

CONSTANTIN LECCA, THE PAINTER OF ICONOSTASIS OF “RESURRECTION JESUS” CHURCH’ FROM SEBEȘ (ALBA COUNTY)

ABSTRACT

An archive fund – from the Orthodox Protoerie from Sebeș – kept at the Local Departament of the State Archives Alba, offered the surprise of discovering some documents related to the iconostasis of “Resurrection Jesus” from Sebeș. The icons of the iconostasis whose frame was build between 1820 - 1826 at Sibiu, are preserved nowadays without being dated or signed. Only the stylistic characteristics could give some clues, unfortunately uncertain.

Those 21 documents from the archives of Alba Iulia represent the correspondence between the rector of Sebeș – Ioan Tîpșeu and the bishop of Transylvania of that time – Andrei Șaguna. The above mentioned church was important. The ex bishop – Vasile Moga, born in Sebeș had made huge efforts for its raising, having even left a sum of money for the completion of the building.

In 1860 the rector and the Sebeș Orthodox representatives found rapidly a painter of icons – Ioan Morar – born in the surroundings of Sebeș, at Laz. Șaguna did not accept him and he reminded the rector the fact that an auction had to be organized through “Romanian Telegraph” and the best painter chosen with a satisfactory financial offer. At the contest, supervised in fact by the bishop, there were present Ioan Balomir, Transylvanian painter settled in Iași, George Popescu from Pitești and Constantin Lecca, settled in Bucharest, but born in Brașov, a city very dear to Șaguna. Although Lecca demanded the largest sum (3900 florins compared to 3000 florins as Ioan Morar asked) he is accepted by the bishop, rector and the Christians.

In the agreement signed in September 1860 in five points, it is mentioned that the painter would work in Sebeș, in two rooms near the house of Zaharia Moga. The term of ending the work was eight months.

Satisfied with the iconostasis, the inhabitants of Sebeș asked Lecca to paint the bishop’s tower, the pulpit and the loggia. They didn’t agree upon the price although Șaguna supported the man from Brașov. Lacking 200 florins they remained unpainted.

EXPLANATION OF THE FIGURES

Fig. 1. - The Agreement signed on 29th August 1860 between Constantin Lecca, the painter from Bucharest and the representatives of the Orthodox Church from Sebeș, f. 2v.

Fig. 2. - The iconostasis of Jesus Resurrection church (Alba county).