

DOCUMENTA ROMANIAE HISTORICA, ser. B: ȚARA ROMÂNEASCĂ. Vol. 2: (1501–1525). Compiled by Ștefan Ștefănescu and Olimpia Diaconescu. Bucharest: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1972. lxii, 601 pp. Lei 33.

Rumanian historiography since the late 1940s has been characterized by the systematic publication of documents dealing with all aspects of the political and economic development of the Rumanian principalities and Transylvania, an activity generally performed by scholarly collectives under the direction of the Institute of History of the Rumanian Academy. The present volume belongs to the collection *Documenta Romaniae Historica* (DRH) (1965–), which consists of three series: A: Moldavia, B: Wallachia, and C: Transylvania. The first two, when completed, will stop at 1700 and the third at 1541, on the grounds that after these dates documents are so numerous that specialized collections by theme, such as the two-volume *Documente privind relațiile agrare în veacul al XVIII-lea* (1961–65), are more useful to the researcher. DRH is partly a revision and partly a continuation of *Documenta privind istoria României* (DIR) (26 vols., 1951–57); its editors have made numerous corrections and additions, and (unlike their predecessors) they have published their material not only in Rumanian translation but, when available, in the original as well.

The newest volume of DRH contains 256 documents, an increase of 55 over the comparable volume in DIR. Many have been published for the first time. Of the total, 208 are original (the others are translations or summaries)—all of which are in Slavo-Rumanian except one, the celebrated letter of Neacșu of Cimpulung of June 29 or 30, 1521, the oldest dated text in Rumanian. Documents whose originality is suspect (four) have been placed in an annex. The critical apparatus is admirable. Each document is accompanied by its own bibliography, and there are two exhaustive indexes, one of personal and geographical names, the other of subject matter, and a list of corrected dates of some twenty-five previously published documents.

The value of the present volume consists in the many-sided view it provides of Wallachian realities in the first quarter of the sixteenth century and of Rumanian medieval society generally. It covers the important reigns of Radu cel Mare (1495–1508) and Neagoe Basarab (1512–21), the author of *Invățăturile către fiul său Teodosie*, a book of wise counsel for his son which has been compared to Machiavelli's *Prince*. Most of the documents are grants or confirmations of earlier grants made by the prince to monasteries and individual churchmen and laymen as rewards for loyal service. Generous endowments were also bestowed on monasteries outside the country, particularly Mount Athos, as the Wallachian princes acknowledged their responsibilities to the entire Orthodox community. These documents reveal much about the administration (the attributes of the prince, his chief officials, and the princely council), the economy (the exchange of goods, the circulation of money, various kinds of taxes, and sources of princely income), the administration of justice (the primary role of the prince, the custom of judgment by one's peers), the role of different social classes (*boieri*, *rumâni*, gypsies), and ancient customs, such as *înfrățirea*, by which a family without issue could designate its heirs.

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