

ABOUT THE LIFE AND ACTIVITY OF SIMION BALINT

SUMMARY

The present work brings to the fore the image of one of the most courageous among the companions of Avram Iancu during the stormy events of the Transylvanian Romanians' revolution of 1848—1849. However, this paper does not discuss Balint's activity during the revolution, but his contribution to the fight for the national emancipation of the Romanians after the revolution.

The author first reviews a few little known facts concerning Balint's endeavours, during the Austrian absolutism, to meet the vital strivings of the inhabitants of the Apuseni Mountains; he further insists upon an unpublished document called *Epistolă volantă* (Loose letter) addressed by Simion Balint to „the Romanian brothers“ — a vehement protest against the Austro—Hungarian dualist pact of 1867. Renewing the oath taken by the 40.000 Romanians assembled on the Plain of Liberty in Blaj on the 3/15th may 1848, the Romanian leader from Roșia Montană called his connationals to fight against the loathsome political arrangement that suppressed the autonomy of Transylvania and condemned the Romanians to a state of insufferable national oppression. In conclusion, the author briefly displays some testimonies of the boundless attachment of Simion Balint to the just cause of the Romanian people oppressed during the difficult years that followed the instauration of the dualism, until he died in april 1880.