

PRELIMINARY DATA ON A MONETARY HOARD FROM A MEDIEVAL DWELLING (IAȘI – “GHICA-DANIEL HOUSE / ST. PETERSBURG HOTEL” ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE)

George BILAVSCHI*
Andrei BALTAG**

Keywords: *Medieval and Modern times, archaeological site “Old Town Center-Princely Court” in Iași, “Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel”, 15th–16th centuries, dwellings, medieval hoard (15th century), imitation after Venetian ducat, Genoese-Tatar and Golden Hoard coins.*

Cuvinte-cheie: *epoca medievală și modernă, situl arheologic „Centrul istoric-Curtea Domnească” din Iași, „Casa Ghica-Daniel/Hotel St. Petersburg”, complexe de locuire din secolele XV–XVI, tezaur monetar (secolul al XV-lea), imitație ducat venețian, monede geno-vezo-tătare și Hoarda de Aur.*

Abstract: *During the preventive archaeological investigations from “Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” point, from the archaeological site “Old Town Center-Princely Court” in Iași, were identified and investigated 199 complexes and archaeological contexts, dated in the Eneolithic, Middle Ages and Modern era. Thus, in this perimeter were found the stone structures corresponding to the fencing wall of the “Three Holy Hierarchs” monastery, most likely dated to the 17th century, to which was added the foundation of the northern wall of the secondary building belonging to the complex “Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (18th–19th centuries). These structures overlap and incorporate foundations and walls from the “Ghica Houses”, which in turn overlap medieval complexes from the 15th–17th centuries, as well as some remains of Cucutenian complexes. During the archaeological excavations, no less than 14 habitation complexes have been identified. Among them, complex 94/96/108 can be dated on the basis of particularly rich archaeological material in the 15th–16th centuries. The most important discovery in this archaeological complex is the recovery in situ of a imitation after a Venetian ducat, next to a hoard of Genoese-Tatar coins (15th century), partially outlined in the following.*

Rezumat: *În timpul cercetărilor arheologice preventive din Iași, punctul „Casa Ghica-Daniel/Hotel St. Petersburg”, situat în situl arheologic „Centrul istoric-Curtea domnească”*

* George BILAVSCHI: Institute of Archaeology, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, Romania; e-mail: bilaskus@gmail.com.

** Andrei BALTAG: Institute of Archaeology, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, Romania; e-mail: andreibaltag@outlook.com.

din Iași, au fost descoperite și investigate 199 de complexe și contexte arheologice, care se datează în Eneolitic, Evul Mediu și perioada modernă. Prin urmare, în acest perimetru a fost descoperită o structură realizată din piatră de calcar, care făcea parte din fundația zidului care delimita complexul monastic „Trei Ierarhi”, care se poate data în secolul al XVII-lea, la care a fost adosată temelia peretelui nordic al unui corp de clădire care făcea parte din complexul „Casa Ghica-Daniel/Hotel St. Petersburg” (secolele XVIII–XIX). Aceste structuri din piatră au suprapus și distrus parțial complexe arheologice medievale, din veacurile XV–XVII, dar și complexe cucuteniene. În timpul acestor cercetări arheologice preventive au fost descoperite 14 complexe de locuire datând din perioada menționată. Dintre acestea, complexul 94/96/108 se poate data, pe baza materialului arheologic bogat (monede, ceramică, obiecte din metal, sticlă etc.), în secolele XV–XVI. Cea mai importantă descoperire o reprezintă însă recuperarea in situ a unei imitații de ducat venețian din aur, dar și a unui mic tezaur de monede genovezo-tătare și tătarăști (secolul al XV-lea).

Introduction

During the preventive archaeological researches carried out in the park located to the south and in the vicinity of the “Gheorghe Asachi” Primary School from Iași, in a perimeter bordered by the former Stern/Rosenstein House (to the west) and the Palat Street (to the east) (Fig. 1/1–2), a wide range of archaeological complexes, contexts and materials were uncovered, spanning from the Eneolithic to the 19th century¹. The area covered by the preventive archaeological research is placed on the upper terrace of the Bahlui River, right in front of the Palace of Culture of Iași. The remains of the Princely Courts and the Administrative Palace, which formed the core of the medieval town, have been identified on this site. The cartographic records from the 18th–19th centuries indicate the “Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel”² at the end of the Stephen the Great Boulevard (the former “Ulița Mare”), exactly in the boundaries of the site under the preventive archaeological research (Fig. 1/1–2).

The entire area was thoroughly investigated by opening 12 squares [abbreviated “cas.” (in Romanian), numbered from 1 to 12], which have been aligned on the general plan, in order to provide the entire stratigraphic sequence (Fig. 2). Therefore, cas. nos. 1–8 covered the northern plane of the grid. In this way, two linear profiles were obtained (the northern and the southern one) equally valid for all the aforementioned squares. Those research units are spaced 1.0 m apart for the most efficient recording of all stratigraphic data. Cas. nos. 9–11 occupied the southern half of the perimeter, following the same goals. Thus, a 1.5 m wide and 66 m long continuous balk was preserved between the two working sectors, allowing the general stratigraphy of the site to be recorded.

Given the importance of the discoveries in the northern sector of the site, the 1.5 m wide profile separating the two sectors of the perimeter under investigation was maintained during the entire length of the work, in order to conserve the identified complexes as efficiently as possible and to support the uncovered foundation

¹ For a brief survey on the archaeological discoveries in this area see: BILAVSCHI, BACUMENCO-PÎRNĂU 2023, p. 365–406.

² On the history of these districts and buildings relevant to the city’s modern history see: PĂUNEL 1939, p. 38–39; UNGUREANU 1968, p. 53–55; SIBECHI 1980, p. 399–401; BOTEZ, PRICOP 1989, p. 34–36; IFTIMI 2016, p. 115; IFTIMI, ICHIM 2016, p. 125–131; IFTIMI 2020, p. 43–46.

walls. The entire bank of remaining land will be fully excavated once the archaeological research will resume, as part of a project for the restoration and historical valorization of the discovered remains.

Overview of the archaeological context from cas. no. 2

The archaeological preventive research in this research unit resulted not only in the revealing of the foundation walls, but also in the revealing of some particularly intriguing complexes. Therefore, the foundation walls of the “St. Petersburg Hotel” (the building on the north side of the complex) were found beneath the vegetal layer. To a large extent, at this very moment, we believe that these structures represent the underground stone remains of the enclosure wall, fencing the monastic settlement of the “Three Holy Hierarchs” (Fig. 3/1), east-west oriented. The boundary wall of the complex was built of worked limestone with different sizes, tied with slaked lime mortar. The stone structure has been stiffened with oak beams, falling into the tie-rod reinforced masonry type. This remnant of the stone footing was found over a total length of about 23 m, with the foundation wall of the northerly body of the hotel on its north side. We believe that when the building’s supporting structure was constructed, the enclosure wall was dismantled to the ground surface, in order to provide the adequate foundation width for the building, erected in the 19th century. The inner walls of the monastic complex are 0.75–0.84 m thick. Only about 0.40–0.50 m of the foundation’s elevation (about 4–5 stone ashlars) were preserved, which stood on a light-grey compact earth layer, mixed with yellow clay and burned reddish-brown clay rubble.

In the same research unit, we also captured the foundation on the north side of the hotel building and a fragment of a retaining masonry, supporting a dividing wall between two rooms of the hotel building. The base walls of the hotel’s building were made of primary processed limestone blocks of medium to large size, bound with yellowish lime mortar with a high proportion of sand. They are approximately 0.75–0.77 m wide. The footing slab was encountered at –2.35 m below, at the deepest point surveyed on the south side. However, the north side, with an initial thickness of only 0.30–0.40 m, was attached to the surrounding wall of the “Three Holy Hierarchs” monastery. In this way, the total thickness of the north foundations, added to the width of this wall with tie rods, amounts to 1.04–1.24 m. Its footing slab was traced at 2.10 m below. The eastern side of the foundation wall has a wide relieving arch (Fig. 3/2), with a maximum opening of about 3.40 m, and a height of 1.85 m, anchored in a thick layer (around 1.50 m) made of brown earth mixed with yellow soil and a lot of coal-burnt rubble and clay, from the potential fire-destroyed walls of a possible dwelling. In the northern profile, we investigated the stone footing of a discharge arch, which was, most probably, part of the load-bearing structure of the “Turkish Inn” or “Three Hierarchs Inn”. The wall fragment (Cx. no. 40) was made of primary worked limestone blocks of medium to large size, tied with hydraulic lime mortar filled with coarse-grained sand. The wall was set between –0.54–3.05 m, having a trapezoid shape with a broad base at the top narrowing towards the lower area. Dimensions: $Weight_{top} = 2.35$ m (max.) and $Weight_{bottom} = 1.40$ m (max.); Height = 2.48 m, Thickness = 0.75 m. This masonry footing destroys the south side of a

possible dwelling complex (Cx. no. 150, captured between 1.15–2.73 m below) of rectangular shape with rounded corners. The pit was filled with dark grayish-dark earth, mixed with small lumps of yellow clay, as well as charcoal pigments of burned wood and reddish charred adobe. From its fill parts of some Cucutenian vessels were recovered (including a female idol; archaeological materials of Eneolithic origin, in a secondary position, embedded in the soil), together with pottery fragments dated to the 16th and 17th centuries, respectively from the 17th and 18th–19th centuries onwards. The preserved dimensions of the pit are 1.05/1.75 × 4.50 m.

The 15th–16th century dwelling complex

In this square, the foundations of the hotel building cut off to the north and east a dwelling complex, arguably dated, on the basis of the archaeological material recovered, in the later 15th and early 16th centuries (conventionally referred to as Cx. nos. 94/96/108, depending on the evolution of the archaeological status in this research unit) (Figs. 4/1 and 5/1, 3). Due to its relatively small dimensions [the surviving sizes of the complex are 2.05 m (up to the foundation masonry of the dividing wall between the rooms) / 4.4 m (up to the eastern profile of cas. 2) × 5.20 m (the southern side penetrates the witness between cas. no. 2 and cas. no. 9)] and the abundance of artefacts unearthed, including a monetary hoard and other numerous coins dated from the 15th–16th centuries, this complex could also represent the basement of an overground dwelling (Figs. 4/1; 5 and 7). At the same time, these remains might have belonged to the annex of a merchant's dwelling, given the abundance of archaeological material and, especially, the quantity and variety of the coins found *in situ*.

The eastern side of the complex was overlapped and partially destroyed by the excavation of the trench for the construction of the foundations supporting the inner partition wall of the hotel. If in the upper part (between –0.55 m and –1.10 m) the dwelling's pit was filled with dark brown and grayish-grey earth, mixed with a lot of reddish burnt clay and charcoal pigments (some Turkish and Russian coins from the 17th–18th centuries were also recovered from this segment) in the lower half (between –0.90/1.10 and –2.35 m below) a consistent layer of reddish-brown burnt adobe and mudstone from the walls of the house was found, together with fragments of charred wooden beams and planks. Many of these clay lumps bear the marks of the joists, rafters, beams or wattles, onto which they once were attached. The charred bits and fragments of carbonized wood come from the structure and floor of the house. Traces from the charred floorboards and beams of this complex were found on the floor of the house. At about 1.80 m from the south bank of the square, on the west side, the entrance to the dwelling was also encountered. Nevertheless, about 0.85 m north of the entrance, an annex to this complex, built with the same beams and wooden planks, was investigated (Figs. 4/1 and 5/1, 3). An appreciable amount of ash from the heavy combustion which destroyed the dwelling was discharged from the backfill and floor of the complex. The entrance (the access way, noted as Cx. no. 120) was lined with oak planks (thick boards), three of which are 50–65% preserved (two of them fixed in place, the third one was found in the middle of the complex, on the floor). The dimensions of the annex are 1.25 × 1.45 m (the west side

falls within the earth corridor between cas. nos. 2 and 3), while the dimensions of the entrance are 0.65×1.0 m. In the rubble-filling of the wooden walls lined with burned clay, as well as on the floor of the complex, a large number of particularly varied and precious artefacts were recovered, such as an imitation after a Venetian gold ducat, dated to the early 15th century (placed on the floor of the house) (Figs. 5/2 and 7/1); a hoard of Tatar and Genovese silver coins dating from the 15th century (122 pieces, contained in a dark-grey clay pouch, hidden between the two beams of the wooden floor of the house and its annex) (Figs. 7/2–13 and 9/1, 3). Also, from the collapse layer, other five groats and double groats from İliş/Alexander the 1st and Stephan the 3rd, plus two Hungarian denarii from the 15th–16th centuries, were recovered. Additionally, fragments or whole vessels of locally sourced earthenware kitchen pots of local origin were collected from the substantial layer of destruction with reddish burnt adobe and charcoal lenses. These belong to the category of unglazed and red-glazed pottery, dating to the 14th–15th and 16th centuries (the most relevant types are jugs, tall cups with trilobed mouths, potsherds, powder pots, drinking cups, disc-shaped footed cups, strainers and plates). Numerous sherds were also recovered from vessels belonging to the category of black and gray-brown earthenware with incised decoration of straight and veined lines, with oblique notched or spiral decoration on the lips, typical of the 14th and 15th–16th centuries. Several other fragments of a round-legged cast-iron mounting and decorative caps from a stove (15th–16th centuries), fragments of bronze objects (different types of hoops, a ring, a few small plates, a cross) and iron (a hoe, a padlock, spikes, nails, a hinge, other small remains from various objects or tools)³, along with a considerable amount of animal bones were also unearthed from the same stratigraphic horizon.

In the vicinity and, most probably in connection with this complex, in cas. no. 3, between the sewer wall and the foundation of the inner dividing wall between rooms nos. 2–3 of the hotel, one can notice a consistent layer of brownish earth mixed with reddish-brown burnt clay lump rubble and charcoal intrusions of burnt wood, similar in composition to the above complex (Fig. 6). This layer, about 1.55 m thick, overlays a rectangular-shaped pit with circular corners (Cx. no. 102) (Fig. 6/2). The pit, rectangular in shape, was filled with dark earth, rich in charcoal, ashes and pieces of burnt reddish-colored mudstone. Round-footed mounting tiles, semi-tubular, bulb-shaped and hollow-lobed tiles with a pointed top (a specific feature of 15th century pottery) were extracted from the fill. From the walls of these tiles, large quantities of burnt slag, tar and fragments of charred wood were collected. The preserved dimensions of this complex are 0.92×1.80 m, the pit being intercepted at 2.35/2.40 m below. Once the excavations are resumed and the embankment walls are reinforced, the entire complex will be fully examined. Next to this complex, a circular pit (Cx. no. 113) was excavated, containing pottery sherds from the 14th–15th centuries. Near the base of the foundation, about 0.20 m away from the wall, two pillar hoes, with a diameter of 0.18–0.22 m, were also documented and recorded.

³ The silver, bronze and iron materials are currently undergoing cleaning and restoration processes and will be published in its entirety, along with the rest of the artefacts discovered, in the full monograph of the site.

Coin finds from Cx. nos. 94/96/108. Preliminary data

During the preventive archaeological investigations conducted in the “Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” point, a considerable number of numismatic discoveries were identified. At the moment, all the findings are still being processed for a complete restoration. The following presentation simply overviews, in a catalogue, a small part of the entire collected lot. We decided to disseminate these first coins examined, as they represent remarkable monetary discoveries, both for the city of Iași and for the entire region east of the Carpathians.

The earliest piece is an imitation after a Venetian ducat (**Cat. no. 1**), which we presume to have had its prototype in one of the coins minted for Antonio Venier, doge of Venice between 1382 and 1400. But it's worth stressing that the name of this doge is not legible on the obverse of the coin (**Fig. 8/c**). Lacking any close analogies with other published issues, on the basis of legend matches with multiple obverse and reverse errors, the piece resembles, to some extent, the counterfeits made after Venier's *ducatii*. Still, a number of clues led us to believe that the coin is not an original issue.

First of all, the coin weighs only 2.16g, far less than the standard weight of 3.56g. In addition, the coin's bright yellowish-clear color may indicate that the gold alloy carries a smaller grade. Because of this, the XRF composition analysis for metallographic composition traced a significantly lowered purity of barely 66–67%⁴. In addition to these key elements, that prove that the piece clearly did not originate from its space of provenance, our issue displays a rudimentary workmanship (**Fig. 8/b**), stylized with clumsy lettering and mistakes (**Fig. 8/b-c**). At a closer glance, a clear lack of symmetry can be detected in the minted characters composing an almost fanciful formulation (**Fig. 8/c**).

A major feature on the iconography of the obverse are the three dots hovering above the saint's head (**Fig. 8/d**). Without another mintmark in the figure, such as a „S” (for Chios) or „P” (for Pera) placed just below the doge's knees, the three dots are believed to be a monetary mark for the city of Caffa⁵. Thus, it is believed that the so-called *lightweight ducatii*, unmarked or stamped with dot(s), only circulated in the areas around the western and northern Black Sea coast⁶. The diffusion of these coins in Moldavia was favored by the predominantly Pontic orientation of the economic relations of the Principality, during the first part of the Stephan's the Great reign⁷.

Our catalogue also includes a small batch of the silver coin hoard, discovered in the same archaeological context as the imitation after the Venetian ducat. Out of the few coins so far restored (13 out of 122), the earliest piece is a Genoese-Tatar

⁴ The measurements were carried out by Nicoleta Vornicu, at the Metropolitan Research Centre TABOR (Iași, Romania). The sampling was performed using an Innov X Systems Alpha Series X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometer (produced in the USA). The device is equipped with a W-anode X-ray tube operating up to 35 kV and 100A. The fluorescence radiation, controlled by a minicomputer, is captured and analysed with a thermoelectrically cooled Si detector (PIN). For the spectrum data and semi-quantitative survey, the Analytical mode software was used for an exposure duration of 10 seconds. The examined spot size (both on obverse and reverse) is of 8 mm each.

⁵ OBERLÄNDER-TÄRNOVEANU 2004, p. 71, 73–76.

⁶ OBERLÄNDER-TÄRNOVEANU 2004, p. 75–76.

⁷ OBERLÄNDER-TÄRNOVEANU 2004, p. 80.

akçe also struck at Caffa (**Cat. no. 2**). Although the coin is in a poor state of preservation, we can still distinguish the Genoese portal on the obverse and on the reverse a fragment of the Batu tamga, center-framed in a circular linear cartouche with the insignia of Ulug Muhammad.

Finally, the coins of the Golden Horde hold a special place within the numismatic artefacts (**Cat. nos. 3–14**). On the obverse of the dirhems we have captured fragments of the legend with the name of the issuers (Küchük Muhammad [**Cat. nos. 3–5**] and Sayyid Ahmad II [**Cat. nos. 6–14**]), passed, generally, in an inner linear circle. As for the reverse, the binary tamga can be seen, in the stylized form of the trident of Ghirai, founder of the Crimean Khanate and declared descendant of Gengis Han. We encountered three major mints: Orda Bazar (**Cat. nos. 3, 6–9**), Bek Bazar (**Cat. nos. 4–5, 12–13**), Haydar Bazar (**Cat. nos. 10–11**) and one case with no mint name (**Cat. no. 14**). In the historiography, the place of these workshops is unclear, but they were most probably placed in region of Crimea, near the Dnieper, in the present Herson area.

The numismatic evidence, only partially outlined here, spans the first half of the 15th century. It is chronologically in accordance with the other categories of the archaeological material recovered. Definitely, the forthcoming full publication of the entire hoard and all the coins unearthed during the archaeological research at the “Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” point will provide further substantial details.

CATALOGUE OF THE COINS⁸

CITY OF CAFFA

Imitative issue

Antonio Venier (?) (1382–1400), ducat

1. AV (*fournée*); 2.16 g; 6 h; 20 mm; v.g.p.;

Obv. ΔΤΕΟΙΕΤΑΕΟΤΙ – DVX–SMVENETI; Kneeling Doge, receiving a *vexillum* from Saint Mark (stylized); above the saint, a mark: ⚫⚫

Rv. SITTXPPO(?)ΛΑΤQTV[...] – REGISSTE DVQAT; Christ in *mandorla*; on both sides nine stars: ☆☆☆☆ – ☆☆☆☆☆ (stylized)

Caffa / Black Sea coast unknown monetary workshop, 1382–1400 (?) (LUNARDI 1980, p. 305, CS12 var.; MAZARAKIS 1997, p. 894, no. 6 var.; OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 2004, p. 73–76);

“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [from the floor of the dwelling to the NE –2,00 m below from the level of the South bank]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

⁸ The following abbreviations were used: v.g.p. = very good preserved; g.p. = good preserved; p.p. = poorly preserved; v.p.p. = very poorly preserved; g = grams; m = meters; mm = millimetres; h = hour; obv. = obverse; rv. = reverse; AV = gold; AR = silver; var. = variant; inv. = inventory; no. = number; Cas. = archaeological square; Cx. = archaeological complex; IA Iași = Institute of Archaeology of Iași (Romanian Academy).

THE COIN HOARD⁹

CITY OF CAFFA

Genoese-Tatar issue

Ulug Muhammad (1421–1423; 1427–1445), akçe

2. AR; 0.83 g; 3 h (?); 15 mm; v.p.p.; slipped die (obv. & rv.); highly bented on the obv. Obv. *Genoese portal framed by dots* (?) (all around arabic[?] illegible marks)
Rv. *Batu Tamga* (illegible; inside an inner linear circle; top of the tamga, part of the khan's name and title);

Caffa, 1427–1433 (LUNARDI 1980, p. 119, no. C68 var.);

“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

THE GOLDEN HORDE

The Great Hoard. Crimean Khanate

Küchük Muhammad (cca. 1435–1460), dirhem

3. AR; 0.46 g; 1 h; 14 × 13 mm; p.p.; slipped die (obv. & rv.);

Obv. *Muhammad / bin / Timur* (inside an inner linear circle; outside de circle, the title slightly visible)

Rv. *Gyraid Tamga* (stylized trident) *duri be Orda Bazar* (around the tamga, slightly visible);

Orda Bazar, 1431–1444 (SAGDEEVA 2005, p. 68, no. 595);

“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

4. AR; 0.63 g; 11 h; 15 × 14 mm; v.p.p.; slipped die (obv. & rv.);

Obv. *Muhammad / bin / Timur* (inside an inner linear circle; outside de circle, the title not fully visible)

Rv. *Gyraid Tamga* (stylized trident) *duri be Bek Bazar* (around the tamga, not fully visible);

Bek Bazar, 1433–1459 (REVA, LEONOV 2023, p. 157, pl. no. 8, nos. 22–24);

“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

5. AR; 0.63 g; 1 h; 15 × 14 mm; p.p.; slipped die (obv. & rv.);

Obv. *Muhammad / bin / Timur* (inside an inner linear circle; outside de circle, the title not fully visible)

Rv. *Gyraid Tamga* (stylized trident) *duri be Bek Bazar* (around the tamga, not fully visible visible);

Bek Bazar, 1433–1459 (REVA, LEONOV 2023, p. 159, pl. no. 10, nos. 36–38);

“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

⁹ The following catalogue represents a partial overview of the numismatic material. In this way, we cover only 13 pieces out of 122 silver coins of the whole batch. Currently, the coins are undergoing cleaning and restoration processes and will be fully published, in the upcoming monograph of the site.

Sayyid Ahmad II (1439–1465), dirhem

6. AR; 0.62 g; 3 h; 14 mm; g.p.; slipped die (obv.);

Obv. *Seyyid / Ahmad / han* (inside an inner linear circle; outside de circle, the title)

Rv. *Gyraid Tamga* (stylized trident) *duri be Orda Bazar* (around the tamga, from left to right);

Orda Bazar, 1439–1465 (KHROMOV 2004, p. 43, no. 8.2);

“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

7. AR; 0.73 g; 2 h; 14 mm; p.p.; slipped die (obv. & rv.);

Obv. *Seyyid / Ahmad / han* (inside an inner linear circle, slightly visible)

Rv. *Gyraid Tamga* (stylized trident) *duri be Orda Bazar* (?) (around the tamga, from left to right, not fully visible visible);

Orda Bazar, 1439–1465 (KHROMOV 2004, p. 43, no. 8.2);

“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

8. AR; 0.62 g; 5 h; 14 mm; v.p.p.; slipped die (obv. & rv.);

Obv. *Seyyid / Ahmad / han* (inside an inner linear circle; outside de circle, the title not fully visible)

Rv. *Gyraid Tamga* (stylized trident) *duri be Orda Bazar* (?) (around the tamga, from left to right, not fully visible visible);

Orda Bazar (?), 1439–1465 (KHROMOV 2004, p. 43, no. 8.2);

“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

9. AR; 0.65 g; 4 h; 15.5 × 14 mm; p.p.; pierced (round); slipped die (obv. & rv.);

Obv. *Seyyid / Ahmad / han* (inside an inner linear circle; outside de circle, the title not fully visible)

Rv. *Gyraid Tamga* (stylized trident) *duri be Orda Bazar* (?) (around the tamga, from left to right, not fully visible visible);

Orda Bazar (?), 1439–1465 (KHROMOV 2004, p. 43, no. 8.1);

“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number

10. AR; 0.62 g; 6 h; 14 × 13 mm; v.p.p.; slipped die (obv. & rv.);

Obv. *Seyyid / Ahmad / han* (inside an inner linear circle, slightly visible; outside de circle, the title almost illegible)

Rv. *Gyraid Tamga* (stylized trident) *duri be Haydar Bazari* (at the bottom of tamga and around, slightly visible);

Haydar Bazar, 1439–1465 (ZAYONCHKOVSKIY, TISHKIN 2018, p. 77, fig. no. 4. SP2.4);

“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

11. AR; 0.70 g; 10 h; 16 × 15 mm; p.p.; slipped die (obv. & rv.);

Obv. *Seyyid / Ahmad / han* (inside an inner linear circle; outside de circle, the title)
Rv. *Gyraid Tamga* (stylized trident) *duri be Haydar Bazari* (at the bottom of tamga and around);

Haydar Bazar, 1439–1465 (ZAYONCHKOVSKIY, TISHKIN 2018, p. 77, fig. no. 4. SP2.2);
“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

12. AR; 0.72 g; 3 h; 15 × 14 mm; p.p.; slipped die (obv. & rv.);

Obv. *Seyyid / Ahmad / han* (inside an inner linear circle; outside de circle, the title)
Rv. *Gyraid Tamga* (stylized trident) *duri be Bek Bazar* (at the bottom of tamga and around);

Bek Bazar, 1439–1465 (ZAYONCHKOVSKIY 2022, p. 212, fig. no. 2. 1–2);
“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

13. AR; 0.66 g; 7 h; 15 mm; p.p.; slipped die (obv. & rv.);

Obv. *Seyyid / Ahmad / han* (inside an inner linear circle; outside de circle, the title)
Rv. *Gyraid Tamga* (stylized trident) *duri be Bek Bazar* (at the bottom of tamga and around);

Bek Bazar, 1439–1465 (ZAYONCHKOVSKIY 2022, p. 212, fig. no. 2. 1–2);
“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

14. AR; 0.71 g; 12 h (?); 16 × 15 mm; p.p.; slipped die (obv. & rv.);

Obv. *Seyyid / Ahmad / han* (inside an inner linear circle; outside de circle, the title the title not fully visible)

Rv. *Gyraid Tamga with Kalima* (stylized trident; *kalima* instead of mint name);

No mint, 1439–1465 (ALBUM 2011, p. 224, no. B2063);
“Ghica-Daniel House/St. Petersburg Hotel” (Cas. no. 2; Cx. nos. 94/96/108 [–2.55 – 2.66 m]); IA Iași pending inventory number.

Final remarks

Obviously, further investigations in this area and the full processing of the archaeological material, information and stratigraphic data could shed more light on this topic.

In addition to this complex, several other settlement structures dating back to the 17th century have been investigated, which have preserved in situ a large amount of archaeological material. At the same time, during these preventive archaeological researches, important architectural elements for the history of the medieval and modern city were also discovered, such as: a segment of the perimeter wall that most probably delimited the property of the “Three Holy Hierarchs” monastery and which, at one point, included the inn of this settlement, known as the “Turkish Inn”; attached to this wall, the ruins of the northern body of the “St. Petersburg Hotel” complex were identified, which, most probably, overlapped the Ghica family houses, with their household annexes, the corresponding sewage systems, building facilities, and so on; the foot of a stone relief arch that was part of the foundations of the “Turkish Inn”.

These results are part of a whole series of other remarkable discoveries, valuable for the history of Iași, obtained during the rescue, preventive and systematic archaeological researches in the city, starting mainly in the 1950s of the 20th century and continuing uninterruptedly until today¹⁰.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ALBUM 2011 – St. Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, California, 2011.
- ANDRONIC 1961 – Al. Andronic, *Contribuții arheologice la istoria orașului Iași în perioada feudală*, ArhMold 1 (1961), p. 271–282.
- ANDRONIC 1970 – Al. Andronic, *Iașii până în secolul al XVII-lea în lumina datelor arheologice*, CI 1 (1970), p. 91–108.
- ANDRONIC 1986 – Al. Andronic, *Iașii până la mijlocul secolului al XVIII-lea. Geneză și evoluție*, Iași, 1986.
- ANDRONIC, CHEPTEA 1990 – Al. Andronic, S. Cheptea, *Curtea Domnească din Iași*, RMM-MIA 59/2 (1990), p. 12–26.
- ANDRONIC, NEAMȚU 1964 – Al. Andronic, Eug. Neamțu, *Cercetările arheologice de pe teritoriul orașului Iași în 1956–1960*, ArhMold 2–3 (1964), p. 409–428.
- ANDRONIC, NEAMȚU, CHEPTEA 1980 – Al. Andronic, Eug. Neamțu, S. Cheptea, *Cercetări arheologice pe teritoriul orașului Iași în anii 1961–1967*, ArhMold 9 (1980), p. 103–119.
- ANDRONIC, NEAMȚU, DINU 1967 – Al. Andronic, Eug. Neamțu, M. Dinu, *Săpăturile arheologice de la Curtea domnească din Iași*, ArhMold 5 (1967), p. 169–285.
- ANDRONIC, NEAMȚU, MARTINOVICI 1970 – Al. Andronic, Eug. Neamțu, T. Martinovici, *La résidence princière de Jassy*, Dacia N.S. 14 (1970), p. 335–388.
- BILAVSCHI, BACUMENCO-PÎRNĂU 2022 – G. Bilavschi, L. Bacumenco-Pîrnău, *Consi-derații preliminare privind cercetările arheologice preventive de pe stradela Sf. Atanasie, nr. 1A, Municipiul Iași, în perimetrul „cimitirului turcesc”*, in: D. Aparaschivei, G. Bilavschi, L. Bacumenco-Pîrnău (eds.), *Varia Archaeologica (II). Arheologie în pandemie. Provocări în arheologia românească în anii 2020–2021*, Cluj-Napoca, 2022, p. 271–309.
- BILAVSCHI, BACUMENCO-PÎRNĂU 2023 – G. Bilavschi, L. Bacumenco-Pîrnău, *Rezultatele preliminare ale cercetărilor arheologice preventive din orașul Iași, punctul „Casele Ghica-Daniel/Hotel St. Petersburg”*, in: D. Aparaschivei, G. Bilavschi, L. Bacumenco-Pîrnău (eds.), *Varia Archaeologica (III). Situri și peisaje arheologice din spațiul românesc*, Cluj-Napoca, 2023, p. 365–406.
- BOTEZ, PRICOP 1989 – C. Botez, A. Pricop, *Tradiții ale ospitalității românești. Prin hanurile Iașilor*, București, 1989.
- CHEPTEA 1995 – S. Cheptea, *Biserica romano-catolică „Adormirea Maicii Domnului” din Iași*, Europa 21 (1995), Iași, p. 270–281.
- CHEPTEA 2021 – S. Cheptea, *Șase veacuri de istorie*, in D. Doboș (ed.), *Catedrala romano-catolică Iași*, ediția a II-a, Iași, 2021, p. 9–61.

¹⁰ Only a few bibliographical references are given here, providing the published results of the major archaeological research projects in Iași: ANDRONIC 1961, p. 271–282; ANDRONIC, NEAMȚU 1964, p. 409–428; ANDRONIC, NEAMȚU, DINU 1967, p. 169–285; ANDRONIC 1970, p. 91–108; ANDRONIC, NEAMȚU, MARTINOVICI 1970, p. 335–388; ANDRONIC, NEAMȚU, CHEPTEA 1980, p. 103–119; PUȘCAȘU, PUȘCAȘU 1983, p. 29–62; ANDRONIC 1986; ANDRONIC, CHEPTEA 1990, p. 12–26; CHEPTEA 1995, p. 270–281; GHERMAN, ȚURCANU 1998, p. 101–114; PUȘCAȘU, PUȘCAȘU 2005; PUȘCAȘU, PUȘCAȘU 2011, p. 309–364; PUȘCAȘU 2018a, p. 141–196; PUȘCAȘU 2018b, p. 7–26; CHEPTEA 2021, p. 9–61; GHERMAN 2021, p. 779–796; HĂU 2021, p. 765–778; BILAVSCHI, BACUMENCO-PÎRNĂU 2022, p. 271–309; BILAVSCHI, BACUMENCO-PÎRNĂU 2023, p. 365–406 etc.

GHERMAN 2021 – E. Gherman, *Considerații arheologice și istorice*, in: P. Zahariuc, Pr. M. D. Isai (coord.), *Istoria Catedralei și a Ansamblului Mitropolitan din Iași*, Iași, 2021, p. 779–796.

GHERMAN, ȚURCANU 1998 – E. Gherman, S. Țurcanu, *Rezultatele lucrărilor de supra-veghere arheologică de la Palatul Culturii din Iași*, Ioan Neculce S.N. 2–3 (1996–1997) (1998), p. 101–114.

HĂU 2021 – Fl. Hău, *Raport privind săpăturile arheologice realizate la Catedrala Mitropolitană*, in: P. Zahariuc, Pr. M. D. Isai (coord.), *Istoria Catedralei și a Ansamblului Mitropolitan din Iași*, Iași, 2021, p. 765–778.

IFTIMI 2016 – S. Iftimi, *Casele Revoluției de la 1848 din Iași. Hotelul St. Petersburg. Casa Sturdza. Casa Mavrocordat*, Monumentul. Tradiție și viitor 17/2 (2016), Iași, p. 113–147.

IFTIMI 2020 – S. Iftimi, *Capătul „Uliței Mari” din Iași. Locurile hanurilor „Trei Ierarhi” și „St. Petersburg” (XVII–XIX)*, Ioan Neculce Seria a III-a 2 (2020), p. 35–48.

IFTIMI, ICHIM 2016 – S. Iftimi, A. Ichim, *Strada Ștefan cel Mare Iași. Memoria monumentelor*, Iași, 2016.

KHROMOV 2004 – K. Khromov, *Oriental Numismatics in Ukraine, I. Coins of Jochids in 13th–15th Centuries*, Kiev, 2004 (in Russian).

LUNARDI 1980 – G. Lunardi, *Le monete della colonia genovesi*, Genova, 1980.

MAZARAKIS 1997 – A. Mazarakis, *Chio: revisioni moneterie*, in: L. Balletto (cur.), *Oriente e Occidente tra medioevo ed età moderna. Studi in onore di Geo Pistarino*, Genova, 1997, p. 813–901.

OBERLÄNDER-TĂRNOVEANU 2004 – E. Oberländer-Târnoveanu, *Componenta pontică în circulația monetară moldovenească din vremea lui Ștefan cel Mare*, RM 40/3 (2004), p. 63–86.

PĂUNEL 1939 – Eug. Păunel, *Otelul St. Petersburg din Iași*, Din trecutul nostru VII/5–7 (1939), Iași, p. 38–39.

PUȘCAȘU, PUȘCAȘU 2011 – N. N. Pușcașu, V. M. Pușcașu, *Biserica Sf. Gheorghe, „Mitropolia Veche” din Iași*, Monumentul. Tradiție și viitor XIII/parte a I-a (2011), p. 309–364.

PUȘCAȘU 2018a – V. M. Pușcașu, *Palatul Culturii din Iași. Istorie, arheologie și restaurare. Observații de parament și rezultate ale cercetărilor arheologice preventive efectuate la edificiul Palatului Culturii din Iași în etapa octombrie 2008–ianuarie 2009*, CI S.N. 37 (2018), p. 141–196.

PUȘCAȘU 2018b – V. M. Pușcașu, *Palatul Culturii din Iași. Studiu istoric*, Ioan Neculce S.N. 1 (2018), p. 7–26.

PUȘCAȘU, PUȘCAȘU 1983 – V. M. Pușcașu, N. N. Pușcașu, *Mărturii de civilizație și urbanizare medievală descoperite în vatra istorică a Iașilor*, RMM-MIA 2 (1983), p. 29–62.

PUȘCAȘU, PUȘCAȘU 2005 – V. M. Pușcașu, N. N. Pușcașu, *Biserica „Sf. Sava” din Iași. Monografie arheologică*, Iași, 2005.

REVA, LEONOV 2023 – R. Y. Reva, B. I. Leonov, *Numismatic witnesses about Tigene and Mahmud amirs*, in: I. M. Mîrgăleev (ed.) *Golden Horde Legacy: Materials of the VII International Golden Horde Forum “The Civilizational Significance of the Islam Adoption by the Volga Bulgaria and the Golden Horde: Integration Processes in the Medieval History of Russia”*, Kazan, December 14–16, 2022, Marjani Institute of History of the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences, Kazan, 2023, p. 139–153 (in Russian).

SAGDEEVA 2005 – R. Z. Sagdeeva, *Silver Coins of the Khans of the Golden Horde*, Moscow, 2005 (in Russian).

SIBECHI 1980 – Gh. Sibechi, *„Otelul” Sant Petersburg din Iași*, CI S.N. 11 (1980), p. 399–401.

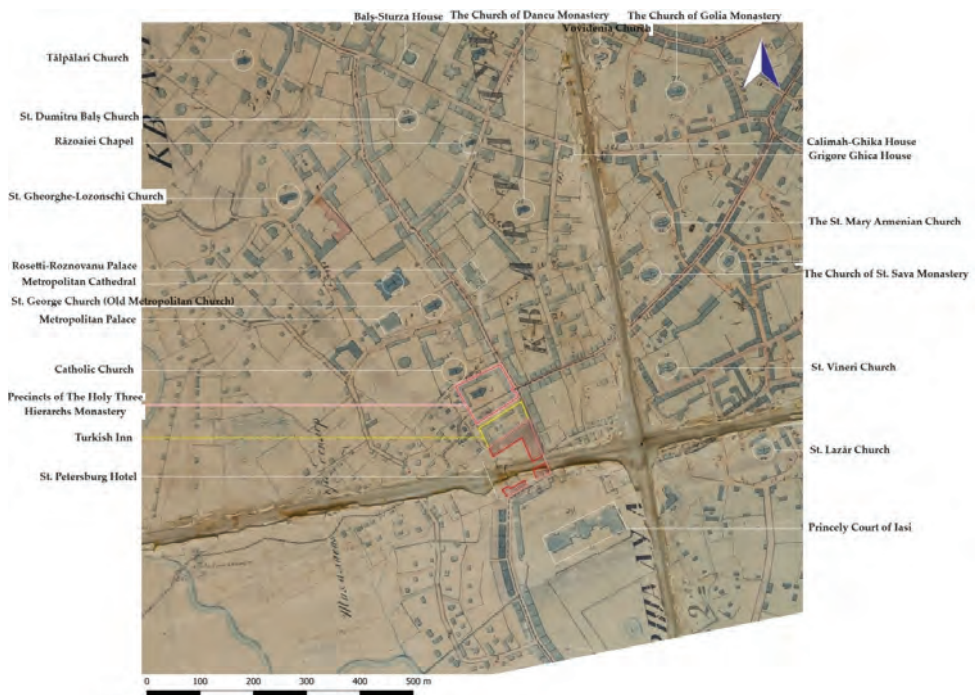
UNGUREANU 1968 – Gh. Ungureanu, *Acum 120 de ani la Otelul „Petersburg” din Iași*, Magazin istoric anul II 4/53 (aprilie 1968), p. 53–55.

ZAYONCHKOVSKIY 2022 – Y. V. Zayonchkovskiy, *Imitations of Khan of “the Great Horde” Said-Ahmad’s Silver Coins and Their Issuers*, Stratum plus 6 (2022), p. 211–216.

ZAYONCHKOVSKIY, TISHKIN 2018 – Y. V. Zayonchkovskiy, V. Tishkin, *A New Non-Jochi Name on Late Jochi Coins: Dangs of Khan Said-Ahmad II with the Mint Name Haydar-bazari*, Ukrainian Numismatic Annual 2 (2018), p. 70–80.



1



2

Fig. 1 – Location of the perimeter of the archaeological research (source: Google Earth, 2023); 2 – The location of “Ghica-Daniel mansion” (the future “St. Petersburg Hotel”) on the city plan of Iași (detail), drawn up by J. Raschek in 1844, mapping by C. Hriban.



1



2

Fig. 3. 1–2 Images of the finds in excavation 2, features 94/96/108 (stages of research);
2 – Relieving arch built into the foundation on the eastern side of the building.



Fig. 4. 1 – Habitation feature (Cx. 94/96/108) (detail); 2–5 Archaeological materials discovered *in situ*.



Fig. 5. 1, 3 – Habitation feature (Cx. 94/96/108) in final stage of research; 2 – Imitation of Venetian ducat uncovered *in situ* (after BILAVSCHI, BACUMENCO-PÎRNĂU 2023, pl. IX).



Fig. 6. 1-2 Images of the finds in excavation 3, features Cx. 94-102 (stages of research).



Fig. 7. 1 – Imitation of Venetian ducat; 2 – Genoese-Tartar akçe. 3 – Dirhems issued by the khans of the Great Hoard, Crimean Khanate (all discovered in Cx. 94/96/108).



Fig. 8. a-d Details on the imitation of Venetian ducat (obverse): a – Three dots mark; b – Stylized representations; c – Ineligible legend details (fragment); d – Lack of mark under kneeling Doge.



Fig. 9. 1–5 Mediaeval clay vessels discovered in excavation 2, Cx. 94/96/108 (after BILAVSCHI, BACUMENCO-PÎRNĂU 2023, pl. XXIII).