

**Landowning Citizens in 18th Century Moldavia.
The Cases of the Villages of Roșcani and Găureni**
(Abstract)

Marius CHELCU

Keywords: landowning, citizens, urban economy, genealogy, Moldavia, Roșcani, Găureni.

The author tries, by means of case studies, to approach the problem of landowning in the case of citizens. The topic has not enjoyed by now, in the Romanian historiography, special investigation, being only tangentially dealt with, most of the times in relation to the citizens' aspiration to gain access to the boyars' social category. From this standpoint, in the absence of a more thorough analysis, the acquiring of lands by the citizens tends to be interpreted rather as a mandatory phase in legitimating a future ennoblement, while the economic motivation of landowning is passed over. By researching the content of several documents from the collection of volumes about the history of the city of Iași and of a number of unpublished acts from the National Archives of Iași, the author tried to reconstruct, partially at least, the destiny of two families of merchants that owned, in the 18th century, two estates near Iași (Roșcani and Găureni). At the same time, the author attempted an identification of the reasons – particularly the economic ones – why some merchants, inhabitants of the cities of Iași and Botoșani, with business relations in Transylvania and Poland, became owners of large estates neighbouring the city.