

PRELIMINARY NOTES ON THE MEDIEVAL STRUCTURES OF TÂRGȘORU VECHI*

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Abstract: The recent archaeological research at the Voivodal Court area has revealed new data regarding the evolution of masonry structures.

Rezumat: Cercetările arheologice recente efectuate în zona Curții Domnești au adus noi precizări referitoare la evoluția structurilor de zid. A fost identificat un nivel de locuire din secolul al XV-lea și s-au conturat clădiri noi precum cea cu absidă (nr. 2), cea rectangulară (nr. 4) sau gârliciul de acces la beci (nr. 3). De asemenea, au fost identificate elemente care să permită redatarea unor structuri, cum este cea rectangulară (nr. 4) din secolul al XIX-lea în secolul al XVI-lea.

The ongoing project regarding the volumetric reconstruction of the buildings of Turnu monastery (cells and abbot house) on their former location (project carried out by architect C. Hoinărescu) has again drawn archaeological attention to this area of sector “B” of the Archaeological Reservation of Târgșoru Vechi, Prahova County. The interest was particularly higher given the very brief nature of the published results of the archaeological excavations carried out by N. Constantinescu in the 1960’s.¹ It was on the occasion of that research campaign that the foundations of the “Voivodal Houses” and those of the monastery cells were identified.

Hence, resumption of the archaeological research in this particular sector of the Reservation after almost 40 years was intended to complete the excavation of the area affected by the building project and to recover some unpublished information about the constructions identified in the former excavations.

The first research in the Voivodal Court area began in 1959, being carried out by N. Constantinescu. It was continued till 1964 whereas, starting the following year, N. Constantinescu who was in charge focused on the archaeological excavations in Târgoviște that had already been started in 1961.

The outcome of his observations was published in a short article in 1969, where the author, N. Constantinescu, suggested a separation of the evolution of the buildings in the Voivodal Court into five phases, which we will briefly present below.

The first phase was about the foundations of the Voivodal House, seen as a rectangular building, erected in front of the first enclosure wall. The latter was allegedly built in the 16th century, most probably under Neagoe Basarab, a time when data regarding a Voivodal Court in Târgșoru Vechi start to appear.

The second phase, dated back to the 17th century, was marked by the construction of Antonie Voivod’s church. The buildings next to the gate tower are dated back to the same time and the edifice on the west side appeared as well. The Voivodal House was subject to change and was transformed into an abbot house.

The third stage, i.e. the beginning of the 18th century, meant the construction of the second enclosure wall, as well as a structure with a gutter, thought to be a granary or kitchen. Mention is made of a circular structure, belonging to this phase as well, located in the middle of the first enclosure, which is assumed to have been a fountain. Recent excavations showed that this particular building was identified only, yet it was not entirely researched by N. Constantinescu.

The fourth phase, dated back to the second half of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, was characterized by modifications of the abbot house and by a frontal addition of a porch to the construction on the west side of the first enclosure.

* The present contribution is based on the paper *Considerații privind curtea medievală de la Târgșoru Vechi* [*Considerations regarding the medieval court of Târgșoru Vechi*] given at the Symposium ARA/11, 2011.

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¹ Constantinescu 1969.