

Consequent to her investigations, it was in 2005 when another important working tool was printed. It is about *Contribuții la o biobibliografie Alexandru Ioan Cuza* [Contributions to a bio-bibliography of Alexandru Ioan Cuza], extremely important for both the established and those at their prime activity in the field of history.

The work is structured in two different parts. Thus, the first part, *Cronologie* [Chronology], contains at the beginning a study about the genealogy of the Cuza family. It is followed by a chronology of Prince's family and personality. It begins with year 1784, when his father, Ioan Cuza, was born, and comes to an end with year 2001, when the work of Dumitru Ivănescu, *Alexandru Ioan Cuza în conștiința posterității* [Alexandru Ioan Cuza in the conscience of posterity] was published. Since the very beginning, the author compels the attention that the possible inadvertences that one could detect in the text of this part would be because of the simultaneous use of the two calendar styles in the period.

For the second part, *Referințe* [References], the author insists upon the publication of any type that refer especially and directly to Alexandru Ioan Cuza. Henceforth, there are gathered together all volumes, studies, articles and notes from magazines and newspapers, irrespective of the fact that it is about essential or minor works, published between 1859 and 2003. Accordingly, 888 titles are assembled, being ordered depending on the year of publication, so that the researcher could easily understand the periods of time and the amount in which a real interest for the prince's personality exists. Meanwhile, one could note that, among each year the order of the works is alphabetical depending on authors.

The book closes with an *Indice de autori* [Author's Index], designed to facilitate the easy retrieval of the items.

It is certitude that this editorial issue of major interest not only for the historians generally focused upon the Romanian modern history, but also for the archivists that are in charge of the documentary material dating in the time of Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza, facilitating the individual study necessary for studies and documentary exhibitions.

Arcadie M. Bodale

**Virginia Isac, *Principele Alexandru Ioan Cuza. Scrisori din exil. 1866-1873* [Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza. Letters from Exile. 1866-1873], Iași, Editura Junimea, 2007, 148 p.**

Virginia Isac came into contact with the archives since she was a student, when Professor Alexandru Gonța brought the students in his class of Romanian history to the State Archives in Iași. There, he urged them to work directly with the original documents. This fact inspired them with love for document, which Virginia Isac would observe since 1951, when she became employee at this institution. In this position, she was able to gain a particular place among the archivists at the State Archives in Iași. After her retirement, she continued her research work in the archives and libraries in Romania, especially those in Iași and Bucharest.

Thus, Virginia Isac made systematic investigations at the National Archives in Bucharest (*Casa Regală* [Royal House] fonds), National Archives in Iași, Romanian Academy Library in Bucharest (Cuza Archive), National Library (Mihail Kogălniceanu fonds) and Union Museum in Iași. Among the numerous documents and unpublished information she detected, one should note those regarding the period of exile of Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza and his family.

These were gathered in the volume *Principele Alexandru Ioan Cuza. Scrisori din exil. 1866-1873*. The work contains 48 documents, numbered with Arab figures, written in Romanian and French, the latter presenting also the translation. One could add a facsimile in German referring to the registration of Al. I. Cuza's family in the Register of Population in Viena, dated in December 1867.

Naturally, the greatest number of these documents are letters of the former prince now in exile and, after his passing away, of his wife Elena.

It is about Al. I. Cuza's letters dated between May 10, 1866 and April 25, 1873, and directed to Carol Davila, Vasile Alecsandri, Prince Carol I, Emperor Napoleon III, Iordache Lambrino (prince's friend and brother-in-law), Costache Negri, Ilariu Isvoranu (prefect of Mehedinți, where Cuza was elected as deputy in absence), Grigore Balș (president of the Senate), Teodor Vasiliu (employee at the Romanian Railroads), Teodor Veisa (deputy president of the Senate), Petru Grădișteanu (politician and member of the Academy), Manelas Ghermani (banker and high official in the Ministry of Finances and afterwards in the National Bank of Romania), the Council of Ministers of Romania, and also to Empress Eugenia and Duke Grammont, the widow and respectively the representative of the former emperor of France, Napoleon III. Among these letters, the editor also inserted the receipt in September 11, 1867, according to which Al. I. Cuza bought Manner house in Döbling, in the neighbourhood of Vienna, where he wrote the most of the letters included in this volume; the leasing contract of Ruginoasa estate concluded between the former prince and Smaranda Docan (dated in June 11/23, 1868); Alexandru Ioan Cuza's will on December 27, 1872/January 8, 1873 (presented as facsimile), and a bond of payment signed by the former prince according to which a sum of 7,000 golden napoleons were to be paid.

The editor adds Elena Cuza's letter to the court of Suceava county in order that Ruginoasa estate be inventoried and the minute for the inventory drawn up by the letter in May 29-June 30, 1873), an excerpt of Alexandru Ioan Cuza's death from the civil register of the commune of Ruginoasa, along with a minute of the sell of the buildings abroad in the benefit of the former prince's family.

In the end, the editor attaches photos of the villa in Florence and of the memorial plaque put on the place of the house in Ober Döbling, in which Alexandru Ioan Cuza lived during his exile.

The volume comes to an end with *Lista documentelor* [Documents' list], containing the date, the addressee, and their abstract.

Meanwhile, the editor compels the attention that this volume could be completed with other letters, about which one knows that they existed, as the archives and libraries would reveal their secrets to the scholars.

The documents are accompanied by the critical apparatus necessary for such an investigation, which is settled immediately after the transcription of the original document. As such, for the documents in French, this apparatus is always in front of the editor's translation.

The work has a particular importance, both for historians and for the common public, since it introduces a series of documents less known in the scientific milieu. As a matter of fact, by now, the acts regarding the period of the exile have been published only sporadically or in fragments. In addition, this volume completes the editions of documents that have included the letters of Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza in his youth and during his rule.

Arcadie M. Bodale

**Virginia Isac & Aurica Ichim, *Principesa Elena Cuza. Corespondență și acte. 1840-1909* [Princess Elena Cuza. Correspondence and Acts. 1840-1909], Iași, Editura Junimea, 2009, 464 p.**

To a significant extent, this work is the result of the activity and scientific strictness of one of the most noted Romanian archivists, Virginia Isac. The idea belongs to her and originates in her ample researches in the Romanian archives and libraries. Co-opting Aurica Ichim in this project, a very appropriate organizer, the endeavor came into being. Virginia Isac detected the documents in the Central Historical National Archives and the Romanian Academy Library in Bucharest, at the National Archives in Iași and Drobeta-Turnu Severin, and also from various publications, while Aurica Ichim discovered several acts in the National Library in Bucharest and made photocopies of all the documents she detected. Afterwards, taking advantage of her rich experience in editing medieval and modern documents, Virginia Isac copied and translated the acts, made the footnotes and indices and corrected the whole text. As a result, the volume *Principesa Elena Cuza. Corespondență și acte. 1840-1909* was issued at Junimea publishing house in Iași. The work was presented on April 12, aprilie 2009 at Solești, where one could find out the ruins of the former mansion where Elena Cuza was born, on the occasion of the commemoration of 100 years since the former first lady of the United Principalities passed away.

The volume begins with a *Notă asupra ediției* [Note about the edition], followed by *Correspondență* [Correspondence] heading. 240 letters written by Elena Cuza are gathered here, dated between January 11, 1840 and February 13, 1909. They were sent to her parents Ecaterina and Iordache Rosetti, her friend and then brother-in-law Iordache Lambrino, her sister Zoe Lambrino, her husband Alexandru Ioan Cuza, her cousins Elena Beldiman and Dimitrie A. Sturdza, her nephews Dimitrie Lambrino and Alexandru C. Cuza, then to Vasile Alecsandri, Dionisie Romano Bishop of Buzău, Nicolae Kretzulescu, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Dimitrie Gr. Ghica, Mihai Gr. Sturdza, miss Ida Vegezzi Ruscala, Ermiona Quinet (b. Asachi), Elena Bărcănescu, Olimpia Gross, Ana Davila, Zulnia Sturdza, Paulina Alecsandri, Maria Bogdan, Eugenia, Carol Davila, Baligot de Beyne, bishop Iosif Bobulescu, King Carol I and Queen Elisabeta, General Ioan Em. Florescu, princess Iulia Obrenovici, Costache Negri, Constantin Cazimir, Efreim Ghermani, Tudorachi Vasiliu, Ștefan Chimet, Dimitrie C. Butculescu, Pulcheria and Theodor Rosetti, Titu Maiorescu, A. D. Xenopol, Vasile Kogălniceanu, colonel Lipan, count Gloria, deputy V. A. Urechia, G. Vrabie, prefects of Covurlui and Roman, State Secretary of Moldavia, Council of Ministers, University of Iași, citizens of the cities of Galați and Huși, municipal councils in Tg. Ocna and in the commune of Cuza Vodă, the