

## FURTHER INFORMATIONS ON THE ACTIVITY OF SOME HOUSE PAINTERS OF LAZ

### SUMMARY

As early as the beginning of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century, painting on glass and on wood in the Sebeş Valley was brought to its best by the Center of Laz where the house painters of the Poenaru family lived. Their activity can be followed within a fairly long period of time (over 100 years). This was possible because they sometimes used to sign and date their works in Cyrillic letters either on the painted area or on the protective case (of the ikons painted on glass), or on the support of the ikons painted on wood.

The first house painter we are going to deal with is Savu Poenaru who presumably lived between 1770 and 1818. After searching in a few villages of the Sebeş Valley, we discovered many works which throw a new light on his activity. For instance, in the Orthodox church of Loman (6 or 7 kilometers away from Laz) there is an ikon on wood representing Saint Ilie the Prophet whose support bears an inscription informing us that this particular work was achieved by Savu the house painter from Laz in 1823. Consequently, Savu the house painter did not die in 1818, but later, that is after 1823.

Another most interesting house painter of Laz was Savu Poenaru's son, Simion Poenaru (1802—1872) who, before 1840, used for the first time silver paper in order to reduce the time necessary to achieve a painting on glass. His well-known painting is an ikon on glass entitled „The Baptism of Christ“ which is owned by Elena and Paraschiva Stancu. On the back of the protective case there is an inscription in Cyrillic letters which proves this painting was achieved by Simion the house painter of Laz in 1817 (he was then fifteen years of age!).

The last house painter we shall mention is Ioan Moraru, native of Laz, as shows the inscription in Cyrillic characters which was found on an ikon painted on wood (in the Orthodox church of Dumbrava — Marga: „Ioan, house painter of Laz, 1845) and on two painted pews found in the Orthodox church of Răchita (about 8 km. away from Laz). The inscriptions are the same: „Ioan, house painter of Laz, july 22<sup>d</sup>, 1850“.

Future investigations on the spot might lead to the finding of other works that could throw a new light on the art of painting on glass and wood in the Sebeş Valley.

### EXPLICATION OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1.* Inscriptions of a few house painters of Laz.
- Fig. 2.* „The Holy Trinity“ (tempera on wood); Detail: the house painter's inscription.
- Fig. 3a.* „Saint . . . . and Mary Magdalene“ (tempera on wood)
- Fig. 3b.* Detail: the house painter's inscription.
- Fig. 4.* „The Baptism of Jesus“ (tempera on glass).
- Fig. 5.* „The Holy Virgin and Child“ (tempera on glass).