

COLLECTION 2 (f.2)
BESSARABIAN GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Timeframe: 1793-1919

Catalogue books: 7 (in Russian)

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Files: 10253

The office of civil governor of Bessarabia was established in 1812, appointed by the Russian emperor. He supervised the work of all administrative, financial, military, economic and caste institutions of the governorate. The governor was chairman of the governing committee of the governorate and of the institutions subordinate to him. He carried out his functions with the help of administrative institutions: the governor's chancellery, the gubernatorial steering committee, a number of commissions, committees and authorities.

In 1812-1816 the Governor was subordinate to the Commander-in-Chief of the Moldovan Army; in 1816-1828 - to the Plenipotentiary Resident of Bessarabia; in 1828-1874 - to the Governor General of Novorossiia; from 1874 - to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Secretarial work in the governor's chancellery was common, in 1840 it got its own structure - 6 offices, whose volume of work changed according to the expansion of the governor's rights and duties. In 1873 the staff of the chancellery was established, consisting of senior and junior advisors, registrar, count and special mission clerks. In 1902 the offices were suspended, the chancellery already having 4 sections.

The Chancellery and the office of the Governor of Bessarabia were suspended in 1917.

The collection is followed by a thematic index, where the list of "Jewish" files numbers about 200 items. ATTENTION: The list is far from exhaustive, not all files actually related to the Jews are listed there, there are much more!

The collection is fully microfilmed, that makes it more available for research.

Some topics the collection contains (for 1812-1873):

- Decrees of the Tsar and of the Senate Governor on matters of administration of Bessarabia: on the creation of the state apparatus, on the exemption of Bessarabia from the service of conscripts (21 August 1813).

- Provisions of the Governor General of Novorossiya and the Governor of Bessarabia on the suspension of Russian institutions in the southern part of Bessarabia, which had passed to Turkey (1857), on the suspension of the Regional Council and the change of the name of the region into a governorate (1868, 1869).
- Circulars of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice. Files on the transfer of powers of attorney by Senator V.I.Krasno-Milashevitch to Governor Sturdza (1812), on the shortcomings in the administration, on the functions of the persons administering the gubernias, on the establishment of the provisional police directorate (1812), on the distribution of means for the maintenance of local authorities, on the establishment of the Committee for drawing up the Rules for the Administration of Bessarabia, on the entry of State Counsellor Timkovski V.F. as civil governor of Bessarabia (1826). Data for annual reports and reports on the administration of the region, on the results of the review carried out in the Bessarabia region by the military governor (1841, 1842), objections of the Department of General Affairs to the governor's reports.
- Materials on the introduction of the coat of arms and uniform for the officials of the region, on the assemblies of the nobility and their statutes, on the establishment of the commercial court in Reni; on the suspension of construction committees in the towns of Chisinau and Izmail; on the abolition of the provisional court for criminal cases in Bessarabia; on the establishment of net administrations in the counties (1835); on the abolition of the regional court in Bender, of the service for acquiring salt from the State Chamber of Bessarabia (1862); on the history of state institutions.
- Correspondence with the commander of Ismail on the establishment of the borders between Turkey and Russia according to the Treaty of Peace of Bucharest (1812); with the Minister of War on the celebrations dedicated to the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace between Russia and France (1814). Tsar's decree on the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace of Adrianople with Turkey (1829). Documents on the work of the commission for the transfer of the territory of the southern part of Bessarabia under the terms of the Treaty of Peace of Paris of 1856 and the establishment of the new frontiers (1857).
- Treaty on trade and maritime navigation, concluded by Russia and the Kingdom of Italy on 16 September 1863.
- Documents on the establishment of the police service, on the introduction of the position of chief of the city police and the appointment to these positions in all towns of Bessarabia, on the establishment of customs and guardhouses at the border with Turkey on the Prut River. The cost

estimates for the construction of quarantine posts at Akkerman, Ismail, Leova, Iasi and Noua Suliță.

- Materials on Russia's wars: with France (1812), Russia's wars with Iran (1826-1828), the Crimean War (1853-1856).
- Data on the situation in military units in towns and cities, in the Kossak Army on the Don, on sea vessels and commanders of the Black Sea and Danube flotillas (1825), on the itineraries of troop movements through the Bessarabia region.
- Correspondence on the making of the new flag and banner for the fortress of Chilia, on the recruitment of Basarabian inhabitants to military service as volunteers, on the crossing of the frontier by Greek and Bulgarian volunteers and their numbers in the Basarabian region, on the losses incurred by the quarantines during the Crimean War, on the disbanding of the army of Kossaks in Novorosia, on the questions of supply and the embodiment of the army. Documents on the disbanding and redeployment of the Russian army from Izmil to the Chernihiv region (1812), on the victory of the Russian army under the command of M.I.Kutuzov in 1812, on the exchange of prisoners between Russia and Turkey.
- Disposition of the chief guardian on foreign colonists, on privileges for Ukrainian and Bulgarian colonies.
- Files on the guardianship of Transdanubian settlers according to the Manifesto of 1814; on the Serbs who moved to live in Tatarbunar (1813-1814); on the attribution to the inhabitants of Bessarabia of Russian subjects who arrived from abroad; on the issue of entry and departure passports; police data on the Zaporozhian and foreigners who moved to Bessarabia; on the displacement of Molocans from Bessarabia to Transcaucasia (1843, 1849).
- Materials on the etherist movement (1822-1823) and the Haiduc movement under the leadership of T.Tobultoc (1830-1836); on the existence in Akkerman of a secret society, the existence of the followers of the etherist movement, the search for its participants in the Basarabia region and the requisitioning of weapons; on the transfer of the participants of the Haiduc movement arrested in prisons; on the escape of T. Tobultoc from the arrest chamber in Chișinău (1835); on the surveillance of participants in the Polish uprising (1830) and of persons spreading information about it on the territory of Bessarabia; on the detention of members of the Paris society "Friends of Human Rights" (1834); on the extraction from sale and from libraries of the books of T. G.Shevchenko "Kobzari", P.A.Kuliș "Povesti ob ukrainskom narode", N.I.Kostomarov "Ukrainskie balladî", "Vetka" (1847); on the prohibition of the publication of the verses of N.A. Nekrasov (1856); on the dismissal of civil servants, who

belonged to the circle of M.V. Butachsevich-Petrachevsky; on the police surveillance of Petersburg University students - participants of the student movements of December 4, 1861.

- Files on the suppression of peasant movements in Hotin and Sorocea counties (1870).
- Correspondence on the displacement of 27 families from the village of Tașlîc to the Caucasus (1871); on the workers' strike on the Cornești section of the Chisinau - Iași railway (1872).
- Data on social status: lists of noble descendants, on large estates and their owners, on mazili, ruptași, merchants, petty bourgeois, peasants. "Regulation on peasants as free owners of land in Bessarabia region" of 1834, "Normal contract" of 1846, "Data on peasant reform in Bessarabia" (1868). Materials on the prohibition of the landlords of the Russian gubernias, who had lands in Bessarabia from resettling their peasants (1812); on the examination of complaints and petitions of peasants and peasants concerning their exemption from benefits; on the search for gypsies (Roma) and serf peasants, who fled from Russia; on the resettlement of serf peasants in Bessarabia.
- Correspondence on the convention concluded with the government of the Principality of Moldavia on the mutual extradition of serf peasants and fugitive deserters (1860); on the census of peasants (1861) and the allotment of peasants with state land.
- Files on the examination of petitions on the restitution of land to native peasants, on the dispossession of foreign subjects. Data on meteorological descriptions in Bessarabia, on the arrival in Bessarabia of the official of the College of Foreign Affairs P.I. Sviniin (1815) for the purpose of describing it; on the modification of the map of Bessarabia.
- Reports on the possibility of making saltpetre found in the village of Lapusna, Chisinau county; on iron ore found near Lipcani, Hotin county. Correspondence on the investigation and recording of old and new deposits and mining operations in Bessarabia.
- Correspondence on the consequences of the earthquake of 11 January 1838; on landslides in Balti county; on the use of the sumah tree growing in the Bessarabia region for the production of dyes for dyeing and tanning leather.
- Data on the results of the revision of state property in the region (1838). Correspondence on the change of Turkish units of measure and weight to Russian ones. Documents on the opening of spare loaf shops to help the population of the region in drought years.
- Reports on the income and expenditure of funds for charitable purposes, on the organization of philanthropic institutions, on the establishment of

the philanthropic society, on the donation by I.I.Zilberman of the Chisinau clock.

- Provisions of the Ministry of Finance and the police on the establishment and collection of various taxes and duties from the population. Files on the financial system in Bessarabia and the distribution of taxes among the social states, on the search for fugitive peasants and the punishment for hiding them. Files on the examination of petitions for exemption from various benefits. Lists of state taxes and duties.
- Correspondence regarding government revenues, city revenues and expenditures. Files on the establishment of the city credit society in Chisinau (1872).
- Statistical data on the economy of the region, on the number of population, villages, households, hamlets.
- Data about the Gypsies sentenced to exile in Transcaucasia; about the census of the Jewish population; about the number of gypsies and serfs sentenced to prison; about the way of displacement of the peasants from the land of the landlords to the state land.
- Reports on the existence and situation in agriculture, on the areas of cereals and grasses, sown and harvested, as well as of orchards, silkworms, herds of horses, on the herds of cattle, on the areas of state forests by counties.
- Reports on the existence and situation of bridges, roads, crossings, post offices; on the quantity of grain exported across the Prut. Price lists of foodstuffs, salt, fodder; on the number of churches and mosques.
- Files on the foundation of industrial enterprises for tobacco fermentation, post-oil, textile, dyeing, cotton and silk manufacturing in Chisinau; on the opening of tailoring and tanning workshops.
- Correspondence on the opening of lithographic and photographic workshops, hotels, restaurants, exhibitions of local articles in the region.
- Correspondence on the growth of silkworms, on the state of the tobacco plant and the varieties of tobacco grown in the region, on the state of the sowing of cereals, potatoes, on the sowing of Chinese grain plants, of indigo plants and the methods of obtaining from them the dark-blue colour, on the control of pests of agricultural crops, on the procurement of a Hungarian plough, on the draining of ponds in the valley of the river Bîc.
- Provisions of the military governor of Herson Du Camp de Richelieu on the resumption of transit trade with Austria (1813). Documents regulating the order of trade in the region. Files on the examination of petitions of merchants, of the population for the issue of permits to transport abroad goods manufactured by enterprises in Bessarabia; on the quantity of goods and the number of passengers, who were allowed to cross the quarantine, on the establishment of taxes for imported and exported goods, to handle animals.

- Files on the development of culture, science and education. Documents on the financing and construction of state objectives, bridges, roads, on the preparation of the reconstruction plan of Akkerman, on the planning of Chisinau, on the construction of churches, including the Armenian, Cathedral, Lutheran churches in Chisinau. Chisinau, on the construction of the bell tower and the casting of the bell for it, on the collection of means and the erection of monuments, on the arrangement of the public garden, the hippodrome, the gas lighting. Documents on the organization of public libraries, on the construction of the theatre in Chisinau.
- Lists on the number of rascolnics (followers of old-rite Orthodox sects), on the number of churches, chapels, monasteries and hermitages in the region.
- Data on the existence of educational institutions. Documents on the opening of educational institutions: gymnasiums, royal and parochial schools, Lancastrian schools, theological seminaries, progymnasiums, the Akkerman fruit-growing school (1828-1833), the Chisinau fruit-growing school, the viticulture schools in Chisinau, Akkerman and Bender (1825).
- Documents on the situation and development of health care. Data on measures to combat epidemics that occurred in the county: plague, smallpox, cholera, anthrax. Documents on the curative application of sulphur mud from the salt lakes of Bessarabia.
- **Documents on preventing Jewish pogroms; on vandalization of the Jewish cemetery; on the expulsion of Jews from the 50-verst border line; on the new regulations for craftsmen in the Pale of Settlement; law disputes on land property; on contraband; on prohibiting for Jews to return to Russia; on welfare, Jewish hospitals, orphanages and nursing homes; census of Jewish population in Bessarabia; on taxation of Jews.**