

ALEXANDRU SIMON\*

THE SECOND ARRIVAL OF MEHMED II TO MOLDOVIA IN 1476  
(Summary)

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On the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 1476, the travel expenses of Pasqual(e) Gondola (Gundulić), the envoy of Ragusa sent to Mehmed II, were reimbursed even though Gondola had not met the sultan [...] *quod imperator non erat in Romania, sed in Moldovia* [...]. At that time, Moldavian and Hungarian troops were occupying Wallachia, taking Târgoviște (prior to the 8th of November) and Bucharest (precisely on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November). After the failure of Stephen III of Moldavia and king Matthias Corvinus of Hungary to trap sultan Mehmed II during the latter's Moldavian summer campaign (July–August 1476), this was a major success. In fact it was/would have been the first Christian victory over the sultan *in personam* since the “miracle of Belgrade” twenty years earlier. Yet it was never celebrated as such, even though both Stephen and especially Matthias widely circulated news over the anti-Ottoman victories in Wallachia. Chiefly for Stephen a victory over the sultan would have been more than needed, because, in the same month of November, several political voices called for his deposition as *the athlete* of Christendom (eventually, in late November-early December, Venice succeeded in convincing pope Sixtus IV to keep Stephen as *athlete*). The paper focuses on these events that marked the beginning of the third and final Wallachian reign of Vlad III *the Impaller* (*Dracula*), who then, within less than two months, lost his life (around the beginning of January 1477). Meanwhile, Mehmed II (also) managed to take and destroy king Matthias' newly erected Serbian fortresses. Previously, Mehmed II had returned north of the Danube, after a failed summer campaign, only in November 1462, on the eve of Vlad's imprisonment by Matthias. Vlad was accused by his royal relative that he had plotted to hand over his suzerain to the sultan.

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\* Cercetător științific, dr. habil., Academia Română, Centrul de Studii Transilvane – Universitatea „Babeș-Bolyai”, Cluj-Napoca.