

## Histoire moderne (XIX<sup>e</sup> et la première moitié du XX<sup>e</sup> s.)

### NEW DATA ON THE FOREIGN ARCHITECTS ACTIVE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF WALLACHIA IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

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On n'a pas étudié suffisamment l'activité des premiers architectes au service de l'Etat en Valachie au cours des années 1835–1850: on leur doit la première modernisation urbaine à Bucarest et dans plusieurs d'autres villes du pays. De nombreux noms, inconnus jusqu'ici, ont été découverts dans les archives; avec tous les détails (salaire, plans). Presque tous étaient des étrangers, originaires d'Europe Centrale, mais aussi de France ou d'Italie.

**Mots-clé:** centralisation administrative, grandes entreprises architecturales, règlements de voirie, rues nivelées et pavées, plantations d'arbres.

#### New Regulations and Institutions

Following the report of the Great Dvornik Office dated on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 1833, Pavel Kiseleff (1788–1872) sent to the attention of the National Assembly of Wallachia the issue of the foundation of a commission of engineers pertaining to the Interior Ministry (Dvornik Office of Interior Affairs as it was called back then)<sup>1</sup>. The technical activity concerned mostly: paving of the roads and streets, cleaning the roads, sanitation and drainage of the marshes, building of bridges, opening and naming of the streets, cadastral measurements, design plans, demolishing of the dangerous houses, setting in a straight line of the streets and houses, the new way of building houses<sup>2</sup>. Lacking high qualified personnel and with no technical educational institutions in Wallachia, most of the architects, engineers and gardeners came from abroad, especially from Prussia, Austrian Empire and France.

The historiographers of Bucharest recorded occasionally the names of Johann Freywald, Josef Hartl (Hartin), Moritz von Ott, Conrad Schwenk and Rudolph von Borroczyn, but the research of the archive documents<sup>3</sup> brought to light the names,

<sup>1</sup> Arhivele Naționale ale României (A.N.R.), fund Obișnuita Obșteasca Adunare a Țării Românești (O.O.A.Ț.R.), file 46/1833, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> The full list of the works of the Engineering Department between 1830–1841 was transcribed from Cyrillic by Oana Marinache for the project <http://arhivadearhitectura.ro/documente/sectia-inginereasca-1830-1841-2/> Source: A.N.R., fond Ministerul Lucrărilor Publice (M.L.P.), file 2/1830.

<sup>3</sup> Most of the unique documents, in Cyrillic, French and German, were found in the following archive funds: Vorniciei din Năuntru, O.O.A.Ț.R., Primăria Municipiului București (P.M.B.) – fond General, M.L.P., M.C.I.P. (Ministerul Cultelor și Instrucțiunii Publice), the historical archive of the Foreign Affairs Ministry (M.A.E.).

activities and even personal information on the circumstances of coming to Wallachia of more than 35 specialists.

In 1833 among the proposals made by the state chief-engineer Vladimir de Blaremburg<sup>4</sup> (in function between 1832–1845/1846) we find such names as: Hainrih Faizer<sup>5</sup> with a wage of 700 ROL/month; Wilhelm Loriseca “having more knowledge” and earning 300 ROL/month; the second journeyman Johan(n) Rain<sup>6</sup> with a wage of 200 ROL/month. We present the payroll of the Engineering Commission pertaining to the Inner Dvornik Department<sup>7</sup>:

Personnel	Lower level clerks <sup>8</sup>	Roads Commission	Quarantines Commission	City Commission
Director of the Inner Dvornik Department	1	Wage paid by Inner Dvornik Department	Wage paid by Inner Dvornik Department	Wage paid by Inner Dvornik Department
State Engineer	1	1000	–	–
Pertaining to the Commission Chief of Section	1	Wage paid by Inner Dvornik Department	Wage paid by Inner Dvornik Department	Wage paid by Inner Dvornik Department
His assistant also working as cashier	1	Wage paid by Inner Dvornik Department	Wage paid by Inner Dvornik Department	Wage paid by Inner Dvornik Department
Writers	3	Wage paid by Inner Dvornik Department	Wage paid by Inner Dvornik Department	Wage paid by Inner Dvornik Department
Plans copyist	1	200	–	–
For the chancellery and other needs		60	60	60
Lesser engineers (roads section)	1	500	–	–
Quarantine section	1	–	500	–
City section	1	–	–	500
Chancellery	1	150	150	150
Masters guarding the roads 250 ROL	4	1000		
Total	4330	2910	710	710

<sup>4</sup> Valdemar de Blaremburg (1811–1845/1846), <http://arhivadearhitectura.ro/arhitecti/vladimir-de-blaremburg/>.

<sup>5</sup> Heinrich Fensser von Metzner (?–1850), <http://arhivadearhitectura.ro/arhitecti/heinrich-fensser/>.

<sup>6</sup> He was not accepted due to his lack of knowledge and bad behaviour; he was replaced by Johan Ribiser.

<sup>7</sup> A.N.R., fund M.L.P., file 4/1833, p.15.

<sup>8</sup> “Cinovnic” in original, borrowed from Russian language.

Following the increasing state's needs and bureaucratic network a reorganisation was made in 1840 leading to two sections: the engineering one performed the works of pavement of the streets and roads, building bridges and the architectural one concerning the building and reparation of the public institutions, barracks, prisons, military hospitals. In this period of 1840–1841, the chief of the Inner Department, Mihail Ghica, proposed two types of employees<sup>9</sup>:

Technical employees	ROL	Civilians	ROL
State Engineer	1500	Chief of section	1000
Section Engineer	1000	Chief of the engineering section	500
Hydrotechnist	1000	Chief of the architectural section	500
Architects	1000	Transcribers	300
Topographical surveyor	400	6 Writers	900
Carpenter journeyman	300	1 Temporary interpreter	400
Mason journeyman	300		
4 Engineers of roads and bridges	3200		
Additional expenses	200		
	8900		3600

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1841 all the engineers and architects employed in the public service were asked to sign a declaration that they did not engage simultaneously in private contracts; on this occasion we found out the names of Xavier Villacrose<sup>10</sup>, Gustave Freywald<sup>11</sup>, Heinrich Fensser, Auguste Thillaye<sup>12</sup>, George Rosetti, A.G. Golescu, C. Rîmniceanu, Herrmann, Hartl<sup>13</sup> and Johan(n) Cengeri<sup>14</sup>.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 1842 Dvornik Alexandru Filipescu was presented the list of foreign masters working in Bucharest made by *maimarbasha* M. Iliad:

<sup>9</sup> A.N.R., fund O.O.A.Ț.R., file 292/1840–1841, p. 7v.

<sup>10</sup> All the archive documents are signed by Villacrose with one "s". At the beginning he sometimes adds "French architect" under his signature.

<sup>11</sup> <http://arhivadearchitettura.ro/arhitecti/familia-freywald-2/>.

<sup>12</sup> <http://arhivadearchitettura.ro/arhitecti/thillaye/>.

<sup>13</sup> <http://arhivadearchitettura.ro/arhitecti/joseph-hartl/>.

<sup>14</sup> A.N.R., fund Vornicia din Lăuntru, file 364/1841, pp. 29–30.

Fraivald, Hartel, Ioșe, Faiser (architects), Petre Sirag, Brandis, George Conrat, Iohan Keler, Iohan Gengeris, Toma Bătrănu, George Torok, Iozef Dormanie, Iozef Molnar, Hainric, Poțdamer, Boeno Ianoș, Fong, Chede (carpenters)<sup>15</sup>. Another list included a more detailed position of the names mentioned before: Tili<sup>16</sup> (Section Engineer), Gustav Fraivald (Architecture Section), Csavir Vilacros (Bucharest City Architect), A. Popovici, George Roset (1st District Engineer), Alecsandru Popescul (3rd District Engineer), Carl Vainrah (4th District Engineer), George Catălul (Brăila Architect), Costandin Rîmniceanu (Topographical surveyor), Ioan Cengeri (mason journeyman), Hainrah Herman (carpenter journeyman)<sup>17</sup>.

Judging by the names presented in the documents the average number was still represented by the foreign specialists but we start to also notice some local names. Architect Petre Tabai of Italian origin came to Wallachia in 1844 and described the situation he found and the evolution over the next 15 years as such: "if an important building was erected in the capital city foreign masters and workers were brought from Transylvania and Hungary because the native Wallachians completely lacked the practical use of their skills. Given the circumstances I wanted to show the Romanian workers the way of building step by step and when I noticed the goodwill and intelligence of the workers I personally showed them the detailed artistic requirements. I am honoured to say that with little help their knowledge improved quickly and in such a way that 15 years after my arrival in the Country through different and often work applications I did not need to employ any foreigners. Today they reached such a degree of perfection that they can even execute serious construction work. Today after so many years we do not witness those herds of workers coming from Transylvania and Hungary"<sup>18</sup>.

A new change of the Technical Department occurred in 1847 when it was reorganised as the Department of Public Works and had four subsections: engineering, roads and bridges, architecture and hydrotechnics.<sup>19</sup> From that date on all the public works needed to be approved and supervised by the Public Works Department based on a design project and quotations. We present below the payroll of this new department as of March 1847<sup>20</sup>:

<sup>15</sup> A.N.R., fund Vornicia, file 364/1841, pp. 89–91, we preserved the Romanian transcription of their foreign names.

<sup>16</sup> Achille Auguste Thillaye <http://arhivadearhitectura.ro/arhitecti/thillaye/>.

<sup>17</sup> A.N.R., fund Vornicia din lăuntru, file 364/1841, 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 1842, p. 150, we preserved the Romanian transcription of their foreign names.

<sup>18</sup> A.N.R., fund Senat, file 1189, personal declaration made in 1878.

<sup>19</sup> M.A.E., historical archive, file 14/2013/1847, 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1847.

<sup>20</sup> Idem, all the Romanian transcription names were preserved as in original.

Titles	Monthly wage in Rol	Personnel
Section I		
Section Chief	1200	Major Baron Borozin
Section Chief	1000	C. Pencovici
Subsection Chief	500	Anghelache Lorent
Assistant	300	Vasilache Pană
Transcriber	250	Nicolae Mirzia
Writers	150	Costache Rizescu
	150	Ștefan Bădulescu
	150	Grigore Mareș
	150	Costache Romanescu
	150	Nicolae Nenișor
Idem whose wages are obtained by reducing the wages of the below mentioned	100	Ștefan Stoienescu
	100	Sava Sutescu
50 Rol from the transcriber and 300 Rol from the project		As needed
100 Rol from the draftsman idem		Writing the tables of 6 working days
50 Rol from the interpreter idem		
200 Rol		
Topographical surveyor	500	Costache Rîmniceanu
	500	Ioan Graf
Draftsman	200	Clerk Ștefan Lespezeanu
Mason journeyman	300	Iosif Vainel
Carpenter journeyman	300	Hainrih Herman
Interpreter	250	Matache Gărdescu
Tools keeper	150	Ioan Drăgoescu
	6400	
Section II		
Section Chief	1687	Balzano
The house rent based on contract	450	idem
Chancellery expenses	63	idem
Interpreter	300	Macsimilian Dron
Draftsman	300	Petre Bureli
Lineman	150	Ioan Achim

	2950	
Section III		
Section Chief	1406, 30	Anton Heft
House rent	166, 80	idem
Firewood	41, 80	idem
Chancellery expenses	63	idem
Assistant	400	Iosif Cuznofski
	2077, 40	
Section IV		
Section Chief	1732, 60	Marsilion
House rent	141	Idem
Chancellery expenses	63	idem
Assistant	300	Alezandru Zane
Draftsman	300	Campo
	2537, 30	
Roads and Bridges		
Engineer of the road from Bucharest to Ploești, Câmpina and Brașov	1000	George Roset
Conductor of Sibiu road	450	Ioan Putnoki
Conductor of Severin road	337, 60	Hainrih
Conductor of Olt bridge	450	Bonameli
Id. roads surrounding the capital city	250	Alecsandru Carcalechi
	2487, 60	
Engineers	1000	George Roset
	1000	Vairah
Conductors	450	Ioan Potnoni
	337, 20	Hainrih
	250	Mihail Sibiriceanu

1852 marked a new phase in the reorganisation of the Public Works Department and ruling prince Barbu Știrbey called for a French mission led by engineer Léon Louis Chretien – Lalanne (1811–1892)<sup>21</sup>. The technical professions in the documents presented by Lalanne are more clearly described by naming the qualifications of architects, engineers, conductors, conductor apprentices and auxiliary conductors.

<sup>21</sup> M.A.E., historical archive, file 26/3396/1852, 27th of August/ 8th of September 1852.

Following Lalanne's proposals prince Barbu Știrbey made the following appointments: Constantin Pencovici was moved from the technical section of the Interior Ministry to the head of the Administrative Department and engineer Louvel led the Technical Department. Vasile Paap was Pencovici's assistant and the 1<sup>st</sup> Office Roads and Bridges was led by Max. Drok and his assistants N. Mavrikie and Jean Moskou and they employed 4 writers. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Office Architecture was led by Constantin Arion and his assistant Nicolae Manțulescu and had 3 writers. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Office Mines, Rivers, Pavement, Fountains and Gardens had Constantin Rizescu as chief, Crețianu as his assistant and 3 writers. The 4<sup>th</sup> Office dealt with Accounting issues and was led by G. Peticari, two assistants Ștefan Rădulescu and Savu Sutescu and they employed 3 writers, a transcriber and his helper.

Under Mr. Louvel we find a translator Constantin Miltiade, Theodor Guliano and Franz Horn as draftsmen, Josef Waibel as mason master and Herman as carpenter master, Ioan Drăgoescu as tools keeper, 2 writers and one clerk.

The roads in the Nord-East and South-East directions were reunited under Rossetti supervision and the Nord-West and South-West roads under engineer Wairach'. The center of Bucharest and roads no. 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 were under the control of architect Villacrose the young. Alexandru Orăscu<sup>22</sup> dealt with the pavement of the roads, the sewage system and the bridges. The buildings of the city, the alignment of the houses and the regularisation of the Dâmbovița river regime were in the charge of architect Villacrose the elder<sup>23</sup>.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> service of the city, concerning the water supply and the water machines, was led by the hydrotechnician Guilbert/Jilbert. There was also a Special Service of Architecture led by Anton Hefft<sup>24</sup> and his two assistants George de Gaudi the elder and George Gaudi the younger. They were helped by three specialists sent to different projects in the country: George Alțiu, Matei Vuriask and Vasile Multakov.

## Personalities

### French Architect Michel de Sanejouand (?–1835)

As the historiographers of Bucharest recorded, Great Dvornik Barbu D. Știrbey called upon the services of the French architect Michel Sanejouand (?–1835) in order to transform the boyar house on Podul (wooden lane) Mogoșoaiei into a modern residence (1833–1835)<sup>25</sup>. Sanejouand worked for the state, before being

<sup>22</sup> <http://arhivadearhitectura.ro/arhitecti/alexandru-orascu/>.

<sup>23</sup> It is the first time that we find the mention of two architects Villacrose, probably father and son. The younger one was most probably married to Polixenia Serafim in 1843.

<sup>24</sup> <http://arhivadearhitectura.ro/arhitecti/anton-hefft/>.

<sup>25</sup> Sanejouand is wrongly mentioned as “chief architect of Bucharest between 1835 and 1842, who died in 1847” by Cezara Mucenic, in the study “Știrbei Palace on Calea Victoriei” published in *București, materialele de istorie și muzeografie*, nr. XX, Muzeul Municipiului București, 2006, p. 65; the date of the architect's death is again wrongly stated as 1837 in Nicolae Vătămanu, *Odinioară în București*, Editura Domino, București, 2007, p. 38.

appointed Chief of the Directorate for Architecture and Geodesy of Bucharest Municipality, on the 26th of July 1834<sup>26</sup>.

Sanejouand's activity during the following year can be reconstituted by means of his letters and of the documents preserved in the archives of the Dvornik Office for Interior Affairs. From his first letter<sup>27</sup> we find out that he required the town's plan drawn to a larger scale, because he had at his disposal a copy which was too small, that he had visited some parts of the town and he had also organised the office of the directorate. In his service there was at least one secretary and a translator-interpreter into French and German, whose name was Lorenty; "Foreman"<sup>28</sup> Ștefan also worked for him.

The following letter from the 25th of August 1834<sup>29</sup> presented the problems he encountered: the lack of communication with the ministry and the town hall regarding numberless aspects, such as the passage from the unit of measure "palm" to the unit of measure "stânjen" (fathom)/double metre, the writing of the names of the streets on the corners, the heating of the office, the reception of the contracts of the pavement entrepreneurs, the collaboration with the Police. His succinct and polite account suggests, on one side, the desire for change and it is obvious that he had identified concrete solutions, but, on the other side, we can already notice his discontent. In the end, because he was not able to fulfil his duties, he resorted to a complaint addressed to Hospodar Ghica. On the 2nd of November<sup>30</sup> we notice that the problem of the reception of the firewood was still unsolved, despite his insinuations.

Among his initiatives we also mention "The Project of Regulation Governing Private Arrangements of Latrines"<sup>31</sup> which contained 17 articles and dated from the 7th of December 1834 and "The Contract of the Obligations Regarding the Pavement of the Streets and of the Squares of the Town with which the Inhabitants Should Comply according to Article 5 from the Regulation of the Town", which contained 31 articles grouped in 5 chapters<sup>32</sup>. He was also in charge with different orders made in Sibiu for "the tools necessary for the drinking fountains" and with the requests for equipping the office with "boxes of cardboard plates, a big folder for the plans, a wood table for drawing, stakes for measuring".

The current activities of the office included the measuring of the lanes, the research studies on new and old buildings on the spot, the issuing of the approval documents for the works done by the owners. Later on Architect Heinrich Fensser

<sup>26</sup> His appointment was ordered by Hospodar Alexandru Ghica (1834–1842). The information presented here about architect Sanejouand was initially published in our work Oana Marinache, Știrbey Residencies in Bucharest and Buftea: architecture and interior decoration, Editura ACS, București, 2013.

<sup>27</sup> A.N.R., fund Vornicia din Lăuntru, file 504/1834, p. 17, letter by arch. Sanejouand sent to Grand Dvornik of the Interior Ministry, dated 2nd of August 1834, original in French.

<sup>28</sup> *Piqueur* in French (Someone responsible for the proper maintenance of a part of the road).

<sup>29</sup> Idem, file 504/1834, p. 24, 25th August 1834, original in French.

<sup>30</sup> Idem, f. 48, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1834, original in French.

<sup>31</sup> Idem, pp.70-90.

<sup>32</sup> Idem, pp. 137 and the following ones.



complained about the fact that according to the registers of Sanejouand's office only 400 works had been done and that he had received 2,500 lei per month, out of which he spent about 1,000 lei in the office (transport by carriage, foreman, interpreter), but the Town's Council also gave him a house. By comparison, two years later, the works had trebled, and Fensser's salary had decreased to 925 lei, out of which he remained with 400 lei for himself<sup>33</sup>.

Architect Sanejouand died suddenly, most probably at the end of July or at the beginning of August 1835. His death can be deduced from the letters<sup>34</sup> written by architect Heinrich Fessner von Mentzen and of architect Xavier Villacrose (?–1855)<sup>35</sup>. Upon Sanejouand's death we also find a proposal concerning the urgent need of the organisation of the Architecture Section as such:

Translator into Wallachian language	400 all taxes included	
Copyist available at his discretion	50	
Architect	700	
Foreman	200	
Copyist of the plans	50	
Daily expenses	50	
Courier	700	
Foreman	200	
Per month	2350	28200 per year

Ruling Prince Alexandru Ghica signed a decree on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1835 naming both Heinrich Fensser and Xavier Villacrose in the position formerly held by Sanejouand and thus dividing the Section in two<sup>36</sup>.

### **Léon Louis Chrétien – Lalanne (1811–1892).**

One of the most important specialists who played a decisive role in the modernisation of the Wallachian institutions was the French engineer Léon Louis Chrétien – Lalanne. He was born from the second marriage of doctor François Julien Louis Chrétien with Aurore Marie Damaris Langlois, having as brother the

<sup>33</sup> A.N.D.M.B., fond P.M.B. general, dosar 14/1837 Our transcription from Cyrillic.

<sup>34</sup> Both of them were competing for the post of chief architect of the capital, which had remained vacant. We know from the historiographers of Bucharest that the former one got the post and he held it until 1841.

<sup>35</sup> Villacrose stated in August 1835: "Je suis de trop peu de temps en Valachie"/ I have been in Wallachia for a too short period. This piece of information given by him indicates that the construction of Ghica-Tei Palace, built in 1822, cannot be attributed to him. Moreover, his signature and his correspondence certify his French citizenship and he called Sanejouand his friend and fellow countryman thus invalidating the supposition that his origin was Catalan.

<sup>36</sup> A.N.R., fund Vornicia din Lăuntru, file 504/1834, p. 211.

historian and writer Ludovic Marie Chrétien Lalanne (1815–1898). For a while the family name was jointly Chrétien-Lalanne, but it was later used by all family members regardless of the first or second marriage of the father.

After graduating mathematics at Louis-le-Grand High-School in Paris, Léon Louis entered the Polytechnics in 1829. Later on he worked as general inspector of roads and bridges and it was sent by the French government to Wallachia in August 1852 upon the express request of the ruling prince Barbu Știrbey. In September<sup>37</sup> Știrbey signed the official appointment of Lalanne as Director of Public Works of Wallachia, his main mission being that of reorganising the technical section and supervision of the main projects. He proposed many legislative projects and from his reports we also find out that in Wallachia there were only 20–25 technical specialists. He brought with him conductor Louvel but also asked for other specialists to help him. Among his works we find out the national road between Bucharest and Predeal, various works in the Danube ports and drainage of the swamps<sup>38</sup>.

His mission in Wallachia ended in 1855-1856 when he left in order to get involved in the Crimean War: together with an engineer L. Michel and two conductors they set up a road and a telegraph line on the coast of the Black Sea. He returned to France after eight months. After that he left to Switzerland (1856-1860), Spain (1860–1861) and then came back to France where he worked as railways inspector. In 1876 he became the director of the School of Bridges and Roads. In 1870 he was accepted in the Academy of Science and in 1883 was elected senator for life.

### **Petre Tabai**

He was of Italian origin and catholic faith, being born in Santo Lorenzo di Mossa, in the province of Friuli-Venice in the Austro-Hungarian Empire Imperiul Austro-Ungar. We do not know anything about his studies or practical formation but he himself wrote down the circumstances of his arrival to Wallachia: "In 1844 prince Știrbey – who was Interior Minister back then- came to Italy, my fatherland and employed me as engineer-architect upon the recommendation of Mr. I. Balzano who was already in Wallachia as inspector of public works and from then until now 34 years have passed since I am in Romania"<sup>39</sup>. He renounced the Austrian protection in 1857.

He was chief architect in the Ministry of Public Works and Ministry of War, being active both in Bucharest and in Brăila. He was also a member of the municipal guard and became chief of battalion.

Tabai asked for Romanian citizenship in 1859<sup>40</sup>, then again in December 1872<sup>41</sup> and finally got it in 1878. One of the reasons was his Romanian wife with whom he had five children but also his important work in the public service.

<sup>37</sup> M.A.E., historical archive, file 26/3396/1852.

<sup>38</sup> Bogdan Ferzi, „Ingineri și antreprenori” în *Influențe franceze în arhitectura și arta din România secolelor al XIX și XX*, Institutul Cultural Român, București, 2006, p. 47 .

<sup>39</sup> A.N.R., fund Senat, file 1189.

<sup>40</sup> After 1859 he could buy properties and gained certain rights.

Some pieces of information concerning his activities in Wallachia came to light through the research of the archives. His name has not been mentioned in the bibliography as far as we know and many more projects might appear in the future. In January 1850 he designed the plans for the Episcopiei Garden and courtyard fences<sup>42</sup>. Between 1851–1856 he coordinated the reconstruction works of St. Spiridon the new Church<sup>43</sup>: he quarrelled with the epitrop who was embezzled important sums of money. Tabai often complained about the low quality of the church roof and towers which eventually came down due to a storm in 1885 confirming his professional opinion. He started to build his houses in 1855 near Cișmigiu Gardens on Știrbey street<sup>44</sup>. In 1856 he repaired the Administrative Court together with Alexandru Orăscu, Gaetano Burelly<sup>45</sup> and architect Freywald. He designed (1852–1865) Copou Barracks in Iași – finalised in 1875<sup>46</sup>.

In 1858 he published an article in "Naționalulu" newspaper about the safety of the buildings: how the scaffolds, foundation, cellars and vaults should be made in the case of 2–3 level buildings<sup>47</sup>. In 1860 he was the member of the commission of St. George Inn together with architects Johann Schlatter<sup>48</sup>, Carol Beneș<sup>49</sup>, Carol Kuchnovsky<sup>50</sup> and Alexandru Orăscu.

Between 1861–1865 he was part of the Public Works Council analyzing the reconstruction works of St. George Barracks; a member of the commission of the Academy Palace (University) defending Orăscu's project and trying to rectify certain construction errors and making economy in the use of materials; he was the one who restarted works in 1867<sup>51</sup>. He was also involved in the commission of Colentina Hospital – whose design project by G. Hartel proved to be wrong- and of Brăila pier<sup>52</sup>.

In 1861 he moved to Brezoianu street no. 43<sup>53</sup>. In the same year he worked together with architect Luigi Lipizer in the reparation works of Filantropia Hospital<sup>54</sup>. The next year we find him doing reparation works at Cotroceni Palace

<sup>41</sup> Official Monitor of Romania (O.M.R.), no. 101, 7/19 May 1878, p. 2731; I thank PhD architect Adrian Crăciunescu for the help in identifying certain information about Tabai.

<sup>42</sup> A.N.R., fund Planuri Ilfov, no. 162.

<sup>43</sup> A.N.R., fund Senat, file 1189, personal testimony; as far as we knew until now the design project belonged to Villacrose and Lipizer, but Tabai was apparently the supervisor of the construction works.

<sup>44</sup> A.N.D.M.B., fund P.M.B. General, file 105/1855.

<sup>45</sup> <http://arhivadearchitettura.ro/arhitecti/gaetano-a-burelly/>.

<sup>46</sup> N. Stoicescu, *Repertoriul bibliografic Moldova*, București, 1974, p. 427.

<sup>47</sup> „Unu cuvîntu două despre siguranța la clădiri” în *Naționalulu I*, p. 266.

<sup>48</sup> <http://arhivadearchitettura.ro/arhitecti/johann-schlatter/>.

<sup>49</sup> <http://arhivadearchitettura.ro/arhitecti/carol-benis/>.

<sup>50</sup> <http://arhivadearchitettura.ro/arhitecti/carol-kuchnovsky/>.

<sup>51</sup> O.M.R., no. 107, 16/28 May 1878, p. 2900.

<sup>52</sup> A.N.R., fund Senat, file 1189.

<sup>53</sup> A.N.D.M.B., fund P.M.B. Tehnic, file 29/1861.

<sup>54</sup> A.N.R., fund M.L.P., file 273/1859.

and in 1866 he designed Dimitrie Petre's house on the corner of Grădina cu Cai street and Belvedere street<sup>55</sup>. Between 1873–1876 he was employed in Brăila City Hall designing various projects for schools, hospitals, bridges and warehouses, road levels, pavements, water supply, pier works<sup>56</sup>. Because of his honesty and professional status he quarrelled with the local workforce and was investigated but later on exonerated by a parliamentary commission led by N. Blaremburg. In 1878 he designed the plans, specifications and costs estimated for primary schools in Biciurești, Titu, Găești, Petrari and Șerbănești in Dâmbovița county<sup>57</sup>.

We have no records after this date and his death year is not known so far.

### Architects Gaudi

The first mention about a member of Gaudi family of architects dates back to the end of Ipsilanti's reign (1793–1797): "Architect Andrei Gaudi, former secretary of the Austrian Consulate in Wallachia was appointed by Ipsilanti in the position of Court architect and he built a church near the princely residence and he repaired mainly bridges and roads by his own design. After Ipsilanti's reign Gaudi, having a good knowledge of the country and being a master of building crafts, was quite useful to the Russian Chief Commanders Michelson and Miloradovici. In the end they were convinced by Gaudi's numerous certificates given by the Austrian generals and they used him in the wars against the Turks and they remained pleased by his work. Gaudi was also useful to the country as he introduced a new species of sheep called Estmark. All these convinced Cușnicov to propose the Divan of Wallachia to pay the wage of Gaudi for the entire period of time after Ipsilanti's reign"<sup>58</sup>.

We do not know the relationship between Andrei Gaudi and the other two George, George de Gaudi and George Gaudi the young. A key document from the archive is Gaudi the young's file<sup>59</sup> for Romanian citizenship dating from 1856–1883: Gaudi the son certified that he had been born in Kronstadt and baptized in Protestant faith but he had given up his Austrian citizenship in 1841. We have not managed to find out any other personal data about their families. It might be possible that they had other relatives in Wallachia as Anton Hefft, upon his leave in 1853, recommended his translator, O. de Gaudi. We suppose that he was the same person as the Gaudi mentioned in March 1840 as the French translator of the Organic Regulation for which he was paid 100 in gold<sup>60</sup>.

George de Gaudi (the elder) worked together with architect Johann Schlatter reconstructing monasteries and with architect Anton Hefft at the National Theater,

<sup>55</sup> A.N.D.M.B., fund P.M.B. Tehnic, file 10/1866.

<sup>56</sup> A.N.R., fund Senat, file 1189.

<sup>57</sup> O.M.R., no. 137, 22 June/ 4 July 1878, p. 3709.

<sup>58</sup> *Analele Academiei Române. Memoriile Secțiunii Istorice. Seria 2. Tomul 32: 1909–1910*, quotation communicated by Tudor Marius.

<sup>59</sup> A.N.R., fund Senat, file 1982.

<sup>60</sup> *Analele Parlamentare*, tomul VI, partea I, 1835-1836.

taking over the building and its repairing needs. As we mentioned before, both father and son appear in the documents of the Interior Departement. Based on the archive research we managed to collect a few projects of Gaudi's without being able to make a difference between father and son: in 1851 the repair of the prison in Snagov Monastery, together with Anton Hefft<sup>61</sup>; in 1852 the draft of the building conditions of barracks and stables for Dorobanti and Călărași units<sup>62</sup>; between 1853–1854 various works at the Police headquarters in Bucharest<sup>63</sup>; in 1853 the supervision and control of the building works of Ploiești hospital<sup>64</sup>; in 1855 the repair of the Police in Bucharest and the construction of a shed, barn and furnace for the firemen<sup>65</sup>.

In April 1858 it was an attempt to move Carol Kuchnowschy, chief architect of Brăila, to Bucharest in order to replace George de Gaudi, but Gaudi refused to be transferred to the port<sup>66</sup>. The last information we managed to identify dates to 1859 and refers to reparation works at Dorobanti Barracks and at the prison's barn in Bucharest<sup>67</sup>. We hope that new researches will bring to light more details about all these personalities and their activity in Wallachia.

<sup>61</sup> A.N.D.M.B., fund P.M.B. General, file 59/1851.

<sup>62</sup> A.N.R., fund M.L.P., file 77/1852.

<sup>63</sup> A.N.R., fund M.L.P., file 97/1852.

<sup>64</sup> A.N.R., fund R.E.A.Z., file 21/1846.

<sup>65</sup> A.N.D.M.B., fund P.M.B. General, file 110/1854, 11th May 1855.

<sup>66</sup> S.J.A.N.B., fund Prefectura, file 24/1858, information sent by Maria Stoica.

<sup>67</sup> A.N.R., fund M.L.P., file 94/1859.

\* “This work was financially supported through the project “Routes of academic excellence in doctoral and post-doctoral research – READ” co-financed through the European Social Fund, by Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007–2013, contract no POSDRU/159/1.5/S/137926.”

Bucarest le  $\frac{9}{17}$  Septembre 1852.  
V. Talamy

Amis mes Sois sote que  
G. P. Talamy

109 Donnull Ministre incredible  
mele consideratiu.  
P. Talamy

Monsieur J. Gardi:

Respect  
 the Excellence  
 Le très humble serviteur  
 Jansouani

Votre Altesse  
 Le très humble et fervent  
 obéissant serviteur  
 Xavier. Wiharsoseg  
 Architecte français

19  
 7 sous 1829.