

## **The Austrian Nobility of the Moldavian Hâjdău-family** (Abstract)

**Costin FENEȘAN**

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According to a decree of the Polish Parliament, on February 4, 1676 the newly elected king of Poland, John III<sup>rd</sup> Sobieski, granted the Polish nobility a personal coat of arms (indeed a very rare favour to foreigners) to the Moldavian master of arms (*armaș*) George Hâjdău. Since 1674, Master George was a companion in exile, at Cracow and then Lemberg (Lwow), to the fugitive dethroned prince of Moldavia, Stephan Petriceicu, a devoted partner of Poland. George Hâjdău came in 1684 a second time to Poland, and for good, as a loyal supporter of the newly sacked prince Stephan Petriceicu. As an owner of the manor at Zarajsko (county of Sambor), granted 1698 by the king of Poland, August III<sup>rd</sup> the Strong, the Hâjdău family merged thereafter into the Polish society by various marriages. In time, the male descendants of the family were perpetuated by Stephan Hâjdău, married with Alexandra, sister of the late prince Stephan Petriceicu. In 1772, as result of Poland's first partition, Galitzia including the town of Lemberg, the new homeland of the Hâjdeu's, became an Austrian province and the family had to worry about their status of nobility. Gaspar Hâjdău, one of Stephan's sons, submitted 1782 to the Court of justice at Lemberg a request, claiming the recognition of his and his family's status of nobility. Based on the presented documents, the Court of justice in Lemberg asked the Government of Galitzia to accept Gaspar Hâjdău's request, so that finally the family acquired the Austrian nobility in knights (*Ritter*) rank. The coat of arms from this time on, which is being preserved until present days, keeps the largest part of the original coat from 1676. In addition, depicted on this new coat one can see even the coat of arms of Moldavia, an unmistakable suggestion of the relationship with the former Moldavian prince Stephan Petriceicu. To point out the military virtues of the Hâjdău's, a crossing arrow and a sword are both present on the new coat of arms.