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TESTIMONIES ABOUT THE PUNISHMENT OF THOSE WHO
“MADE THEMSELVES SOLDIERS”
UNDER MIHAI RACOVIŢĂ VOIVODE
(Summary)

Keywords: revolt, robberies, punishment, betrayal.

Reading the content of five unpublished documents from the collection of Documents at the National Archives of Iaşi, provided the opportunity to return to a confused moment of the history of Moldavia, which occurred at the turn of 1716. The events appeared as part of a tense external context, accompanied by a worsening domestic situation, generated by the fact that Prince Mihail Racoviţă promoted close friends to different positions, in the detriment of other high boyars, as well as his tax measures meant to limit the privileges of the low boyars’ class. In this general discontent context, the Austrian troops led by General Francisc Ernaut of Lorraine were easily joined by an army made of high boyars, eager of praise, and lower boyars, discontent with the violation of their privileges. Mihai Racoviţă managed to defeat the Austrians and their supporters with the help of the Tartars.

The documents we edited reveal to us things about the fate of those who, allying with the Austrians and revolting against the Prince and implicitly against the Porte, were accused of betrayal, some of them paying with their freedom, with their fortune and even with their life, to compensate the victims and as an example for other rebels.

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