petre Cehan “pârcălab” and by no means his brothers. They also had a brother named Petre Cehan, but this is Petre (Pătrașcu) Cehan, buried at Bodeștii Precista, who is missing from the 18th century genealogy concept document. Therefore, a prominent representative of the family, Apostol Cehan “vornic”, married to Ana, daughter of Ionașcu Bolea, appears in this document as descending from Ionașco Cehan “vel<sup>20</sup> pitar”, and not from the second Petre Cehan, which is a major incongruence.

Amongst the children of Apostol Cehan, the genealogical sketch includes only the first two, Neculai and Gheorghe, not the four girls (Zlata, Nastasia, Maria and Grozava).

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<sup>16</sup> *The Racoviță-Cehan family. Genealogie...*

<sup>17</sup> Mehedinți County Office of the National Archives (hereinafter SJANMh), Dr. Constantin I. Istrati Collection, III/51.

<sup>18</sup> See <http://www.cesianu-racovitza.ro/racovita-racovitza-cehan/> - accessed 24.04.2023.

<sup>19</sup> *The Racoviță-Cehan family. Genealogie...*, p. 9

<sup>20</sup> “Vel” in English “great” or “grand”.

Also, the document records only two descendants of Ion Racoviță “vel vornic”, Dumitrașco Racoviță “hatman”<sup>21</sup> and Mihail Racoviță, the future voivode, omitting their sisters, Anastasia, Tofana, Ecaterina, Maria and Elena. Amongst the descendants of Mihail Racoviță, only the sons Constantin, Ion, Ștefan and Mihail are mentioned, whereas the daughters Roxanda, Ecaterina and Anastasia are missing. Amongst the descendants of Dumitrașcu “hatman”, those mentioned are Ion Racoviță “spătar”<sup>22</sup>, Dumitrașcu Racoviță “vel logofat” and Radu Racoviță “vel vornic”.

In the genealogical tree sketch other less important family branches are mentioned, such as the one that descends from Neculai, son of Apostol Cehan, or the one descending from Neculai Racoviță “hatman”, son of Racoviță Cehan “vel logofat”. However, as already described, in addition to the aforementioned genealogical sketch, the Dr. Constantin I. Istrati Collection contains a substantial and diverse body of documents relating to many of the people included in the genealogy.

The first document dates from 1593 (7101) June 12 and mentions Constandin, son of Cehan, who bought part of an estate in Dumbrăveni<sup>23</sup>. This is probably Constantin, son of Petre/Pătrașcu Cehan, who appears alone or together with his father, Petre Cehan, in other documents from 15 April 1622 (7130)<sup>24</sup>, <1625><sup>25</sup>, <circa 1625><sup>26</sup>, 24 March 1625 (7133)<sup>27</sup>, 14 January 1629 (7137)<sup>28</sup>, 6 March 1630 (7138)<sup>29</sup>, 2 April 1630 (7138)<sup>30</sup>, <2 April 1630 (7138)> (here with his brother Apostol Cehan)<sup>31</sup> and 4 March 1671 (7179)<sup>32</sup>, concerning parts of an estate and other plots of land in Ferești, Prigorcenii, Strâmtura, Dumbrăveni and Chiujueni, all from Vaslui.

Another document related to Petre/Pătrașcu Cehan dates from 23 July 1609 (7117)<sup>33</sup>. He can also be found in a series of documents. Several records concerning plots of land from Feresti, Frasinei and Strâmtura<sup>34</sup> are dated "after 1609", then from 21 January 1617 (7125)<sup>35</sup>, 9 December 1617 for a purchase in Prigorcenii<sup>36</sup>;

<sup>21</sup> “Hatman” was a high-rank officer in charge of the army.

<sup>22</sup> “Spătar” was an official in charge of the royal arms.

<sup>23</sup> SJANMh, Dr. Constantin I. Istrati Collection, I/19 (2636).

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., I/78 (2826).

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., I/74 (2670), I/75 (2675).

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., I/75 (2675).

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., I/84 (2676).

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., I/88 (2749), I/90.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., I/90, I/90<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., I/91 (2673)

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., I/89 (2683), I/91 (2673).

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., II/39 (2657).

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., I/46 (2694).

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., I/25 (3012), I/28 (2677), I/29 (2582), I/53 (2681), I/80 (2710), I/51.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., I/65 (2635).

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., I/60.

<before 12 August 1618> for a purchase in Ferești<sup>37</sup>, also 12 August 1618 (7126)(when Petre Cehan is certified as a “vatah”)<sup>38</sup>; 14 August 1620 (7128) the purchase of the estate of Nerăi from Vaslui<sup>39</sup>; 1620 (7128) for parts of villages of Grumăzești and Fauri<sup>40</sup>; 9 May 1622 (7130)<sup>41</sup> for purchases in Românești and Liești; 6 February <1623> <sup>42</sup> for part of an estate in Ferești; 25 February <1623> for part of an estate in Strâmtura<sup>43</sup>; 15 April <1622><sup>44</sup> and <1 March 1623><sup>45</sup> for parts of the village of Românești; 1 March 1623 (7131) for other purchases in Strâmtura, Românești and Ferești<sup>46</sup>; 4 October 1623 (7131) for other purchases in Romanesti and Folesti<sup>47</sup>; <circa 1623> for purchases in Prigorceni<sup>48</sup>; 16 December 1625 (7134) for part of an estate bought in Strâmturi<sup>49</sup> and <before 20 April 1631 > for money used to pay parts of Ferești<sup>50</sup>.

A deed from 1639 (7147) mentions Ionașco Cehan “vornic”, the brother of Bălan and Petre Cehan certified as the former lord of the village of Maicani, on Prut River, Fălciu land<sup>51</sup>.

After 2 April 1630, when he appears in the two documents together with his father Petre Cehan, Apostol Cehan is also the holder of numerous deeds and of other transactions regarding parts of estates bought mainly in Prigorceni/Prigorceani on 9 May 1621 (7129)<sup>52</sup>, <before 3 July 1636 ><sup>53</sup>, 3 July 1636 (7144)<sup>54</sup>, <before 20 April> 1639<sup>55</sup>, <before 22 April 1640 ><sup>56</sup>, <before 1 September 1641 ><sup>57</sup>, <before 28 April 1643 ><sup>58</sup>, < 22 August 1645 (7153) ><sup>59</sup>, 5 July 1648 (7156) (deed in which

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<sup>37</sup> Ibid., I/52 (2686).

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., I/66<sup>a</sup> (2822).

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., I/21 (2679).

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., I/67-68 (2829).

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., I/79 (2741).

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., I/57 (2825).

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., I/49 (2676).

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., I/50 (2680).

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., I/54 (2687).

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., I/81 (2760).

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., I/82 (2827).

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., I/55 (2861).

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., I/85 (2743).

<sup>50</sup> Ibid., I/73 (2634).

<sup>51</sup> Ibid., I/104 (2833).

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., I/76 (2754).

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., I/101 (2863).

<sup>54</sup> Ibid., I/102 (2745).

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., I/105 (2864), I/105 (2860).

<sup>56</sup> Ibid., I/110 (2692).

<sup>57</sup> Ibid., I/112 (2865), I/113 (2859), II/13, II/13 – f.1<sup>v</sup>, II/15, II/15 – f. 1<sup>v</sup>.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid., I/114 (2868).

<sup>59</sup> Ibid., II/18.

it is mentioned that Prigorceni was a "formerly Crăjeani" village)<sup>60</sup>, <before 11 July 1650><sup>61</sup>, or regarding transactions in Fauri and Grumăzești on 27 July 1620 (7128)<sup>62</sup>; in Strâmtura after 27 July 1620<sup>63</sup>; in Prigorceni and Băilești <before 29 April 1639><sup>64</sup>; in Prigorceni, Orășeani - Cernăuți and Răteaze - Tutova land on 22 April 1640 (7148)<sup>65</sup>; in 1638 (7147) in Răteazi<sup>66</sup> and <before 11 July> 1650 for parts of the estate bought in the village of Târzii - Tecuci land and in Prigorceni<sup>67</sup>. In the deeds of 24 January 1635 (7143)<sup>68</sup>, 18 July 1635 (7143)<sup>69</sup> and 21 July 1635 (7143)<sup>70</sup> regarding Prigorceni and 6 September 1641 (7150) regarding Olănești<sup>71</sup>, Apostol Cehan appears together with his brother Racoviță Cehan.

As for Racoviță Cehan, a series of documents record him just as active as his brother Apostol Cehan, in concluding transactions (purchases and donations) or in various litigations, for example for a litigation for a mill in Solești on 21 December 1624 (7133)<sup>72</sup>, or for parts of estates bought in Vilnești on 9 November <1632><sup>73</sup> (when Racoviță Cehan was a "spătar"); 15 December 1632 (7141)<sup>74</sup>, 31 July <1634-1652><sup>75</sup>, <before 6 March 1636 ><sup>76</sup> and 3 March 1639<sup>77</sup>, all also in Vilnești - Vaslui land; 6 March 1636 (7144), the same, in Vilnești (when Racoviță Cehan is attested as the second "logofăt")<sup>78</sup>; in 22 March 1631 (7139)<sup>79</sup>, 11 July 1637 (7145) in Feresti and Făstăci<sup>80</sup>; <before 11 September 1639 ><sup>81</sup>, 12 July <1647><sup>82</sup>, <before 20 December 1649><sup>83</sup> and <9 June 1653 - 8 May 1654, 26 April 1658 - before 12 December 1664>, deed in which Racoviță Cehan appears as great "logofăt"<sup>84</sup>, all

<sup>60</sup> Ibid., II/24.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid., I/115.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid., I/67-68 (2829).

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., I/56 (2688).

<sup>64</sup> Ibid., I/108.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid., I/111.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid., IV/2.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid., II/27.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid., I/97 (2750).

<sup>69</sup> Ibid., I/99.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid., I/98 (2832).

<sup>71</sup> Ibid., II/14.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid., I/86 (2677), II/3 (2687).

<sup>73</sup> Ibid., II/5.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid., I/95 (2654).

<sup>75</sup> Ibid., I/59.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid., II/10 (2689).

<sup>77</sup> Ibid., II/9.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid., I/100 (2748)

<sup>79</sup> Ibid., I/93 (2737).

<sup>80</sup> Ibid., I/103 (2828).

<sup>81</sup> Ibid., II/11.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid., II/22 (2690).

<sup>83</sup> Ibid., II/25 (2600), II/26.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid., II/29.

in Feresti; 11 September 1639<sup>85</sup> in Ferești, Moicești and Vilnești; <13 January 1643 – 30 April 1650><sup>86</sup> in Ferești and Obârșia Crăsnia; 9 June <circa 1644><sup>87</sup> in Prigorceani and for a debt; 25 November 1647 (7156)<sup>88</sup> in Buhăesti and Ferești; <10 July 1657><sup>89</sup> for a litigation in Tătăreni; 15 May (7166) May for an estate in Strâmtura<sup>90</sup>; 14 June 1661 (7169)<sup>91</sup>, 4 April 1662 (7170)<sup>92</sup> (together with Neculai Racoviță the “hatman”) and 14 January 1664 (7172)<sup>93</sup> – all in Românești and 24 December 1662 (7171)<sup>94</sup> in Românești, Țigănești, Făstăci and Strâmtura.

Ion Racoviță, one of the sons of Racoviță Cehan, is also very present in different documents, as the holder of several titles. Ion Racoviță is recorded in the documents as a “paharnic”, on 15 April 1665 (7173)<sup>95</sup> during a purchase in Ferești. The “paharnic” made other purchases in this village on 20 October 1666 (7175)<sup>96</sup>, <1666 October; 1 March 1667 – 20 November 1668><sup>97</sup>, and in <1666> in Childești<sup>98</sup>. In 1666 he was a “postelnic”<sup>99</sup> <sup>100</sup> and received a share of the estate in Childești and another in Portari<sup>101</sup>. On 9 March 1667, for the succession of his father-in-law Toma Cantacuzino, former “vornic”, Ion Racoviță, former “paharnic”, negotiated with the daughters of the late “vornic”, Nastasia and Catrina, the division of the villages, estates, amenities, ponds, mills, vineyards, houses and other assets left from the deceased<sup>102</sup>. On the same date, a deed was signed by Solomon Bârladean great “logofăt”, Miron Costin the great “dvornic of Țara de Jos”<sup>103</sup> and other high officials for the division of the inheritance of Toma Cantacuzino and his wife, Ana, to their descendants including Ion Racoviță and his wife Nastasia. The villages of Clocușna and Vitreanca (Hotin land), Bălțeni (Vaslui), Hulubești (Tecuci), Volcinești (Orhei), Păncești and Popințani (Iași), Costești (Roman) and Sârbi, Clucerești, Itești, Giurgești Jerdeani, Dănești, Boziani, Iugani and Brănișteari

<sup>85</sup> Ibid., I/109 (2712), 109<sup>a</sup>, 109<sup>b</sup>, 109<sup>c</sup>.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid., II/90.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid., II/16, II/17 (2716).

<sup>88</sup> Ibid., II/23.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid., II/32.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid., II/33.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid., II/40 (3009).

<sup>92</sup> Ibid., I/23 (2640).

<sup>93</sup> Ibid., II/45 (2723).

<sup>94</sup> Ibid., II/44 (2732).

<sup>95</sup> Ibid., II/60 (2658).

<sup>96</sup> Ibid., II/46 (2639).

<sup>97</sup> Ibid., II/47 (2651), II/59 (2765).

<sup>98</sup> Ibid., II/48.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid., II/48 bis.

<sup>100</sup> “Postelnic” was a high-rank official in charge of the ruler’s private chamber and of audiences.

<sup>101</sup> SJANMh, Dr. Constantin I. Istrati Collection, II/50 (2655).

<sup>102</sup> Ibid., II/51 (2761).

<sup>103</sup> “Dvornic” same as “vornic” (see footnote 13). “Țara de Jos” in English “Lower Country”.

(Dorohoi) were given to Ion Racoviță. The houses located in Iași were owned separately together with their estates<sup>104</sup>. As this division "failed", on 15 June 1668 (7176)<sup>105</sup>, another one was made. Ion Racoviță participated alone as his wife Nastasia died in the meantime. This was followed by a third division on 30 June 1668 (7176)<sup>106</sup>. However, even before the completion of the succession, on 1 June 1667 (7175)<sup>107</sup>, Ion Racoviță bought parts of the estate of Olari and Portari, then on 20 July 1668 (7176)<sup>108</sup>, 20 November 1668 (7176)<sup>109</sup>, 11 July 1671 (7179)<sup>110</sup> in Feresti; on <20 January 1669 - ante 20 June 1673>, as high "comis"<sup>111</sup>, in Tătăreani; on 14 January 1671 (7179)<sup>112</sup> in Fetionești; on 25 May 1676 (7184) (deed where Ion Racoviță appears as a former high "comis")<sup>113</sup> in Strâmtura; on <8 June 1678><sup>114</sup> in Prigorcenii (pond given by Necula son of Apostol Cehan); on 15 May 1680 (7188)<sup>115</sup> again in Tătăreani (Ion Racoviță now being a great "paharnic").

In the second half of the 17th century, other representatives of the family appear. One of them is Neculai Racoviță "postelnic", son of Racoviță-Cehan. On <30 April 1657 – 15 February 1658><sup>116</sup> Neculai Racoviță "postelnic" purchases two halves of two old men in Feresti. Then, on <8 June 1678>, he gives his son, Ion Racoviță, a pond in Prigorcenii<sup>117</sup>.

On <13 March 1690> Safta "vorniceasa"<sup>118</sup>, the second wife of the vornic Ion Racoviță, who receives an inheritance from Nastasia Panhiloaie "stolniceasa"<sup>119</sup><sup>120</sup>, is also attested. Only three months later, on 9 June 1690 (7198), Mihail Racoviță "comis" and Dumitrașco, sons of the late Ion Racoviță great "vornic", will litigate for this inheritance<sup>121</sup>. The following year, on 10 January 1691 (7199), Safta "vorniceasa", as the wife of the late Ion Racoviță great "vornic", purchased half an old man in Fetionești<sup>122</sup>. Later, on <10 July> 1707 (7215), Safta "vorniceasa", the

<sup>104</sup> SJANMh, Dr. Constantin I. Istrati Collection, II/49 (1667).

<sup>105</sup> Ibid., II/54 (2713).

<sup>106</sup> Ibid., II/35 (2762).

<sup>107</sup> Ibid., II/50a (2655).

<sup>108</sup> Ibid., II/56 (2652).

<sup>109</sup> Ibid., II/58 (2730).

<sup>110</sup> Ibid., II/65 (2717).

<sup>111</sup> "Comis" was a high-rank official in charge of the royal stables.

<sup>112</sup> SJANMh, Dr. Constantin I. Istrati Collection, II/64 (2727).

<sup>113</sup> Ibid., II/70 (2728).

<sup>114</sup> Ibid., II/72 (3008).

<sup>115</sup> Ibid., II/73 (2673).

<sup>116</sup> Ibid., II/37.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid., II/72 (3008).

<sup>118</sup> "Vorniceasă", the wife of a "vornic" (see footnote 13).

<sup>119</sup> SJANMh, Colecția Dr. Constantin I. Istrati, II/78 (3013), II/92.

<sup>120</sup> "Stolniceasa", the wife of a "stolnic". Stolnic was a high-rank official in charge of the royal table.

<sup>121</sup> SJANMh, Colecția Dr. Constantin I. Istrati, II/80 (2722).

<sup>122</sup> Ibid., II/82 (2671).



wife of the late Ion Racoviță, receives from Gheorghe Cehan, the son of Apostol Cehan, his parts of the estate in exchange for being cared when old<sup>123</sup>.

On 3 July 1693 (7201), Dumitrașco Racoviță “hatman”, son of Ion Racoviță, appears in documents, where he is recognised as having tithe rights in Vaslui<sup>124</sup>. In <1703 September-1705 February>, Dumitrașco Racoviță, this time as high “comis”, loans 10 lei for an estate in Vaslui<sup>125</sup>. In July 1707-October 1709 and 1717-1725>, he made a purchase in Călugăreni<sup>126</sup>; on 1 August 1721 (7229) in the same village<sup>127</sup>, and in <1707 July-1709 October and 1717-1725>, in Tătărani<sup>128</sup>, where in 1708 (7217) December 9 he will receive an old man<sup>129</sup> and other parts estate<sup>130</sup>. Also, on 29 November 1708 (7217), Dumitrașco Racoviță “hatman” receives a sum of money from Maria, the daughter of Gheorghe Cehan and Maria, daughter of Neculai Cehan, until the choosing the parts sold to him in Chiujujeni<sup>131</sup>; on 27 January 1720 (7228), he receives a small estate with a deed<sup>132</sup>, and on 1 September 1723 (7232), the two Marias sell to the “hatman” and his wife Ilinca a couple of estates in the same village<sup>133</sup>.

Starting with 13 June 1720 (7228), Radu Racoviță, the son of “hatman” Dumitrașcu and Ilinca/Elena Cantacuzino, is attested as the holder of deeds for purchases made in Lățcani<sup>134</sup>. In 10 May 1732 (7240), Ilinca Cantacozini, the wife of the “hatman” Dumitrașco Racoviță, decides how to divide her wealth at death: her son Radu Racoviță “căminar”<sup>135</sup> should receive the village of Dobreni, Dumitrașco the village of Costiani in Râmnic county, and Ioniță, the youngest son, the village of Feresti<sup>136</sup>. On 25 November 1740 (7249), Radu Racoviță, the great “paharnic”, is granted the right to receive some compensation from his brothers<sup>137</sup>. On 27 July 1744 (7252) July, Radu Racoviță, now a great “vornic”, is granted the right to stop a mill disputed with the monks of Dobroslăvești<sup>138</sup> - Vaslui and also in the same year a deed by the ruler of the country helps him to clarify his estates in the said village<sup>139</sup>.

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<sup>123</sup> Ibid., III/3 (3011).

<sup>124</sup> Ibid., II/84 (2674), II/84<sup>a</sup> (2674).

<sup>125</sup> Ibid., III/1 bis (2843).

<sup>126</sup> Ibid., III/18 bis (2875).

<sup>127</sup> Ibid., III/18 (2846).

<sup>128</sup> Ibid., III/62 (2877).

<sup>129</sup> Ibid., III/8 (2838).

<sup>130</sup> Ibid., III/5 (2837).

<sup>131</sup> Ibid., III/4 (2856).

<sup>132</sup> Ibid., III/14 (2845).

<sup>133</sup> Ibid., III/17 (2847).

<sup>134</sup> Ibid., III/15 (2878).

<sup>135</sup> “Căminar” was high-rank official in charge of collecting taxes.

<sup>136</sup> SJANMh, Colecția Dr. Constantin I. Istrati, III/23 (2851).

<sup>137</sup> Ibid., III/27 (2852).

<sup>138</sup> Ibid. III/28 (2853).

<sup>139</sup> Ibid., III/29 (2854).

Two years later, on <28 June> 1746, Radu Racoviță “hatman”, Dumitrașco “medelnicer”<sup>140</sup> and Ion “spătar” have to pay an old debt of their father, Dumitrașco the hatman, to two Turkish merchants. For this several boyars had to measure the estates of the villages of Ferești, Milești and Greci from Vaslui bequeathed to the three sons by the “hatman” Dumitrașcu Racoviță<sup>141</sup>. The litigation was closed on 18 August 1747 (7255), when Radu Racoviță great “vornic” is confirmed at Ferești and Greci, after having paid his brothers’ dues, Dumitrașco “medelnicer” and Ion “spătar”, who were now in Muntenia, because of the debt of their father, Dumitrașcu “hatman”<sup>142</sup>. From here on, Radu Racoviță is in a permanent offensive to make new purchases: on 15 August 1752 (7260), as grand treasurer (“vistier”), he is confirmed in the villages of Mărițai, Prigorceani and Grumăzăști<sup>143</sup>; on 10 June 1753 (7261), he purchases from his brother Ion Racoviță, former grand “șetrar”<sup>144</sup>, all parts of his estates in Moldova, of Ferești, Părceni, Sărata, Valea Ra, Tătăreni, Portari, Olari, Prigorceni, Țigănești, Boțoae, Chioae, Fauri, Băliceni, Drăgușeni, Tătăreșeni, Bosânceni, the village at the source of Ocoalelor – Lăpușna and Timirleni<sup>145</sup>; on 12 December 1753 (7262), he selected and measured his estate of Childești, now as a great “logofăt”<sup>146</sup>, and on 12 December 1753 (7262) the estate in Tătăreni<sup>147</sup>. Then finally, in 1753 (7261), Radu Racoviță grand treasurer has a litigation with Constantin Racoviță vv. for the estates of Olănești, Podeni, Prigorceni and Burdugani<sup>148</sup>.

In the meantime, on 31 July 1731 (7239), a Racoviță “vorniceasă” receives a deed to defend herself at Ferești<sup>149</sup>.

The last documents regarding the Racoviță family from the Dr. Istrati Collection date from the end of the 18th century.

One was issued on 27 September 1784 and is a royal deed to demarcate the Greci and Mărițai estates of the păhărniceasa<sup>150</sup> Ilinca Racoviță, daughter of Radu Racoviță<sup>151</sup>. Then, on 1 December 1786, the băneasa<sup>152</sup> Catrina Rusăt, daughter of “hatman” Dumitrașcu Racoviță, is confirmed on the basis of testimonies by some

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<sup>140</sup> “Medelnicer” was an official in charge of pouring water for the ruler to wash his hands and of serving the meals to the ruler.

<sup>141</sup> SJANMh, Colecția Dr. Constantin I. Istrati, III/33 (2997), III/34 (2888), III/33<sup>b</sup>.

<sup>142</sup> Ibid., III/37 (2831).

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> “Șetrar” was an official in charge of the army’s tents.

<sup>145</sup> SJANMh, Colecția Dr. Constantin I. Istrati, III/41.

<sup>146</sup> Ibid., III/42.

<sup>147</sup> Ibid., III/43.

<sup>148</sup> Ibid., III/40.

<sup>149</sup> Ibid., III/21 (2848).

<sup>150</sup> “Păhărniceasa” is the wife of a “paharnic” (see footnote 3).

<sup>151</sup> SJANMh, Colecția Dr. Constantin I. Istrati, III/68.

<sup>152</sup> “Băneasa” is the wife of the “ban”, who was the governor of the region of Oltenia.

“răzeși”<sup>153</sup>, as owner of the parts of the estate in Călugăreni inherited from her father<sup>154</sup>. Then finally, on 23 September 1787, the boyar Nicolaie Racoviță obtained a testimony to confirm the confines of Greci and Mărățai<sup>155</sup>.

Obviously, during the long period when the Racoviță-Cehan family and later Racoviță made history, there are also documents issued by their representatives who became rulers. Thus, from there is a deed dated 20 January 1709 (7217) by Mihai Racoviță vv. To confirm a purchase<sup>156</sup>, and there are two deeds dated 12 August 1752 (7260)<sup>157</sup> and 23 February 1757 (7265) issued by the chancellery of Constantin Racoviță vv.<sup>158</sup>.

We can also add the genealogical tree sketch which represents the basis of this article<sup>159</sup>.

In conclusion, we are dealing with an attempt to create the genealogy of a prominent family of Moldavia, which may have been partly based on almost 160 documents, if not all, presented more than briefly above.



Dr. Constantin I. Istrati  
(7 sept. 1850, Roman-17 ian. 1918, Paris)

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<sup>153</sup> “Răzeși” approx. English translation “yeomen” (freeholders).

<sup>154</sup> SJANMh, Colecția Dr. Constantin I. Istrati, III/ 80.

<sup>155</sup> Ibid., IV/24 (2857).

<sup>156</sup> Ibid., III/6 (2072), III/7 (2437), III/9 (2841), III/9<sup>a</sup> (2828), III/10 (2839), III/16 (2844).

<sup>157</sup> Ibid., III/38, III/39<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>158</sup> Ibid., III/46 (17/1).

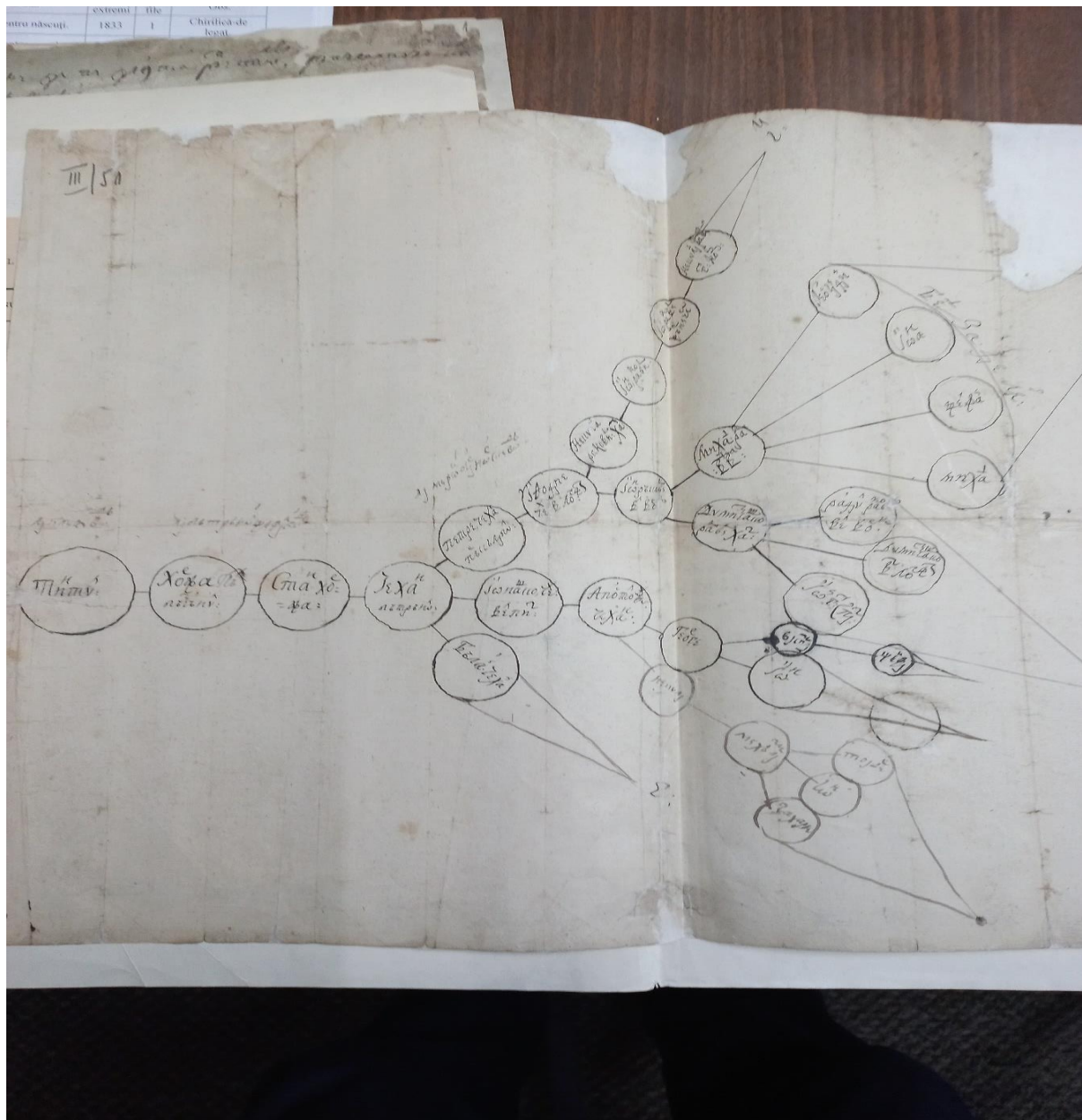
<sup>159</sup> Ibid., III/51.



Mihai Racoviță vv.

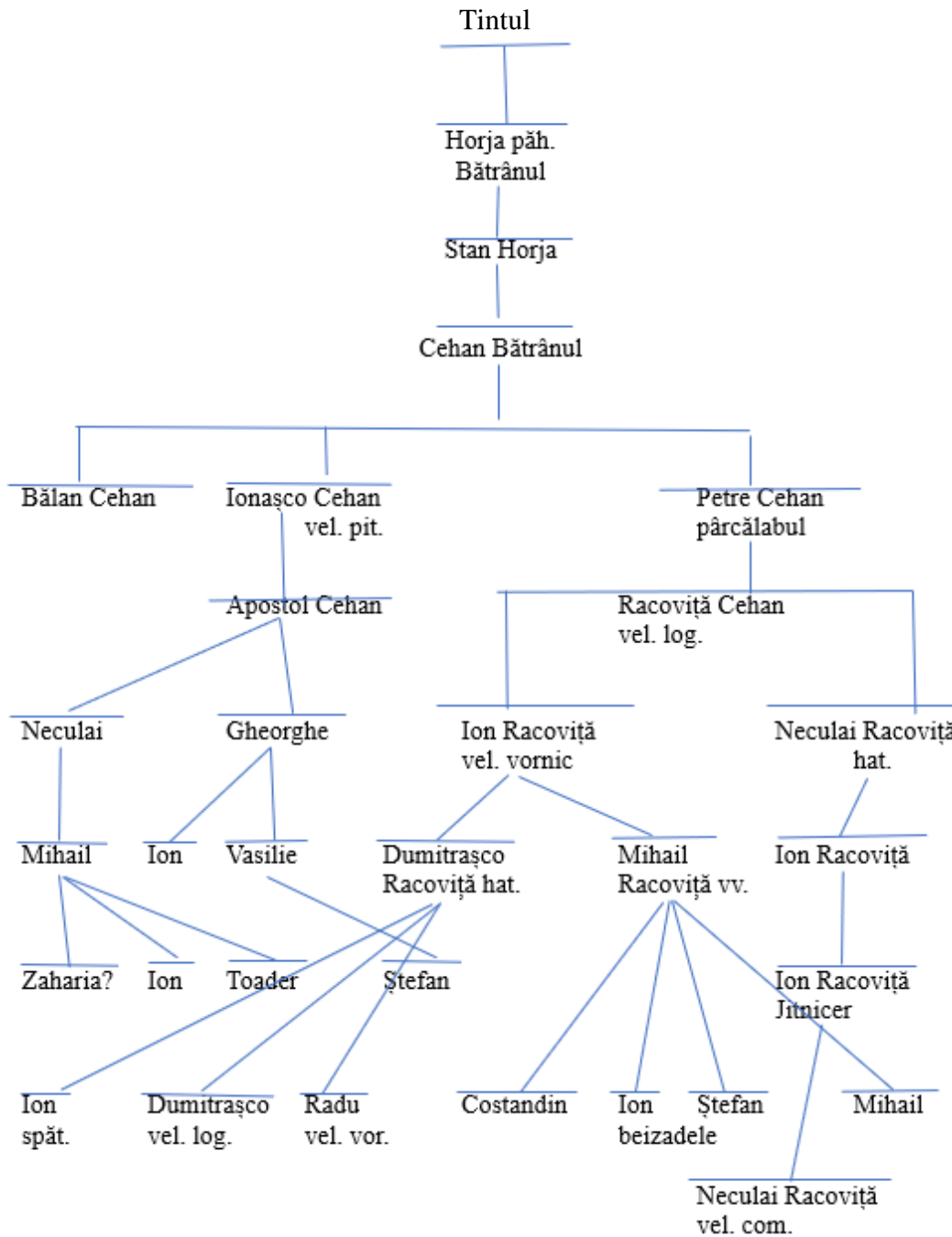


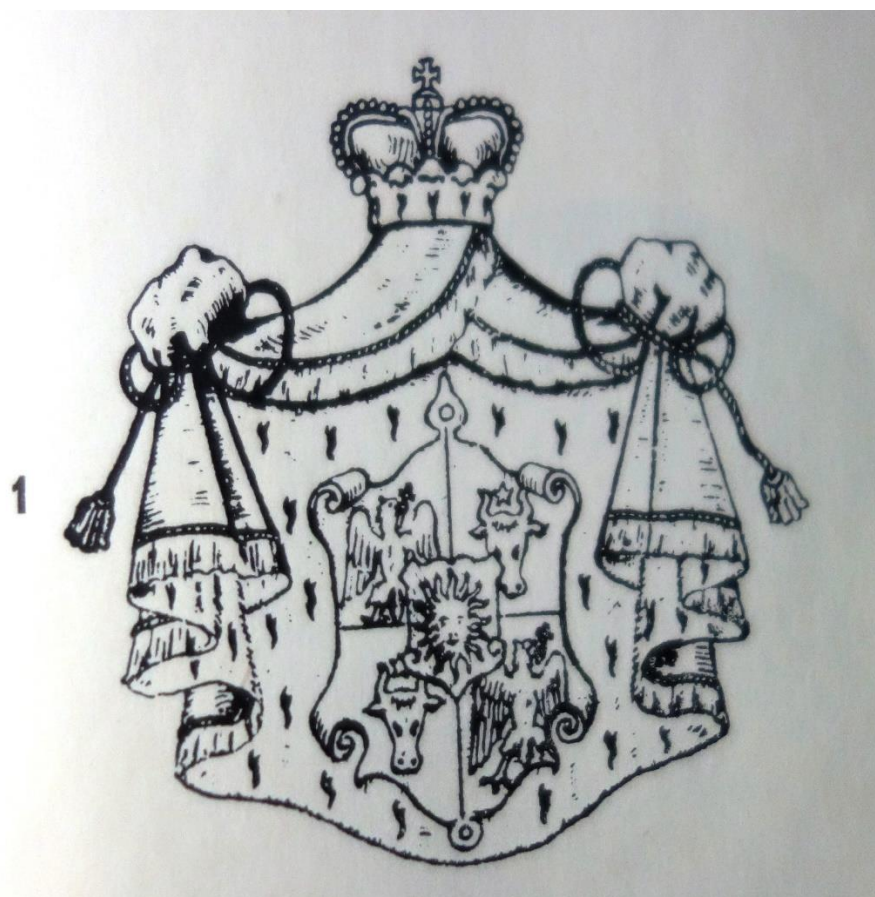
Constantin Racoviță vv.



Facsimile of the genealogical sketch of the Racoviță-Cehan family located at SJAN Mehedinți

Sketch of the family tree of the Racoviță-Cehan family  
from SJAN Mehedinți





Coat of arms of the Racoviță Family  
after Dan Cernovodeanu, *Știința și arta heraldică în România*,  
Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București, 1977, p. 272.