

OLD AND NEW ARISTOCRATS: GENESIS OF ROMANIAN ELITES

GREAT HIGH-OFFICIALS AMONG THE GLOGOVEANU BOYARS

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Abstract: In this article the author presents the dignities and offices held by the Glogoveni boyars over time. Some members of this family continued to participate in the life of the country after 1482. They have met numerous officials and functions as Cerneți captain, same district of Gorj, Mehedinți, Vâlcea and Scăieni the Court of Appeal Craiova judge, prefect of Gorj, Ilfov senator. All these officials and functions they fulfill in the political and social, for nobles accounted Glogoveni not just a means of enrichment, but gave them a certain prestige and authority in society in relation with the general population.

Keywords: boyar, high-dignities, judge, social classes.

The role of the social classes constituted and still constitutes a constant preoccupation of the Romanian historiography due to the special importance that the influence of the aspects regarding the birth, the evolution, the relations and the interactions; the place and the role in the society and their disappearance was determined because of the entire historic process that took place in a specific temporal space and horizon. In a society, the attention paid to the leading classes it is natural to appear, they were those that were playing an important part in the historic evolution of different people and nations. For the Romanians, the leading class was, as far back as in the period that the feudal states had been founded, the nobility (boyars) who exercised the leading role for almost seven centuries, until its institutional abolishing. As dominant class, it was different from most of the population, not only through the possession of land and the high-offices and also through an entire system

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of privileges that was useful in the same time for some of its essential interests and fixed a limit of definite democracy between the two fundamental sections of the medieval society: the privileged and non-privileged people. The boyars were the lords of the estates exploited with the help of the dependent peasants, having the privileged statute and who, owning the monopole of the high-offices, dominated the state's life¹.

In our case, we shall prove a special interest for the study of the boyars' evolution from Oltenia, representative component of the entire Romanian boyars. The owning of the estate was the primordial factor that determined the situation of the boyar in the social life and in the state. The land, the dependent peasants and the bonds men didn't represent only the economic base of their social position but it also opened their way for the political affirmation and high-offices.

The great boyar families from Oltenia, very old ones that contributed to the development of the Romanian society and played an important part in our country's history were: Argetoianu, Băleanu, Bengescu, Brăiloiu, Fărcășanu, Glogoveanu, Otetelișeanu, Poienaru, Obedeanu etc². They represented the category of the great boyars and first rank boyars and they represented a small group of great landowners and great high-officers (*dregători*), closely related, with an obvious restrictive tendency: "we, who belong to the first class families, are in blood or in-law related and we are merely able to marry among each other"³.

A special position owned, as far as for the beginning of their attestation, in 1405, the Glogoveanu boyar family.

In 1690, the Hungarian Imre Tököly unleashed an anti-Habsburg rebellion in Transylvania. He began the talks with the Turks and with Brâncoveanu, succeeding in proclaiming him the king of Hungary. He managed to keep the throne only a short period of time because the Habsburgs, who took action, determined him to leave the country and to retreat in the south of the Carpathians. Here, along with his troops of Kurucs, started to plunder Oltenia, taking prisoner the captain of Cerneți, Necula Glogoveanu. Under these circumstances, the ruler ordered few of

¹ Șerban Papacostea, *Oltenia sub stăpânire austriacă (1718-1739)*, Bucharest, Editura Enciclopedică, 1998, p. 147.

² *Ibid.*, p. 162.

³ Nicolae Iorga, *Studii și documente cu privire la istoria românilor*, vol. IV, Bucharest, 1904, p. 490.

his captains to defend the population from these predators. Necula Glogoveanu was released by the vizier Mustafa the pasha Chiupruliogu⁴.

In 1716, between Austria and the Ottoman Empire broke out a new war, being carried on mostly on Wallachia's territory. In the same year, Matei and Mihai Glogoveanu, along with other boyars from Oltenia, taking chance of the unleashing of this war in which they identified the possibility to remove the Phanariot ruler who had declared his wish to supreme the country's army, rose in rebellion. In order to win, they appealed to the commander of the Austrian troops, Eugene of Savoy. With these solders and with the troops they had, the boyars defeated the army of Mavrocordat at Bengești in Gorj in 1716. The ruler, hoping to hinder the extending of the boyars' movement, arrested few of its leaders. Instead of ending this rebellion, Mavrocordat amplified it, because the boyars managed to gather more and more sustainers. They succeeded to arrest, on November 14th 1716, the ruler Nicolae Mavrocordat and to commit him to the Habsburg authorities⁵. The Russo-Austrian-Turkish war ended in 1718 with the Passarowitz Treaty (July 21st 1718), when Oltenia passed under the Ottoman and Habsburg domination. The new possessors gave, through imperial decree, the administration of the province to a central body, The Administration, with the residence in Craiova, made of four councillors under the authority of a ban or president who coordinated and supervised the entire fiscal process, from the drawing up of the censuses to the repartition and the raising of the taxes imposed to the population. The activity of this administrative body had been controlled by an Austrian commander with the residence in Sibiu, who later became the supreme director of Oltenia (Principatus Valachiae Supremus Director). In the first years of occupation, the ban and the four councillors had been appointed among the great native boyars. After 1722, the ban and later one of the councillor were Germans. Among the 4 councillors that were in that administrative body during 1731-1732, was also Matei Glogoveanu. In 1731, he had been proposed to the emperor to fill the position of imperial councillor, function that he obtained on May 26th 1732⁶. After his death on December 16th 1732, his

⁴ I. C. Chițimia, "Mehedinți, oameni și întâmplări în vechi relatări românești", in *Mehedinți. Cultură și civilizație*, vol. IV, 1982, p. 30.

⁵ Constantin V. Obedeau, "Petrahe Obedeau", in *Arhivele Olteniei*, year VI, 1927, no. 29-30, pp. 41-46.

⁶ Radu Crețeanu, "Biserica din Glogova", in *Mitropolia Olteniei*, year VIII, 1956, no. 6-7, p. 362.

place was taken by J. V. Viechtern⁷. For their duties, the ban and the councillors received a wage that varied from 1000 florins (the councillors) to 6000 florins (the ban)⁸. In his quality of councillor of the Administration, on November 16th 1732, Matei Glogoveanu, along with his other colleagues H. Baron Dietrich (president), I W Vogt, G. Vlasto and Ștefan Pârșcoveanu, acquitted the Father Superior from the Bistrița monastery that Vales, who had been appointed by the Austrians to lead in Oltenia, decided that this monastery should have ten families “arrived from the Tatars’ territories” that would be exempted from taxes for three years and in the next years they would pay only 5 florins⁹.

The Romanian Principalities had the same faith in 1787 when a new war broke out between Russia, Austria and Turkey, most of it also upheld on the territory of the Romanian Principalities. Important battles were fought in the mountain area and on the Valea Jiului¹⁰. Proceeding to the counter-offensive, the Austrians obtained in 1789 numerous victories at Căineni and Calafat, they actions finishing with the occupation, at the end of October and the beginning of November, of the city Craiova¹¹. The Austrian occupation in Oltenia, province that they had also possessed during 1718-1739, lasted until August 1791. During all this time, the occupation Austrian troops acted to obtain from the local population important incomes that would allow the continuing of the anti-Ottoman military operations. They entrusted the administration of the region to a Divan made of great boyars with pro-Habsburg affinities, among which was the *stolnic* (High Steward) Ioniță Glogoveanu¹². The members of this Divan received a salary of 50-200 lei per month¹³.

⁷ Constantin Giurescu, *Material pentru istoria Olteniei supt austrieci*, vol. I, Bucharest, 1913, p. 535; Șerban Papacostea, *Oltenia*, pp. 252-253.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 262.

⁹ *Documente privind relațiile agrare în secolul al XVIII-lea*, vol. I. Țara Românească (editorial staff Vasile Mihoștea, Șerban Papacostea, Florin Constantiniu), Bucharest, Editura Academiei Române, 1961, pp.335-336

¹⁰ V. A. Urechia, *Istoria românilor*, vol. III, Bucharest, 1892, pp. 222-226; Dionisie Eclesiarhul, *Cronograful Țerii Rumânești (1764-1815)*, edition by C. S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor, Râmnicu Vâlcea, 1934, pp. 27-64; Nicolae Stoica de Hațeg, *Cronica Banatului*, edition by D. Mioc, Bucharest, Editura Academiei Române, 1969, pp. 274-279.

¹¹ Constantin C. Giurescu, *Istoria românilor*, vol. III, part I, Bucharest, 1942, pp. 299-301.

¹² Mihai Popescu, “Contribuția Olteniei la războiul ruso-austro-turc dintre anii 1787-1792”, in *Arhivele Olteniei*, year IX, 1930, no. 51-52, pp. 306-309; Virgil Joița, “Unele aspecte privind stăpânirea austriacă în Oltenia (1787-1791)”, in *Analele Universității din Craiova*, *Series History, Geography, Philology*, year I, 1972, p. 63.

¹³ Nicolae Iorga, *Studii și documente*, vol. VIII, Bucharest, 1906, p. 107.

The Glogoveanu boyars also practiced the function of *ispravnic* (subprefect) in different capitals of diverse districts.

The first member of the Glogoveanu family who filled the position of *ispravnic* was Matei. He was, first in 1719, *ispravnic* of Gorj along Barbu Rioșeanu, Matei Bălăcescu and Constantin Alboiu¹⁴, and then in 1727 of Mehedinți¹⁵. His son Ioniță had the same function. He was appointed in 1768 *ispravnic* of Gorj along with the *biv vel serdar* (great cavalry commander) Scarlat Drăgănescu, the *vel spătar* (great sword bearer) Barbu Poenaru and the *vel sluger* (great purveyor) Ștefan Crăsnaru¹⁶. He filled this position several times: in 1779¹⁷, 1785¹⁸. Seven years after the first time he had held the *ispravnic* of Gorj position, Ioniță was appointed, in 1775, *ispravnic* of another district from Oltenia: Mehedinți. Nicolae Glogoveanu had as well the *dregătorie* (high-dignity) of *ispravnic* from several districts: Săcui (1807)¹⁹, Mehedinți (1810²⁰, January 1821²¹, December 1822-1823²², 1826²³), Vâlcea (appointed in this function on July the 15th 1811²⁴). This Nicolae Glogoveanu was in 1820 member of the Craiova's Divan too. In this quality, on December 8th 1820, he sentenced the affair between the *cavafi* (shoemaker

¹⁴ Alexandru Ștefulescu, *Încercare asupra istoriei Târgu Jiului*, Bucharest, 1809, p. 106; Idem, *Gorjul istoric și pitoresc*, Târgu Jiu, 1904, p. LII.

¹⁵ *Dicționarul enciclopedic al județului Mehedinți* (coord. Ileana Romana, Tudor Rățoi), Drobeta Turnu Severin, Editura Prier, 2003, p. 193; I. C. Filitti, "Banul Olteniei și Craioveștii", in *Arhivele Olteniei*, year XI, 1932, no. 63-64, p. 342; Dumitru Z. Furnică, *Din istoria comerțului la români mai ales băcănia*, Bucharest, 1908, p. 227.

¹⁶ Alexandru Ștefulescu, *Gorjul istoric și pitoresc*, p. LII.

¹⁷ Idem, *Încercare asupra istoriei Târgu Jiului*, p. 138.

¹⁸ C. A. Protopopescu, *Studii și articole din istoria județelor Mehedinți și Gorj*, vol. I, p. 128.

¹⁹ SJAN Dolj, *The Collection Documents*, stock XCII, file 3/1812, f. 1.

²⁰ Radu Rosetti, "Arhiva senatorilor de la Chișinău și ocupația rusească de la 1806-1812", in *Analele Academiei Române. Memoriile Secțiunii Istorice*, vol. XXXII, 1909-1910, pp. 283-284.

²¹ SJAN Dolj, *The Collection Documents*, stock XVIII, file 8/1821, f. 1; Ion Dârzeanu, *Cronica revoluției din 1821*, in Nicolae Iorga, *Izvoarele contemporane asupra mișcării lui Tudor Vladimirescu*, Bucharest, 1921, p. 15-16; I. Neacșu, *Lista cu numele pandurilor și căpitanilor lor care au participat la răscoală sub conducerea lui Tudor Vladimirescu (componenta lor socială, completată cu date biografice) și un extras statistic nominal cu componenta socială a 16 căpitani de panduri*, in "Studii și materiale de istorie modernă", vol. I, p. 394.

²² SJAN Dolj, *The Collection Documents*, stock XCII, file 21/1822, f. 1.

²³ Emil Vârtosu, *Tudor Vladimirescu. Glose, fapte și documente noi*, Bucharest, 1927, pp. 152-153.

²⁴ I. Popescu-Cilieni, *Biserici, târguri și sate din județul Vâlcea*, Craiova, 1941, p. 134, 138; Corneliu Tamaș, Smarand Tana, *Județul Vâlcea și prefectii lui*, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Editura Conphys, 2004, p. 72.

merchants) and the *abagii* (the producers and sellers of dreadnought) from Craiova. The motif of this trial was the infringement by the *abagii* of the agreement established between the merchants, according to which they were allowed to sell only the products from their ateliers (clothes) and not shoes²⁵.

The *ispravnic* position in Plasa de Mijloc from the Mehedinți District that spread out from Bala and Crainici to Batoți and Hinova, was occupied in 1727 by another representative of the Glogoveanu family: Staico²⁶.

Another function filled by the Glogoveanu boyars, was that of *caimacam* (deputy of a high official) of Craiova (1797) by Ioniță²⁷.

After the defeating of the Wallachian uprising of 1821, most of the boyars from Oltenia emerged from isolation and involved themselves in the public life of the society. The manifestation background is offered by the social-politic evolutions from this period: the replacement of the Phanariot regime with that of the local rulers and the modernization measures from the period of the Organic Regulation. It was noticed first of all the more and more obvious interest of the boyars for the filling and exercising of public functions and dignities in the administration, justice and army.

The restoring of the local ruling, equivalent with the establishment of a new regime, was followed by important changes in the social configuration of the Pricipalities. From the dominant politic class' structure was eliminated the Phanariot ruling group, the factor of the entire social evil that had been settled in the 18th century.

In only few decades, as the historians Cornel I. Scafeș and Vladimir Zodian mentioned, the state's power had gone almost entirely to the great boyars, to the high officials²⁸ who had also taken the traditional relations derived from the leading class's privileges of the political and personal

²⁵ *Meșteșugari și neguțători din trecutul Craiovei. Documente (1666-1865)*, Bucharest, 1957, pp. 121-122.

²⁶ Nicolae Chipurici, "Județul Mehedinți într-o conscripție de la începutul secolului al XVIII-lea", in *Drobeta*, 1978, p. 137.

²⁷ Ioan C. Filitti, "Banii și caimacamii Craiovei", in *Arhivele Olteniei*, year III, 1924, no. 13, p. 215; Theodora Rădulescu, "Sfatul domnesc și alți mulți dregători ai Țării Românești din secolul al XVIII-lea. Liste cronologice și cursus honorum", in *Revista Arhivelor*, year XLXI, vol. XXXIV, 1972, no. 2-4, p. 300, 443, 681; Șerban Papacostea, *Oltenia*, p. 251, 253.

²⁸ Cornel I. Scafeș, Vladimir Zodian, *Grigore al IV-lea Ghica (1822-1828)*, Bucharest, Editura Militară, 1986, p. 146.

clientage, the unilateral attitude in solving the social problems, the diplomacy of equilibrium between the neighboring empires etc.

In order to attract in the *dregatorii* (high-dignities) and the public functions, with a high degree of responsibility, the competent small-boyars and boyars, the ruler Grigore Ghica the 4th rewarded the most deserving of them. Yet, the possibilities of public manifestation of the aristocracy from Oltenia, were limited during 1822-1828, because of the prudent policy of the ruler in these fields.

The putting into force of the Organic Regulation coincided with the increasing of the number of functions and public dignities. In Oltenia only, from the 70-80 high-dignities from the time of Grigorie the 4th Ghica, in the regulations' period their number growing to almost 175 and the boyars' families, through one or several members, succeeded in controlling the public life. Not only the inferior rank boyars and small-boyars had been attracted by the new high-dignities and even the old families of aristocrats, with predecessors from the era of the Romanian states' genesis (Glogoveanu, Poenaru, Părăianu, etc). Under the provisions of the Regulation, beside the administrative institutions, the judiciary ones created numerous functions. That time had been founded law courts in the capital of every district (courts) with 7-8 jobs each (presidents, judges, *mădulari* or *cileni* (members of a court), prosecutors, court's clerks, registering clerks) and other few institutions with zonal character (e.g. The Civil Divan, The Crimes' Divan, The Commerce Court, all at Craiova, with over 27 jobs)²⁹. In such institutions functioned the members of almost all the wealthy families from Oltenia (with the domicile in Craiova too), among which there was the Glogoveanu family as well. Thus, during 1831-1847, one of the members of this aristocratic family, the equerry Constantin Glogoveanu was among the magistrates of the Crimes' Divan from Craiova³⁰. In his quality of judge of the Court of Appeal from Craiova (had been created in 1849, after the transforming of the civil and crimes' Divan), he was together with other two colleagues of his, Ștefan Prisăceanu and Hr. Marghiloman, who in 1858, sentenced the process filed by several landlords and leaseholders, among which the *serdar* Ghiță Burileanu and the *serdar* Pană Gărdăreanu, the *pitar* (baker) Nicolae Bălțeanu, Manolache Mănăstriceanu, Gheorghe Popescu, Dimitrie Burileanu, Matei Vasile Papadopulo, D. Ghiorghiu, G. Cazan,

²⁹ Ilie I. Vulpe, *Divanul Craiovei*, Craiova, Editura Scrisul Românesc, 2002, p. 9 sq.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 251.

Apostol Nicolau, to the leaders of the rebellion from the winter of 1853-1854³¹.

Other functions occupied by the representatives of the same wealthy boyars from Oltenia, were the public ones, as those created also in the regulations' period, by the quarantine offices' directors, the financial and districts' secretaries, the frontier *cinovnici* (inferior rank clerks), presidents of the towns' councils (the thoroughfares), policemen from the cities, teachers, lawyers who had practiced or had studied in the West. Among the lawyers who studied in the West, is Nicolae Glogoveanu too. He had graduated the courses of the Law Faculty from Paris, before 1875 as long as on February the 12th the same year, he asked to be enrolled as a lawyer in the Dolj Bar Association, as probationer³². The same quality, of advocate going through his probation, he also had in 1876, 1877³³. On June 9th 1876, he was among the members of the Dolj Court, the commercial section, who sentenced the trial between I. I. Melleu and Ioan G. Vorvoreanu. The motive of the trial was a debt in money that the first should have received from the second³⁴.

Graduate of the same law faculty was Ion Glogoveanu (1897) too³⁵. He took part first in the Dolj Bar Association, asking on April 9th 1899 to be moved at that from Ilfov³⁶.

The president function of Craiova's thoroughfare was occupied in 1850 by the great agha Constantin Glogoveanu³⁷.

A special domain, in this period of the Romanian public life, is the political one, grown on the dispositions of the Organic Regulation regarding the founding and the functioning of the ordinary and extraordinary national assemblies and of the eligible ways to appoint the deputy boyars. Thus, the boyars from Oltenia could participate to the modern representative public life, a step forward as confronted to the not so far past. The election of the deputies was done according to classes: 1st

³¹ Paul Emanoil Barbu, *Acțiuni sociale și politice românești în anii 1853-1854. Documente*, Bucharest, Editura Academiei Române, 2003, p. 342-346.

³² George Mil. Demetrescu, *Istoria baroului Dolj de la 1864-1928*, Craiova, 1928, p. 32, 54.

³³ *Ibid.*, p. 71.

³⁴ SJAN Dolj, Fond Vorvoreanu, file 8/1854-1905, f. 58.

³⁵ *Repere spirituale românești. Un dicționar al personalităților din Dolj*, Craiova, Editura Aius, 2005, p. 153.

³⁶ George Mil. Demetrescu, *Istoria baroului Dolj de la 1864-1928*, Craiova, 1928, p. 324.

³⁷ Mite Măneanu, *Boierii din Oltenia în secolul al XIX-lea*, Drobeta Turnu Severin, Editura TipoRadical, 2007, p. 192.

class had 20 deputies for the entire country³⁸ and the 2nd and 3rd class organized the election separately, in the districts³⁹. Among the deputies elected directly from the 1st class, we discover Costache Glogoveanu⁴⁰. In 1860, he was again proposed by the liberals to run for occupying a place in the Legislative Chamber, but, eventually, Nicolae Opran was elected deputy⁴¹. At the next elections, he succeeded to obtain the number of votes necessary for the entering in the Legislative Assembly⁴². At the beginning of 1871, the same Constantin Glogoveanu was designated to run for the Dolj District, to fill a position of senator or deputy, at the parliamentary elections that were to take place in May-June 1871. Nevertheless, he refused to run and he was replaced by Dimitrie Măinescu. For years later, he would be designated again from the Dolj District to run for a position of deputy or senator⁴³.

After the local elections from the fall of 1889, he was chose by the 1st Board to take part in the Dolj General Council, the son of Constantin Glogoveanu, Nicolae. He was a councilor until 1896⁴⁴.

Another district, in whose political life the Glogoveanu family got involved, was the Gorj District. Therefore, during 1874-1876, Alexandru Glogoveanu was the sub-prefect of the same district⁴⁵.

The Glogoveanu boyars implicated themselves in the political life after 1900 too. So, in 1931-1932, Ion Glogoveanu, member of the Conservator Party, became senator of Ilfov⁴⁶.

All these high-dignities and functions that they had in the political and social life, represented for the Glogoveanu boyars not only a way to get wealthy but it also conferred them a certain prestige and authority in the society concerning their relations with an important part of the population.

³⁸ SANIC, fund Obișnuita Obștească Adunare a Țării Românești, file 156/1837, f. 8-12; file 373/1841, f. 10, dosar 382/1842, f. 3-4.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, file 382/1842, f. 121.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, file 156/1837, f. 8, file 436/1846, f. 4-6; Mite Măneanu, *Boierii*, pp. 61-62.

⁴¹ Luchian C. Deaconu, Otilia E. Gherghe, *De la Alexandru Ioan Cuza la Carol I, Craiova, 1859-1878*, Craiova, Editura Sitech, 2000, p. 157.

⁴² *Ibid.*, p. 153.

⁴³ SJAN Dolj, Dolj District's Prefecture, The Administrative Service, file 3/1875, f. 76-77; Luchian C. Deaconu, Otilia E. Gherghe, *De la Alexandru Ioan Cuza*, p. 191.

⁴⁴ Nicolae Băbălău, Dinică Ciobotea, Ion Zarzără, *Din istoria instituțiilor administrative ale județului Dolj*, Craiova, Editura Sitech, 2004, pp. 124-125.

⁴⁵ Vasile Arimia, Pantelimon Manta, Nicolae Mischie, *Instituțiile județene ale administrației de stat. Prefectura și Consiliul Județean Gorj*, Târgu Jiu, Editura Hermes, 2000, p. 338.

⁴⁶ *Repere spirituale românești. Un dicționar al personalităților din Dolj*, p. 153.