

The Distribution of the Buda *Minee* in Moldavia (1804-1805)
(*Abstract*)

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An important achievement, the printing of the Buda *Minee* (Μηνναϊον) in 1804-1805, was possible only because of the extended co-operation between the scholars in Transylvania, Wallachia and Moldavia. Researching the book commerce and the history of the cultural relationship amongst those involved into the printing and distributing of these religious books (containing the messes of all the 12 months of the year) demonstrates that these kinds of books were printed in two editions: one for Transylvania and the Hungarian parts of the Empire and another one for Wallachia. As for Moldavia, not being printed in the printing house of the Mitropolia, the distributing of the *Minee* was made not with the assistance of the hierarchical structures of the state or of the Church, but with the one of the merchants, having nevertheless the agreement of the authorities. The *Minee* printed in Buda in 1804-1805 reached Moldavia quite soon, the first copies being registered here to the end of 1807.

The price of the books fluctuated in time, depending of the state of the book when sold: whether it was binded or not; the context of the commercial transactions; the currency used. The price of an entire series of *Minee* was quite high, so there were cases when they were sold by piece. Thus, the entire series of *Minee* was bought by the contribution of more parishioners or of the whole parish.

The analysis of the notes made on the books proves that the owners of the Buda *Minee* were mainly the religious institutions. Even if a private person, clergyman or laic, bought a *Minei*, in most of the cases he gave it to a church or a monastery. Nevertheless, there were rare cases when the book was bought for private reading.