

RELAȚIILE ISTORICE DINTRE POPOARELE U.R.S.S. ȘI ROMÂNIA ÎN VEACURILE XV-ÎNCEPUTUL CELUI DE AL XVIII-LEA, vol. 3. (ISTORICHESKIE SVIAZI NARODOV SSSR I RUMYNII V XV-NACHALE XVIII V., vol. 3.) Edited by *A. A. Novosel'sky* and *L. V. Cherep-nin*. Moscow: "Nauka," 1970. 415 pp. 1.72 rubles.

The combined effort of Soviet and Rumanian scholars has produced a third volume of documents on relations between Russia and the Danubian Principalities. It contains 115 documents in the original language, with Russian or Rumanian translations, dated from 1673 to 1711. The earliest pieces include letters to the tsar from the Moldavian and Wallachian hospodars stressing the sufferings of their people under Turkish rule and speaking of their desire to transfer their allegiance to Russia. Two documents (previously published) even go so far as to set forth the conditions under which the Principalities might come under Russian suzerainty. In an attempt to show the comprehensive character of cultural, economic, and political communication between the two peoples the editors have included such varied items as tsarist charters, petitions of merchants, artisans' contracts, customs clearances, and lists of Moldavians and Wallachians in the Russian service. But by far the greatest number of documents are drawn from the secret correspondence between Russian officials and the hospodars, who regularly exchanged political and military information. These letters vividly convey the degree of reliance the Russians placed on the hospodars for military intelligence, support, and advice in their Turkish diplomacy, and even financial assistance to the Russian envoy in Constantinople. Of the previously unpublished documents the most interesting and thoroughly presented are those treating Gheorghe Duca's efforts at diplomatic mediation in the first Turko-Russian war (1677-81) and the special mission undertaken for Russia by the Wallachian resident David Corbea, who negotiated the 1707 treaty between Peter I and Ferencz Rákóczi.

Over two-thirds of the documents belong to the years 1700-1711 and feature questions related to the Great Northern War. Negotiations between Turkey and the advancing Swedish army, the defection of Hetman Mazepa, the pursuit of the Swedes into Moldavia, and the alliance of Peter I and Dimitrie Cantemir on the eve of the Pruth campaign all receive substantial treatment. Hence scholars of Ukrainian, Polish, and Swedish history of this period, as well as Russian and Rumanian specialists, will find this volume useful.

But not all the material is new. Despite the editors' assurances that they have included published items only when they were essential for a complete picture of the period, nearly half the post-1700 documents, and the meatiest of them, have appeared previously either in Sturdza's *Constantin Brancovan prince de Valachie*, volume 3, or *Pis'ma i bumagi Petra Velikogo*. It is helpful, nevertheless, to have them in the original language, together with precise archival notations, a wealth of supplementary data, and thorough cross-referencing in a single easily accessible volume. The generally excellent editorial work is an outstanding feature of the book, although the principle of selection is not altogether clear. The extensive notes by L. E. Semenova include dozens of additional archival documents, which, curiously enough, often far surpass in historical interest the pieces to which they refer.

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