

MOLDAVIAN AND ROMANIAN FEMININE PROPER NAMES WITH LATIN ORIGIN, CANONIZED BY THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Abstract

The research object of the present text is Moldavian and Romanian feminine proper names Latin by origin, canonized by the Orthodox Church. The observation is implemented on the corpus of twenty-four anthroponyms, feminine by gender, and their variants. Every one of those twenty-four Moldavian and Romanian feminine proper names is derived from another proper name and that is why they are classified according to the main characteristics of the anthroponym, used as a basis during the process of derivation, i. e. if it is masculine or feminine by gender, if it is Latin or Moldavian/Romanian by origin.

Keywords: *Moldavian/Romanian feminine proper name, Latin origin, canonization, derivation*

Rezumat

Obiectul de cercetare al prezentei lucrări îl constituie prenumele feminine moldovenești și românești de origine latină, canonizate de Biserica Ortodoxă. Studiul este fundamentat pe un corpus de douăzeci și patru de antroponime (de gen feminin), și variantele acestora. Fiecare dintre aceste prenume este derivat dintr-un alt nume propriu și de aceea este clasificat în funcție de principalele sale caracteristici utilizate ca bază în procesul de derivare. E vorba de faptul dacă este de gen masculin sau feminin sau dacă este de origine latină sau moldovenească/românească.

Cuvinte-cheie: *nume propriu feminin moldovenesc/românesc, origine latină, canonizare, derivare*

The research object of the present text are Moldavian and Romanian feminine proper names Latin by origin, canonized by the Orthodox Church.

The study is implemented on the corpus of twenty-four anthroponyms, feminine by gender, and their variants. As a main source of information are used "Dicționar onomastic românesc" ("Romanian Dictionary of Onomastics") by N. A. Constantinescu and the sites www.kurufin.ru and www.behindthename.com. All additional sources of information, used in order the research, presented in that text, to be complete, are presented at the very end, in *References*, and are cited in the footnotes.

Every one of those twenty-four Moldavian and Romanian feminine proper names is derived from another proper name and that is why they are classified according to the main characteristics of the anthroponym, used as a basis during the process of derivation, i. e. if it is masculine or feminine by gender, if it is Latin or Moldavian/Romanian by origin:

(1) Moldavian and Romanian feminine proper names derived from a Roman feminine name:

- *Agripina* (*Agrăpina*, *Agrifina*, *Agripină*, *Agritina*¹) < *Agrippina* < *Agrippinus* (Roman cognomen, derived from the Roman proper name *Agrippa*, used also as a cognomen)²;
- *Diana*³ < *Diana* (the name of the Roman goddess of the moon, hunting, woods and birth-giving, the Roman equivalent of the Greek goddess *Artemis*; meaning unknown⁴);
- *Lucia* (*Lucica*)⁵ < *Lucia* < *Lucius*⁶ (Roman proper name, derived from the Latin noun *lux*, *lucis*, *f* – “light”)⁷;
- *Natalia* (*Natalița*⁸, *Nătălița*⁹)¹⁰ (< *Natalia* (Medieval Latin name, derived from the Latin *Natale Domini* – “Christmas Day”¹¹, from (*dies*) *Natalis* – “Birthday; connected with the birth-giving”¹², or from *natalis*, *e* – “of birth, natal”¹³));
- *Petronela*¹⁴ (< *Petronilla* (a diminutive of the Roman feminine name *Petronia*¹⁵) < *Petronius* (Roman family name, derived probably from the Latin noun *petro*, *petronis*, *m* – “yokel¹⁶; old ram¹⁷” or from the Greek *πέτρα* (*ἰον.*)/ *πέτρος* – “stone; rock”¹⁸));
- *Tatiana*¹⁹ (< *Tatiana* < *Tatianus* (Roman cognomen, derived probably from the name of the legendary Sabine king *Titus Tatius*²⁰ or from the Greek verb *τάσσω* – “affirm”)²¹).

(2) Moldavian and Romanian feminine proper names derived from a Moldavian/Romanian masculine proper name, Latin by origin:

- *Antonina* (< *Antonin* < *Antoninus*²² (Roman family name, used also as a cognomen, derived from the Roman family name *Antonius*)²³);
- *Claudia*²⁴ (< *Claudiu* < *Claudius* (Roman family name, derived from the Latin adjective *claudus* (lame²⁵) or from *claudius* (locked²⁶);
- *Domnica* (*Dominica*²⁷, *Domnița*, *Dumnica*, *Dumnița*²⁸) (< *Dominic* < *Dominicus* (Medieval Latin, derived from the Latin adjective *dominicus* (the Lord’s, possessed by God²⁹) or from the Latin *dominica*, *ae, f* (Sunday³⁰, mistress³¹));
- *Emilia* (*Emilica*) (< *Emil* (*Emilică*) < *Aemilius* (Roman family name, derived from the Latin noun *aemulus*, *i, m* (enemy)³²);
- *Flaviana* (< *Flavian* < *Flavianus* (Roman family name, derived from the Latin adjective *flavus* (yellow, golden³³) or from another Roman family name *Flavius*)³⁴);
- *Iulia* (*Iulica*) (< *Iuliu* (*Iulică*) < *Iulius/Julius*³⁵ (Roman family name, derived from the Greek adjective *ἰούλος* (curly, hairy³⁶) or from the name of the Roman god *Iuppiter/Jupiter*³⁷);
- *Iustina* (*Iiustina*³⁸) (< *Iustin* < *Iustinus/Justinus* (Roman cognomen, derived from another Roman cognomen *lustus/Justus*)³⁹);

- *Marcela* (< *Marcel* < *Marcellus* (Roman cognomen, used in *gens Claudia*, derived from the Roman proper name *Marcus*⁴⁰ or from the Latin noun *marcellus*, *i, m* (little hummer⁴¹);
- *Mariana* (< *Marian* < *Marianus* (Roman cognomen, derived from the Roman family name *Marius*)⁴²);
- *Marina* (*Marena*, *Marenca*, *Marinca*, *Mărena*, *Mărenca*, *Mărina*, *Mărină*, *Mărinca*, *Mărincea*, *Măronca*⁴³) (< *Marin* (*Marinel*, *Marinică*) (< *Marinus*⁴⁴, a Roman cognomen, derived from the Latin adjective *marinus* (sea, possessed by the sea⁴⁵) or from the Roman family name *Marius*⁴⁶)) or directly from the feminine form (i. e. *marina*) of the Latin adjective *marinus* (sea, possessed by the sea⁴⁷);
- *Martina*⁴⁸ (< *Martin* < *Martinus* (Roman cognomen, derived from the form for Gen. sg. *Martis* of the name of the Roman god of war *Mars*)⁴⁹);
- *Paula* (*Paulica*) (< *Paul* (*Pavel*, *Pavelică*, *Păvălaș*, *Pava*, *Pavu*, *Paulica*) < *Paullus*/*Paulus* (Roman proper name, used also as a cognomen in *gens Aemilia*, derived from the Latin adjective *paulus* (little, modest)⁵⁰);
- *Sabina* (*Sabinuța*)⁵¹ < *Sabin* < *Sabinus*, a Roman cognomen, used in *gens Calvisia* and *gens Claudia*, derived from the Latin word *Sabinus* (Sabine, a member of a tribe of the Sabines⁵²), from the Greek word *Σάββα* (Saturday) or from a Hebrew word meaning *an old man*⁵³;
- *Valentina* (*Ualentina*⁵⁴) < *Valentin* < *Valentinus*, a Roman cognomen, derived from another Roman cognomen *Valens*⁵⁵ or directly from the Latin *valentines* (the one, who is healthy, sound⁵⁶) or directly from the feminine form (i. e. *valentina*) of the Latin *valentines* (the one, who is healthy, sound⁵⁷);
- *Valeria*⁵⁸ < *Valeriu* < *Valerius* (a Roman family name, derived from the Latin verb *valeo* (to be strong, to be healthy⁵⁹) or from the Latin present participle *valens*, *valentis* (strong, healthy⁶⁰)).

(3) Moldavian and Romanian feminine proper names derived from a Moldavian/Romanian feminine proper name Latin by origin:

- *Cristina* (*Christina*, *Hristina*) < *Cristiana* (*Christiana*) < *Cristian* or *Christian* (a Moldavian/Romanian masculine proper name Latin by origin) < *Christianus* (a Medieval Latin name, derived from the Latin noun *christianus*, *i, m* (christian)⁶¹).

(4) Moldavian and Romanian feminine proper names derived directly from a Roman masculine name:

(4.1.) a family name:

- *Cecilia* (*Cecilica*)⁶² < *Caecilius*, derived from the Latin adjective *caecus* (blind⁶³) or from the Latin verb *cado* (fall⁶⁴);

(4.2.) a Medieval Latin name:

- *Laura* (*Laurica*) < *Laurus* < *laurus*, *i, f* (laurel)⁶⁵.

The biggest is the group of the Moldavian and Romanian feminine proper names that are derived from Moldavian and Romanian masculine proper names, Latin by origin (15). The less is the number of the observed feminine anthroponyms, derived from another Moldavian and Romanian feminine proper name – only one example (*Cristina* < *Cristiana*).

Number of the names, derived from a masculine name (17), is bigger than that of the names, derived from another feminine anthroponym (7).

Sixteen of the observed names in the present research are derived from another Moldavian or Romanian name, while only eight are derived directly from a Roman name (six from a feminine Roman name and two from a masculine one).

All the Moldavian and Romanian feminine proper names with Latin origin, observed in the present text, are canonized by the both Churches, i. e. the Orthodox and the Catholic one.

Notes

¹Constantinescu, 1963.

²Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; www.kurufin.ru; www.leksykony.interia.pl.

³The name became popular during the Renaissance (see www.behindthename.com).

⁴It is possible the name to be derived from pre-Indo-European word **deivos* – “god” (www.kurufin.ru), from an Indo-European root meaning “heavenly, divine” (Войнов & Милев, 1990; www.behindthename.com), from the Latin *deus*, *i*, *m* – “god” (Скрипник & Дзятковская; Кнапповá, 1986), from the feminine form (i. e. *diviana*) of the Latin *divianus* – “the one, who is divine” (Ковачев, 1995) or from the Latin *dies*, *diei*, *m/f* – “day” (<http://slovník.dovrečka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>).

⁵The saint is a patron of merchants, glaziers, and writers; and of the Italian towns *Perugia* and *Syracuse* as well (www.kurufin.ru). She is also a protector of the blind people because the saint herself was blind (www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru).

⁶Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; www.kurufin.ru; www.leksykony.interia.pl

⁷Кнапповá, 1986; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru; www.leksykony.interia.pl; <http://slovník.dovrečka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

⁸Constantinescu, 1963.

⁹www.kurufin.ru.

¹⁰According to the Orthodox tradition the saint is a patron of the happy marriage (www.kurufin.ru).

¹¹Дојчиновић, 2010; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru; <http://slovník.dovrečka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

¹²Constantinescu, 1963; Грковић, 1966; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; www.ksiegaimion.com; www.leksykony.interia.pl; <http://slovník.dovrečka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

¹³Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Илчев, 1959; Кнапповá, 1986; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; Ковачев, 1995.

¹⁴The saint is a protector of the people, travelling through the woods. In the French court she is thought to be the patron of the Dauphin. People believe that she helps high temperature and fever to be healed (www.kurufin.ru). It is believed that she is a daughter of St. Peter (Илчев, 1959; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru).

¹⁵Илчев, 1959; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru.

¹⁶Кнапповá, 1986; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru.

¹⁷Дојчиновић, 2010; Дворецкий, 1976; Кнапповá, 1986; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; Ковачев, 1995; Войнов & Милев, 1990.

¹⁸Knappová, 1986; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; www.leksykony.interia.pl; <http://slovník.dovrecka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

¹⁹In Russia the saint is believed to be the protector of all students because the decision for the creation of The Moscow University (the first university in Russia) is taken by the Empress Elisabeth on the 12th of January, 1755, or the day celebrated as St. Tatiana's day (www.kurufin.ru).

²⁰Илчев, 1959; Petrovsky, 1955; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru.

²¹www.kurufin.ru.

²²Constantinescu, 1963.

²³Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Knappová, 1986; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru.

²⁴The name became popular after the 16th c. Before that it is rarely used(www.behindthename.com).

²⁵Constantinescu, 1963; Дојчиновић, 2010; Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Илчев, 1959; Knappová, 1986; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; Петровский, 1955; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru; www.leksykony.interia.pl; <http://slovník.dovrecka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

²⁶Ковачев, 1995.

²⁷www.kurufin.ru.

²⁸Constantinescu, 1963.

²⁹Constantinescu, 1963; Ковачев, 1995; www.behindthename.com; www.dzietki.org; www.kurufin.ru; www.leksykony.interia.pl; <http://slovník.dovrecka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

³⁰Илчев, 1959.

³¹Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Петровский, 1955; www.ksiegaimion.com.

³²Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; Петровский, 1955; www.behindthename.com; www.ksiegaimion.com; www.kurufin.ru; www.leksykony.interia.pl; <http://slovník.dovrecka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

³³www.kurufin.ru.

³⁴Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Петровский, 1955; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru; <http://slovník.dovrecka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

³⁵Constantinescu, 1963.

³⁶Батаклиев, 1979; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; Ковачев, 1995; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru.

³⁷www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru.

³⁸Constantinescu, 1963.

³⁹Constantinescu, 1963; Дојчиновић, 2010; Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Илчев, 1959;

Knappová, 1986; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; Петровский, 1955; www.kurufin.ru.

⁴⁰Войнов & Милев, 1990; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru; <http://slovník.dovrecka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

⁴¹Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Knappová, 1986; Петровский, 1955.

⁴²Constantinescu, 1963; Илчев, 1959; Knappová, 1986; Ковачев, 1995; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru.

⁴³Constantinescu, 1963.

⁴⁴*ibidem*.

⁴⁵Knappová, 1986; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; Ковачев, 1995; Петровский, 1955; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru.

⁴⁶*ibidem*.

⁴⁷Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Илчев, 1959; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; Ковачев, 1995; <http://slovník.dovrečka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

⁴⁸The saint is one of the patrons of Rome (www.behindthename.com).

⁴⁹Constantinescu, 1963; Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Илчев, 1959; Кнапповá, 1986; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; Ковачев, 1995; www.behindthename.com; www.ksiegaimion.com; www.kurufin.ru; <http://slovník.dovrečka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

⁵⁰Constantinescu, 1963; Дојчиновић, 2010; Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Кнапповá, 1986; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; Ковачев, 1995; www.behindthename.com; www.ksiegaimion.com; www.kurufin.ru; www.leksykony.interia.pl; <http://slovník.dovrečka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

⁵¹The saint is a patron of housewives (www.kurufin.ru).

⁵²Ковачев, 1995; Петровский, 1955; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru.

⁵³Илчев, 1959.

⁵⁴Constantinescu, 1963.

⁵⁵Constantinescu, 1963; Дојчиновић, 2010; Илчев, 1959; Кнапповá, 1986; Кол & Ранчић, 2011; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru; <http://slovník.dovrečka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

⁵⁶Ковачев, 1995.

⁵⁷*ibidem*.

⁵⁸The saint is a patron of Tibodo town (Luisiana, U.S.A.) (www.kurufin.ru).

⁵⁹Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Илчев, 1959; Ковачев, 1995; Войнов & Милев, 1990; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru.

⁶⁰<http://slovník.dovrečka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

⁶¹Collins..., 1997; Кнапповá, 1986; Ковачев, 1995; Петровский, 1955; www.behindthename.com; www.kurufin.ru; <http://slovník.dovrečka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

⁶²The saint is a patron of music, musicians, composers, singers and poets; and also of the French town Alby and The National Music Academy "Santa Cecilia" in Rome (www.kurufin.ru).

⁶³Кнапповá, 1986; Ковачев, 1995; Петровский, 1955; Войнов & Милев, 1990; www.behindthename.com; www.ksiegaimion.com; www.kurufin.ru; www.leksykony.interia.pl; <http://slovník.dovrečka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

⁶⁴Ковачев, 1995.

⁶⁵Скрипник & Дзятковская, 1986; Илчев, 1959; Ковачев, 1995; Петровский, 1955; www.behindthename.com; www.ksiegaimion.com; www.kurufin.ru; <http://slovník.dovrečka.sk/etymologicky-slovník-mien>.

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