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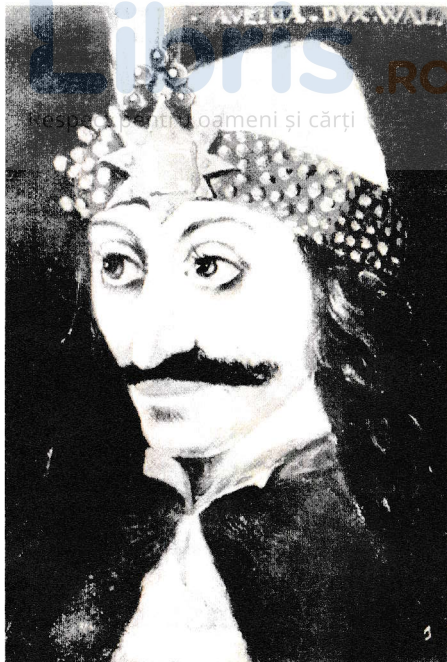


Dracula

alias

Vlad Țepes

 paideia



The Legend of Dracula

Romanian historians, modern and contemporary foreigners tried and for the most part have succeeded to make the proper distinction between Vlad “Tepes” (from now on Vlad Tepes) the lord of Walachia (1448, 1456-1462, 1476), the fearless fighter against the ottoman danger from the Mehmed the 2nd period (1451-1481), the “Conqueror” of Constantinople (1453) – and the bloodthirsty and ghoulish character *Dracula*, “related” by certain stories from the 15th century or “made-up” by the 19th century post-romantic fiction written by Bram Stoker.

The etymology of "Dracul"

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In 1408, the king of Hungary, Sigismund of Luxemburg (1387-1437), was founding the Order of the Dragon, whose mark was a dragon twined at the feet of the Christian cross. The order was formed to fight against the Christian heresy (especially husite) but also to organize the crusader fight against the ottoman expansion.

Vlad - Vlad Tepes's father and candidate for the throne of the Romanian Country - became a member of the order in 1431 at Nurnberg in Germany. As a ruler in 1436, Vlad (1436-1442, 1444-1447) in more than one circumstances used the

Dragon mark: either on two currency issues or on royal chancellery seals or carved in stone.

An appellation that corresponds with Vlad's affiliation to the Order of the Dragon must be imposed before his ascent to the throne of the Romanian Country since an inside document issued in 1436 talks about "Dracula voivode" just enthroned.

We know the fact that in the period between 1431-1436, waiting for a convenient occasion, the candidate Vlad had lived for the most part in Transylvania, surely in Sighisoara (*Schässburg*), in the german area, the german word *Drache* is translated "dragon". A document from 1452