ANCUȚA VLAS

CHANCELLORS AND DRAGOMANS AT THE FRENCH CONSULAR OFFICE OF IAȘI IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

(Summary)

Keywords: French consul, chancellor-dragoman, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, jeunes de langue

In the present paper the author focus on those who, together with the French consul to Iași, were in charge with the proper functioning of the consulate. Due to the nature of their work and sometimes to a lack of official acknowledgement from the French government, the consular personnel remained in obscurity. In fact, the ones who held the position of chancellor of the French consulate and of chancellor-dragoman respectively were not even appointed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Under these circumstances, the consuls had to choose their staff from among the foreign ethnics that the local community regarded with esteem. Consequently, as far as the consular office of Iași is concerned, one cannot talk about dragomans in the proper sense – the so-called jeunes de langue, trained at Constantinople or Paris. The only exception was Antoine Fornetty, member of one of the great families of dragomans serving France at Constantinople.

* Doctorand, Institutul de Istorie „A. D. Xenopol” al Academiei Române – Filiala Iași.