

Historical Aspects of the Hussite Migration in Moldavia for Religious Freedom

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ABSTRACT: The study shows a few issues related to the migration of the Hussite believers during the 15th century due to the lack of religious freedom and religious or economic persecutions they were subjected to in Bohemia and Moravia which were their homeland, migrating towards Poland, Hungary, Transylvania and Moldavia where they found shelter and religious acceptance. A notable fact is that the rulers of Moldova at the time, Stefan the Great and Alexander the Kind who were Orthodox christians, not only did they offer the Hussite the possibility to leave in peace and unbothered by anybody due to their religious believes but even offered them certain privileges. The study shows that religious tolerance is a demonstration of love and respect towards another, indispensable qualities of a believer's spiritual life.

KEY WORDS: Hussite, religious persecution, sect, heretics, acceptance, Moldavia.

In this study¹ we aim to present a few issues related to the migration of a group of believers due to the lack of religious freedom and religious or economic persecutions which they were subjected to in their native country,² namely we specifically refer to the Hussite group that migrated from Bohemia and Moravia area which was their homeland during the 15th century,³ towards Poland, Hungary, Transylvania and Moldavia.⁴

During the socio–political and religious context at the time, after the banishing of the Hussites,⁵ i.e. the spiritual descendants of Jan Huss,

from Hungary, many of them would find a new home in Moldavia,⁶ from where they will exert a certain religious influence not only in Moldavia⁷ but also in the Eastern parts of Transylvania especially in the area occupied by the Secui and their neighboring counties. As such, after the Hussite settling in Moldavia, Hussitism, as religious movement, begins to also develop in the Transylvanian territories.⁸

The term of *Hussite* which we utilize comes from the name of the priest and professor Jan Huss (1369–1415) who was a professor and provost of the University of Prague. Influenced by the teachings of John Wycliffe⁹ and together with his friend Ieronim of Prague,¹⁰ expose himself as defending the teachings of the English reformer. Due to the fact that Provost Jan Huss protests against Pope Alexander the fifth decision (1409–1410) to publicly burn the religious writings of John Wycliffe, he was excommunicated by the Church of those times. After these events a revolt breaks loose in the Bohemian region. Jan Huss, starting with the year 1412, was preaching against the indulgencies. As a consequence of these actions papal bulls begin to be burned, but because of the revolts, Jan Huss has to flee, during which time he will write his masterpiece *De Ecclesia (About the Church)*.¹¹ In the year 1414 under the assurance of Emperor Sigismund he comes before the Council of Konstanz where he would be arrested, and in the year 1415, labeled as heretic, burned to the steak. His work is continued by the zealous follower of his teachings, Ieronim of Prague, who would also be burned to the steak in 1416.¹² The spiritual descendants of the teachings of Jan Huss, being persecuted in their own homeland, had to flee and find shelter in other parts of Europe.

We have to mention the fact that the Hussites¹³ found a temporary shelter in Moldavia after the dramatic events that followed the death of provost Jan Huss¹⁴ and Ieronim of Prague,¹⁵ after the wars waged by the Czech Hussites led by Jan Ziska¹⁶ and after the religious persecutions aimed towards them. It is considered however that the first groups of Slovakian and Hungarian Hussites arrived in Moldavia as early as 1420. In this regard, the *Chronic of Levoca* (Slovakia) mentions the Hussites arrival in Moldavia around 1420.¹⁷ The Moldavian ruler Alexander the Kind,¹⁸ Romanian Orthodox believer, manifesting tolerance and acceptance towards

another religion, received the Hussites well and allowed them to settle and live in the cities from his country. Romanian historian C.G.Giurescu wrote about the Hussites arrival in Moldavia and their welcoming by the Moldavian ruler Alexander the Kind saying that the ruler: “allowed their settling in Moldavia in the towns of Trotus, Bacau, Roman and the nearby villages from the latter two towns—in Târgul Neamț, Cotnari, Huși and Ciubarciu on Nistru, as well as the the villages Saint John, Saint Peter and Saint Anton.¹⁹ More so the ruler issued a written command that nobody was to disturb them for practicing their religion.”²⁰

In Moldavia, the Catholic Bishop of Baia, John of Ryza, entered in a religious conflict with the Hussites but they were under the protection of the Moldavian ruler who also offered them some privileges as well as housing areas in Bacau.²¹

Other Hussites groups looked for shelter in Transylvania, but the religious persecutions from the Catholic Bishops John of Oradea and Gheorghe Lipes of Alba Iulia together with the papal inquisitor Jacob of Marchia, made the Hussites to leave Transylvania and look for refuge and shelter in Moldavia. By mid 1437 a large number of the Hussites from Hungary moved to Moldavia led by priests Toma and Valentin and settled in Trotus (Târgu Trotus) and other areas. Some of these Hussites settled in the Sălaj area in Northern Transylvania where they build several towns. It is well known that the town of Cehul Silvaniei was founded by the Hussites.²²

Once settled in Târgu Trotus, the Hussite priests Toma and Valentin translate the *Bible* for the first time into the Hungarian language.²³ Some historians (M.Constantinescu, C. Daicoviciu, St. Pascu) believe that the Bible was translated into the Hungarian language by the Hussite priests in 1430.²⁴ Bandini, a papal envoy, who visited Moldavia during the rule of Vasile Lupu, tells a story, which circulated in the Moldavian area, about the arrival of a group of Hussites in 1460 because of the religion persecution instilled by the king Matei Corvin.²⁵

Other groups of Hussites arrived in Moldavia between 1481 and 1483 due to being banished by king Matei Corvin on the request of Pope Sixtus the 6th. Part of these Hussites settled in the town of Huși, some in Saint Ieronim, near Huși, some in Raducaneni on the

banks of the river Prut and others in Roman. Between 1481–1488 new groups of Hussites arrived in Moldavia from Silezia and Moravia because of king Matei Corvin's religious persecution, and in Moldavia they found shelter, acceptance and religious freedom being well received by the ruler Stefan the Great.²⁶

The Hussite presence in Moldavia is confirmed by several documents, namely:

*The March 5th 1431 letter of Bishop Ioan Ryza of Baia send to Bishop Sbiegniew of Krakow.*²⁷ This letter mentions a man named Jacob who renounced the Catholic faith and together with six other monks, who also renounced the Catholic faith, is making Hussite missionary propaganda in Moldavia. Moldavia's ruler, Alexander the Kind, allowed the Hussite proselytism in Moldavia also due to some political reasons because he wanted to weaken the Polish influence in Moldavia.²⁸ Thus the Catholic Bishop Ioan Ryza of Baia complains to Bishop Sbiegniew of Krakow of the favors awarded to Jacob by the ruler Alexander the Kind as well as showing the ruler's audacity and pride.²⁹ So, at Bishop Ioan Ryza's request to Bishop Sbiegniew, the latter addresses the king of Poland who sends a letter (on *April 6th 1431*) to the ruler Alexander the Kind telling him, among other things, about the downfall of Bohemia due to the anarchy created by the Hussites. The intervention had no effect and so the Hussites settled wherever they wanted until the time of Alexander the Kind's descendents, when a new pro Poland political orientation resulted in banishing the Hussites in Transylvania.³⁰

The letter from April 6th 1431, send by the king of Poland, Vladislav Jagiello, to the Moldavian ruler, Alexander the Kind. As a result of the letter send by Bishop Ioan Ryza of Baia to Bishop Sbiegniew of Krakow, the latter addresses the king of Poland asking him to intervene to the Moldavian ruler Alexander the Kind. This letter send by the king of Poland to the Moldavian ruler contained two issues regarding the Hussites: First the king asks the ruler to end the acceptance and support shown towards the Hussites in Moldavia and second he asked for the extradition of Jacob, the main Hussite preacher in Moldova along with his acolytes, so they can be trialed and punished for heresy by the Polish authorities.³¹ The kink of Poland's requests fell on deaf ears and the Hussites settled wherever

they wanted until the time of Alexander the Kind's descendents, when a new pro Poland political orientation resulted in banishing the Hussites in Transylvania.³²

The letter from January 1432, send by the Bishop of Krakow, Sbigneus (Zbigniew) Olesnicki, to Cardinal Cesarini. The Bishop's letter details some important issues about the status of Catholicism which is confronted with the Hussite ideas of the strong Hussite community in Moldavia. Bishop Sbigneus³³ wrote that the Hussites represented a strong source of heresy for the Catholics and that Jacob, the Hussite preacher, managed to convince a large number of Catholics to convert the Hussite teachings and renounce the Catholic religion.

The letter of Pope Eugeniu the 4th from 1446 that said: "I heard with great sadness that in Moldavia a lot of heretics found shelter, especially those from the abominable Hussite sect."³⁴

Certain details about the Hussites 'that live in Moldavia and they are refugees', are found in a *letter from 1452 belonging to the Patriarch of Constantinople, letter send to the University of Prague*, which referenced the Hussite believers.³⁵ The Hussites, banished as heretics from everywhere by the Catholics, found shelter in Moldavia under the rule of Alexander the Kind and Stefan the Great.

A document from 1452 which mentions Vadul Huşilor, also attests to the presence of Hussites in that area at that time.³⁶

The testimony and activity of Catholic priest Constantinus Romanus. This Roman Catholic priest, converted to Hussitism in Moldavia, was in 1452 one of the most active and passionate preachers of Hussite teachings in Moldavia.³⁷

A note from 1571 addressed to the Vatican by the Catholic Bishop of Camenita. In this note the Bishop made the Vatican aware of the existence of roughly 2000 Hussites that live in the cities of Huşi, Roman and a few nearby villages.³⁸

*The testimony of the Catholic Bishop Petru Bogdan Baksic.*³⁹ The Bishop, around mid 17th century, talks about the life of Hussites and their way of worship.

The Sigil of the town of Huşi. It is described, according to a document sealed in 1667, as having the form of an open book, which has on its sides a simple cross and a double one. It is suggested that

the book portrayed is the *Bible*. The *Bible* was taken as a symbol of the city's founding and it is believed to be a clear reference at the Hussite beginnings of Huși.⁴⁰ Târgul Huși was founded by the Hussites from Moldova.⁴¹

Ioan of Ryza, the Catholic Bishop of Baia, who belonged to the Polish Church, had a special mission for Moldavia, a mission which consisted in the strengthening and spreading of Catholicism in Moldova, using all the favorable moods of the ruler Alexander the Kind, but all attempts to convert the ruler to Catholicism made by his wife Rimgailla,⁴² who was a Polish Catholic, failed.⁴³ Alexander the Kind not only refuses to convert to Catholicism but also divorces his wife Rimgailla, this causes extreme anger to Pope Martin the 5th (1368–1431), who in 1420 tasks Bishop Ioan of Ryza to analyze the reasons that led to the annulment of marriage between the Moldavian ruler Alexander the Kind and Rimgailla (Ringala).⁴⁴

In 1431, Jacob, the leader of the Hussites in Moldavia, will gain the favor of Alexander the Kind and the Moldavian Hussite community becomes privileged, even being protected by a royal privilege (hrisov).⁴⁵ Besides the fact that they were allowed to build homes in Bacau, the royal hrisov also contained a certain provision regarding their protection, namely any harm brought upon the Hussites was punishable by a fee of twenty Turkish ducats.⁴⁶ The ruler Alexander the Kind also took special measures to protect the Hussite preachers from the Catholic Cleric's attempts to exact certain reprisals on them.

Under these conditions, Catholic Bishop Ioan of Ryza, being unable to convert the Moldavian ruler, Alexander the Kind, to Catholicism, signals in 1431 the presence in Baia of a community of Hussites believers gathered around a Krakowian Hussite refugee named Jacob, even narrating some of his declarations from the discussion he had with the Moldavian ruler to the Catholic Bishop of Krakow Sbigneus (Zbygniew). The fact that that discussions was held before the Moldavian ruler confirms the suspicion that it was a call to judgment made by the Bishop before the laic supreme forum. Unable to obtain, from the Moldavian ruler Alexander the Kind, the banishment or the surrender of the Hussites towards whom the ruler showed great favor, Bishop Ioan of Ryza asks the

Catholic Bishop of Krakow to intervene with the king of Poland, Vladislav Jagello, so that the request for the Hussite extradition to appear as a request of the king and not as an initiative of the Catholic Bishop from Moldavia.⁴⁷ The letter from March 5th 1431, send by the Catholic Bishop of Baia, Ioan of Ryza to Sbigneus (Zbygniew) Okesnicki, the Catholic Bishop of Krakow, comes from the Archive of the Teutonic Order from Göttingen.⁴⁸ The document shown brings forward precious information about the history of Hussitism as well as about knowing certain aspects of Moldavia's religious policy under the ruler Alexander the Kind regarding the support found the Hussites in Moldavia. Moreover the document presents also presents some negative aspects regarding the moral integrity of the Roman Pontiffs.⁴⁹

Due to the fact that the Catholic Bishop Ioan of Ryza failed in all his attempts to stop and prevent the Hussite development and if at first the Episcopal and Princely authorities do not pay much attention to Hussite activities, in 1436 the Catholic Bishop Gheorghe Lepes,⁵⁰ asks for immediate help to stop and destroy the Hussite heresy. As a consequence to the growing Hussite influence in Hungary and Transylvania, Pope Eugeniu the 4th, tasks the Franciscan inquisitor Jacob of Marchia⁵¹ with the mission to eradicate the Hussite heretical movement.⁵²

In 1436 the Franciscan Jacob of Marchia is named as Main Vicar in Bosnia and at the same time is tasked with a mission from the Pope and the Synod of Basel to act as inquisitor in Hungary and the Austrian territories, with the purpose of following the Hussite converts. Jacob of Marchia is first invited by the Catholic Bishop of Oradea,⁵³ then by the Catholic Bishop of Transylvania, Gheorghe Lepes, and the Canon of Cenad.⁵⁴ In 1436 the inquisitor Jacob of Marchia is quite active on these territories, with the purpose to eradicate the Hussite teachings, his actions having a strong echo in Transylvania on the eve of the Bobalna Uprising (1437–1438).⁵⁵ With this occasion Jacob of Marchia gathered and noted the thesis of the dogmatic teachings of the Hussite converts in Transylvania.⁵⁶

In conclusion we state the fact that for the descendants of Jan Hus, persecuted for their faith in their homeland, migrated to other territories, where they found religious tolerance and the permission

to freely practice their faith. The political authorities at the time from Moldavia and Transylvania offered shelter and support for believers different than those who lived in those territories, and the Hussite believers enjoyed those privileges.

NOTES

¹ We mention the fact that this study is part of a much larger work written in Romanian, about the Sabbatarian group in Transylvania. Thus the ideas from this study can be found in a Romanian version by Ioan-Gheorghe Rotaru, *Sabatarieni în contextul vieții transilvane (sec. XVI–XIX)*. (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Risoprint, 2014), vol. I, 129–140.

² E.G.White, *Tragedia veacurilor*. (București: Casa de Editură Viață și Sănătate, 2011), 82–85.

³ Cerasela Maria Vîrlan-Blaj, „Comunitățile catolice din Moldova. Studiu de caz – Satele cu populație romano-catolică din vecinătatea orașului Roman,” in *Journal for the Study of Religions & Ideologies*, I/ No. 3/ Winter 2002, 168; Mihail P. Dan, *Cehi, slovaci și români în veacurile XIII–XVI*. (Sibiu: Editura Progresul), 1944, 85–86.

⁴ About Hussite group, see: <http://articolectrestine.com/biserica/reforma-in-moldova-autor-oltei-cristina.html>, accessed 03.08.2016.

⁵ Ioan-Aurel Pop, *Naștinea română medievală*. (București: Editura Enciclopedică, 1998), 103; Earle E.Cairns, *Creștinismul de-a lungul secolelor. O istorie a Bisericii Creștine*. (Dallas, T: BEE International, 1992), 247. See: E.G.White, *Tragedia veacurilor*. (București, Casa de Editură Viață și Sănătate, 1997), 94–108; Ibid., “The Great Controversy between Christ and Satan,” in *Spirit of Prophecy*. Harrah, Oklahoma: Academy Enterprises, Inc. f.a.), I., 801–806.

⁶ P. P. Panaitescu, *Începuturile și biruința scrisului în limba română*. (București: Editura Academiei RPR, 1965), 32–34; Nicolae Iorga, *Istoria poporului românesc*, Otilia Teodoru-Ionescu (trad.). (București: Editura „Casei Școalelor,” 1922), vol. II., 242–243; N.Iorga, *Istoria Românilor. Cavalerii*. (București: 1937), vol. IV, 433.

⁷ Florin Lăiu, *Roma sau Ierusalim? O descriere a istoriei creștinismului, de la origini până în 1988*, iulie 1988, Piatra Neamț, 161. <https://www.scribd.com/document/242347081/Roma-sau-Ierusalim>, (Last accessed on July 17, 2016).

⁸ Gheorghe Vlăduțescu, *Ereziile evului mediu creștin*. (București: Editura Enciclopedica, 1974), 87.

⁹ E.G.White, *Tragedia veacurilor*. (București: Casa de Editură Viață și Sănătate, 2011), 58–69.

¹⁰ Ibid., 71.

¹¹ Work written in 1413. <http://www.gazetademaramures.ro/jan-hus-reformatorul-ceh-al-romano-catolicismului-13898>

¹² E.G.White, *Tragedia veacurilor*. (București: Casa de Editură Viață și Sănătate, 2011), 75–81.

¹³ Zdenek V. David, Utraquists, Lutherans and Bohemian Confession of 1575, în „Church History,” 68, 1999, nr. 2, 294–336; Jaroslav Pánek, “The question of tolerance in Bohemia and Moravia in the age of the Reformation,” In *Tolerance and Intolerance in the European Reformation*, Ole Peter Grell, Robert W. Scribner (ed.), (Cambridge, 1996), 231–237.

¹⁴ The Council of Konstanz (1414–1418), condemned Jan Hus to be burned on the stake, sentence carried out on 6th July 1415. cf. E.G.White, *Tragedia veacurilor*. (București: Casa de Editură Viață și Sănătate, 2011), 70–85; Mircea Păcurariu, *Istoria Bisericii Ortodoxe Române*. Second Edition, (București: Editura IBM al BOR, 1991), 338–339; See and: Ulrich von Richental, *Cronik des Constanzer Konzils*, hrsg. von M.R. Buch, (Hildesheim, 1962); Constantin I. Karadja, “Delegații din țara noastră la Conciliul din Constanța (în Baden) în anul 1415,” In *Analele Academiei Române, Memoriile Secțiunii Istorice*, s.III, t.VII, (București, 1926), 59–91; Adrian Magina, *De la excludere la coabitare. Biserici tradiționale, Reformă și Islam în Banat (1500–1700)*. (Cluj-Napoca: Academia Română. Centrul de Studii Transilvane, 2011), 57.

¹⁵ Burned on the stake in 1416.

¹⁶ E.G.White, *Tragedia veacurilor*. (București: Casa de Editură Viață și Sănătate, 2011), 82–83.

¹⁷ Mihail P. Dan, *Cehi, slovaci și români în veacurile XIII–XVI*. (Sibiu: Editura Progresul), 1944, 84–88; Claudia Dobre, „Preaching, Conversion, Ministering and Struggling Against Hussites: the Mendicants Missionary Activities and Strategies in Moldavia from the 13 to the First Half of the 15 Century,” In *Revue des Etudes Eud–Est Européennes*, București, XLII (2004), nr.1–4, 82.

¹⁸ Alexander the Kind, ruler of Moldavia between 1400–1432. For details: Constantin Cihodaru, *Alexandru cel Bun: (23 aprilie 1399 – 1 ian. 1432)*, (Iași: Editura Junimea, 1984).

¹⁹ Dr. Anatol Măcriș, *Segmente și fragmente de istorie...*, 119.

²⁰ C.G.Giurescu, *Istoria românilor*, vol. I., București, 1974, 146. cf. Dr. Anatol Măcriș, *Segmente și fragmente de istorie*, (București: Editura Agerpress Typo, 2000), p.118. About romanians tolerance, see: Gh. Speranță, „Dovezi de toleranță religioasă în Țările Române,” In *Biserica Ortodoxă Română*, an. LXXXIII (1965), 7–8 (iul–aug.), 735–751.

²¹ *Călători străini despre țările române*, Maria Holban (ed.). (București : Editura Științifică, 1968), vol. I, 64–65; Șerban Papacostea, Știri noi cu privire la istoria husitismului în Moldova în timpul lui Alexandru cel Bun, In Șerban Papacostea, *Evul mediu românesc. Realități politice și curente spirituale*. (București : Editura Corint, 2001), 279–286.

²² Dr. Anatol Măcriș, *Segmente și fragmente de istorie*, 118.

²³ Mircea Păcurariu, *Istoria Bisericii Ortodoxe Române*. Second edition, 338–339; Șerban Papacostea, „Știri noi cu privire la istoria husitismului în Moldova în timpul lui Alexandru cel Bun,” In *Studii și Cercetări Științifice–Istorice*, Iași, vol. XIII, fasc. 2, 1962, 253–258; Constantin C. Giurescu, „Cauzele refugierii husiților în Moldova și centrele lor în această țară,” In *Studii și articole de istorie*, nr. 3, 1966, 27–44; I. Manu, „Pătrunderea husitismului în țările române și apariția primelor texte religioase în limba română,” In *Glăsuț Bisericii*, București, an XXXIII, 1974, nr. 3–4, 284–293; Vezi și I. Macurek, „Husitismul în România,” In *Revista istorică*, XIV, 1928; Mihail P. Dan, *Cehi, slovaci și români în veacurile XIII–XVI*, (Sibiu: Editura Progresul, 1944), 82–90; Dr. Anatol Măcriș, *Segmente și fragmente de istorie*, 118.

²⁴ Dr. Anatol Măcriș, *Segmente și fragmente de istorie*, 118.

²⁵ Marco Bandini, *Codex. Vizitarea generală a tuturor bisericilor catolice de rit roman din Provincia Moldova, 1646–1648*, Traian Diaconescu (ed.), (Iași: Editura Presa Bună, 2006), 94; *Călători străini despre țările române. . .*, vol. V., p.229. cf. Laurențiu, Rădvan, *Orașele din Țările Române în Evul Mediu (sfârșitul sec. al XIII-lea–începutul sec. al XVI-lea)*, (Iași: Editura Universității Alexandru Ioan Cuza, 2011), 533.

²⁶ N. Grigoraș, *Moldova lui Ștefan cel Mare*, (Iași, 1982), 224. cf. Dr. Anatol Măcriș, *Segmente și fragmente de istorie. . .*, p.119; Marco Bandini, *Codex. Vizitarea generală a tuturor bisericilor catolice de rit roman din Provincia Moldova, 1646–1648. . .*, 94; Radu Manolescu, „Cultura orășenească în Moldova în a doua jumătate a secolului al XV-lea,” In *Cultura moldovenească în timpul lui Ștefan cel Mare*, M. Berza (ed.), (București: Editura Academiei Române, 1964), pp. 84–86; Mihail P. Dan, *Cehi, slovaci și români în veacurile XIII–XVI*, 99–104, 196–206.

²⁷ *Călători străini despre țările române*, Maria Holban (ed.). (București, 1968), vol. I, 65.

²⁸ I. Gabor, *Parohia catolică Bacău*, pro manuscripto, (Luizi Călugăra, 1985), 10.

²⁹ *Călători străini despre țările române*. Maria Holban (ed.), I, 65.

³⁰ Maria Teodor, „Continuitatea reformei în Moldova medievală,” în *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie A. D. Xenopol*, (Iași, 1991), 198.

³¹ Ibid.

³² *Călători străini despre țările române*. Maria Holban (ed.). . . , I, 65; Papacostea Șerban, *Evul mediu românesc. Realități politice și curente spirituale*. (București: Editura Corint, 2001), 282.

³³ Zbigniew (Sbigneus) Oleśnicki (Polish, 5 December 1389 in Sienna – 1 April 1455). Oskar Halecki; W: F. Reddaway; J. H. Penson, *The Cambridge History of Poland*. CUP Archive. 237.

³⁴ Gh. Ghibănescu, *Originea Hușilor*. (Bârlad: Tipografia Română, 1887). cf. Dr. Anatol Măcriș, *Segmente și fragmente de istorie. . .*, 118–119.

³⁵ P. P. Panaitescu, „Husitismul și cultura slavonă în Moldova,” In *Romanoslavica*, X (1964), 282–283.

³⁶ *Documenta Romaniae Historica*, A II, p.22, nr.20.

³⁷ Mihail P. Dan, *Cehi, slovaci și români în veacurile XIII–XVI*, 193.

³⁸ Dr. Anatol Măcriș, *Segmente și fragmente de istorie*, 119.

³⁹ Marco Bandini, *Codex. Vizitarea generală a tuturor bisericilor catolice de rit roman din Provincia Moldava, 1646–1648...*, 94; *Călători străini despre țările române*. Maria Holban (ed.). (București: Editura Științifică, 1968–1983), vol. V, 229. cf. Laurențiu Rădvan, *Orașele din Țările Române în Evul Mediu (sfârșitul sec. al XIII-lea începutul sec. al XVI-lea)...*, 532.

⁴⁰ Melchisedec Ștefănescu, *Chronica Hușilor și a episcopiei cu asemenea numire*. (București: Tipografia C.A.Rosetti, 1869), 132–133.

⁴¹ *Istoria dreptului românesc*, Ioan Ceterchi (coord.), Vladimir Hanga (resp. for volume). (București: Editura Academiei R.S.R.), 1980, vol. I, 436.

⁴² Ringaiila, (Ringala, Ryngalla) Lithuanian princess, the fourth wife of Alexander the Kind, she was the sister in law to the king of Poland, Vladislav al II-lea Jagello.

⁴³ *Călători străini despre Țările Române*, Maria Holban (ed.). (București: Editura Științifică, 1968), vol I, 62.

⁴⁴ I. Filitti, *Din arhivele Vaticanului*, I, (București, 1913), 34–36, doc. 20. The third wife of Alexander the Kind was Ringailla (Ringala), who was sister to Vytaudas and sister in law to Vladislav al II-lea Jagello. At the same time Ringailla Ringala was related to Alexander the Kind, being first cousin to Anastasia, wife of Roman I and mother of Alexander the Kind. Before the marriage to Alexander the Kind Ringala was married to the duke of Mazovia, but became his widdow. https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandru_cel_Bun, accessed 17.07.2016.

⁴⁵ P. P. Panaitescu, *Începuturile și biruința scrisului în limba română...*, 33–34.

⁴⁶ L. Demény și J. Pataki, „Husitské revolucni bnuti na uzemi Lidove Republiky Rumunské,” In *Mezinárodní oblas husitsvi*, (Praga, 1957), 185–220. cf. *Călători străini despre Țările Române*. Maria Holban (ed.), vol. I, 63.

⁴⁷ The comminatory letter of king Vladislav Jagello to the Moldavian ruler, as a result of this appeal, was published in the *Monumenta Medii Aevi Historica res gestas Poloniae Illustrantia* collection, XII, 254–255, where it was also published a letter of the Bishop of Krakow, Zbygniew Olesnicki (Oleśnicy) (1389–1455) to Cardinal Cesarini, informing him of the news received from from Ioan of Ryza, the Catholic Bishop of Baia regarding the progress of Hussitism and Alexander the Kind's religious policy (*Monumenta Medii Aevi Historica res gestas Poloniae Illustrantia*, XII, 290–291) from the second half of january 1432. He died before April 30th 1438 when his successor, the Dominican Petru Czipser, was named, cf. I. Filitti, *Din arhivele Vaticanului*, I, 46, doc. I, 36. See *Călători străini despre Țările Române*, vol. I, 63; For more details: Lorenzo Cardella, *Memorie storiche de' cardinali della Santa Romana Chiesa*, (Rome: Stamperia Pagliarini, 1793), III, 81–82; Alfonso Chacón, *Vitæ, et res gestæ Pontificvm Romanorum et S. R. E. Cardinalivm ab initio nascentis Ecclesiæ vsque ad Vrbanvm VIII. Pont. Max.*, 4 vol., (Romae : Typis Vaticanis, 1677), II, col. 910–911; „Essai

de liste générale des cardinaux. VII. Les cardinaux de la fin du XVe siècle», In *Annuaire Pontifical Catholique 1932*, (Paris: Maison de la Bonne Presse, 1932), 138; Conradus Eubel; Guglielmus van Gulik, *Hierarchia Catholica Medii Aevi*, Vol. I (1198–1431), (Münich: Sumptibus et Typis Librariae Regensbergianae, 1913); reprinted, (Padua: Il Messagero di S. Antonio, 1960), 214; Piotr Nitecki, *Biskupi Kościoła w Polsce w latach 965–1999. Słownik biograficzny*, Przedmowa Henryk Gulbinowicz, (Warszawa: Instytut Wydawniczy «Pax», 2000), col. 319–320; Krzysztof Rafał Prokop, *Polscy kardynałowie*, Kraków, Wydawnictwo WAM, 2001, 17–31; Conradus Eubel; Guglielmus van Gulik, *Hierarchia Catholica Medii Aevi*, Vol. II (1431–1503), (Münich : Sumptibus et Typis Librariae Regensbergianae, 1914), reprint (Padua: Il Messagero di S. Antonio, 1960), 8, 32, 64, 139; *Călători străini despre Țările Române*. Maria Holban (ed.), vol. I, 64–65; Șerban Papacostea, „Știri noi cu privire la istoria husitismului în Moldova în timpul lui Alexandru cel Bun,” In Șerban Papacostea, *Evul mediu românesc. Realități politice și curente spirituale*, (București: Editura Corint, 2001), 279–286.

⁴⁸ The translation was made after the original in latin from the Archive of the Teutonic Order, currently in Göttingen. The text of this letter was published by Șerban Petrescu in the article called „Știri noi cu privire la istoria husitismului în Moldova în timpul lui Alexandru cel Bun,” In *Studii și cercetări științifice*, Istorie, Iași, XIII (1962), nr. 2, 257–258. The Catholic Bishop Ioan of Ryza is mentioned by Sadi Ionescu in *Bibliografia călătorilor străini*, 17, and N. Iorga în *Studii și Documente*, I–II, XXXII.

⁴⁹ L. Demény și J. Pataki, „Husitské revolucni bnuti na uzemi Lidove Republiky Rumunské,” In *Mezinárodní oblas husitsvi*, (Praga: 1957), 185–220. cf. *Călători străini despre Țările Române*, vol. I, 62–66.

⁵⁰ Constantin C.Giurescu, Dinu C.Giurescu, *Istoria românilor*, 2. . . ,60; Also check Alexandru Moraru, *Etnie și confesiune în Transilvania veacului al XVI-lea*, In „Studia Universitatis Babeș–Bolyai. Theologia Orthodoxa,” XXXVIII, 1993, nr. 1–2, 34.

⁵¹ Jacob of Marchia (Iacobus Picenus, Iacob de Picano, de Monte Brandone), (n.1394–d.1476), of Italian origin, was a member of the Franciscan Order. In 1432 he is send by Pope Eugen the 4th to tend to the life of the monks of the Franciscan Order in Bosnia, and in 1434 we find him in Cenad, from where he is recalled by the Pope and send to Bosnia again. In 1435 he works in the Pecs Episcopcy (Ungaria); About the activity of inquisitor Jacob of Marchia in Transylvania. Look at: *Istoria României*, vol. II, (București: Editura Academiei, 1962), 404; V. Fraknói, *Magyar-ország egyházi és politikai összeköttetései a rámai szentszékkal*, vol. II, (Budapest, 1902), 34 and the following.; Tóth Szabó Pál, *A cseh-huszita mozgalmak és uralom története Magyarországon*, (Budapest, 1917), 155 and next. cf. *Călători străini despre Țările Române*. Maria Holban (ed.) vol. I, 67–68.

⁵² Gheorghe Vlăduțescu, *Ereziile evului mediu creștin*, 87.

⁵³ I. Fejér, *Codex diplomaticus*, vol. X/7, 808; cf. *Călători străini despre Țările Române*. Maria Holban (ed.), vol. I, 67.

⁵⁴ F. Fermeștin, *Acta Bosnae*, 151–153 and I. Fejér, *Codex diplomaticus*, vol. X/7, pp. 808–810; cf. *Călători străini despre Țările Române*. Maria Holban (ed.), vol. I, 67.

⁵⁵ <http://decanatcatolicbacau.ro/new/scurt-istoric-al-comunitii-catolice/>, accesed 17.07.2016.

⁵⁶ *Călători străini despre Țările Române*. Maria Holban (ed.) vol. I, 67–73.