

ACTA TERRAE SEPTEMCASTRENSIS
XVI, 2017

***LUCIAN BLAGA* UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU
FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY, HERITAGE AND PROTESTANT THEOLOGY**

ACTA TERRAE SEPTEMCASTRENSIS

XVI

Chief Editor: Sabin Adrian LUCA

Sibiu, 2017

Chief Editor:

Sabin Adrian LUCA (*Lucian Blaga* Univesity of Sibiu; Brukenthal National Museum, Sibiu; Romania)

Editorial board:**Members:**

Ioan-Aurel POP (Member of the Romanian Academy)

Dumitru PROTASE (Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy)

Janusz K. KOZŁOWSKI (Member of Polish Academy)

Martin WHITE (Sussex University, Brighton, United Kingom)

Krum BAKVAROV (Institute of Archaeology and Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria)

Zeno-Karl PINTER (*Lucian Blaga* Univesity of Sibiu)

Marin CÂRCIUMARU (*Valahia* Univeristy of Târgoviște)

Nicolae URSULESCU (*Al. I. Cuza* University of Iași)

Gheorghe LAZAROVICI (*Lucian Blaga* Univesity of Sibiu)

John NANDRIȘ (*St Cross College*, Oxford, United Kingdom)

Secretary:

Anamaria TUDORIE (*Lucian Blaga* Univesity of Sibiu, Romania)

Starting with 2011 *Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis* is being included in the *SCIPPIO* editorial plarform.

Since 2012 in *EBSCO* database.

Since 2014 in *European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Siencies - ERIH PLUS*.

ISSN 1583-1817 (Print), ISSN 2392-6163 (Online), ISSN-L 1583-1817

Contact adress: *Lucian Blaga* Univeristy of Sibiu, Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, Department of History, Heritage and Protestant Theology, B-dul Victoriei nr. 5-7, 550024, Sibiu, Romania; tel./fax. +4 0268/214468, +40745360883; e-mail: sabinadrian.luca@ulbsibiu.ro; ins.arheologie@ulbsibiu.ro; web: <http://arheologie.ulbsibiu.ro>

Content

Anamaria TUDORIE , <i>New Decorative Morifs Identified on the Starčevo-Criș Pottery from Cristian III (Sibiu County)</i>	7
Sabin Adrian LUCA, Florentin PERIANU, Sergiu CHIDEȘA , <i>Some Details Regarding the Archeological Feature C₂₃ from Turdaș-Luncă Site, Hunedoara County (II). The Preventive Excavations from 2011</i>	21
Laurențiu Marin DOBRE , <i>Underwater Archaeology Military Shipwreck Discovered in the Black Sea – Romania</i>	61
Minodora CÂRCIUMARU, Radu CÂRCIUMARU , <i>An Issue of the Middle Ages: The Moat and the Bulwark of the City of Târgoviște Between History and Patrimony</i>	81

AN ISSUE OF THE MIDDLE AGES: THE MOAT AND BULWARK OF THE CITY OF TÂRGOVIȘTE BETWEEN HISTORY AND PATRIMONY

Minodora CÂRCIUMARU

The National Complex “The Royal Court” of Târgoviște, Romania
minodora.c@gmail.com

Radu CÂRCIUMARU

Valahia University of Târgoviște, Romania
radu.carciumaru@gmail.com

Abstract: *The fortifications dating from the first centuries of existence of this princely court are regarded with a natural reservation entailed by the frailty of documentary mentions and of incomplete archaeological results. Notwithstanding, Târgoviște is a unique model in the urban history of the Romanian Outer-Carpathian area, as it is the only city surrounded by a fortification adapted for firearms. We owe this complex fortification system to Prince Matei Basarab who had Târgoviște surrounded by a moat on the outside, an earthen bulwark with palisades on the inside and four masonry gates. The 12 bastions, used for the deployment of the artillery, were integrated into the bulwark. We have been particularly preoccupied with the history of this monument from its very beginning until today, especially since the administrative measures from the modern and contemporary age, fragmentarily recorded in archive documents, have caused irreparable damage to it.*

Key-words: *fortification, foreign travellers, archive document, urban planning, historical monument.*

The importance of Târgoviște in the Romanian Middle Ages remains undisputed. The capital of Wallachia in one of the strained periods, that of fighting against the Ottoman Empire, reveals itself to us as one of the significant fortified urban centres of the Romanian space.

The issue of fortifications of Târgoviște continues to be discussed in historiography, requiring a multi-level research, taking into account all existing sources, especially since the process of degradation and even disappearance of these structures, on certain sections, is related to the administrative measures taken in modern and contemporary times. Thus, we have been searching for evidence capable of providing an overview of what has been done and what has been destroyed in

order to be able compose the real image of one of the most representative monuments of military architecture from outside of the Carpathian arch.

The foreign travellers' notes bring valuable information in the absence of documents that might be able to confirm or deny the existence of an outer fortification of the city throughout the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries.

We shall start our exposition with the account of Felix Pentacić who, in early 16th century, would make an eloquent description of the fortifications surrounding Târgoviște: *"...făcută inaccesibilă nu prin ziduri sau încinsă de întărituri, ci prin șanțuri, val și metereze întărite pe dinafară doar cu pari ascuțiți și este așezată între mlaștini care o închid, cu păduri mocirloase și bălți, așa că aproape toată regiunea de jur împrejur este de netrecut."* ("... made inaccessible not by walls, nor strengthened by dikes, but by moats, bulwark and ramparts reinforced on the outside only by sharp poles and lying among marshes that enclose it, with muddy forests and swamps, so that almost the entire area is impregnable...") (Călători străini despre țările române 1968, 444). The information, of utmost importance, comes from a broad-minded diplomat, noted for his useful services at the court of King Louis XII of France or that of Sultan Selim I. It is the pillar of the theory according to which the capital of Wallachia, at the dawn of the 16th century, was provided with a fortification made up of a defence moat and palisade.

The next sources regarding the fortifications of Târgoviște raise certain issues of interpretations. Francesco della Valle, who was in the service of the adventurer Aloisio Gritti, travelled through Wallachia twice, in 1532 and 1534, on his way to Transylvania. The description he left is at least surprising, for he claimed that the city was surrounded by stone walls and the courtyard only by thick wooden poles (Călători străini despre țările române 1968, 322). Considering Pentancić's mentions, which are closer in time to the Italian's, we may think of a possible error, an inversion arising from negligence between the description of the court fortifications and those of the city.

Anton Verancsics, as secretary of King John Zápolya, arrived in Wallachia in mid-16th century, mentioning Târgoviște as the country's most important city without fortifications. By drawing a comparison with Moldavia, where, according to Verancsics, fortifications were present only at Suceava, Hotin and Neamț (Călători străini despre țările române 1968, 403-404), we may have an idea about his lack of information on this matter. The entire string of citadels that formed the defence system during the reign of Stephen the Great, which was in the care of his son Petru Rareș, was not therefore sufficiently known to Verancsics.

From the second part of the 16th century, the information regarding the fortifications of Târgoviște is substantially changed. Pierre Lescalopier, a lawyer educated in Paris, chose to travel to the Levant and, on reaching the capital of

Wallachia, he would mention only the large fences surrounding the prince's palace (Călători străini despre țările române 1970, 428).

Franco Sivori, the secretary of Prince Petru Cercel, who can hardly be accused of lack of information, does not mention, in his memorial, the fortifications of the city or at least of the princely court. Furthermore, he provides an explanation from which we can identify the reasons of this situation: "*orașele sunt fără ziduri și nu există nici o cetate, toate fiind dărâmate de turci.*" ("the cities have no walls and there is no citadel, for all have been torn down by the Turks.") (Călători străini despre țările române 1971, 18).

The absence of fortifications is confirmed, in the last quarter of the 16th century, first by Filipo Pigafeta, a military architect known in the epoch through his father, Antonio Pigafeta, Magellan's companion in his journeys. Pigafeta provides an eloquent description of the city: "*Acest oraș foarte mare deschis mai degrabă în chip de sat...*" ("This very large city which is open much like a village...") (Călători străini despre țările române 1971, 550). Corroborating this piece of information by another of his mentions according to which, in the area of Târgoviște, only an army would be enough to block the Turks' access to Transylvania, we can infer that he did not see a city fortification.

Balthasar Walther, who was next to Michael the Brave during his retreat to Transylvania after Călugăreni, basically confirms the previous description: "*Târgoviștea este un oraș mare, dar lipsit de ziduri*" ("Târgoviște is a big city, but without walls") (Papiu Ilarian 1862, 31).

A fortification built in the whirl of events is also mentioned in the writing of the Franciscan missionary Giuseppe Piscullo, who states that, after occupying Târgoviște, Sinan Pasha, the grand vizier of the Empire, raised a palisade, alongside the old one at the prince's palace (Călători străini despre țările române 1971, 630).

Consequently, we may conclude from these journey accounts that the fortification structures surrounding Târgoviște had existed before the middle of the 16th century, as emphasised by Pentaciș's writings included in Thomas Münster's Chronography and by those of Francesco della Vale. For this reason, a tempting hypothesis remains: their demolition at the order of the High Porte, within the context of the establishment of an Ottoman domination regime following the year 1545. Further on, the absence of fortifications in the second part of the 16th century was mentioned by almost all the major works of that time, from Franco Sivori to Balthasar Walther.

The first decades of the 17th century confirm the absence of city fortifications. The writing of the Transylvanian Toma Borsos, who was leading the Principality delegation to Wallachia, reminds us of the Italian Pigafeta's notes: "*Târgoviștea este un oraș deschis, foarte mare*" ("Târgoviște is a very large open city.") (Călători străini despre țările române 1972, 375).

The long reign of Matei Basarab coincides with the construction of the first complete fortifications of Târgoviște City. A testimony from his decade of rule comes to complement the examples related to the inexistence of a chain of city fortifications. Thus, in 1640, the bishop of Gallipoli, Peter Bogdani- Baksiç, arrived in Wallachia at the request of the local Catholic community in order to consecrate the monastery of Târgoviște. He mentioned in his report: “*la citta di Targoviscte, senza mura...*” (Călători străini despre țările române 1973, 213).

The exact date of the erection of the city’s defence system is recorded by Letopisețul Cantacuzinesc: “*Și s-au îndemnat Matei-vodă de au făcut cetatea din Tâgoviște de iznoavă, leatul 7153*” (“And Prince Matei had the city of Târgoviște built once again, in the year 7153.”).” (Cronicari munteni 1961, 155). The meaning of the term *iznoavă* (meaning ‘once again, from the start’) reinforces the theory that the fortifications were raised from scratch – another indication that they no longer existed.

Data on the fortification system of the city are also to be found in two sources dating from Matei Basarab’s last year of reign. Immediately after his wife’s death, in August 1653, upon return to Argeș, the prince was prevented from entering the city by the revolt of the *seimeni* (‘mercenaries’): “*...seimenii i-au închis porțile și i-au ieșit înaintea, la șanțul cel mare, cu toate tunurile, oprind pre domnul lor ca să nu mai între în cetate...*” (“the seimeni closed the gates and came out to meet him at the great ditch, with all the cannons, preventing their prince to enter the city”) (Cronicari munteni, 1961, p. 161). The second source is related to Paul of Aleppo who, along with the Patriarch of Antioch, Macarie, would see a city: “*...înconjurat de o palancă de lemn...*” (“...surrounded by a wooden palisade”) (Călători străini despre țările române 1976, 106).

A confusing stage occurred after Matei Basarab’s death, when the political situation required the partial demolition of the city fortifications. A moment to which we may relate this action regards the anti-Ottoman policy undertaken by Mihnea III in collaboration with the Prince of Transylvania, George II Rákóczi. When Mihnea came into power, he was ordered to burn the walls of Târgoviște (Hurmuzaki 1885, p. 51). Overwhelmed by Turkish forces, he was forced to retreat to Transylvania and the favourite of the Porte, Gheorghe Ghica, took his place. In his turn, the new prince was ordered to destroy the houses of Târgoviște so that there should be no princely seat there, under the mountain. It is hard to believe that this destruction referred to civilian buildings; it rather concerned the demolishment of the city fortifications (Gioglovan 1973, 99-100).

Constantin Brâncoveanu’s age represented a moment that may have proved beneficial to the rebirth of this defence system. However, there is no documentary evidence and only some logic of facts and certain archaeological analogies prompt us to believe that a restoration of the fortifications of Târgoviște occurred during this

period. The accounts of the English clergyman Edmund Chishull, who, in 1702, travelled through Wallachia, confirm what we have said, for he knew about an interdiction the Turks had imposed on Brâncoveanu: "...domnul a primit voie să refacă oraşul cu condiţia să nu ridice întărituri în locul acela..." ("the prince has been allowed to rebuilt the city provided he does not raise ramparts on the spot") (Călători străini despre ţările române 1983, 200).

The definitive abandonment of the city by the lordship, in the first part of the 18th century led, naturally, to the ruination of constructions here. During the last reign of Constantin Mavrocordat, the Turks destroyed everything: "...dărâmand toate întăriturile cetăţii..." ("pulling down all the city's ramparts") (Condurăţeanu 1886, p. 116). Nonetheless, only a few decades later, Franz Josef Sulzer (Sulzer 1781, p. 321), who had come to Wallachia at Prince Alexandru Ipsilanti's order, would notice them in 1781 and deem they must have been built recently, during one of the Russo-Austro-Turkish wars. The good condition in which they were prompts us to think of an intervention on them in that century, perhaps during the flourishing reign of Brâncoveanu.

Several other decades later, against the background of Tudor Vladimirescu's movement, new data on the fortification of Târgovişte emerged. They are provided by a Russian general, Ivan Petrovič Liprandi, who would write from Bucharest in the year 1830: "*Sosind la începutul lui aprilie, la Târgovişte, eterişti au încartiruit o mare parte din oamenii lor în acest oraş...De asemenea ei au început să întărească Târgoviştea şi au înălţat trei bastioane spre sud, aşezate însă fără a se observa vreo regulă de apărare. Şanţul şi valul nu aveau nicaieri adâncimea şi înălţimea cuvenită, aşa încât omul putea sări foarte uşor peste ele*" ("When the Eteria partisans arrived at Târgovişte in early April, they billeted a large part of their men in this city... Furthermore, they started to reinforce Târgovişte and built three bastions to the south, set, though, without any apparent rule of defence. The moat and the bulwark were not deep or high enough, so anyone could easily jump over.") (Documente privind istoria României 1959-1962, 422). One may assume that these data concern the old defence ditch, especially since its existence makes the idea of the Eteria people not trying to use it absurd. The situation related to bastions which seem to have been built on that occasion is less clear, for they apparently did not follow any defence rule and therefore the moat line.

From 1830 to 1845, against the background of a demographic growth, 182 houses were built outside of the moat at the border ("*din şanţu de la margine*"). The magistrate's answer of 1845, preserved until today in an archive stock, reports that those who remained outside the city borders were foreigners who had come here to avoid taxes (Arhivele St. Dâmboviţa 1844). The event points to the fact that towards mid-19th century, the city moat was an efficient demarcation line which had not been trespassed or destroyed. Cezar Bolliac noted the same thing in 1845. While visiting,

he would notice that there had been a fortification with ditches in this place, sheltering a large city, and a fortress inside the city that had defended the princely palace (Moisescu 1979, 33).

Archaeological excavations, which an exhaustive research cannot do without, failed to find the supporting levers to prove the existence of an early city fortification (16th century). Traditionally, it is considered, in both specialised and popularising writings, that in Târgoviște there was, at least in the 15th century, a fortification with a moat and a bulwark, even though the bulwark has not been identified so far (Diaconescu 2010, p. 80). It is, therefore, an assumption which has to do rather with the chain of historical events and it is but natural to think that the prince and the citizens maintained a fortification for such moments of distress, whether it was the Hungarian danger or, later, the Ottoman (Diaconescu, Olteanu, Muscă 2008, 92). For example, “*Cetatea de Lemn*” (‘the wooden citadel’) that Sultan Mehmed II passed by during his campaign in Wallachia, recorded in Tursun-Beg’s chronicle, may have been precisely the fortification of Târgoviște (Guboglu, Mehmet 1966, 67).

Archaeological arguments to prove that the new 17th-century moat was built upon an older one are not supported. A rescue excavation carried out nearly two decades ago, along the Poet Grigore Alexandrescu Street, identified the traces of a ditch dating sometime in the mid-14th century. The same team of archaeologists pleads for its having been put out of use after the construction of the Sf. Nicolae-Andronești Church, hence around 1527 (Diaconescu 2010, 79). According to a general pattern, basic fortifications, such as moat, bulwark or palisade, should be looked for inside the perimeter in which they could effectively protect the settlement (Gheorghiu 2000, 99). The obvious proximity to the Princely Court, roughly 200 metres, entails the question whether or not we are dealing with a court rather than a city fortification. Its westward orientation and the absence of a habitation level until the end of the 14th century highlights the military purpose of this moat, namely to prevent a possible Hungarian attack. Consequently, only excavations carried out on a large surface, which is desirable to happen as soon as possible, may help finally solve this issue.

The fortification built by Matei Basarab in 1645, a year recorded in the country’s chronicle, with the *ispravnic* Diicu Buicescu as the coordinator of works (Ionașcu 1934, 41), defended the city, being buttressed by the high terrace of the Ialomița river with its entire marshland. It has a moat on the outside, an earthen bulwark with palisades on the inside and four masonry gates which are part of the fortification system (Diaconescu 2010, 81). In addition to its defence role, it also functioned as customs and had a sanitary purpose. The present-day location is between Teiș Flag Station, Calea Câmpulung, Colonel Dumitru Băltărețu Street to the north and west, the former Oil Equipment Plant, Radu de la Afumați Street and the former Chindia department store to the south and the high terrace of the Ialomița

to the south-east. Archaeological researches, though incomplete, discard the assumption, which has had important supporters, that the new structure was built on an older one from the 15th-16th centuries (Drăghiceanu 1907, 10).

The semicircular bastions, located outside the fortification, had a similar structure to the bulwark they were part of. They were designed for the emplacement of the artillery. According to measurements, the distance between them was approx. 400 m, and initially there 12 of them (Arhivă Complexul național muzeal Curtea Domneasca 2008). Unfortunately, in the mid-20th century, only 7 could be identified and nowadays we may say that only four can be seen in the field, three of which almost entirely destroyed by the negligence of authorities.

The moat has been entirely archaeologically researched only in the eastern sector; therefore conclusions drawn here are applied to the whole fortification. In this area, the moat had a trapezoidal section 2.5 m deep, a 2-m foundation and the upper part no more than 6 m above the ground level. To make access difficult, the moat had a wooden bed in the lower part. Measured from the moat base to the bulwark coping, the fortification was approx. 8 m high, to which we add the wooden palisade (Diaconescu *et al.* 2008, 98).

The name and location of the Gates continue to give rise to historiographical controversies. The lack of extensive archaeological investigations has channelled the assumptions towards documentary mentions and a few references in modern-day cartography. Therefore, conclusions are incomplete, with unsubstantial interpretations, especially since, of all of the four gates, only two have been systematically investigated, while the other two have been identified during some urbanistic works.

Poarta Bucureștilor ('The Gate of Bucharest') or Poarta Argeșului ('The Gate of Argeș') was unveiled, at level foundation, in 1897, when Bulevardul Gării ('the railway station boulevard') was inaugurated. Relying on information from his own family members, Virgil Drăghiceanu would consider it to be Poarta Argeșului without providing additional data. In a relatively recent synthesis work on mediaeval Târgoviște (Erich, Oproiu 2012, p. 151), this assumption is accepted although there are no new arguments, for the entire argument is based on information provided at the end of the 19th century by the schoolmaster D.P. Condurățeanu, who only mentions, in this area of the Ciocârlan barrier, the gates of an old fortress, without naming it (Condurățeanu 1886, 29). On the other hand, the contestants of this hypothesis state that the entire error was perpetuated from Virgil Drăghiceanu's attempt, in 1897, to topographically identify them, not accurately specifying the cardinal points. Thus, he imagined a Gate of Argeș and moved the Gate of Bucharest towards the south-east, in place of the Poarta Buzăului ('The Gate of Buzău') (Mihăescu, Fruchter 1983, 37).

Sewage works conducted on the present-day Carol I Boulevard, in the vicinity of this Gate, revealed a defence moat, approximately 3 m high and 3 m wide, doubled on the inside by a bulwark of gravel and earth taken from the ditch (Gioglovan 1973 99). It is about here that the information about the Gate, which regardless of its name connected two princely capitals, ends. Archaeological excavations that we would like to be carried out in the neat future could provide minimal and necessary clarifications.

Poarta Dolgopolului și a Argeșului ('The Gate of Dolgopol and Argeș') or simply Poarta Dolgopolului brings two indications regarding historiographical positioning. According to one of the theories, there is only one Gate. In support of it comes an Austrian military map from 1789-1791 in which Drumul Argeșului ('The Road of Argeș') separates from that of Câmpulung beyond the Gate (Mihăescu, Fruchter 1983, 38). On the other hand, arguments can be found in Epistola Tipică or Tipică ('the Typical Epistle') of the Metropolitan Ștefan ot Târgoviște, dated roughly towards the middle of the 17th century, which described a procession of the rain that passed through all the gates of the city. Poarta Argeșului was here seen as separated from that of Dolgopol: "...poarta Argeșului pren a Dolgopolului..." ('...the gate of Argeș through that of Dolgopol...') (Petrescu 1888, 26-27). The Gate was identified and slightly investigated during some sewage works conducted on Calea Câmpulung in 1966. The intervention led by the archaeologist Radu Gioglovan established that it did not have the characteristics of a 15th-16th-century structure, while its technique points to its having been built during Matei Basarab's rule and restored significantly in Constantin Brâncoveanu's times. In the absence of any published material, we are bound to believe these observations, inserted by the above-mentioned archaeologist in a more extensive study on the fortifications of mediaeval Târgoviște (Gioglovan 1973, 101).

The Gate of Buzău or the Gate of Bucharest has been the most studied. Discovered in 1915, it was noted by Virgil Drăghiceanu. He would call it 'of Bucharest' and emphasise that it had the same plan as the Gate near Sf. Vineri Church (Drăghiceanu 1915, 94). The supporters of this theory placed the Gate of Buzău in the area of the current Gimnaziului Street, in a geographically acceptable point, however lacking any documentary archaeological support (Erich, Oproiu 2012, 152).

Systematic archaeological investigations were conducted in the 1988-1989 campaigns and the results were published disparately in several publications in the field. The data obtained contain elements which must be at least mentioned. Some of the most important aspects are the shape of the Gate tower, which is almost square, the finding of the abutment of the drawbridge on the south side and the height of walls, somewhere between 2 and 3 metres. According to this set of data, the

abandonment of the construction occurred late, probably after mid-19th century, which is confirmed by the filling levels (Diaconescu *et al.* 2008, 99-104).

Poarta Vânătorilor ('The Gate of Huntsmen'), the only one which has been fully researched, has no relevance to our study because it is not part of the fortification system of the city of Târgoviște due to its being located on the edge of the high terrace of the Ialomița river. It is worth mentioning that, in the present stage, the lower part of one of the walls of a tower, which has a passage arch, and very small barely defined parts of the lateral wall have been preserved. It is directly connected to the Princely Court, providing the voivode with access, across the Ialomița river, to Dealu Monastery, the princely gardens or the princely "ciutăria" (i.e. a hunting park with deer and stags).

In time, towards the end of the modern age, the moat and bulwark of the city started to raise interest, especially in terms of changing it into a sewerage system. The city administration found that the maintenance of the moat under minimal sanitation conditions was a difficult task, hindered by the abusive enclosing in people's households. The complex issues raised by the urban constructions initiated in late 19th century and early 20th century within the perimeter of the former mediaeval city were not always settled in favour of monuments and according to legal provisions. Furthermore, the building and commissioning, at the end of 1883, of the Titu-Târgoviște railway and of the station outside the city, beyond the mediaeval perimeter, the placement near the station of the industrial buildings related to oil exploitation favoured the expansion of the city in this direction. This led to the destruction, along considerable distances, of the former defence ditch of the city, erected in the 17th century, in order to build the new access roads.

To all this we may add the frequent change of systematisation plans, the absence of a long-range unitary conception, with solid concerns for salvaging and preserving a monument which could have become an emblem of the city of Târgoviște.

Today, the special importance of monuments, as evidence of national identity, for a people's history is more and more emphasised. It is acknowledged that, in certain situations, it is not enough only to protect in order to salvage, if monuments are not yet subject to the actual action of interventions, requiring not only the temporary rescue but also preservation and restoration in order to prolong their life; however, there were circumstances in which many archaeological vestiges (and not only them) had a complicated life or were in danger of falling apart when they could not be protected from the land that had been sheltering them for centuries.

It is true that, throughout the course of their long life, monuments undergo the permanent, slow but destructive action of the elements, violent phenomena that undermine their integrity or endanger their very existence. But, unfortunately, nature's actions are doubled by people's "interventions".

Starting from these considerations and in close connection with the previously provided documentary and archaeological data, we have been particularly interested, as a result of the pioneering archival study, in the authorities' attitude, not only that before the establishment of the communist regime, towards a monument "*care nu s-a păstrat la niciun alt oraș din Muntenia*" ("which has not been preserved in any other city in Muntenia") (Arhiva Institutului Național al Patrimoniului 1925-1945). Known in archive documents as "*Șanțul Cetății Târgoviște*" ("The Moat of Târgoviște Citadel"), it has also preserved this name in the urban collective memory of people here.

The message of a telegram sent by the Secretary General Minister, Prof. Aurel Popa, to the Arsenal Directorate of Târgoviște on October 2nd, 1943, represents a starting point from which we can interpret all measures taken in relation to this monument: "*În conformitate cu legea monumentelor istorice, nimeni nu are voie a se atinge de șanțurile și zidurile cetăților istorice. Vinovații vor fi pedepsiți conform legii amintite.*" ("According to the law of historical monuments, no one is allowed to temper with the ditches and walls of historical cities. The culprits will be punished according to the law mentioned.") (Arhiva Institutului Național al Patrimoniului 1925-1945).

In order to identify the causes that led to the seizure of certain areas of the former defence moat of the City and even to the disappearance of some of its parts, we shall exemplify by providing notes from archives, which show the attitude and position of certain people, institutions that, regrettably, acted even much more efficiently than nature.

The first serious violation recorded by documents leads us to 1934, when the city preceptor, Gheorghe Nițescu, presumed upon his influence and, according to a denunciation made by the mayor, annexed a part of the moat to his household. The City Hall took no action and the Society of Monuments from Bucharest was requested to intervene. Gheorghe Nițescu managed to prove the authorities, based on the sale-purchase act, that this invasion had been undertaken by the former owners; the litigation was settled, which prompts us to believe that that part of the moat remained in his property (Arhiva Institutului Național al Patrimoniului 1925-1945).

A 1943 note from the National Defence Ministry to the Committee of Historical Monuments requests that a part of the City Moat be included in the Army Arsenal, especially since: "*în prezent, acest șanț constituie un deposit de murdărie și focar de moliște...o parte din acest șanț este astupat și s-au construit străzi pe el*" ("at the moment, this moat is a garbage deposit and a pesthole ... a part of this moat is sealed and roads have been built on it") (Arhiva Institutului Național al Patrimoniului 1925-1945). The solutions provided by the army are interesting, for they bound themselves, if they got approval: "*să marcheze locul acestui șanț cu un pavaj de piatră sau beton, pentru a rămâne posterității așa cum s-a procedat în*

străinătate, în incinta cetății din curtea muzeului Luvru, de la Paris sau Curtea Domnească de la Curtea de Argeș.” (“to mark the spot of this moat with a stone or concrete pavement, in order to remain for posterity, as has been done abroad, within the premises of the fortress at Louvre Museum, in Paris, or at Curtea de Argeș Princely Court.” (Arhiva Institutului Național al Patrimoniului 1925-1945).

The Ministry of Culture and National Education directed that a protocol should be signed, on October 5th 1943, by the mayor of the city, the Târgoviște Arsenal director and the delegate of the Târgoviște garrison. They established the inclusion of the City Moat: “*printr-o ulucă înaltă de 2,5 m*” (“by a 2.5-metre high board”) in the Arsenal property. Without accepting this abusive violation of law, the committee required that it should be removed from the property and the monument should be protected by building, on Tudor Vladimirescu Street, a gate with a footbridge over the ditch.

In a 1944 note, the director of the Committee of Historical Monuments would address the Minister of War, after a commission had previously analysed the situation of the City Moat, identifying the fact that the Army Arsenal sought to trespass the old historical defence ditch of the city of Târgoviște. The systematisation plan, approved by the Committee as well, stipulated that the moat be preserved in its present state, between two roadways, forming a belt boulevard of the entire city. Under these circumstances, the Army Arsenal sought to buy a neighbouring property sold by a family that had abusively appropriated, ever since 1922, a part of the city moat. Consequently, the Arsenal was advised not to purchase this land to which they had no right and on which they would uselessly spend a significant amount of money (Arhiva Institutului Național al Patrimoniului 1925-1945).

The few examples provided seem to us to be relevant to illustrating the concern of the institutions in charge for Târgoviște city patrimony along with the attempts of certain private individuals or those of the Târgoviște Army Arsenal to break the law.

The instauration of the communist power was to produce extensive damage to the historical patrimony of the city of Târgoviște and the moat did not remain untouched. Rescue interventions were scarce and it was only in 1972 that declogging and paving works were conducted on certain portions of the moat; these works were extended in order to consolidate Poarta Vânătorilor as well. Later on, Poarta Buzăului/Bucureștilor came to the attention of authorities and in 1988-1989 the foundations of the Gate were moved to another location currently known as “Poarta Bucureștilor” (Arhiva Complexul Național Muzeal Curtea Domnească 2008).

Unfortunately, the inertia regarding the rescue of historical monuments is noticeable even today and the explanations are many and various. The destruction of the moat is complemented by the almost complete abandonment of three of the seven bastions. Bastion 2, located on Valul Cetății (‘City Bulwark’) at the intersection of

Constantin Brâncoveanu Street, was decommissioned in two stages: in 1983, by the placement of the Doicești-Târgoviște district heating pipeline, and in 2001, by the construction of private buildings on the lands allotted by Târgoviște City Hall (Arhiva Complexul Național Muzeal Curtea Domnească 2008).

Bastion 4, located at the intersection of Lt. Pârvan Popescu Street and Calea Câmpulung, was destroyed by the construction of a house, in 2002, built without the approval of the Ministry of Culture and Cults at that time (Arhiva Complexul Național Muzeal Curtea Domnească 2008).

Finally, Bastion 7 located in the immediate vicinity of the Gate of Buzău/Bucharest was removed in the 1990's by the construction of Dâmbovița County Tribunal, and again the destruction of the monument did not get approval from the Ministry of Culture (Arhiva Complexul Național Muzeal Curtea Domnească 2008).

In Lista Monumentelor Istorice ('the List of Historical Monuments'), an authority which provides legal protection to the patrimony, the well-known Șanțul Cetății (City Moat) is listed under the name *Fortificațiile medievale ale orașului Târgoviște* ('Mediaeval fortifications of Târgoviște City') (DB-I-s-A-16953) with the subcomponents Poarta Dealu-Vânătorilor ('Dealu-Vânătorilor Gate') (DB-I-m-A-16953.01), Poarta Câmpulungului ('Gate of Câmpulung') (DB-I-m-A-16953.02), Poarta Buzăului și Brăilei ('Gate of Buzău and Brăila') (DB-I-m-A-16953.03), 7 bastions (DB-I-m-A-16953.04), Șanțul de apărare ('Defence Moat') (DB-I-m-A-16953.05) and Valul Cetății ('City Bulwark') (DB-I-m-A-16953.06). As previously shown, the situation in the field is completely different as regards the Gates and particularly the bastions.

Structurally, the Fortifications fall, according to their nature, under the category of Archaeology Monuments (I), and, in terms of value, are included in Group A, historical monument of national value. However, if their importance is recognised at national level, we wonder why the Fortifications of Târgoviște are not signalled as such with a view to acknowledging and promoting the patrimony. The listing of buildings and designation of historical areas are important as a format step that draws attention to their importance, offering them protection. It is true that, in the course of their long life, monuments undergo the permanent, slow but destructive action of nature's forces, violent phenomena that undermine their integrity or endanger their very existence. But, unfortunately, nature's actions are doubled by human "interventions".

Regardless of their purpose, whether it is utilitarian, aesthetical or purely personal, people's actions are a detriment to the preservation of monuments in terms of their historical value. A concentrated effort is required of each of us to prevent such manifestations. We truly hope that, by learning from the past, we shall be able to correct the present.

REFERENCES

Arhivă Complexul Național Muzeal „Curtea Domnească” 2008	<i>Arhivă Complexul Național Muzeal „Curtea Domnească”, Evaluarea, cercetarea și cartarea siturilor arheologice existente în actualul perimetru al municipiului Târgoviște, Dos. 3843/2008.</i>
Arhiva Institutului Național al Patrimoniului 1925-1945	<i>Arhiva Institutului Național al Patrimoniului, Șanțul fostei Cetăți și Poarta din Târgoviște, Dos. 3398/1925-1945.</i>
Arhivele St. Dâmbovița 1844	<i>Arhivele St. Dâmbovița, fond Primăria Târgoviște, dos. nr. 27/1844.</i>
Călători străini despre țările române 1968	<i>Călători străini despre țările române, vol. I, Ed. Științifică, București, 1968.</i>
Călători străini despre țările române 1970	<i>Călători străini despre țările române, vol. II, Ed. Academiei, București, 1970.</i>
Călători străini despre țările române 1971	<i>Călători străini despre țările române, vol. III, Ed. Academiei, București, 1971.</i>
Călători străini despre țările române 1972	<i>Călători străini despre țările române, vol. IV, Ed. Academiei, București, 1972.</i>
Călători străini despre țările române 1973	<i>Călători străini despre țările române, vol. V, Ed. Academiei, București, 1973.</i>
Călători străini despre țările române 1976	<i>Călători străini despre țările române, vol. VI, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București, 1976.</i>
Călători străini despre țările române 1983	<i>Călători străini despre țările române, vol. VIII, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București, 1983.</i>
Condurățeanu 1886	<i>D. P. Condurățeanu, Geografia județului Dâmbovița, Târgoviște, 1886.</i>
Cronicari munteni 1961	<i>Cronicari munteni, ed. M. Gregorian, vol. I, București, 1961.</i>
Diaconescu et al. 2008	<i>Petru Diaconescu, Gheorghe Olteanu, Tiberiu Muscă, Fortificațiile orașului medieval Târgoviște. Contribuții arheologice, în Historia Urbana, nr. 1-2, 2008, p. 91-113.</i>

Diaconescu 2010	Petru Virgil Diaconescu, <i>Arheologia habitatului urban târgoviștean (secolele XIV-XVIII)</i> , Ed. Cetatea de Scaun, Târgoviște, 2010.
Documente privind istoria României 1959-1962	<i>Documente privind istoria României, Răscoala din 1821</i> , volumul V, București, 1959-1962.
Drăghiceanu 1907	Virgil Drăghiceanu, <i>Monumentele județului Dâmbovița</i> , București, 1907, p. 10.
Drăghiceanu 1915	Virgil Drăghiceanu, <i>Buletinul Comisiei Monumentelor Istorice, Notă</i> , 1915.
Erich, Oproiu 2012	Agnes Erich, Mihai Oproiu, <i>Cultura medievală târgovișteană</i> , Ed. Transversal, Târgoviște, 2012.
Gheorghiu 2000	Teodor Octavian Gheorghiu, <i>Cetățile orașelor. Apărarea urbană în centrul și estul Europei în Evul Mediu</i> , Ed. Simetria, București, 2000.
Gioglovan 1973	Radu Gioglovan, <i>Cetatea Târgoviștei</i> , în <i>Chronica Valachica</i> , 1973, p. 85-105.
Guboglu, Mehmet 1966	Mihail Guboglu, Mustafa Mehmet, <i>Cronici turcești privind țările române</i> , vol. I, Ed. Academiei, București, 1966.
Hurmuzaki 1885	Eudoxiu Hurmuzaki, <i>Documente privitoare la istoria românilor</i> , vol V, Partea I, 1650-1699, București, 1885.
Ionașcu 1934	Ionașcu, I., <i>Biserici, chipuri și documente din Olt</i> , Craiova, 1934.
Mihaescu, Fruchter 1983	Gabriel Mihăescu, Eugen Fruchter, <i>Câte porți avea Târgoviștea? Contribuții la cunoașterea topografiei istorice a orașului medieval</i> , în R.M.M.-M.I.A., 2/1983 p. 37-47.
Moisescu 1979	Cristian Moisescu, <i>Târgoviște. Monumente istorice și de artă</i> , Ed. Meridiane, București, 1979.
Papiu Ilarian 1862	Al. Papiu Ilarian, <i>Tesauru de monumente istorice pentru Romania</i> , Tomul I, București, 1862.
Petrescu 1888	I.D. Petrescu, <i>Târgoviștea. Schițe istorice și topografice</i> , Târgoviște, 1888.
Sulzer 1781	Franz Sulzer, <i>Geschichte des transalpinische Daciens</i> , Viena, 1781.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1. Plan of the city of Târgoviște in the map drawn by D.P. Condurățeanu la 1886.

Fig. 2. Part of the moat of Târgoviște citadel.

Fig. 3. Bastion integrated into the citadel bulwark.

Fig. 4. The 1988-1989 archaeological campaign conducted in the Gate of Bucharest area.

Fig. 5. Sketch from the document regarding the Defence Moat file (INP archive).

Fig. 6. Plan of the city of Târgoviște in 1929.

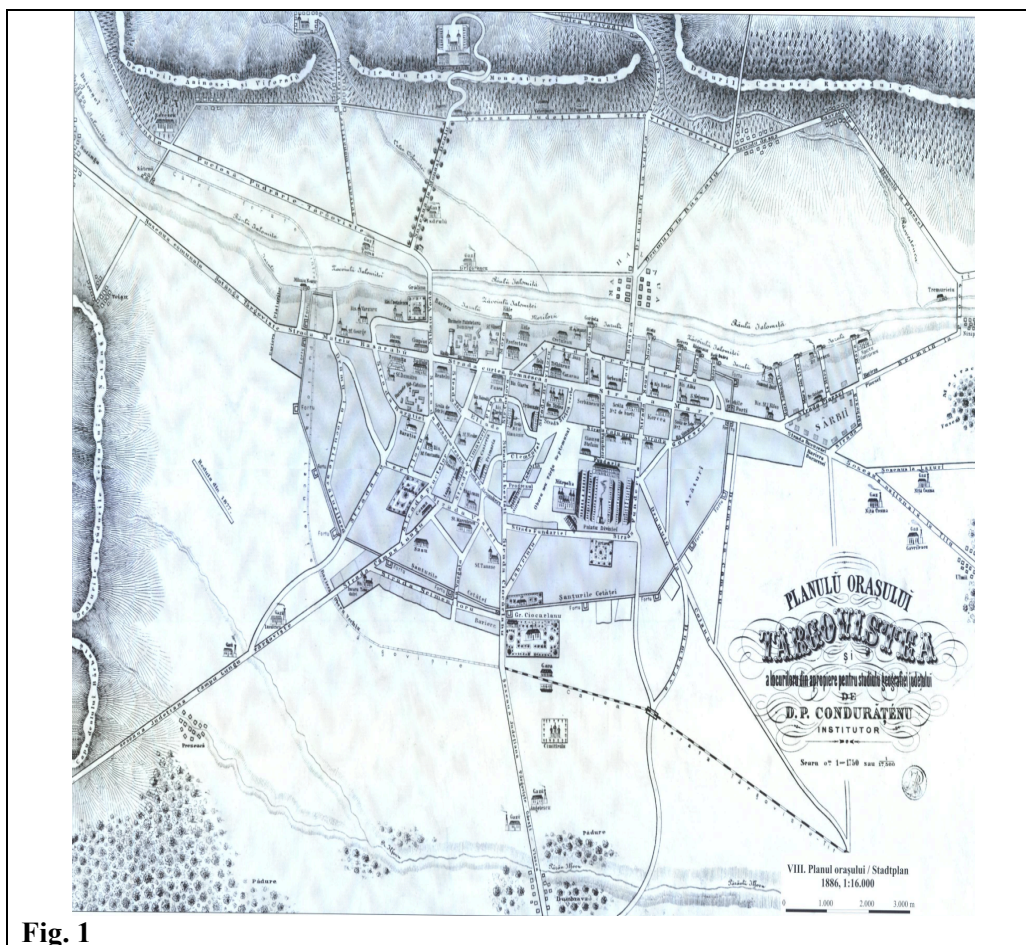


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



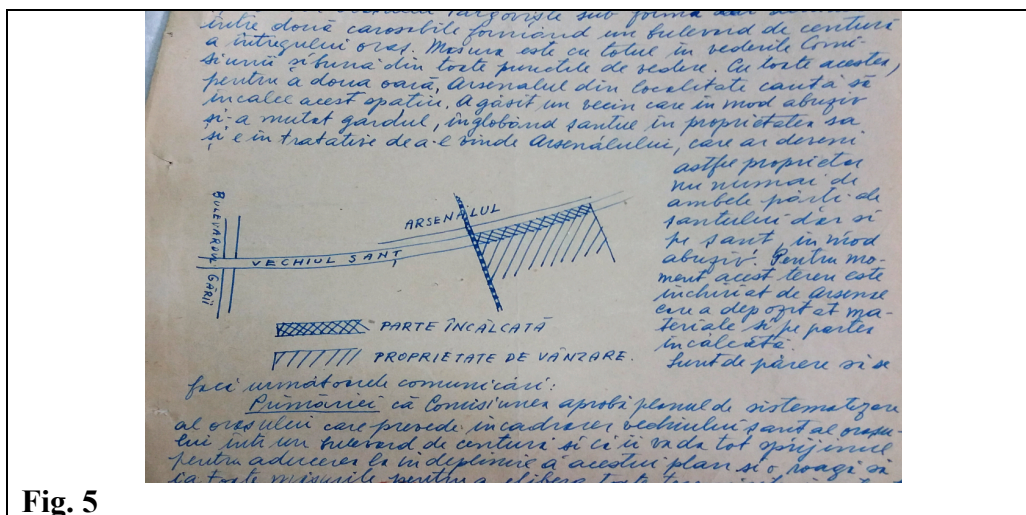


Fig. 5

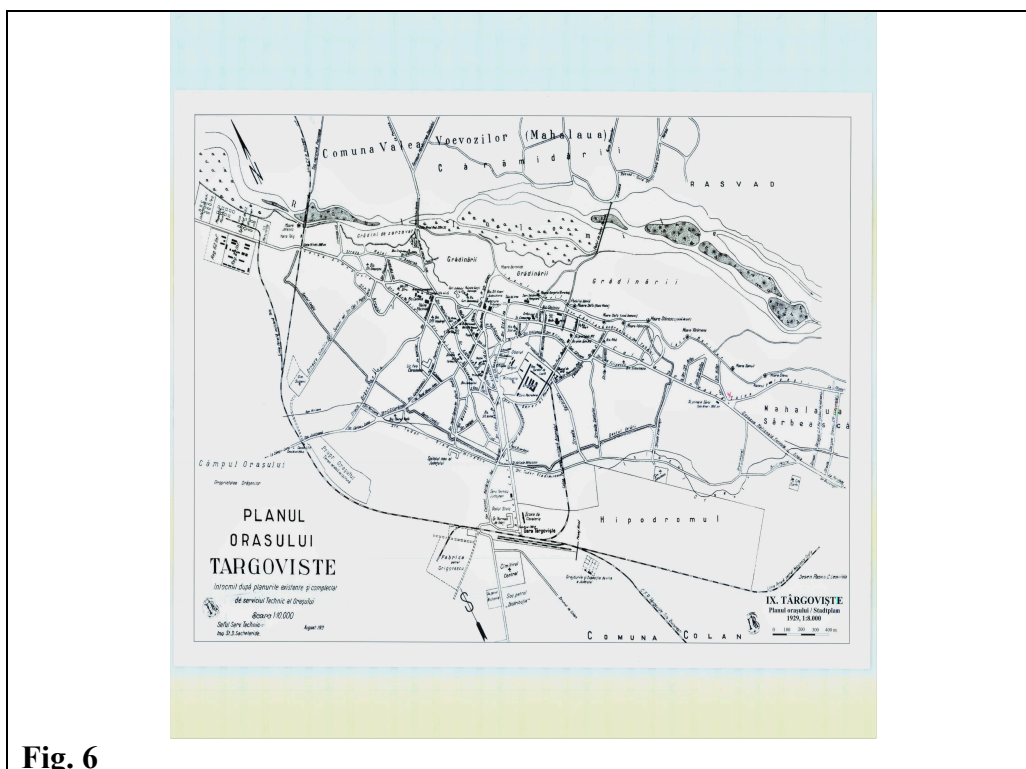


Fig. 6