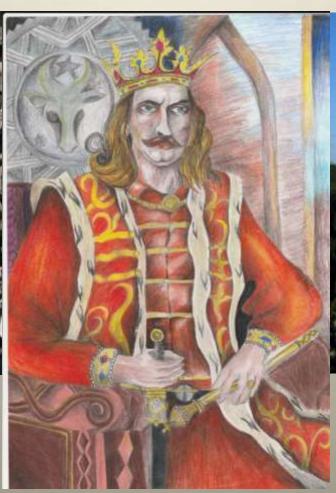
ROMANIAN TRAIL On the footsteps of Stefan cel Mare





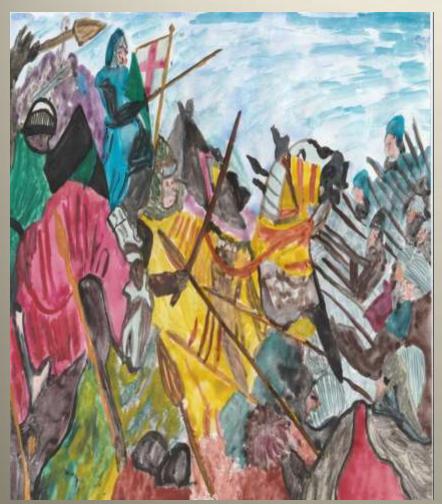


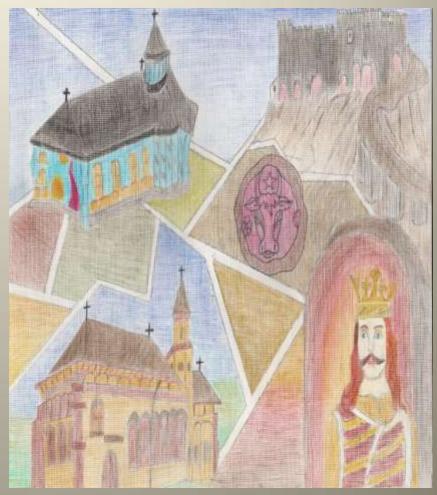
STEFAN THE GREAT



- Stephen III of Moldavia (also known as Stefan the Great, Romanian: Ştefan cel Mare, pronounced or Ştefan cel Mare şi Sfânt, "Stefan the Great and Holy"; 1433 – July 2, 1504)
- He was Prince of Moldavia between 1457 and 1504 and the most prominent representative of the House of Muşat.

Ruller Stefan cel Mare was known in history for victories against the Ottomans and monasteries built during his reign





Some of the most important battles of the Stefan cel Mare:

Battle of Baia, 1467
Battle of Vaslui, 1475
Battle of Valea Alba, 1476.

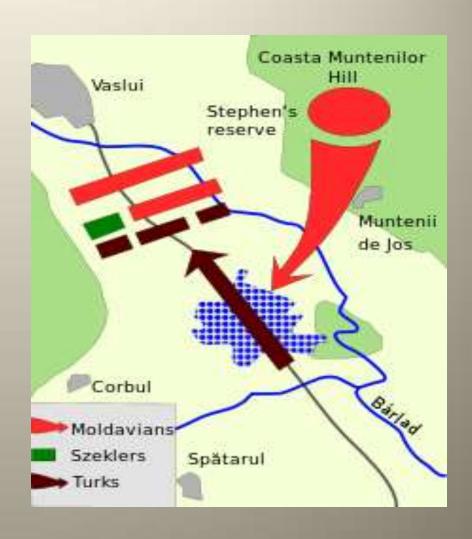
Battle of Baia

- The Battle of Baia was fought on December 15, 1467 against the armies of Hungarian King, Matthias Corvinus. The battle was the last Hungarian attempt to subdue the independent Moldavia, as previous attempts had ended in failure. Corvinus invaded Moldavia due to Stephen's annexation of Chilia — a fortress and harbour at the coast of the Black Sea, which at the time was controlled by Hungarian and Wallachian forces, though it had belonged to Moldavia centuries earlier.
- The conflict ended with a bitter defeat for the Hungarians, who had an army more than three times the size of the Moldavian force. This put an end to all Hungarian claims on Moldavia. Corvinus almost died after being thrice wounded by arrows and barely made his escape to Transylvania.



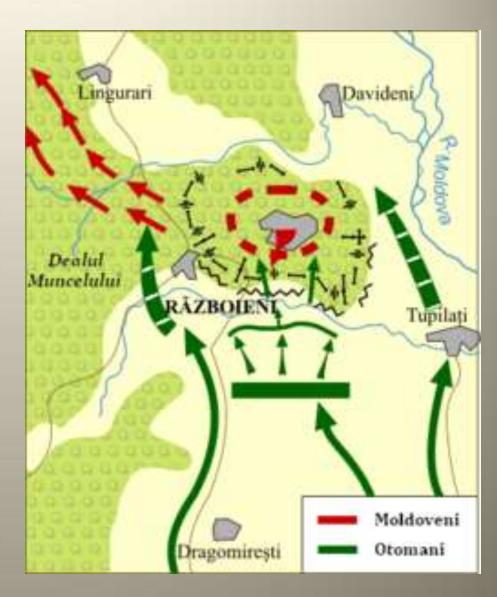
Battle of Vaslui

- the Battle of Vaslui (also referred to as the Battle of Podul Înalt or the Battle of Racova) was fought on January 10, 1475 between Stephen III of Moldavia and the Ottoman Beylerbey of Rumelia, Hadân Suleiman Pasha. The battle took place at Podul Înalt (the High Bridge), near the town of Vaslui, in Moldavia (now part of eastern Romania). The Ottoman troops numbered up to 120,000, facing about 40,000 Moldavian troops, plus smaller numbers of allied and mercenary troops.[2]
- Stephen inflicted a decisive defeat on the Ottomans, described as "the greatest ever secured by the Cross against Islam," with casualties, according to Venetian and Polish records, reaching beyond 40,000 on the Ottoman side.



Battle of Valea Albă

- Battle flag of Stephen the Great: Saint George enthroned, trampling a dragon.
- After the disaster of the Battle of Vaslui. the Sultan Mehmed II assembled a large army and entered Moldavia in June 1476. Meanwhile groups of Tartars from the Crimean Khanate (the Ottomans' recent ally) were sent to attack Moldavia. Romanian sources may state that they were repelled,.[7] Other sources state that joint Ottoman and Crimean Tartar forces "occupied Bessarabia and took Akkerman, gaining control of southern mouth of Danube. Stephan tried to avoid open battle with the Ottomans by following a scorched-earth policy." In the process the Moldavians forces ended up dispersed throughout the country, leaving only a small force of about 12-20,000 men, led by Ştefan cel Mare himself, to face the main Ottoman attack.



How many fights has won?

 Lord Himself answers this question in a letter of 1502 to Matteo Muriano, doctor who took care of him: we had 36 fights as the lord of this country, of which I was a winner in 34 and I lost 2.

• The two losses were at the Citadel Chilia (1462) and

Battle of Valea Alba (1476).



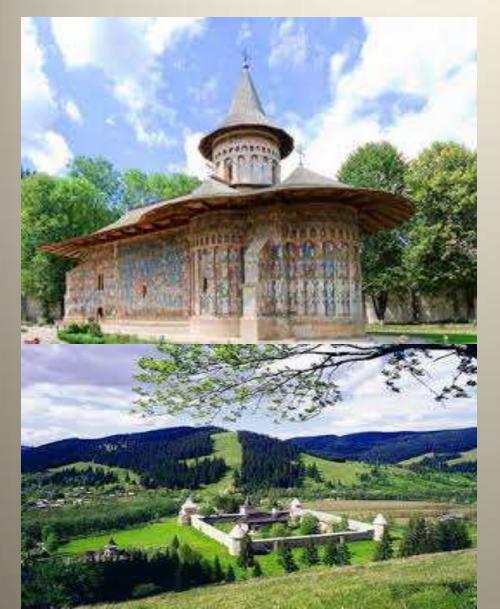
How many churches raised Stefan cel Mare?

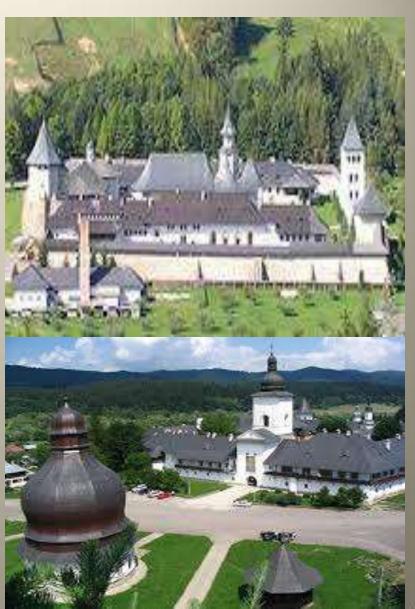
 It is not known exactly how many churches raised Stephen the Great: the tradition speaks of a number of 30 to 40 holy places, but there is no clear evidence of identification.

21 of them have been preserved inscriptions.



Some of the most beautiful monasteries built during the reign of Stephen the Great.





In the sixteenth century, when the Ottoman armies pressure on the Moldovan state was maxim, local artists have found the simplest and most direct way to send contemporaries, and over the centuries, the quintessence of traditions milenare.

In only 20 years, they have covered the walls of these five churches with a veritable illustrated Bible.

In years when Michelangelo said that frescoes are the most difficult and daring paintings, Moldavian painters created great masterpieces more comparable, their frescoes hidden mysteries that even today, after more than 500 years, have not been deciphered. A secret that would like to find all the modern painters and chemists. Inspirate of Bucovina color (blue sky, intense rusty, yellow, ocher, five shades of purple and green) colors - that became famous around the world – continues to be a mystery.

A chronicle of the reign of Stefan cel Mare mentions the multitude of plum brandy barrels sent periodically to painters. But they could not drink so much. There are assumptions, partially confirmed in the laboratory, that this delicious beverage was used in plaster walls and the mix of colors.

We, the descendants, we honor his memory.





