

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.

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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 *Corespondență* [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

board of the schoolmasters in Iași, Romanian Academic Society, Council of Family, Cuza-Vodă Economic-Commercial Society in Filioara, Committee of the Inauguration of Cuza-Vodă School in Galați and to a maid-servant Marghioala. There are attached the letters received by Elena Cuza from the French colony in Florence, from Prince Mihai Gr. Sturdza, Duke Gramont, Princess Iulia Obrenovici, Count Gloria and King Carol I. At last, the same section includes the counterfoils of the passports released to Elena Cuza and her relatives, and also the act of Elena Cuza's decease.

We must specify that a part of the letters included in this section had also been published in the volume signed by D. Ivănescu and V. Isac, *Alexandru Ioan Cuza. Acte și scrisori*, Iași, Junimea Publishing House, 1973. Nevertheless, their recent republishing in alphabetical order offers a new image of Elena Cuza's personality and feelings.

Section *Acte* [Acts] follows and contains 36 documents referring to the adoption of children Alexandru and Dimitrie Cuza by Alexandru Ioan Cuza and his wife, Elena, the succession of the wealth inherited from Alexandru Ioan Cuza, the sale of the family's buildings abroad, the purchasing of houses in Iași, the obligation to pay off a debt, the wills and the acts of decease of princes Alexandru Al. Cuza and Dimitrie Al. Cuza, the debate over prince Alexandru Al. Cuza's succession and acts of charity towards Caritatea Hospital.

Further down, inside of *Addenda* heading, the editors include the 17 letters discovered by Aurica Ichim at National Library of Romania.

The volume comes to an end by inserting a *indice de nume* [index of names] and *cuprinsul* [summary] of the work. This latter is extremely useful, since it is drawn up as a list – alphabetical and chronological – of the addressees and of succinct summaries of the documents.

All the acts in this work are published in chronological order, depending on sections. The greatest number of letters was written in French, but in this volume they are published along with the translation in Romanian. Unfortunately, during the make-up process, the setter of the text made confusion between article *le* and *ce* when dealing with the date in French, and the editors lost sight of this detail.

Many letters are also accompanied by rich notes that generously offer information about characters and facts, so that the reader easily understands the text. In addition, all the documents have information about the place where the previous editions are preserved. This critical apparatus is settled immediately after the transcription of the original document. Therefore, in the case of the documents written in French, this apparatus is always before the translation.

Moreover, this work completes the study drawn up by Lucia Borș, *Doamna Elena Cuza*, which was published in four editions between 1936 and 1992.

At the same time, the editors deplore the fact that a great part of the correspondence of Elena Cuza have been lost, some of the letters being destroyed by herself, while others have remained unidentified in the libraries and archives in Romania and abroad.

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