EMANUEL CONSTANTIN ANTOCHE*

SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON THE EXPEDITION OF KING JOHN ALBERT I IN MOLDAVIA
(AUGUST-OCTOBER 1497)
(Summary)

Keywords: military strategy, topography, ambush, Stephen the Great

The article brings into attention the campaign the Polish King Jan Albert undertook in 1497 in Moldavia ruled at the time by Stephen III, later called “the Great.” Although the result of the clashes between the Moldavian and Polish is known – the latter suffering a defeat at the end of October 1497, in the Battle of Cosmin Woods (Codrii Cosminului) – the author brings further historical and topographical data gathered from documents and chronicles of the time. The above mentioned battle is just a pretext to study medieval military tactics, especially the originality of the strategies used by the Moldavians. The episode analyzed in this article not only highlights the conflict between the two princes but also the specific control strategies confrontation between the West and the East.

* Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales.