

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HOLY AND MARTYR PRINCE CONSTANTIN BASARAB BRÂNCOVEANU – A COMMEMORATION OF 310 YEARS SINCE HIS DEATH

Radu Ștefan VERGATTI*

Abstract: *Prince Constantin Basarab Brâncoveanu, a member of the Cantacuzino family, was raised and educated by it. He found himself in this situation as orphan of father since infancy. In his youth, up to the age of 20, he already knew the Greek, Latin and Slavonic languages well. He read a lot. He was in charge of printing the monumental Bible in Romanian, a work requested and patronized by his uncle, prince Șerban Cantacuzino. After he himself became ruler of Valachia (October 28, 1688) he was concerned with the fertilization and population of the Bărăganu Plain, with the construction of cities, where he left great monuments (Craiova, Bucharest, Făgăraș), monumental palaces, representative of the relationship between man and nature (Mogoșoaia, Potlogi, Obilesti). He also built the largest Orthodox monasteries in Wallachia (Hurezi, Sâmbăta, Sf. Gheorghe Nou), and developed the Princely Academy (Academia Domnească) bringing it to the level of a "Faculty of Arts" in the universities of Western Europe. He also developed a royal chancellery with connections in Europe, Central Asia and North Africa, etc. In time, he amassed a huge fortune, which made Sultan Ahmet III (1703-1730) and the Grand Vizier Ali Pașa want to take his money. His assassination, together with his four sons and his relative the boyar I. Văcărescu, led to the creation of the image of a martyr for the Romanian people and their faith. The Library of the Romanian Academy preserves several Romanian manuscripts containing verses and songs of anonymous bards, who took over and spread over time through folklore the legend of the martyrdom of the Voyvode and his sons.*

Key words: Constantin Brancoveanu, culture, architecture, the Royal Academy, students, martyrdom.

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This year, on the 15th of August 2024, is the commemoration of 310 years since the spectacular, but infinitely villainous assassination of Prince Constantin Basarab Brâncoveanu (1688-1714) together with his four sons Constantin, Ștefan, Radu, Matei, and the faithful grand boyar Ianache Văcărescu.

Unfortunately, the authorities have done very little to commemorate the great ruler and his deeds. Due to the efforts of Professor Gheorghe Anghelescu, backed by the Romanian Orthodox Church, there have been organised commemoration conferences to highlight the life and deeds of the great prince. I have participated in these actions: on July 9, 2024, at the Faculty of Theology of the "Ovidius"

* Full member Academy of Romanian Scientists