

SHIPYARDS AT THE DANUBE IN THE 17TH–19TH CENTURIES

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Abstract. *The research of the problem which was the subject of the present communication allows us to formulate, without reticence, the conclusion that, starting with the 17th century – although logically we should accept the idea that this activity had been carried on even before – there were Romanian shipyards at the Danube.*

Keywords: Historiography, Shipbuilding, navigation, Galați, Brăila, Giurgiu, Zimnicea, Adrianopole

The communication¹ I am presenting in front of you synthesizes a research begun and developed 40 years ago, suggested to me by Constantin C. Giurescu, but which, due reasons that do not interest anybody today, I had not published, but I did not even finalize it, to make closer to a book.

When I proposed the present communication to be included the program of our session I considered that it might be owing to the novelty of the subject, to the information and evaluations promoting interesting conclusions regarding the respective domain of activity in the ensemble of the country's economic and social life in the 17th–19th centuries.

1. Until the second half of the 20th century, Romanian historiography stopped only rarely on ship constructions and on shipyards in the Romanian Countries. When it did it, there were more often singular and limited references, these issues – of an importance that does not need to be emphasized – not doing the object of a monograph or being at least an important part of a work of large coverage regarding the Danube² or the history of Romania³.

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² Far from addressing a reproach, I note pure and simply that the work *Dunărea în istoria poporului român*, by Iulian Cârțână and Ilie Seftiuc, published in 1972, in Bucharest, under the auspices of the Editura Științifică, in its 402 pages there is nothing, absolutely nothing, about the shipyards at the Danube, even more hard to understand when the authors refer to the river navigation and to the companies that had organized and supervised it.

³ The shipyard at the Danube are treated in 6 (six) lines in *Istoria Românilor*, vol. VII, tome I, *Constituirea României moderne (1821–1878)*, coordinator acad. Dan Berindei, Academia Română, Secția de Științe Istorice și Arheologie, Editura Enciclopedică, București, 2003, p. 155. At *Bibliography* chapter VI mentions a single source (found out by us later) and namely: I. Toderașcu, *Din activitatea șantierului naval Galați în prima jumătate a secolului al XIX-lea*, in „Analele Științifice