

## **Aspects of Animal Husbandry and Meat Consumption in Southern Moldova (the Second Half of 18<sup>th</sup> Century) Case Study: Domain of Boyars Conachi**

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**Abstract.** Modern zootechny, one of the important domains of economy with implications on sustainable development and availability of food resources is the result of knowledge accumulation and development over the centuries in terms of general principles, strategies and technologies regarding animal husbandry in the Romanian area.

This paper outlines some aspects of the problem of livestock farming in south Moldova in the second half of the 18th century, presenting as a case study the domain of the great boyar Costachi Conachi and his sons, Constantin, Manolache and Gavril, who was constantly concerned with increasing herds on his lands for export and also for meat production. Another issue discussed in this paper refers to meat supply for domestic consumption of his family and servants. In order to illustrate these aspects we used documentary sources, specific to historical research, such as testimonies of foreign travelers, mentions of chroniclers, but the main material of study consists in unpublished historical documents like household registers calculations, kept by the boyars Conachi, which are found today in the collection of manuscripts from the library of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest.

**Keywords:** animal husbandry, meat consumption, household registers calculations

### INTRODUCTION

Even since ancient times, animal husbandry has been the basic occupation of the inhabitants of the Romanian countries. Climatic conditions and availability of large tracts of uncultivated land (Corivan and Grămadă, 1962; Mihordea, 1968) favoured to raise large numbers of domestic animals in Moldova. They were valued both internally (diet of the population, basic household activities, derivative products, etc.), as well as export products (Lehr, 1960). This is confirmed both by faunal remains found at archaeological sites in Moldova (Bejenaru, 2003, 2006), as well as testimonies of Moldavian chroniclers and foreign travelers who passed through the region. Thus, Prince Dimitrie Cantemir, describing domestic animals in Moldova, in his *Descriptio Moldaviae* (1716), emphasizes the importance of raising sheep for the Moldavian economy, both for domestic consumption and to supply meat to the Ottoman Empire, where thousands of sheep flocks went to for the “Sultan’s kitchen.” Moreover, the “beautiful and strong” Moldavian bulls were appreciated in Central Europe, where thousands of them arrived in through Poland. Some areas in southern Moldova were favourable for raising bulls (“the fattest and noblest”) due to very salty and grassy pastures. Cantemir mentions the bull herds, but only the wild specimens. Pigs were raised on farms, but there were also wild herds in the rich forests of Moldova. As far as horses are concerned, except wild horses, the specimens raised in the lowlands are “larger, nobler, renowned for the

harmonious beauty of their bodies, speed and resistance and highly praised not only by the Poles and Hungarians, but even the Turks,” hence the interest of all neighbouring countries (Cantemir, 1973).

Among the mentions of foreign travelers referring to raising cattles, the amount and aspect of the animals in Moldova, we use the example of the Austrian explorer Brognard, who, in 1782, noticed that the most common occupation of the Moldovan peasants was breeding cattles (Netta, 1931).

Animal owners had obligations primarily to the State, the monasteries and the boyars enjoying some relief (Grigoras, 1983-1984). In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the number of taxes levied on animals was high, of which the most important were *gorșina* (for sheep and pigs), which was paid in animals or in cash by the number of bovine heads once or twice a year, and *văcăritul*, a cash fee on big cattle (bulls, cows and horses), which was paid by all cattle owners regardless of social status. Additional information about these taxes is found in various sources of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Caproșu and Chiaburu, 2008). In this period there were other taxes on animals such as *sulgiu*, *ialovița*, *boul domnesc*, *cunița*, etc.

At the beginning of the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Romanian export products to the Ottoman Empire were part of tributary obligations, paid in products to an arbitrary value (Oțetea, 1977). Strengthening this monopoly is characterized by measures taken in the years 1751, 1754 (Alexandrescu-Dersca Bulgaru, 1992) and 1761, when the Sultans prohibit the export of livestock and livestock products to other markets, thus encouraging smuggling to Russia and Austria, often encouraged by the ruleship (Georgescu, 1992). Therefore, in 1764 the Sultan commanded the Lords in the Principalities to suppress this illicit trade and to replace it with that of the Ottoman Empire (Guboglu, 1960, 1966).

Regarding the export of animals to central European countries, through Transylvania or Poland in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, we can say that Austria is a commercial partner who is working to boost trade with Moldova (Moga, 1973), where an essential role is played by Brasov (Stoide and Caproșu, 1992). Until the peace of Kuchuk-Kainarji (1774), the trade with Transylvania is weak (Iorga, 1925), as the Habsburg policy towards the products of the Levant is a protectionist one (Boicu, 1986), trying to exclude imports of animals; but domestic needs caused in 1776 to state that this has not led to increased livestock in Transylvania, therefore the customs tariffs on these products decrease (Moga, 1973).

In the new conditions offered by the Kuchuk-Kainarji peace, by the 1774 *hatischerif*, the Ottomans are forced to pay for food supplies from Moldova at the current price, Ottoman traders access in the Principalities being formally prohibited (Veliman, 1986). These provisions mean that the Porte gives up the taxes in products, not the monopoly on supplying Constantinople (Alexandrescu-Dersca Bulgaru, 1992), which now is made by local merchants, like Sandu Panait, who on October 13, 1775, received permission from the ruler to buy 50,000 sheep a year to be taken to Constantinople (Ghibănescu, 1914).

In this general historical context, this paper represents a case study on livestock and meat consumption on the domains of Conachi family, one of the most important in the 18<sup>th</sup> century of Moldova (Păltănea, 2001). We have the first records made in special household registers from Costachi Conachi since 1737. On his land, he grew grain and cattles, which he used to sell. Entries are carried forward by his sons, Constantine, Manolache and Gavril, by means of their qualities, but also by the influence of the related families, Manolache and Gavril Conache, who reached high social positions in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Caproșu, 2010). During this period, cattle breeding, being more profitable than agriculture (Mihordea, 1968), Conachi brothers bought cattle for fattening in all animal markets of Moldova, taking care of their health by buying medicine (Păltănea, 2001). They were in

possession of several estates, most of them located in southern Moldova: Umbrărești, Lărgășani, Țigănești, Bălești, Bozești, Bujorăni, Fundeni, Fâstâci, Frunțești, Cioara, Siret, Lespezi, Strâmba, Visul, Oțelești, Zorleni, Hoginești, and vineyards in Odobesti and Nicorești.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

To conduct this work, we used mainly data on livestock and meat consumption selected from four of the registers made by Conachi boyars. These are now in the funds of the Romanian Academy Library, under quotas A.2977, A.2979, A.2981, A.2982, where were brought in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century from Bărboiu church in Iași (Iorga, 1928). The registers are written in Romanian with Cyrillic characters by more people and include various notes on Conachi household (list of miscellaneous expenses, the amount of meat, grain, wine, mills, notes on the payment of servants hired, borrowed money, debts, etc.). From this amount of information we used data on breeding and sale thereof, chronological data covering the period 1737-1804. These data were combined with the results of archeozoology research undertaken in medieval and premodern sites in Moldova.

In the present study we used the comparative method and statistics. Regarding the comparative method, archeozoology research provides us with important data on livestock and meat consumption in medieval and premodern Western and Central Europe (Audoin-Rouzeau, 1995), which can be compared with those from the Romanian space, and especially in medieval Moldova (Bejenaru, 2003, 2006). Comparison, in this respect, between the two European regions requires a methodological caution, in that faunal material used in archeozoology research provides data especially regarding meat consumption and less livestock for other purposes. We collected in two tables data on the number of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and horses (*Equus caballus*) (Tab. 1) and sheep and goats (*Ovis aries* and *Capra hircus*) (Tab. 2), as they emerge from the mentioned registers. This endeavor has a certain degree of relativity, because: 1) data are not exhaustive (some years from the range investigated missing from the notes in the registers), 2) manuscripts being damaged in places, some numbers could not be clearly read, 3) there is some ambiguity in the notes made by the Conăchești leading, in some cases, to difficult interpretation of the short notes in these registers.

In the mentioned tables, we took into account species of domestic animals by age and gender. For each domestic animal (cattle, horses, sheep, goats) we have established a first separation by gender (male, female), and separately for those raised for reproduction (e.g. bull), then we tried to simplify the tables by setting two broad categories: adult and young specimens.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Livestock listed in the registers mainly come from the domains Umbrărești (Galati county) and Lărgășani (Vrancea County), that provided the environment for raising animals by means of pastures, meadows, hay, etc. and for renting them to other livestock owners (for four weeks grazing collecting a sum of 5 lei). From register notes it is shown that various types of domestic animals were kept in different rooms according to species (*ceair* for horses, *bivolărie* for bulls and *purcărițe* for pigs).

Counting the animals was regularly done in spring on St. George's Day and in autumn on St. Demetrius' Day, celebrations in the religious calendar coinciding with the

opening and closing of some agro-pastoral cycles (Constantinescu, 1998). Thus, on St. George's Day (April 23), livestock, especially sheep (trimmed and separated from the lambs), were assigned to servants for the summer, closing employment contracts. St. Demetrius' Day (October 26) meant the end of the agricultural year and the beginning of the pastoral year, when cattles were brought in for winter, the rams were left in the flocks, etc.

The registers contain rigorous notes on contracts with the servants appointed to take care of the animals during the year. Since the late '60s of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, counting the animals in the Conăchești household was done separately for each servant encharged (cowboy, horseman, shepherd). They received a payment in products (wages), consisting of a number of animals. In autumn 1742, of 235 big sheep, 7 were given as payment to the servant, as well as four out of 130 rams and sheep; in autumn 1779, a shepherd was paid by four sheep, a goat and two lambs, and in 1782, three out of a hundred sheep represented the reward for the work of a servant. Other household servants (servants, gardeners, apiary men, bakers, coachmen, chefs) received as payment, in turn, in addition to cash and various amounts of grain, products from the animals raised: a number of skins for waistcoats and a quantity of wool.

In the structure of the livestock, there stands a selection of the genders in young animals, both cattle and the sheep and goats, females being held to maturity for reproduction, traction and derivative products (milk, wool), being slaughtered as adults, excluding the sterile or dragged ones. In males, a few were kept for breeding, others were castrated for use in household activities, the rest being slaughtered for consumption. According to the data, *sex-ratio*, both for cattle and for sheep and goats, is unbalanced in favour of females, males being selected probably for slaughter. This is confirmed both by the data provided by the registers (Tab. 1 and Tab. 2) and the archeozoology research (Bejenaru, 2003).

The registers do not address issues in terms of domestic animal breeds, large and small, raised on the estates of the Conachi family. Data on large cattle breeds, as well as those on sheep and goats (Draganescu, 1998) converge to the conclusion that in the Romanian space in medieval and premodern times unimproved breeds were raised (Stan, 1998). Regarding Moldova, the domestic animal species archeozoologically identified for the 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries are cattle (*Bos taurus*), derived from a primitive steppe race with a withers height from 97.5 cm to 129.1 cm maximum, the most common figures being from 110.1 to 112.5 cm; sheep (*Ovis aries*) - average height at withers 66.6 cm; goat (*Capra hircus*) - height at the withers varies between 63 cm in Brăila and 79 cm in Vaslui; pig (*Sus domesticus*) - height at withers was estimated on average at 72.3 cm; horse (*Equus caballus*) - height at the withers ranges from 139.0 to 149.3 cm. Archaeozoology data seem to indicate that cattle height increases from the Middle Ages to modern times, as well as the horses; however, pigs loose some figures, in the case of sheep there are too few data to allow a reliable assessment (Audoin-Rouzeau, 1995).

For the geographical area of the Plateau Barlad and the south, considering the data from the bone remains found at the archaeological sites investigated (Vaslui, Barlad, Bărlălești), cattle represent more than half the number of the livestock, followed by sheep, goats and pigs (Bejenaru, 2003). These data represent a picture offered by the osteological material in terms of meat consumption. Data provided by the registers, including the total number of animals in household Conăchești, plus those for trade, show a different situation in that the number of sheep and goats exceeds that of cattle (Tab. 1 and Tab. 2).

In the case of adult specimens, their counting was done on distinct categories: large cattle, barren cows, pregnant cows, young cows, big bulls, young bulls, big horses, trotter horses (for carriage), trained (or not) horses, sometimes noted on account of different colours

(black, chestnut, gray and dark brown), etc. From the number of horses, the trotters and the backup horses (*pohodnici*) were considered the most valuable.

Tab. 1

Evolution of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and horses (*Equus caballus*) on the domains of the Conachi family (the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century)

Years	Cattle ( <i>Bos taurus</i> )					Horses ( <i>Equus caballus</i> )				Total	
	Cows		Bulls		Breeding	Mares		Horses			
	Adult	Young	Adult	Young		Adult	Young	Adult	Young		
1737 Spring	22	-	20	1	1	5	10*	1	-	60	
1742 Autumn	26	24	26	5	1	-	-	-	-	82	
1743	Spring	30	16	29	25	1	-	-	-	101	
	Autumn	29	15	30	27	2	-	-	-	103	
1745 Spring	-	-	-	-	-	22	29*	10	6	67	
1767 Autumn	160	81**	49	88	2	82	63	52	53	630	
1768 Spring	278**	169	285***	150	8	90	69	40	71	1160	
1770 Spring	261	41	218	78	11	190	51+34*	112	30	1026	
1771	Spring	10	13+9*	22	7	-	88	43	58	33	283
	Autumn	-	-	-	-	-	83	36	67	16	202
1772 Summer	-	-	-	-	-	79	25	58	32	194	
1773 Spring	14	4+8*	10	4	1	75	32	54	44	246	
1774 Spring	26	16	18	13	1	77	47	53	59	310	
1775 Spring	31	13*	-	-	-	82	40	52	40	258	
1776 Spring	37	7+18*	26	6	3	87	25	75	26	310	
1777 Spring	16	-	19	2	1	-	-	-	-	38	
1777 Summer	16	2	19	-	1	-	-	-	-	38	
1778 Spring	17	11	-	18	1	31	20	36	23	157	
1779 Spring	23	8+11*	15	7	3	22	20	28	23	160	
1780 Spring	48	11+20*	50	6	6	32	31	18	20	242	
1781 Spring	21	9	9	24	2	34	30	35	23	187	
1782 Spring	22	15	26	10	2	36	8*+22	38	10	189	
1783 Spring	31	16*+12	48	9	1	45	29*+12	43	10	256	
1784 Spring	-	-	-	-	-	13	10	43	1	67	
1785 Spring	35	11+15*	10	15	2	-	-	-	-	88	
After 1803**** Spring	31	12+16*	48	9	1	20	16	1	6	160	

Notes: \*Young animals regardless of gender; \*\*uncertain total number (damaged manuscript); \*\*\*121 of them being sold; \*\*\*\*undated count.

In the case of sheep and goats, a special category consisted of those called *aplecătoare* (a kind of “nurses”). Also, for the young, the registers highlight different categories of age, noted separately for cows (vines/calves, beef/veal), horses (colt, *strâjnici*=1-2 years old, *trețini*=3 years old), sheep and goat (lamb/lambs, yearling (sheep)/yearling, wadding/wad=1 year old, kids). Castrated animals were listed separately, called beaten (*bătuți*) for rams and returned (*întorși*) for bulls. To give one example, the castration of one young bull was paid with three *parale*. However, undeveloped specimens were differentiated (undeveloped he-goats were called *pârți*) and also the old and sick (“an old and lame ox”).

Tab. 2

Evolution of sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goats (*Capra hircus*) on the domains of the Conachi family  
(the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century)

Years		Sheep ( <i>Ovis aries</i> )				Goats ( <i>Capra hircus</i> )				Total
		Sheep		Rams		Goats		He-goats		
		Adult	Young	Adult	Young	Adult	Young	Adult	Young	
1742	Spring	182	231	24	-	3	-	-	3	443
	Autumn	235	64	24	66	14	1	-	1	405
1743	Spring	214	243	24	49	14	18	-	1	563
	Autumn	261	94	68	50	16	5	1	9	504
1744	Autumn	308 **	177*	83	-	18	17*	5	-	608
1767	Spring	141	149	6	61	52	40	4	16	469
	Autumn	250	66	35	24	60	26	16	18	495
1768	Spring	41	320	17	122	20	82	16	28	646
1769	Autumn	164	26	25	3	78	8	16	11	331
1770	Spring	59	207	25	62	15	74	4	32	478
	Autumn	208	39	27	25	69	19	11	22	420
1771	Spring	40	153	12	56	39	52	11	25	388
	Autumn	133	32	14	12	78	10	17	8	304
1772	Spring	15	206	11	62	13	116	17	34	474
	Autumn	139	51	15	28	62	37	9	25	366
1773	Spring	14	160	12	79	7	109	9	42	432
	Autumn	157	45	27	40	79	30	26	12	416
1774	Spring	12	246	23	91	-	126	25	52	575
	Autumn	165	57	50	27	93	25	34	28	479
1775	Spring	23	262	34	80	5	88	44	56	592
	Autumn	199	63	42	30	86	30	41	31	522
1776	Spring	39	244	35	85	15	120	39	37	614
	Autumn	202	23	30	12	84	19	46	12	428
1777	Spring	28	121	9	52	19	93	45	29	396
	Autumn	111	26	10	30	77	21	43	18	336
1778	Spring	16	132	7	62	20	102	5	34	378
1779	Spring	146	230	21	113	77	75	14	33	709
	Autumn	183	49	12	34	24	10	-	8	320
1780	Spring	240	152	31	130	74	58	7	40	732
	Autumn	363	105	80	76	142	48	31	34	879
1782	Spring	135	104	80	50	125	34	15	37	580
	Autumn	172	48	95	31	120	28	21	28	543
1783	Spring	89	53	45	50	34	28	6	5	310
1784	Spring	82	51	16	30	34	20	5	13	251

Notes: \*Young animals regardless of gender; \*\*plus 363 de oi representing taxes on animals to the state.

Regarding the livestock, a flock of sheep and goats given to a shepherd in the spring of 1782 counted 309 young and adult specimens. In the spring of 1783 another shepherd was given a herd with 310 young and adult specimens. Generally, these are the maximum numbers of animals a shepherd was encharged of.

The registers provide sparse information for other species of animals in the household. In December 1771, we have a count of cattle (18 large female buffalo, of which 8 were calves, four large male buffalos, a bull and four young specimens). At Bujoreni, where there were moors, a place for buffalos is built. Also, in the years 1773-1775, mules are mentioned in small numbers (up to 8), two of which were sold in 1778. Pigs were not deprived of a household, but information about them only appears indirectly (e.g., a servant

received a sum of money to build place for raising pigs on the estate of Bujoreni where there was a swineherd called Grigore).

In terms of the origin of the animals in the Conăchești household, according to the registers, they came from inheritance, dowry (in 1737, Costachi Conachi received dowry from in-laws 52 cattle (cows, oxen, horses), livestock, natural reproduction within the household and shoppings. In the latter case, to cite but one example, in 1777, Costache Conachi divides his cattle among his sons, buying other adult samples instead (oxen, cows and a bull, for which he paid between 16 lei and 70 parale and 20 lei for an ox; 9 lei and 25 parale and 12 lei for a cow and 6 lei for a bull). In the autumn of the same year, out of 111 large sheep 14 were purchased and from 30 yearling 4 were also bought.

Livestock feed in the Conăchești household was provided both from their own sources (hay, oats, sedge) and from feed purchased. Livestock production was subject to weather conditions, which in certain years caused animal starvation by lack of fodder. According to the sources of the period, hard times in this regard were years 1748 (a great snow in March killed a lot of sheep), 1780 (with a harsh winter when cattle died of starvation) and spring of 1793 (no hay led to cattle death by starvation) (Caproșu and Chiaburu, 2008). Regarding the Conăchești household, the data indicate that unlike other parts of Moldova, weather in spring of 1780 did not affect livestock herds, which were comparable with the previous spring, and even higher for cattle (Tab. 1 and Tab. 2). In addition to feed, the registers contain accurate notes about the purchase of salt needed in animal husbandry.

The registers also provide information related to domestic animal care, protected by diseases, both through various traditional remedies (for horses and sheep skin diseases were washed with tobacco lye), and by prayer and religious services dedicated to animal disease defense as shown by other sources of the period (Caproșu and Chiaburu, 2008). To give another example, the registers mention “trimming” young mares on St. George.

Livestock herds suffered losses caused by natural death of young animals, theft, confiscation of occupation troops during the war. Thus, the animal count made twice a year showed missing animals (to name just a few examples, in the spring of 1743, 3 big sheep were missing, 3 bulls in the spring of 1768 count, etc.), which were usually withheld from payment due of the cattle caretakers or were written off as common loss. In 1767, the 5 horses missing from the records of previous years were to be paid by the two horsemen who were responsible for them. Moreover, the spring of 1770 count did not add up large numbers of horses and mares, so the horsemen were changed, having to give account of the missing horses. In the summer of 1772, two horsemen ran with 42 horses. In other cases, when the losses could not be attributed to servants (e.g., animals eaten by wolves), those whose actions caused losses were held guilty (see the case of Ivan *vornic* who sent horsemen to prison in early 1773). In terms of natural loss of animals, they were justified by forwarding the masters the skins of the dead animals (the count of spring 1771 reports the aborted lambs and kids, whose skins (born out) were given by the shepherd to the master). During the Russo-Turkish War of 1768-1774 the livestock decreases, especially cattle and horses (in spring 1768 there was a total of 1160 animals whereas in the spring of 1771 the number drops sharply to a total of 283 copies). Early in the war from 1806-1812, a large number of the sheep and goats of the Conăchești (472 animals) are taken by the Tartars.

The bulk of livestock raised in the household Conăchești, after the tax payment to the state (363 sheep in 1744) and giving some animals (to some officials of the state, monasteries, close relatives or the poor), was exploited by providing meat and meat products for their own household and by selling live animals.

Generally, in terms of livestock meat in the medieval and premodern periods, the average estimates for Western and Central Europe offer figures of 175 kg for a cow, 75 kg for a pig and 16 kg for sheep or goats; beef intake was 60-72% of the global meat consumption, pork 20-34%, sheep 9.4%, the figures varying according to time frame and region of Europe (Audoin-Rouzeau, 1995). As archaeozoology research from the Romanian space converge to the conclusion that class animals in this area did not differ significantly in this historical period, compared with those in Western and Central Europe (Bejenaru, 2003), we believe these data on meat produced from cattle, sheep and goats can be used for Moldova as well. Thus, in the house of Gabriel Conachi for Christmas of 1803 some cattle were slaughtered for consumption by butcher methods highlighted by archaeozoology research (Bejenaru, 2003). All quantities of meat were listed in the registers including exactly how much bones weighed. A bull weighed about 205 kg, of which approximately 183 kg meat. The meat went to the court kitchen from 25 December to 29 December some was given to Gypsy servants of the court, even on Christmas Day, another part to harness the pastrami and sausage production.

Regarding the age of the slaughtered animals, in the settlements from Moldova archaeozoology findings converge towards the idea that most of the animals slaughtered for consumption aged from 4 to 6 years, from 2.5 to 4 years category offered a smaller number of animals for consumption, animals of this age being fully exploited for their secondary products: traction, milk, reproduction. According to archaeozoology data, at least one third of sheep and goats were slaughtered before the age of 1.5 years, most of which lambs up to six months old (Bejenaru, 2003). By gender, males were selected for slaughter at young ages (for cattle up to 2.6 years).

The registers present a large amount of information on meat consumption. In 1742 the Conachi family ate an unidentified number of lambs from spring until Shrove Tuesday. In 1782, from Easter to May were cut 26 lambs and two sheep, a kid and a calf. A large amount of meat was consumed on special events such as feasts (in 1779, at the feast of the half year were cut two cows and a large young bull and three cows were slaughtered for the large feast of one year). If part of the meat for consumption came from the household, another part was bought (turkeys, chickens and clapons). Domestic consumption of milk came from his own farm animals (in 1783, 10 goats were withheld from the boyar court for this purpose).

As far as making money from animals by trade, the 18<sup>th</sup> century is a period in which cattle export to the Ottoman Empire is revived as well as the trade with Central Europe (Murgescu, 1998). The data provided by the registers show that the Conachi family was involved in animal trade. Thus, in March 1771, they sold 20 cows, of which 17 with calves for 257 *lei* and 30 *parale*, and in April a new batch of 207 cattle was sold by a merchant called Iordache Panait for the amount of 2484 *lei*. In the case of sheep and goats, a flock of sheep was sold to the Turks in Izmail in 1785 and in 1778, 33 he-goats were sold by 87 *parale* each.

## CONCLUSION

The present research is primarily a historical perspective on the theme proposed. It is characterized by a degree of novelty, as the stated theme was addressed by historians only in the context of wider issues on agrarian relations, rural economy and social relations between estates owners and peasants.

Secondly, the research has a preliminary character, in the sense of data systematization, which would provide information support for further interdisciplinary research.

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