**SESIUNEA PLENARĂ**
# FOUR WOMEN TRAVELERS TO THE ROMANIAN PRINCIPALITIES BETWEEN THE YEARS 1710-1810

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***Summary:***

***Four women travelers to the Romanian principalities between the years 1710-1810***

*Between 1710-1810, we identified travel reports from a total number of 171 travelers who visited or traversed the Romanian Principalities. Out of these reports, four of them are written by women, who turned out to be a more sensible and attentive observer. In this study, we highlight the way in which they've seen the Romanian world. The letters they sent home to family members or friends are important sources on the image of society and the towns of the Romanian Principalities in the 18th century. Coming from the West, accustomed to a certain standard of living, the fine ladies perceived as being a big difference between their world and the one encountered in the East.*

***Keywords:*** *18th century, records, Romanian world, West vs. East, women travelers.*

***Rezumat:***

***Patru călătoare în principatele române între anii 1710-1810***

*Pentru 1710-1810, am identificat rapoarte de călătorie provenind de la un număr total de 171 de călători care au vizitat sau au traversat Principatele Române. Dintre aceste rapoarte, patru dintre ele sunt scrise de femei, care s-au dovedit a fi observatoare mai sensibile și mai atente. În acest studiu evidențiem modul în care ele văzut lumea românească. Scrisorile pe care le-au trimis acasă rudelor și prietenilor sunt surse importante cu privire la imaginea societății și a orașelor din Principatele*

*Române în secolul al XVIII-lea. Venite din Occident, obişnuite cu un anumit standard de viaţă, rafinatele doamne au perceput ca fiind o mare diferenţă între lumea lor şi cea întâlnită în Est.*

***Cuvinte cheie:*** *călătoare, lumea românească, rapoarte, secolul al XVIII-lea, vest vs. est.*

## 1. Introduction

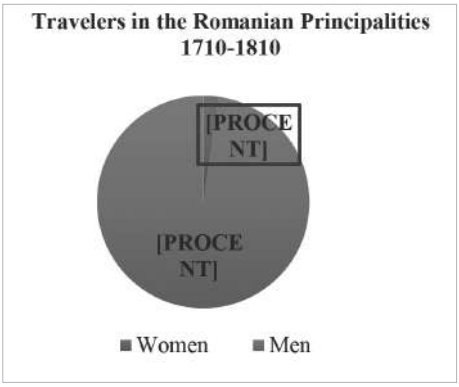
Ever since the end of the 17th century, more and more people have been interested in knowing the spaces on the periphery of the civilized world, where economic, cultural and human transfers took place. The awareness of certain western circles regarding the space on the eastern side of the continent had already occurred, and the interest increased progressively with the passage of time. "Now - wrote Paul Hazard - Italians have rediscovered their taste for travel; and the French were as restless as quicksilver"[3].

Historians, art historians and specialists in Anglo-Saxon literature have associated the period between 1680-1780 with the golden years of the "Grand Tour"[4]. A large number of writings or preserved objects plead in favor of the importance of this ritual by which young men from great families set out for three years on the great roads of Europe, in the company of a preceptor or with other persons in their service[5]. The knowledge of the Roman and Eastern Christian world, but also of the territories inhabited by the "others" of other religions, was recorded in the accounts of travelers since the first centuries of the Middle Ages[6]. It remained a constant in the Renaissance and at the beginning of the Modern Age, only that the frontiers of the known world were much more extensive, and the intellectual formation of the travelers much more diverse[7]. Similarly, the reasons that encouraged travelers to cross entire areas of Europe at the time were much more diverse compared to those of previous centuries. Consequently, the documentary sources created by them are more numerous and complex in terms of the information transmitted to the political authorities and the public inter-

[3] Paul Hazard. *Criza conştiinţei europene 1680-1715* [*The crisis of the European mind 1680-1715*], translated by Sanda Şora, *Foreword* by Romul Munteanu. Bucureşti: Editura Univers, 1973, p. 5.
[4] Gilles Bertrand. "Voyager dans l'Europe des années 1680-1780". In: *Les circulations internationales en Europe, années 1680-années 1780*, Sous la direction de Pierre-Yves Beaurepaire et Pierrick Pourchasse. Rennes : 2010, p. 243. For travelling in the Middle Ages, see Jean Verdon, *Voyager au Moyen Age*. Paris : 2007, 385p.
[5] Paul Hazard. *Op. cit.*, p. 6.
[6] See Edouard Thomas Charton. *Voyageurs anciens et modernes ou Choix des relations de voyages les plus intéressantes et les plus instructives depuis le cinquième siècle avant Jésus-Christ jusqu'au dix-neuvième siècle, avec biographies, notes et indications iconographiques*, vol. II, *Voyageurs du Moyen Âge depuis le sixième siècle de l'ère chrétienne jusqu'au quatorzième*. Paris: 1863, 440 p.
[7] See Edouard Thomas Charton. *Voyageurs anciens et modernes: ou Choix des relations de voyages les plus intéressantes et les plus instructives depuis le cinquième siècle avant Jésus-Christ jusqu'au dix-neuvième siècle, avec biographies, notes et indications iconographiques. Voyageurs modernes. Quinzième siècle et commencement du seizième*. Paris: 1865, 422 p.; Edmond Bonnaffé, *Voyages et Voyageurs de la Renaissance*. Paris: 1895, 172 p.

ested in the described spaces. Likewise, historians, geographers, scholars, historians of art and architecture were also sensitive to this new direction of historiographical research[8].

From the second half of the 18th century, there are changes in the reasons for travel, i.e. travel is not only understood as a personal experience, but is also linked and in direct contact with the vestiges of ancient and medieval civilization, as a permanent search for solutions for solving problems in society. In these formative and cultural journeys, we found involved artists and men of letters, but also other socio-professional categories, the so-called scientists[9].




From the time period analyzed, namely between the years 1710-1810, travel reports from a number of 171 travelers who crossed the Romanian space were identified. Regarding the ratio between male and female travelers who left records about the Romanian Principalities, we are dealing with an overwhelming ratio in favor of men, out of 171 travelers, 167 were men and only 4 were women[10].

[8] Gilles Bertrand and Pierre Serna (dir.). *La République en voyage, 1770-1830*. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2013; See also Gilles Bertrand. *Le Grand Tour revisité: Pour une archéologie du tourisme: Le voyage des Français en Italie, milieu XVIIIe-début XIXe* siècl. Rome: 2008.

[9] Gilles Bertrand. *Le Grand Tour revisité*, p. 24.

[10] Our analysis is mainly based on the following documentary sources: *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*], vol. VIII, volume edited by Maria Holban (responsible editor), Maria M. Alexandrescu-Dersca Bulgaru, Paul Cernovodeanu. Bucureşti: Editura Ştiinţifică şi Enciclopedică, 1983; *Ibidem*, vol. IX, volume edited by Maria Holban (responsible editor), Maria M. Alexandrescu-Dersca Bulgaru, Paul Cernovodeanu. Bucureşti: Editura Academiei Române, 1997; *Ibidem*, vol. X, 1st part, edited by Maria Holban, Maria M. Alexandrescu-Dersca Bulgaru, Paul Cernovodeanu (responsible editor). Bucureşti: Editura Academiei Române, 2000; *Ibidem*, vol. X, 2nd part, edited by Maria Holban, Maria M. Alexandrescu-Dersca Bulgaru, Paul Cernovodeanu (responsible editor). Bucureşti: Editura Academiei Române, 2001; *Călători străini despre Ţările Române în secolul al XIX-lea* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries in the 19th century*], New series, vol. I (1801-1821), edited by Georgeta Filitti, Beatrice Marinescu, Şerban Rădulescu-Zoner, Maria Stroia (volume secretary), Paul Cernovodeanu (responsible editor). Bucureşti: Editura Academiei Române, 2004; *Ibidem*, Supplement I, Ştefan Andreescu (coordinator). Bucureşti: Editura Academiei Române, 2011; *Ibidem*, Supplement II, Ştefan Andreescu (responsible editor). Bucureşti: Editura Academiei Române, 2016; Petre P. Panaitescu. *Călători poloni în Ţările Române* [*Polish travelers in the Romanian Countries*]. Bucureşti, 1930; Nicolae Iorga. *Istoria românilor prin călători* [*The history of Romanians through travelers*], edited and introductory study and notes by Adrian Anghelescu. Bucureşti: 1981; Ioan Horga, Sorin Şipoş. *De la "Mica la Marea Europă". Mărturii franceze de la sfârşitul secolului al XVIII-lea şi începutul secolului al XIX-lea despre frontiera răsăriteană a Europei. Studii şi documente. De la "Petite" à la "Grande Europe". Témoignages français de la fin du XVIIIe et du début du XIXe siècle sur la frontière orientale de l'Europe. Études et documents*, Traducerea textelor, Traduction des textes: Delia-Maria Radu. Oradea: Editura Universităţii din Oradea, 2006.

Of the four travelers, three of them transit the Romanian space, coming from Istanbul, while Christine Reinhard accompanied her husband, Charles Reinhard, in his new mission, that of resident and general commissioner for commercial relations in the Romanian Principalities.

Clarissa-Catherine Porter, born in Haarlem (Netherlands) in 1736, was the eldest daughter of Baron Elbert de Hochepied[11], former Dutch ambassador. In 1755 she married Sir James Porter, ambassador to the High Porte[12]. On their return from Constantinople in 1762, the Porter family, with their two children, a four-year-old girl and a two-year-old boy respectively, and the companions, including Clarissa Porter's brother, had to make a big detour due to the war between Austria and Great Britain. Thus, they headed for Poland[13], it seems that interventions were made at the Porte, without success, so that this procession would not pass through Moldova, so that it would not have to be hosted, on the grounds that the country was impoverished[14]. In Iaşi they were not received by Prince Gregory Callimachi.

Elizabeth Craven (1750-1828), an Englishwoman who comes from an aristocratic family, was the only one of the four who travels to Romanian space for educational reasons. An educated lady, the author of several poems, plays, short stories and travelogs[15], she was born in 1760 in London and is the daughter of the Earls of Berkley. At the age of 16 she married Lord Craven, an aristocrat 13 years her senior, with whom she had 7 children, but with whom she apparently did not share the same tastes in art and life in general. The two spouses lived separately from 1783, Elizabeth moving to France[16], where she lived a love story with Prince Charles-Alexander Margrave of Brandeburg-Anspach-Bayreuth[17]. In 1785 a long journey beginned, combining the characteristics of the classic "Grand tour" of the young English aristocrats with the less usual conditions of a meteoric appearance at the German and Russian ruling Courts, and at the French and Russian embassies in Constantinople[18].

[11] *Documents relating to the Hochepied family*. Antwerpen : 1827; *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*], vol. IX, p. 490.
[12] https://www.thepeerage.com/p32405.htm#i324047 (accesat: 04.09.2021, ora 14.00). *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*], vol. IX, p. 490.
[13] *Ibidem*, p. 455.
[14] *Ibidem*, p. 463.
[15] *Le Philosophe Moderne. Comédie en trois actes (and in prose. By Elizabeth Lady Craven)*. Anspach, 1790 – a play written in French and first translated into English in 1790; *Letters from a Peeress of England to her Eldest Son*. London: Debrett, 1784, translated into French as *Lettres de Mylady Craven à Son Fils*, by P Noël Durand, Chez Durand fils. Paris: 1788; Elizabeth Craven. *Journey Through the Crimea to Constantinople: In a Series of Letters* from *the Right Honourable Elizabeth Lady Craven, to His Serene Highness the Margrave of Brandenbourg, Anspach, and Bareith*, G.G. and J Robinson. London: 1789; Idem, *Memoirs of the Margravine of Anspach, Written by Herself*, H. Colburn. London: 1826.
[16] Julia Gasper (ed.). *The Modern Philosopher, Letters to Her Son and Verses on the Siege of Gibraltar, by Elizabeth Craven*. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholar Publishing, 2017, pp. 2-3.
[17] They got married in 1791.
[18] *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*], vol. $X_1$, p. 716.

She started in the spring of the mentioned year from Paris, then visited the cities of Orleans, Avignon, Toulon, passed to Italy, where she admired Genoa, Florence and Venice, then went to other destinations, Austria - Vienna, Poland, Russia - St. Petersburg and Moscow in 1786, then went to Sevastopol, Crimea. From here she embarked for Constantinople and Greece[19]. On his return she visited the Romanian principalities and Hungary. She described what she saw during the 18 months of travel in a series of letters that saw the light of day in 1789[20], leaving us a series of important details about the Romanian space, details to which a woman attaches importance. Of course, we must take into account the environment from which the author of the letters comes, not to be surprised by exaggerated praise or criticism.

Marianne von Herbert-Rathkeal, born Maria Anna von Collenbach, was the wife of Peter Herbert von Rathkeal. She comes from a family actively involved in politics, her father was one of the most influential advisers to the Chancellor of Austria and her brother was the secretary of the Habsburg embassy at the Danish court[21]. The Austrian traveler accompanied her husband from Vienna to Istanbul on the Danube Valley and then through the Balkans. In 1785, she returned to Vienna with her two daughters, via the Balkans, Wallachia, Transylvania, Hungary[22].

Christine Reinhard (1773-1815), wife of Charles Frederic Reinhard, came from a famous intellectual family in Hamburg. Her father, Johann Albert Heinrich Reimarus, was a scholar, in whose house there were meetings attended by Gotthold Ephraim Lessing and Joachim Heinrich Campe. The discussions about the new Enlightenment ideas left their mark on Christine. She was engaged to Justus Erich Bollamnn, her parents being against this relationship. After her fiancé was arrested for attempting to free Lafayette, who was being held prisoner in Olmütz, the two had difficulty keeping in touch. In the end, Christine succumbed to pressure from her parents, and although Bollmann was released in July 1795, she broke off the engagement. In the same year, Karl Friederich Reinhard became close to the family, and the following year the two got engaged. Christine is said to have become a pawn in political games, as Karl Friederich Reinhard held a diplomatic post on the French side in Hamburg[23]. Christine accompanied her husband on his dip-

[19] Hélène Palma. *Elizabeth Craven: from London to Constantinople, from escape to émancipation*, Imaginaires. Reims: Presses universitaires de Reims, 2017, p. 1.
[20] Elizabeth Craven, *Journey Through the Crimea to Constantinople…*
[21] David Do Paço. Women in Diplomacy in Late Eighteenth-Century Istanbul. In: *The Historical Journal*. Cambridge University Press, 2021, p. 12 (https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/historical-journal/article/women-in-diplomacy-in-late-eighteenthcentury-istanbul/7B287C9CEDE52C05D8A0896EF7AB4E89 (accessed on 29.08.2021, at 11.25AM).
[22] *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*], vol. $X_1$, p. 697.
[23] Almut Spalding. *Elise Reimarus (1735-1805). The muse of Hamburg. A Woman of the German Enlightenment*, Könighausen & Neumann. Würzburg: 2005, pp. 292-293.

lomatic career, they lived for a time in Paris, then traveled to Switzerland in 1800. Two years later she returned to Hamburg. In 1805 they were in the Principality of Moldavia, and a year later they had to flee through Russia to France. Her letters were published in a volume entitled *Une femme de diplomate. Lettres de Madame Reinhard à sa mère*, 1798-1815, translated from German and published for the Societé d'histoire contemporaine, Paris, 1900.

The accounts of the four ladies have something special for the era, namely they are natural and full of personal considerations. Arriving in the Romanian Principalities, they have no political or other assignments allowing themselves to write as they felt. Their testimonies reveal a great sensitivity and care for the safety of the trip, due to the fact that some of them were traveling with children, who were only a few years old. In addition, the four foreign women travelers show a great empathy towards the sufferings of the Romanians in the era under foreign domination.

**2. Symbolism of the border**

A feeling of joy transpires from the records of Elizabeth Craven, who in 1786 traveled through Bulgaria, Wallachia and Transylvania. She describes the feeling she felt when she approached the border of Transylvania. "A few hours later we were at the customs with the emperor's country, that is, at the border, also on the bank of the river, which I had followed at the foot of these enchanting mountains, intended of course for other purposes than sheltering the oppressed or fugitive murderers. I cannot say how glad I was to see the imperial page on a pillar and to feel under imperial protection, although I have never traveled so well escorted and so flatteringly treated as in Wallachia"[24]. The difficulties of the road through Wallachia make Elizabeth Craven happy when she approaches the border with Transylvania, announced by the imperial coat of arms, which also induces her a sense of security.

Christine Reinhard is also marked by the border crossing; the sight of the imperial coat of arms makes him uneasy. She comes from Hamburg, where her husband Charles Reinhard had been accredited to the Hanseatic cities and Lower Saxony, and accompanies him on his new mission, that of Resident and Commissioner-General for Commercial Relations in the Romanian Principalities[25], on the part of France, appointed on 18 March 1806[26]. Although difficult, the route from Transylvania made her stoically endure all

[24] *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*], vol. $X_1$, p. 726.
[25] *Lettres de Madame Reinhard a sa mère, 1798-1815: une femme de diplomate / traduites de l'allemand et publiées pour la Société d'histoire contemporaine, par la Baronne de Wimpffen, née Reinhard, sa petite-fille, Alphonse Picard et fils,* Paris, 1900, p. XIII-XIV; *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*], New series, vol. I, p. 239.
[26] Marin Sâmbrian-Toma. Obiceiuri culinare în Ţara Românească [Culinary customs in Wallachia]. In: *Arhivele Olteniei*, Serie nouă, nr. 22. Bucureşti: Editura Academiei Române, 1998, p. 95.

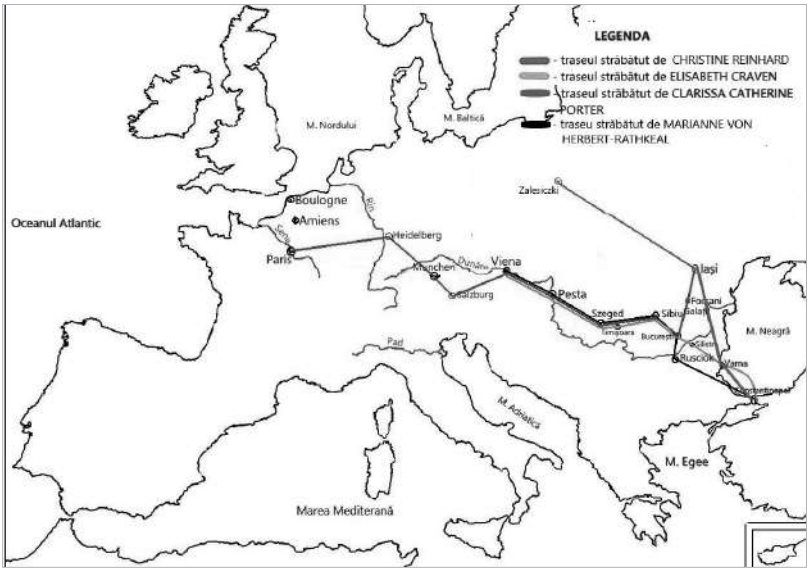
the difficulties encountered. The unknown sea turns out to be the passage to Wallachia. "The departure from Sibiu - recorded Christine Reinhard - is done early in the morning in wonderful weather and we quickly arrive at Turnu Roşu, where the representative of the Prince of Ipsilanti and part of the honor escort came to meet us. I was looking at the tower and the gorge that dominates it, while the mountain emissaries conveyed the prince's greetings to my husband. This building, preserved and painted in red, wrote the traveler, offers nothing interesting, yet for me it had a special meaning and represented the barrier that separated me from everything I loved"[27].

Christine Reinhard feels that on a beautiful day in the summer of 1806 she is heading towards another world, the Red Tower building symbolically separating a world she knew from another, unknown, and which seemed to her to be far away from her expectations. The building has nothing spectacular, but for our journey it is of great importance, it is the landmark that marks the known from the unknown, safety from insecurity. The building of Turnu Roşu will appear in many of the records of foreign travelers depending on their direction of travel. For some it symbolized the joy of entering Transylvania, while for others the unknown and insecurity in a country associated with the Turk.

**3. Communication channels**

The roads in Transylvania make a similar impression on Christina Reinhard. The wife of the diplomat Charles Reinhard, appointed consul in the Romanian Principalities, traveled all over Europe with her husband. The two leave Paris on June 1, together with a small suite and the two children, for Iaşi, to take up their position as a representative of France. On their long journey, they cross capitals of empires, Vienna, Pest, centers of provinces and cities of Europe: Heidelberg, Augsburg, Munich, Salzburg, Saint-Polten. After a month of travel, they entered Banat on July 2, 1806, after which they followed the post road leading to Sibiu, crossing the following post stations: Lugoj, Coşava, Costeşti, Dobra, Sebeşul-Săsesc, Miercurea, Sibiu. From Sibiu, they follow the road to Turnu Roşu and Câineni, Mănăstirea Argeş, Curtea de Argeş, Pitesti and Bucharest. From Bucharest, after the meeting with the Fanariot ruler, the representative of France, headed to Iaşi on July 24, 1806, on the road to Râmnic, Focşani, Galata Monastery where they arrived on July 30. From here, shortly after the outbreak of the war between the Porte and Tsarist Russia, the representative of France in the Principality was taken prisoner in Russia, being taken from Iasi to Criuleni, Dubăsari, Balta and Ovidiopol. From Russia, after a few months of forced residence, he crosses the whole of Europe to return to his homeland, to Cologne and Kassel[28].

[27] *Lettres de Madame Reinhard a sa mère, 1798-1815: une femme de diplomate*, p. 193; *Ibidem*, p. 283.
[28] *Ibidem*, pp. 163-353.




The routes followed by the four women travelers

Christine Reinhard, arriving at the border between Transylvania and Muntenia, makes the following remark: "The road, becoming more and more mountainous, more horses were added to our carriage; however, it took us six hours to reach Costeşti, at the border with Transylvania. [...] The road traveled the next day was even worse; fortunately, the beauty of the landscape helped us bear the slow pace more easily"[29]. "The crews were waiting for us; eight horses were harnessed in two rows to each carriage and driven by a single driver who sounded the horn at the same time. These people do their duty well. However, the scranny old nags advanced slowly and with the road being clogged with rain, I arrived late at Orăştie [...]. We have not lacked vicissitudes and hardships. Once we got stuck in a muddy pit from which we only managed to get out with the help of horses borrowed from the wagons of the Saxons we were lucky enough to meet. The next day we were advised to harness oxen in addition to the horses, which we were supposed to find at the foot of the mountains, but they were not at the place indicated. Our coachmen decided to stick with the horses, to lighten the carriages we started on foot. We always had to climb; the climb was endless and the heat was stifling. Having reached the top, exhausted, we rested in the shade, watching as a line of large carriages passed by healthy horses, only our carriages were being late"[30].

[29] *Ibidem*, p. 189; *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries], Ne series, vol. I (1801-1821), p. 281.
[30] *Lettres de Madame Reinhard a sa mère, 1798-1815: une femme de diplomate*, p. 191 ; Călători străini despre Ţările Române [Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries], Ne series, vol. I (1801-1821), p. 282.

The text elaborated by Christine Reinhard describes the way of traveling in Transylvania, near Orăştie and, later, beyond Sibiu, towards Turnu Roşu, at the border with Wallachia. Christine Reinhard chose to travel using the Principality's transport system. Although the wagons were strong and the horses numerous, with four pairs harnessed to each wagon, the advance was made with great difficulty, not only in the low regions, where due to the rains the road was full of mud and the wheels of the wagons sank, but also in the areas of the mountain, near the border with Wallachia. Christine Reinhard also shows the causes for which progress is difficult, namely the poor quality of the roads, very skinny and weak horses. To get out of the situation, the coachmen used a few pairs of oxen to pull the stagecoach out of the mud, and near Tălmaciu and Turnu Roşu, they borrowed horses from the Saxon merchants and got off the carriages. When even these solutions did not prove viable, the coachmen harnessed all the horses to a single stagecoach and rode it to the top of the mountain. So they proceeded with every means of transport in the convoy. The most frequent problems experienced by travelers are generated by the frequent stops and jams of the means of transport. In the highlands, horses are unable to pull carts, and attendants are forced to find horses or oxen for carts.

Elizabeth Craven, in Constantinople, wishes to reach Vienna in the summer of 1786. From Constantinople she travels by sea to Varna. From here he continued his journey overland to Silistra, where he arrived on July 13. It crosses the Danube, in Wallachia, follows the road to Călăraşi, along the Danube, and reaches Bucharest. From the capital of the principality, Elizabeth Craven takes it in the direction of Sibiu on the post road through: Floreşti, Curtea de Argeş, Turnu Roşu, Sibiu[31]. From Sibiu, our traveler finally reaches Vienna, on the Timişoara and Pesta route[32].

For Elizabeth Craven, the roads in Wallachia near the border with Turkey are presented in the following way: "There is no real road there, and we saw no tracks of vehicles, but the smooth ground, without stones or ruts, allowed us a very pleasant journey"[33]. On the other hand, when crossing the Carpathians from Muntenia to Transylvania, Elizabeth Craven's opinion about the roads changed. From Bucharest, our traveler went to Vienna, being dissatisfied with the road through which they entered Transylvania.

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[31] Elizabeth Craven. *Journey Through the Crimea to Constantinople…*, p. 382-415.
[32] *Ibidem*, p. 412.
[33] *Ibidem*, p. 385; *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*], vol. $X_1$, p. 721.

**4. Means of travel**

Christine Reinhard accompanied her husband to take up his consul post in Moldova, she left valuable testimonies about her journey through Banat and Transylvania and, later, through Wallachia and Moldova. Her testimony reveals a great sensitivity and concern for the safety of the trip because the children were accompanying her. Christina Reinhard's sensitivity is also reflected in her correspondence, but it does not detract in any way from the beauty and objectivity of the situations described. The historian must interpret the information according to the context in which it was recorded by a mother who arrived in a country on the periphery of the West. The journey seems arduous to Christine, the roads not being what she was used to. The rainy weather contributed a lot to slowing down the horse-drawn carriages, which often got stuck in the mud, at one point even having to continue their journey on foot. The author remembers that: "Meanwhile it became cloudy, the rain threatened to start, and we were happy to be able to entrust the nanny and the children to the prudent Saxons to whom we had been obliged the night before and who offered them shelter under the cover of their wagon, promising us that they will take them to the next stop. We ourselves went in search of our carriages, which at last arrived. Our men had the ingenious idea of harnessing all the horses to one carriage at a time, and by repeated efforts thus succeeded in getting over the obstacles and catching up with us. The descent was as fast as the ascent was arduous"[34].

The events described in the fragment happened near Sibiu, after the travelers had crossed the difficult road from Orăştie, through Sebeşul Săsesc and Miercurea, before reaching Sibiu. The challenges of the journey are many, from the poor quality of the roads, where they often get stuck due to heavy rains, the many horses harnessed to the carts but weak, to the difficulty of traveling on the mountain roads, where the horses are unable to pull the carts until after they are all harnessed to a single cart. Every time, travelers enjoy the help offered by other travelers on their way to Sibiu, in this case the Saxon merchants. A few days before arriving in Sibiu, Charles Frédéric Reinhard and his family stayed overnight at Dobra[35].

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[34] *Lettres de Madame Reinhard a sa mère, 1798-1815: une femme de diplomate*, p. 191-192; *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*], New series, vol. I, p. 283.

[35] "Dobra was a sorry village, where the innkeeper got us a single room without beds; our mattresses were placed on the hay, and the servants remained in the carriages to guard them. The road traveled the next day was even worse; fortunately, the beauty of the landscape helped us bear the slowness of the journey more easily." (*Lettres de Madame Reinhard a sa mère, 1798-1815: une femme de diplomate*,, p. 189-190; *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*]. New series, vol. I, p. 281.)

Unfortunately, the difficulties of the roads were also compounded by the accommodations in the inns along the route, most often unsuitable, so the family of the consul general looked for solutions to get out of the impasse. Being trained people, the Reinhards sought to overcome the inconveniences of a three-month journey from Hamburg, where they represented France, to Iasi, through the small joys offered by the landscape of the Romanian Principalities. Consequently, beyond the inherent difficulties encountered during the journey, the Reinhard family sought to enjoy as much as possible the things they encountered, the wild landscape of the country, the events they went through, some risky, and the people they met taken as they were and with whom they were able to collaborate. The crossing from Transylvania to Wallachia was made through the pass from Turnu Roşu with the help of horse-drawn carts. Although they harnessed four pairs of horses to each wagon, the difficult and steep road proved difficult for some travelers less accustomed to the realities of these parts of Europe. Consequently, to ease the work of the coachmen, the travelers get off their wagons and cross the pass on foot, but they are beset by all kinds of dangers, from the heat of the sun, to fatigue, and the rain and gale that has begun.

Lady Elizabeth Craven, having arrived in Istanbul from Russia, counted on the support of the French ambassador in Constantinople, who obtained from the Gate authorization for her to travel through Bulgaria and Wallachia, having an escort and benefiting from all the facilities[36]. The author arrived in Wallachia on July 13, 1786, being awaited by the envoy of Mr. Nicolae Mavrogheni[37]. Prescient Elizabeth Craven, after a discussion with the intern Baron Herbert Rathkeal of Constantinople regarding the journey she was about to make, built a carriage in Istanbul that could also be used as a bedroom[38]. The solution chosen by the traveler of English origin turned out to be a lifesaver, because in the regions she was going to pass through there were few places to stay and of poor quality. On the way to the capital, Elizabeth Craven notes the help received from the country's boyars, but also the practices used by the Arnauts to get rested horses and reach their destination faster. The more than benevolent attitude towards Elizabeth Craven was due to Mr. Nicolae Mavrogheni who ordered that the princely officials give her support. Accordingly, the author reports the following: "Several boyars came out to meet me, and my escort men were very alert and clever, although their usual way of getting me carriage horses often caused me great annoyance. For it often happened that a peasant riding on

[36] *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*], vol. $X_1$, p. 717.
[37] *Ibidem*, pp. 719-720.
[38] *Ibidem*, p. 719.

a handsome horse, with a sack of flour on his back, would be dismounted in a moment, and left with a tired horse, and his rested horse harnessed to my carriage. I wanted at least some money to be given to the man and the whole matter explained to him, but it seems that the lord of Wallachia ordered me to be spared from all care and idleness and not to be allowed to pay anything, so the little money on which I distributed to them were given in secret and I could not succeed in doing it without great diplomacy"[39]. She considered the confiscation of horses unjust and incorrect, therefore, educated in a completely different mentality, she tries where she can to offer the wronged peasants small financial compensations. During the journey, Elizabeth Craven faced many challenges which she tried to deal with the help of the royal servants. It was difficult to avoid the natural weather that befell the travelers, and the English delegation experienced numerous unforeseen events on the road from Wallachia[40].

Elizabeth Craven crossed Wallachia and entered Transylvania on her way home. The traveler makes the following notes about crossing the border with Transylvania: "You can imagine how slowly we advanced through the mountains, where twenty peasants accompanying the carriage on foot lifted it up by hand over rocks just as big as the wheels. Two nights ago, when the guides thought they could be trusted to run the carriage on a small smooth surface, it overturned with me, and, as it was the first time in my life such a thing had ever happened to me, I was so astonished—though not injured - that it didn't even occur to me to get out of the carriage [...]. This road between Transylvania and Wallachia was specifically terminated and damaged, this constituting one of the articles of the last peace treaty concluded between the emperor and the Porte"[41]. Most of the foreign travelers reported about the difficulties encountered when crossing the Carpathian passes with carriages. Then, in the absence of decent places to stay in Wallachia and Moldova, many travelers ordered massive and durable carriages that would also serve them for sleeping, but would withstand the clogged roads of the Principality. Elizabeth Craven did the same on her trip from Wallachia. Crossing the Carpathians proved difficult even with 20 peasants sent by Nicolae Mavrogheni. To the difficulties of the crossing were added others; the large heavy cart left by the attendants on a straight road overturned with the passenger, fortunately

[39] *Ibidem*, p. 720.
[40] "I was surprised by the most terrible storm of thunder and pouring rain that I had ever seen, and instead of arriving at a boyar's house, where lodgings had been arranged for me for the first night, I was compelled to halt and to wait patiently until the elements would please to abate their fury, yet I was less tried than my companions on the road, who traveled in entirely open carriages, and so the wind, rain, thunder, and lightning kept us in place the best part of the night. When we could follow our way, we went on and rested in the welcoming house of a boyar, beautifully situated on the Argeş River, at the foot of the mountains. " (*Ibidem*, pp. 724-725).
[41] *Ibidem*, p. 725; Elizabeth Craven. *Journey Through the Crimea to Constantinople*..., p. 402.

without injury. Elizabeth Craven remained with the fear and the memories of the difficult and full of adventures crossing from Câineni to Sibiu, but also with the gratitude for the support given by Nicolae Mavrogheni.

**5. Safety of the journey**

The Lords of the Romanian Lands, if the personage crossing their country was of high rank, on their own initiative, at the order of the sultan or at the suggestion of the ambassador accredited by the Porte, made sure that the representative of the great powers enjoyed the support of the princely authorities. This is what happened to Baroness Marianne von Herbert-Rathkeal, the wife of the imperial and royal representative at the Ottoman Porte, who was helped by Mihail Șuțu, lord of Wallachia, on the journey from Constantinople to Vienna. "The imperial and royal agent, sharing with the prince the news about the imminent passage of Her Excellency the lady (the wife of the internuncio) through Wallachia, immediately assigned the attendant from the Divan to meet her at Daia, the first place in Wallachia, close to the shore of the Danube, to accompany her and be of use to her during her journey and, at the same time, he ordered two stewards, the closest ones, to be present on that road and to see to it that she is well served"[42]. The initiative to give Baroness Marianne von Herbert a special status started from the agent of the Habsburg Empire accredited to Mr. Mihail Șuțu, who ordered the officials to wait for her at the border, to accompany her, so that she can travel safely.

For her part, Elizabeth Craven, on her way back from Constantinople to the border with Transylvania, describes the support she enjoyed from the Lord of Wallachia as a result of the intervention of Choiseul-Gouffier, the French ambassador to Constantinople. "When I landed in Wallachia, I found horses, provisions, and an escort specially given for me, and flew rather than walked"[43].

Other travelers benefited from consistent support from the authorities in the empire and the Romanian lords of the Principalities. That's what happened to Charles Reinhard's family. In Transylvania they enjoyed help from the authorities who posted two soldiers each on certain sections of the route to guard them. The big surprise was when crossing into Wallachia, where the authorities competed in supporting the delegation representing France's interests on the Lower Danube. At the Red Tower, the French delegation was met by the "mihmandar", the lord's representative, at the head of a real

[42] *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*], vol. $X_1$, pp. 698-699.
[43] *Ibidem*, pp. 720-721.

procession, sent to prepare their way through the country[44]. From the letter sent by Christine Reinhard to her mother, dated July 11, 1806, there is a concern about crossing the Carpathian Mountains, seen as an obstacle difficult to cross and unpredictable. In the tableau of crossing places described by the author, the fortification at Turnu Roșu appears as the border that separates two worlds, the known one from which he just left, from the unknown one, where he just entered. The difficulty of the road reinforced the author's gloomy predictions. In the evening when she arrived in Câineni after a journey of several hours, Christine Reinhard describes to her mother the difficulties she had when crossing the border between Transylvania and Wallachia[45]. The traveler had every reason to be worried about crossing into Wallachia. Firstly, the carriages used were not suitable for the mountain roads, being much too wide for the dimensions of the mountain roads; as a result, the people in prince Constantin Ipsilanti's escort were obliged to support the carts with ropes on certain narrower portions of the mountain, so as not to collapse. Even the accommodation at the post office in Câineni was not up to the expectations of the travelers, especially Mrs. Reinhard, even if the owners moved to sleep in the stable, to leave the guests the only room in the best house in the small town of Câineni, where the post office was. Once they entered Wallachia, the trip was organized taking into account the situation in Wallachia. According to Ms. Reinhard's accounts, all the things they had in the carriages with which they traveled to Transylvania were moved into two wagons that were to be used for the transport of luggage, and six people from the escort were assigned to each wagon who had to have them in care. The

[44] "We left the Empire and here we are in Wallachia. The departure from Sibiu takes place early in the morning in wonderful weather and we quickly arrive at the Turnu Roşu where the representative of Prince Ipsilanti and part of the escort of honor came to meet us. I gazed at the tower and the gorge it dominated while the Wallachian emissaries conveyed the prince's greetings to my husband. This building, preserved and painted red, offered nothing of interest, yet to me it had a special meaning and represented a new barrier separating me from everything I held dear. The mountains I have yet to cross pass before me, but my thoughts lag behind" (*Lettres de Madame Reinhard a sa mère, 1798-1815: une femme de diplomate*, p. 193; *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*]. New series, vol. I, p. 283.)

[45] "After the talks are over, our convoy enters a narrow path cut into the side of the mountain, we make a fearful ascent, with our eyes fixed on the mountain wall, so as not to see the precipice whose edges our wheels touch; there are places where the road narrows so much that we are suspended above the precipice. At these critical moments the men of the escort hold the carriage with the help of ropes specially taken, while other strong arms pull them back. We walk like this for six hours and I arrive completely exhausted in the village where I never thought I would be. We lived in the best house there, the host was kind enough to move into the stable, to leave the only room of the house at our disposal; the furniture consists of a very large wooden bed, covered with an ordinary carpet. We will nestle as best we can and as for me I will watch my little ones for there is so much filth that I expect a very restless night." (*Lettres de Madame Reinhard a sa mère, 1798-1815: une femme de diplomate*, pp. 193-194; *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*]. New series, vol. I, p. 284.)

host prepared for the difficult journey from Câineni to Pitesti with more than 60 horses, a number that proved necessary for a fast and safe journey. In the new configuration the procession led by the "mihmandar" crossed with great difficulty but safely this difficult part of the road[46]. The road became easier after the travelers reached Pitesti, because the area was not steep, and the carts could move more easily. But, the roads were unmaintained and the accommodations at the post stations miserable. In this situation, the "mihmandar" looked for accommodation solutions with some boyars in the cities and fairs located on the travelers' route. Although full of hospitality, the homes that the boyars made available were devoid of the most basic standards of hygiene and comfort. Meal service often proved deficient, so the Reinhard family cook was often sent to prepare a meal for tired and hungry travelers after a day's journey. The presence of foreign travelers represented a real spectacle for the inhabitants where they stopped. This is what happened in a locality near Pitesti, where they dined, being warned to be careful not to have their things stolen[47].

### 6. From West to the capitals of the Principalities

The interventions at the Porte to prevent the Porter family and all their companions from crossing Moldova when they returned from Constantinople must have left a bitter taste for the ambassador's wife, Clarisa-Catherine

[46] "My predictions were fulfilled because in truth I left Câineni without having rested. There had been something frightening about the preparations that had been made; the carriages were unloaded, all things placed in two which, each given to the care of six men in charge of lifting and supporting them in the difficult places. The escort consisted of two Tatars, two soldiers, a commissar called mihmandar and most of the guards. I smiled when I heard that we would need 60 horses for the road, but I trusted that they were all used. Your heart would have trembled, dear mother, if you had seen us crawling along the dreadful roads we have passed. I was constantly worried, until the eyes of my soul became accustomed to the danger. At first, through the bad places, I wanted to walk, but the heat and fatigue were stronger than the fear, and I listened to my husband who advised me to close my eyes and entrust myself to God and the mihmandar. I regained my courage and began to look at the precipices, to be even delighted with the wild and frightening beauty of the places I was passing through. No trace of habitation on these heights; from place to place a shepherd's hut and the post offices every four hours testify that there were a few human beings on these peaks." (*Lettres de Madame Reinhard a sa mère, 1798-1815: une femme de diplomate*, pp. 194-195; *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*]. New series, vol. I, p. 284.)

[47] „A small detour allowed us to spend the night at a boyar's mansion. This pompous name is given to a lousy house, consisting of a large vestibule and several dark rooms, furnished with a single sofa and a large stove. In summer the world sits outside under a shed of reeds and plaited leaves; we found lunch prepared and served after the European fashion, thanks to the care of our cook; he had left first with the food, accompanied by a gypsy cook's assistant. The owners and a crowd of curious people crowded around us, being very pleased to see us eating. A storm interrupted this performance, forcing us to take shelter in the house, where the intruders followed us to the deep despair of my old maid. They wanted at all costs to touch everything that was taken out of the chests and were amazed especially by the size of some intimate dishes that they took for coffee cups! Nanette was forced to ask the help of the host to regain possession of these things, the exposure of which seemed to her out of place." (*Lettres de Madame Reinhard a sa mère, 1798-1815: une femme de diplomate*, pp. 195-196; *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*]. New series, vol. I, p. 284.)

Porter, accentuating her critical spirit towards what she sees, what emerges from a letter, in which she describes Iasi with the streets "paved with boards instead of cobblestones; the city is not even comparable to the Greek conceit in the grandeur of its buildings"[48]. She doesn't have a very good opinion of Galati either, she calls it a "poor village in Moldova, although the Moldovans call it a city". She ironizes the fact that they did not meet the prince of Moldova: "As for His Majesty, we left him in his majesty, not caring about the honor or rather the boredom of seeing him"[49].

Baroness Marianne von Herbert-Rathkeal, the wife of the imperial and royal intern at the Ottoman Gate, in 1785 was returning from Constantinople to Vienna, together with her daughters, their way also passing through Wallachia, and prince Mihail Şuţu, at the insistence of Stephan Ignaz Raicevich , the imperial agent in the Romanian Lands, organized a lavish reception for him[50]. Mihail Şuţu established through a letter of 6/17 May 1785 the manner of carrying out the ceremony of the entry of the baroness into Bucharest, although there was no precedent in this sense, as well as the officials appointed to carry out the provisions received. The procession of the wife of the imperial intern arrived in Bucharest on May 17, 1785, after a tiring journey, and the following morning, at 10 o'clock, the royal envoys arrived at the place where the baroness was staying, to greet her and prepare her visit to the court. "On the same day, at 5 p.m., the gentleman's wife's carriage, drawn by six horses, came to take His Excellency to the palace. The royal procession consisted of a number of palace soldiers and 6 mounted marshals and foot captains, the first and second 'pitars', 6 squires and a 'stângiu' in full dress surrounding the carriage. In the courtyard of the palace were lined up two lines of soldiers, with their officers. When she got out of the carriage, the baroness was received by the wives of the country boyars and the lady's porter. In the middle of the great banqueting hall the lady of the country came before her, who, offering her the seat on her right, led her into a very elegant booth-shaped room. Sweets and coffee were served to the Baroness by the lady of the country. A little after that the prince came, who had many attentions for the lady baron. The visit ended with the usual perfume and rose water, farewells were said, and the return took place with the same ceremony"[51]. As can be seen, the visit was rather a protocol one, important for the representative of the Habsburg Empire in Constantinople. All the stages of the first-class visits were completed, the accommodation, the visit to the royal court accom-

[48] *Ibidem*, vol. IX, p. 492.
[49] *Ibidem*.
[50] *Ibidem*, New series, vol. I, p. 697.
[51] *Ibidem*.

panied by a large retinue, the welcome of the guest by the lady of the country and the prince, the usual gifts, as well as the essentials of the court protocol: coffee, perfume and rose water[52].

Elizabeth Craven enjoyed a similar reception at the court of Prince Nicolae Mavrogheni of Wallachia. The traveler of English origin arrived in Wallachia from Constantinople, stage of a longer journey to Vienna, in 1786. She manages to obtain, with the help of the ambassador of the Habsburg Empire in Vienna and the French ambassador in the capital of the Ottoman Empire, a document of passage and an escort, up to the border with Transylvania. Elizabeth Craven was promised special treatment throughout the journey. When she entered Wallachia, the traveler was awaited at the border by the envoy of the country's lord who accompanied her to the capital. A connoisseur of the ceremonial and protocol of the imperial courts, Elizabeth Craven describes the reception at the royal court with a keen critical spirit and in great detail. The meeting with Prince Nicolae Mavrogheni is reproduced by the British traveler in the following words: "In the second courtyard there were two rows of guard soldiers lined up from bottom to top on the steps of an imposing staircase, leading to the large audience hall, in the middle of which there was a space separated by cushions on which the prince sat dressed in the Turkish fashion; above the head were strung the tui, the big kuka with feathers, the wonderful yatagan. [...]. Coffee and sugar were served, and as I rose to take my leave, one of his chamberlains whispered to me to sit down again, and then my ears were deafened by the most diabolical clamor that I have ever heard"[53]. Elizabeth Craven, after an audience with the Prince and the lady of the country, is invited to dine with the royal family. "Dinner was served in a much more European way than I would have imagined: a table with legs and chairs to sit on were things I did not expect. The prince was sitting on one side of the table, his wife on one side and me on the other. Several pieces of silverware of distinctly English manufacture were placed



Elizabeth Craven - portret realizat de Ozias Humphry

[52] Marin Sâmbrian-Toma. *Op. cit.*, p. 94.
[53] *Ibidem*, p. 722.

on the table. But there were also four candlesticks of alabaster inlaid with flowers composed of small rubies and emeralds, which were very beautiful. Throughout the dinner a hideous Turkish music was played, but now and then it was interrupted by that of the Gypsy fiddlers, whose tunes were absolutely charming, and would have made even the heaviest clod of dirt want to dance."[54]

The English traveler describes the two important moments at the court of Nicolae Mavrogheni, the official reception and the meal with the family of the lord of the country. In the first part of the ceremony, we notice the large number of servants and soldiers present, as well as the symbols of the power of the fanariot prince: the tuis, the big kuka with feathers and the yatagan, received from the sultan. In the second moment of the ceremony, the traveler is impressed by the western world influences at court, the manner of arranging the table, the way the menus were served and the services placed on the table[55]. Instead, in the final part of the ceremony there was a recital of oriental music that did not please the prince's guest. Instead, she is fascinated by the traditional music, played by the gypsy fiddlers, who then accompanied her on the way to the accommodation.


UNE FEMME DE DIPLOMATE

LETTRES

DE

MADAME REINHARD

SA MÈRE

1788-1815

POUR LA SOCIÉTÉ D'HISTOIRE CONTEMPORAINE

PAR

LA BARONNE DE MIMPFFEN, NÉE REINHARD

PARIS

ALPHONSE PICARD ET FILS

1900

After her experience in Wallachia, Elizabeth Craven arrived in Sibiu on July 28, 1786, where she met with the governor of Transylvania, Samuel von Brukenthal, who invited her to see his collection of minerals and paintings. She is invited to the governor's table, where Joseph II also arrives, to greet the English traveler. Elizabeth Craven is fascinated by the personality and austerity of the emperor who: "He came on foot, accompanied only by General Brown, and sat two and a half hours looking at the maps and objects received as a gift from me. He seemed to like the maps very much and he laughed when I conveyed the message from the ruler of Wallachia, because I reproduced it exactly. Yesterday morning, I went to the military review, but the day was rainy, stormy and tiring. The emperor left Sibiu after the review"[56].

[54] *Ibidem*, p. 723.
[55] Nicolae Iorga. *Op. cit.*, p. 397; Bogdan Bucur. *Op. cit.*, p. 199.
[56] *Călători străini despre Ţările Române* [*Foreign travelers about the Romanian Countries*], vol. $X_1$, p. 727.

The traveler was impressed by the presence of oriental customs in Wallachia, under the domination of the Porte, in Transylvania, a province of the Habsburg Empire, the austerity and modesty of Joseph II were the things she noticed. Discussions with Samuel von Brukenthal about his art and mineral collection give us another perspective on the realities of the governor's court.

Christine Reinhard has a similar attitude. Beyond the bad premonitions that tempted her when crossing from Transylvania to Wallachia, Christine Reinhard had many experiences that made her look critically at the realities of Romanian space. We find the description of the reception ceremony of the consul at the royal court in Bucharest in July 1806 interesting[57]. Christine Reinhard, in the correspondence sent to the family, records the following: "[...] I had not expected to pass through a real courtyard, full of orchards and cattle. The entrance halls were dirty, dark, full of ill-dressed women, and my poor train endured a long time on those wretched tiles. I felt very ridiculous in my ball gown in that whitewashed hall, the windows of which were decorated with curtains and the only adornments were a few mirrors. [...] When they entered the hall [Mr. Reinhard, accompanied by the great seneschal], the princesses stood up on the divan and, perched like that, they made their deep bows. It was very difficult for me to hold back my laughter when they started to incense my husband as well. I felt some pleasure when this original visit ended, which gave me a very curious idea of the customs of the Orient"[58].

Christine Reinhard seems to suffer a great disappointment at the court in Bucharest. Although she had been warned by the realities in Bucharest, what she finds during the audience with the lord of the country is beyond her powers of understanding. Nothing pleases her: the royal court is full of ruffians, the palace halls are dirty and dark, the court women are modestly dressed, in general, everything lacks opulence. In this environment, the attire in which Christine Reinhard had come to the audience, one for an imperial court, contrasted with the modesty here. Safta Ipsilanti, the wife of Constantin Vodă Ipsilanti is the only one dressed in a red French-style crepe dress, the other ladies wearing oriental costumes. This atmosphere is completed by certain practices that existed here, the bows made by the princesses, perched on the sofas, and the incensing of the husband, finally causing ironic smiles to Mrs. Reinhard. She calls all these, with a plastic expression, the customs of the Orient.

[57] Angela Jianu. *Women and Society in the Romanian Principalities 1750-1850*, *mss* PhD thesis, University of York, Department of History, May 2003, p. 136.
[58] *Ibidem*; Nicolae Iorga. *Op. cit.*, p. 446; Bogdan Bucur. *Op. cit.*, p. 201.

**7. Conclusions**

The four women, coming from the West, meet in the Romanian Countries, a world where eastern elements intertwine with western ones, giving a special touch to the lands. The royal court, the customs with which they are received, the food, the music with which they are honored, the clothing of the hosts are still tributes to Turkish influences. Fine ladies, raised to certain standards, they perceive a big difference between the two worlds.

Among them, only Christine Reinhard stayed longer in the Principality of Moldova, her husband being on a diplomatic mission, the others only crossed Romanian lands on their way home. Travelers come from different Western European spaces, Austria, England, the Netherlands and the German space. Three of them are the spouses of diplomats, only the aristocrat Elizabeth Craven undertakes a journey that will last a year and a half, without political interests. She was probably considered an eccentric at the time, bearing in mind that a member of the English *high-life* had to adhere to fairly strict standards of behavior, especially if she was a woman and married with children.

Letters that they sent to family members, friends or other personalities were preserved over time, were published, even translated, thus becoming a source of particular importance, especially for the image of society and the cities of the Romanian Countries in the century the eighteenth. The criticisms that emerge from the travelers' accounts should not surprise us or bother us. Being concerned about the state of the roads, their personal safety, the state of the places where they stayed, it was normal for them to be dissatisfied with the difficulties they encountered. Crossing the Carpathians was not an easy mission, the roads were in bad condition or non-existent, the cities were not up to Western standards, the comfort was not what these women were used to. And about the reception they had, even if the place of princely residence was far from palaces and castles, the food, music, clothing attracted their attention if they thought they should be mentioned, being part of the specifics of the place.