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SUMMARY OF THE PhD THESIS

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**BALKAN ARMS
OF THE 18th to 19th CENTURIES
ON THE CURRENT TERRITORY OF ROMANIA**

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Introduction

This doctoral thesis analyses the presence, typology, origin and dating of Balkan weapons from the 18th-19th centuries present on the current territory of Romania. Arms manufactured in the Balkan Peninsula in the 18th-19th centuries are among the most beautiful and valuable pieces held by museum collections in our country. Decorated by a variety of ornamental techniques and with the most expensive materials, the Balkan weapons of the Ottoman rule stand out due to the specific originality and sumptuousness, holding a share of about 25% of the total weapons of the 18th-19th centuries in the inventories of the Romanian museums.

The scientific approach of Balkan weapons in the 18th-19th centuries from the current territory of Romania conducted over a five-year period allowed us to clarify some important aspects related to the researched theme: identification of the places where Balkan weapons are preserved today on the territory of our country, identification and classification of the types of Balkan weapons present on the territory of Romania, origin thereof and dating of weapons according to the international literature.

In rendering the types of Balkan weapons, we have used a new method of work, different from that proposed by the ex-Yugoslav and international literature in the field of Balkan weapons manufactured during the Ottoman domination. While international literature focuses mainly on identifying production workshops, a rather relative identification since workshops in the Balkans frequently used to copy different types of weapons, producing them in a large number of gunsmith shops in the Balkan Peninsula area, our thesis applied an arm identification according to the most representative manufacturing centre. In this context, throughout our research, we have used syntax such as “Peć type”, “Foča type” or “Elbasan type” and not “Peć workshop”, “Foča workshop” or “Elbasan workshop”, considering that this method of work better corresponds to the realities on the ground for the Balkans of the 18th-19th centuries.

Chapter I. THE BALKAN ARMY ISSUE IN ROMANIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

In the first part of this chapter, we have made a brief review of the international historiography in the field of Balkan weapons during the Ottoman domination, emphasizing the ex-Yugoslav literature. In the former Yugoslavia territory, in the 18th-19th centuries, there were the most numerous arm handicraft and artisan centres on the Balkan Peninsula. Reference was made to the numerous studies drafted by the Serbian researcher, Đurdica Petrović, as her work was the basis of the international literature in the field under review. The most important contemporary researcher in the field of Eastern-Balkan weapons, the British Robert Elgood, uses in his work the principles enunciated at the time by Đ. Petrović.

The second part of the introductory chapter is dedicated to the Romanian historiography in the field of Balkan weapons of the 18th-19th centuries. Although the issue of old weapons in the national historiography is well represented, the strict field of Balkan weapons is a novelty, as the first specialized studies were only published in the second decade of the 21st century by the author of this doctoral thesis.

Chapter II. PRODUCTION OF ARMS IN THE BALKAN PENINSULA IN THE 18th-19th CENTURIES

With the strengthening of Ottoman authority, important changes were made to the Balkan Peninsula with regard to the way of life of the indigenous Christian population. While during the Middle Age period rural production prevailed, following the Ottoman conquest, crafts have developed strongly, especially in the urban environment, and with them, the trade flourished. In many urban centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece in the 17th-18th centuries, but especially in the 19th century, artisanship production reached its peak of development. Arms made in the aforementioned centres were for both local markets and for trade with the other provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

Due to the mountainous and hard-to-reach structure, the said geographical area was less rigorously controlled by the Ottoman authorities, which led to the flourishing of production and trade in handicraft and artisan weapons. In these territories, the oriental influences overlapping the older European cultural heritage of the area created the premises of the emergence of specific types of white weapons and firearms, not seen in the rest of the Ottoman state.

Especially in the peripheral areas of the Ottoman Empire, in the Western Balkans, Balkan weapons are divided into several categories and types: white weapons (Yataghans, swords and knives) and firearms (flintlock rifles and pistols). The most famous and renowned gunsmith centres in the 18th-19th centuries in the Balkan area were Foča, Fojnica and Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Prizren and Peć (Kosovo and Metohija); Kotor Bay (Montenegro); Shkodra and Elbasan (in Albania); Debar, Tetovo and Skopje (Macedonia); Plovdiv (Bulgaria) and Ioannina (Greece).

If we look at the Balkan weapons – kept in the great museum collections on the Balkan Peninsula – from the perspective of their use, we find that the overwhelming proportion is held by civilian weapons, the primary function of which was related to the need for self-defence in a politically unstable and highly dangerous territory for everyday living. In the Balkans, in many geographical areas, weapons were considered to be elements of the traditional clothing, and they were also an important indicator of the holder's social status. Of the richly decorated pieces of gold, silver, or ivory, there are no documentary testimonies about their use on battlefields, as those weapons were gala, parade pieces that were passed on from generation to generation. Unlike civilian weapons, military ones were identified in a much smaller number, usually as simple pieces, with no spectacular ornaments and made of less expensive materials. The most relevant situation in support of the above is that of Yataghans, given that in terms of material value these weapons are divided into the two categories: civilian (with handles bearing ivory, silver or golden silver inscriptions; damascened inscriptions in gold; sheaths made of golden silver filigree) and military (handles made of buffalo black horn, damascened inscriptions with silver or just engraved in the blade body; simple wooden sheaths covered in leather).

Balkan weapons are pieces created with much originality, popular design mixed with the older layer of feudal culture, plus strong oriental influences. All these aspects have created the premises for the emergence and development of specific types of white weapons and firearms in the Balkans, different from the rest of Oriental weapons manufactured in the Ottoman world.

Chapter III. THE MAIN TYPES OF BALKAN ARMS EXISTING IN THE ROMANIAN SPACE

In terms of identifying the places where Balkan weapons are preserved nowadays, it is worth mentioning that the vast majority of objects present on the current territory of Romania are found in museum collections, public collections and, to a lesser extent, in private collections, due to the more rigorous legislative regime, setting the rules for the collection and possession of weapons, especially firearms. As a result of the research carried out, it was found that the most numerous Balkan weapons dating since the Ottoman domination are found in our country in the great museum collections, among them “King Ferdinand I” National Military Museum in Bucharest, in the collections of which the most numerous types of Balkan weapons existing today in Romania were identified. The category of great museum collections, which also preserve important sub-collections of Balkan weapons, also includes that of the National Museum of Romanian History in Bucharest, the National Museum of Art of Romania, the Brukenthal National Museum in Sibiu, the National Museum of Transylvanian History in Cluj - Napoca, the National Museum of Banat in Timisoara and the Peles National Museum in Sinaia. Balkan weapons have also been identified in many smaller museum collections in regional, county and local institutions, but the number of pieces held in these cases is much lower and the presence of spectacular weapons is quite exceptional.

Exact statistics on the percentage of Balkan weapons in the large weapon collections in Romanian museums and public collections are difficult to achieve in the context of the fact that few museums have published complete collections catalogues so far. As a rule, only armament sub-collections have been published, although there are catalogues that include the entire range of weapons, but these are selective works, encompassing only the most representative pieces. In addition to the published weapons, our research also includes pieces listed under the National Cultural Heritage of Romania, and information in this regard is available on the web site of the National Heritage Institute (CIMEC - Institute for Cultural Memory) subordinated to the Ministry of Culture. From a statistical point of view, the weapons posted on the CIMEC page represent only a small part of the weapons held by Romanian museums and the information contained in this database is only useful in completing an already existing documentary background. In addition to the published weapons and the CIMEC database, there are also the pieces researched on site, in the exhibitions and deposits of Romanian museums. Here, however,

it should be noted that many Romanian museums are currently closed to the public due to various renovation works or museum heritage transfer, and their collections are hardly accessible to researchers. Such a situation is encountered at the National Museum of Romanian History in Bucharest, National Museum of Transylvanian History in Cluj-Napoca, Cris Country Museum in Oradea, Iron Gates Region Museum in Drobeta-Turnu Severin, etc.

Corroborating the data obtained from all three sources mentioned above (publications, CIMEC database and on-site research), we can propose a maximum percentage of 25% for Balkan weapons in the large museum collections in our country, of the total weapons of the 18th-19th centuries held. The percentage is much better applied to firearm collections, published and ranked in a much larger number than white weapons.

In relation to the identification and classification of the types of Balkan weapons present in the current territory of Romania, it should be emphasized that this is the most important contribution brought by our research on old weapons stored in museum collections in Romania. By identifying and classifying the types of Balkan weapons from the 18th-19th centuries present in the current territory of Romania, we demonstrate that most of the pieces of weaponry considered by the old domestic literature as being of *Turkish* or *Oriental* production are actually the result of Balkan weapon production, especially the gunsmith shops in the West of the Peninsula.

During our research, we identified a total of 22 types of Balkan weapons made in the 18th-19th centuries; broken down by categories of weapons, they are divided into white weapons (5 different types) and firearms (17 different types). The results of our research show that most of the types of Balkan weapons defined in the international literature are also found in the nowadays territory of Romania. Among the types of weapons left unidentified in our collections, it is worth mentioning the *Balkan sword*, as defined in the literature, and the flintlock rifle *karanfilka* type. However, when identifying the *karanfilka* type, it is worth mentioning that we have used the criteria listed by the old Yugoslav bibliography, according to which only one such piece has been catalogued so far and it is preserved in the collection of the Belgrade Military Museum. Croatian research into Balkan weapons identifies the *karanfilka* type based on other criteria, so most of the *roga* fall, according to the Croatian research, under the *karanfilka* type. In our typology, in order to avoid confusion between the *karanfilka* and the Greek *kariophili* types, we used the identification criteria of the old Yugoslavian research. Regarding these types of

unidentified weapons in the present territory of Romania, it must be said that the failure to identify them during our scientific approach does not automatically equate to their lack in Romania, given that our research was not exhaustive, as it was based on the published weapons, CIMEC database and collections researched. There is the pure theoretical possibility, however, that these types unidentified so far are found in smaller museum collections or in private ones.

Returning to the typology of weapons identified, white Balkan weapons include three different categories – Yataghans, knives and swords – all of which are catalogued chronologically in the above-mentioned order. The most numerous are the Yataghans, which are divided into three distinct types (*belosapci*, *crnosapci* and those with metallic handles), and their share in the group of white weapons is overwhelming, since we have only one piece identified in the category of knives, and the chapter of Balkan swords in our catalogue includes only four pieces about which we have certain information that they come from the Bosnian space. These weapons do not correspond to the Balkan typologies drawn by international literature, nor do they fit in with the classic patterns of the Ottoman white weapons. Because of their originality, the four pieces were included in the catalogue of our work.

The Balkan firearms are much larger than white arms, and are grouped according to flintlock rifles and pistols. Three different weapon groups were identified in the category of flintlock rifles – the *tančice/arnautke* group, *shishane-* group and that of of the weapons made in the West for the Balkan market/redecorated in the gunsmith shops of the Balkan Peninsula – which totally sum up eight different types of weapons. The Balkan flintlock pistols are divided into two main categories: in simple pistols and holster pistols. Altogether, nine different types of Balkan flintlock pistols were identified, six of which from the category of simple pistols, while three are characteristic of the holster pistols. It should be noted that two of the Balkan firearms identified in the territory of Romania, the Ioannina pistol and the rifle specific to the Ionian Archipelago, but published only at an illustrative level and not researched on the spot, were not included in the *Parts Catalogue* at the end of the thesis.

In the case of the Yataghans, the statistics obtained from our research, on the basis of which the *crnosapci* Yataghans (those usually used in combat) hold the majority are not conclusive for the general situation of the pieces owned by the museums in Romania. We support this point of view as most of the *crnosapci* Yataghans studied come from the collection of the National Museum of Banat, where the weapons arrived as war prey or Oriental souvenirs

following the war for pacification of Bosnia in 1878. The situation in Timisoara is an exception, but the large number of pieces owned by this museum balances the statistical percentage of the Yataghans present in our country in favour of *crnosapci*. If we were to look at all the other museum collections available, we will notice that the percentage of *crnosapci* falls significantly between the first two types of Yataghans – *belosapci* and *crnosapci* – and there is a balance from this point of view, as only pieces with metallic handles are found in a smaller percentage. The large museum collections in our country, including the National Military Museum, National Museum of Romanian History, National Museum of Art of Romania, PelesNational Museum, the National Museum of Banat, etc., hold copies of all three types of existing yataghans. Among the most valuable pieces are those preserved in the Bucharest museums mentioned above. The identification of production centres in the case of yataghans is very difficult, even when the literature does not find a common point of view on this issue. However, the few gunsmith centres that can be identified due to existing peculiarities – the walrus ivory used mainly in Bosnia, the metal handle with quadrangle “chocks” specific to the Foča centre or the metal handle specific to the Prizren centre – are also found in museum collections in Romania.

In relation to Balkan firearms, where the status of the published and ranked pieces is much better than that of the Yataghans, it is worth mentioning that in terms of percentage, the number of flintlock rifles is similar to that of the flintlock pistols held in museum collections in our country. Regarding the Balkan flintlock rifles, most of the pieces are part of the *tančice/arnautke* category, the *roga* type. From this point of view, the situation is similar to the one found in the collections of the great museums in the former Yugoslavia, where the *roga* type (identified in Croatia as *karanfilka*) holds by far the largest percentage. An argument in favour of the large number of *roga* rifles in museum collections in the ex-Yugoslav territory, as well as in Romania, is that this type of weapon was made in the Balkans ever since the 17th century, being specific to a large number of gunsmith centres across the Western Balkans. It should not be neglected that a specimen of a *roga* rifle was much cheaper, being much easier to buy than a weapon of the *džeferdar* type. The *tančice* rifles of the *džeferdar* type hold the second place in terms of the presence of Balkan flintlock rifles in the Romanian museum collections, but their number is well below that of the *roga* type. However, the costly *džeferdar* rifles are found in Romania in a larger number than the *rašak* type, which are cheaper and more affordable on the Balkan market. It is worth mentioning that the *džeferdar* weapons in our museums come

exclusively from private collections and singular donations of pieces. Also from the *tančice* category, the museum collections in Romania also hold in a smaller number *rašak/kariophili* of Albanian origin. Along with the *roga*, *džeferdar* and *rašak/kariophili* rifles, the *tančice* in our country also include the *čibuklija* type, identified in the case of a single flintlock rifle. The other category of Balkan rifles, represented by the famous Bulgarian-production *paraguns*, is found in a relatively large number in museum collections in our country. In terms of number of pieces, the *paragun* appears more often in Romania than in the museums of the former Yugoslavia, most probably because of the proximity of southern Romania to the Bulgarian gunsmith centres. The same category of weapons of the *paragun* type rifle also includes the Bosnian *shishana*, identified in our country only in the collection of the National Military Museum. The family of the Balkan flintlock rifles also includes weapons made in the West intended for export to the Balkans and weapons redecorated in workshops from the Balkan Peninsula. In this category of rifles, we identified two distinct types, the *Dalmatian* rifle and the one specific to the gunsmith shops in the Ionian Archipelago, both of which are represented by a single identified piece.

As regards the Balkan flintlock pistols, the most numerous and wide spread in the Romanian museum collections are the famous Peć holster pistols, the most common pistol used in the Balkans during the 19th century. Affordable, robust and efficient, the Peć-type holster pistol was traded on the Balkan markets until the second half of the 19th century, and is often found in museum collections in the former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece and Turkey. On the second place, with regard to the spreading of the Balkan flintlock pistols in our country, there is the *Elbasan* Albanian weapon, and an argument in favour of its wide spreading is the price significantly lower than the other Balkan pistols. The category of simple pistols also includes the famous arms of the of *ledenica* and *zlatka* types, generally made by the gunsmith shops of Boka Kotorska. The *zlatka* type was identified at a double percentage compared to the *ledenica* type, and the few pieces of the second type of weapon were inventoried in the collections of the Bucharest museums. A rather widespread and somewhat surprising presence is the sumptuous *Shkodra* holster pistol, present in Romania especially in museum collections of Bucharest. The category of holster pistols in Romania also includes the Foča pistol, also identified in museum collections in the province. It is important to note that the three types of holster pistols are identified in our literature as weapons of a *Turkish / Oriental* origin. Romanian

museums also hold in their own collections pistols of the *prizrenci*, Albanian *celina* and *Ioannina* type, but in a much smaller number than those mentioned above.

Chapter IV. PROVENANCE AND CIRCULATION OF BALKAN ARMS IN THE 18th-19th CENTURIES ON THE TERRITORY OF ROMANIA

In relation to the origin of Balkan weapons of the 18th-19th centuries identified today in the territory of Romania, note should be taken from the very beginning that there are no craft workshops documented on the present territory of Romania, as the international literature identifies gunsmith shops in the northern part of Bulgaria, which was the northern limit of the production of Balkan weapons.

The use of such weapons in the current territory of Romania during the 18th-19th centuries is questionable and, unfortunately for historical research, not covered by sufficient archival testimonies. If for the intracarpatic territory things are simpler because under the rule of the Holy Roman Empire of German nation, after the Austrian Empire, the Western-style weapons predominate, namely that of a Central European production, outside the Carpathian arch, the wider use of Balkan weapons, especially during the Phanariot era, results from the military organization of the two Principalities, under Ottoman rule at that time. The establishment of Phanariot regimes in the Romanian Principalities at the beginning of the 18th century coincided with the bringing into the Romanian territory of the Arnauti troops, formed of mercenaries of south-Danubian origin – Albanians, Serbs, Bosnians, Montenegrins, Bulgarians or Greeks – who wore *Arnautian* garments, namely Albanian, and were in the service of Phanariots lords, forming either the Lord's Guard or the suite of high officials, or the posses for catching thieves. As a rule, the captains of these mercenaries were appointed among the Greeks. The number of Arnautian mercenaries gradually increased, reaching troops of 1,000 Greek Arnautians during the rule of Alexander Ypsilantis (1787-1788) in Moldova and 2000 Arnautian mercenaries in Wallachia in 1769, during the Russo-Turkish war. However, the largest number of mercenaries troops were recorded in Wallachia in April 1821, namely 2520 Arnautians. With regard to the equipping of Arnautians, we can say with certainty that they were armed with many Balkan weapons specific to the territory of origin – firelocks, yataghans, pistols. However, the extent to which the Balkan weapons were used in the 18th-19th centuries in Wallachia by other non-mercenary elements is difficult to establish in the absence of edifying archival evidence.

Referring strictly to the origin of the Balkan weapons currently present in museum collections in Romania, we can say, based on the researches undertaken, that these pieces come from several sources:

- Catches of war following military campaigns in the Balkan Peninsula or against the Ottoman Empire;
- Private goods and collections donated to museums;
- Purchases made by museum institutions on the domestic and international antiques market;
- Transfers of arms from other similar institutions or from State authorities.

The first category, that of catches of war, includes most of the Balkan pieces kept in the collection of the National Museum of Banat, as arms are brought from Bosnia and Herzegovina after the Bosnian War of Pacification of 1878. This category also includes the pieces owned by the museum institutions in southern Romania, a concrete example being the “Teohari Antonescu” County Museum in Giurgiu, where the weapons were brought from today’s territory of Bulgaria during the Independence War of 1878-1879. The category of pieces confiscated following military operations, we have weapons brought from Hungary, from the Szolnok garrison, during the Romanian-Hungarian War of 1920s, pieces that are currently part of the collection of the National Military Museum in Bucharest. As regards the donations of Balkan weapons, the National Military Museum contains in its inventories the most numerous such donations, and the most valuable pieces come from the great private collections which became part of the patrimony of the Bucharest Museum. Individual donations of weapons were recorded for many museums in our country, including: the National Military Museum, the National Museum of Banat, the Giurgiu County Museum, the Mediaş Municipal Museum, etc. Along with these pieces, our museum collections also include Balkan weapons purchased from the domestic and international antiques market. Some of the pieces of the National Military Museum collection were brought from Vienna, being purchased by the Romanian military attaché in the Austrian capital. Acquisitions from the domestic antiques market were recorded in Timisoara, where a local antiquary sold to the Museum Society in 1904 weapons brought from Bosnia during the campaign in 1878. The category of arms transfers from other museum institutions or State authorities include a series of weapons inventoried in collections of the National Military

Museum in Bucharest, the Brukenthal National Museum in Sibiu, the National Museum of Banat, etc.

In connection with the circulation of Balkan weapons from the 18th-19th centuries in the territory of Romania, note should be taken that commercial activities related to this type of weapon, although mentioned by former Yugoslav researchers, are not yet confirmed by national historiography. Even in the absence of internal confirmations, it is very plausible that the Balkan weapons were sold in Wallachia in the 18th-19th centuries, and an indirect evidence is the numerous Balkan pieces existing in the old private collections in Romania, collections subsequently entered into the patrimony of the National Military Museum.

Analysing the circulation of Balkan weapons identified on the Romanian territory today through the production workshops, we can note the following aspects: the category of Yatagans includes those made in Foča and Prizren; a *bishaq* Balkan knife made in Sarajevo; among the Balkan flintlock rifles there were those made in Boka Kotorska and Plovdiv; and among the flintlock pistols there were the gunsmith shops in Boka Kotorska, Elbasan, Debar, Ioannina, Prizren, Foča, Peć and Shkodra.

Chapter V. ISSUES RELATING TO DATING OF BALKAN ARMS FROM THE 18th-19th CENTURIES ON THE TERRITORY OF ROMANIA

The last aspect clarified in our research is the one related to dating of the Balkan weapons of the 18th-19th centuries identified on the current territory of Romania. First of all, the causes that led to an erroneous dating of the Balkan pieces in the Romanian literature, especially during the communist period, must be mentioned. Given the fact that the international bibliography in the field of Balkan weapons was at its beginnings, being inaccessible to Romanian researchers, in order to date the Balkan weapons in our country we used the general western chronology for the periodization of the evolution of hand-held weapons, a timeline that does not correspond to the realities of the Balkan Peninsula, in particular of the Eastern territory in general. In the Balkans area, technological innovations such as the percussion cap mechanism had a poor and delayed penetration, as the technological gap between the West and the Balkans was of almost a century. This existing gap between workshops in the Balkan Peninsula and Western Europe has not been addressed by the older Romanian literature. Another reason that led to an erroneous dating of the pieces in our museums was the “custom” of Balkan workshops to copy Italian

weapons from the 18th century during the 19th century. It is well known that Balkan workshops purchased weapon components, in particular pipes and detonating mechanisms, from the West, especially from the Northern Italy. In the Balkan Peninsula of that period (18th-19th centuries), European production pipes were imported, and sometimes also the wooden components of weapons. Many times the Balkan workshops only assembled and decorated the weapons, and the only indigenous elements were the decorations applied to the weapons. In the Balkans, another practice was used on a large scale, which overturned researchers' analyses: falsifying inscriptions. The temptation of large incomes led many of the local gunsmiths to engrave, especially on gun butt, the names of famous Italian gunsmiths from the 18th-19th centuries, which makes it difficult to date those pieces. We have a special situation in cases where inscriptions made from symbols and letters without any logic have been identified. Modern research believes that in these cases we are dealing with the "work" of illiterate craftsmen, who were addressing equally illiterate clients. The problem of engravings "copied" by illiterate craftsmen is also encountered in the Balkan territory in the case of Yataghan production, but we cannot speak of a widespread practice. Another problem in dating Balkan weapons is the massive importation of finished parts from the West, made especially for the Eastern and Balkan markets, given that the weapons specially manufactured for export were made to the tastes of the Balkan customers – respecting the typology and appearance of those from the 18th century.

Returning to the dating of the Balkan weapons identified in the territory of Romania, very few of the catalogued weapons, except for the Yataghans, keep the year of manufacturing. The best situation is in the case of Yataghans, where, out of the 59 pieces analysed in our thesis, 19 of the pieces still have the year of manufacturing damascened on the blade. All the pieces studied fall within the last decades of the 18th century and the second half of the 19th century. In terms of firearms, a very small number of pieces preserve the year of manufacturing, which does not allow us to carry out an edifying statistical analysis. Of the pieces studied, the years of manufacturing are engraved on a single pistol and on a single rifle, namely 1814 and 1865, respectively. Under these conditions, Balkan firearms held in our country's museums can only be dated generally between the second half of the 18th century and the second half of the 19th century.

By analysing the situation of the dated Yataghans, we can make a realistic assessment of the periods of Balkan weapons from the current territory of Romania. Out of the 19 dated

Yataghans, most come from the early decades of the 19th century, 12 pieces (63%), followed by the Yataghans dating back to the second half of the 19th century, 4 pieces (21%), while the Yataghans dating back to the last decades of the 18th century hold the smallest share, counting only 3 pieces (16%). Although the small number of dated Yataghans, 19 of the total of 59 weapons included in the *Parts Catalogue*, is not representative of the whole country, the results of our analysis are in line with the situation of Yataghans kept in the large weapon collections in Belgrade and Zagreb. Specifically, we refer to the share held by the Yataghans dated in the first half of the 19th century, the most numerous of which are kept in our museums and from this point of view the situation is the same as that of the Military Museum in Belgrade and the Croatian History Museum of Zagreb. The differences found compared to the situation in Romania result in the much smaller gap between this group of Yataghans and those of the second half of the 19th century, namely from the last decades of the 18th century. The large number of weapons made in the first half of the 19th century must be linked to the more than difficult political situation of the European part of the Ottoman Empire at that time. The need for arming became a necessity in the years of the “Serbian Revolution” of 1804-1835, a multi-stage anti-Ottoman movement that materialized with the establishment of an autonomous Serbian Principality within the Ottoman Empire. In the same line with the anti-Ottoman movement in Serbia, the Greek Independence War took place between 1821-1829, which ended with the recognition of the independence of the new Greek State by the great European powers. A conflict situation was also faced by Bosnia in 1831, but its character was different, as the Bosnians stood up against the reforms made by the central authorities of Istanbul. All these conflicts in the Balkans required massive arming and generated an important weapon production, a fact reflected in the dating of the Yataghans existing on the territory of Romania.

Analysing from a comparative point of view the situation of Yataghan dating with that of the Balkan firearms, related and especially contemporary weapons, we can propose an assimilation regarding the periodization of white weapons and firearms. Consequently, it can be appreciated that the vast majority of the Balkan firearms existing in Romania was coming from the same sources as the white ones falls chronologically under the first half of the 19th century, in line with the great effervescence in the production of weapons in the Balkans, the regional political situation of which was presented in the paragraphs above.

Conclusions

As a general conclusion, we can appreciate that the Balkan weapons of the 18th-19th centuries, present on the current territory of Romania, are largely preserved in the collections of the great museums of our country, where we identified all types of Balkan weapons defined by the international literature. Some of the sources of origin of Balkan weapons existing in the territory of Romanian are war catches, weapon donations and purchases, institutional exchanges. The dating of these weapons falls between the second half of the 18th century and the second half of the 19th century, with emphasis on the first half of the 19th century, a historical period that coincides with the political instability on the European part of the Ottoman Empire, and with the powerful anti-Ottoman movements in Serbia, Greece and Bosnia.

WEAPON CATALOGUE

Prepared in the form of a scientific catalogue based on the published works, CIMEC database and pieces studied on-site in the exhibitions or warehouses of the Romanian museums, the Weapon Catalogue comprises a total of 185 objects grouped by categories of arms - white weapons and firearms. Within each category of weapons, the parts were listed in accordance with the international typology of the studied field. For each type of weapon, the ordering of the parts in the catalogue was based on the chronological criterion. For each listed piece, the following points were reached: identification of the manufacturing workshop, dating, materials and techniques used to make the weapon, technical description of the piece, current source and holder, weapon classification, and the existing bibliography/webography.

In total, the catalogue of our thesis includes 185 pieces, of which 64 white weapons and 121 firearms. If we analyse the typology of Balkan weapons from the 18th-19th centuries in the territory of Romania in terms of the percentage held by each type of weapon, according to the *Weapon Catalogue*, we will have the following statistical situation:

a) Weapons manufactured in the Balkan Peninsula: of the 59 analysed yataghans, weapons of the *crnosapac* type hold the largest share, with 23 pieces (39%); they are closely followed the *belosapac* yataghans with 21 pieces (35%); yataghans with metal handles have a total of 13 pieces (22%); fragmentary and modified yataghans (4%). The category of white weapons manufactured in the Balkan Peninsula also includes four Bosnian swords and one Balkan *bichaq*, all of them representing 8% of the total white weapons studied.

b) Balkan firearms – flintlock rifles: overall, 61 Balkan flintlock rifles were analysed, and the most numerous, with the largest share, are those of the *roga* type, totalling 34 pieces (57%); they are followed by *džeferdar* type rifles, with 11 pieces analysed (18%); the third place belongs to the Bulgarian *paragun*, with 8 pieces (13%); the *rašak* rifle is ranked in the penultimate place, with a total of 5 pieces (8%); the Other category covers the types of flintlock rifles represented only by one specimen identified (4%).

c) Balkan firearms – flintlock pistols: of the 60 Balkan flintlock pistols analysed, the highest share is held by the *Peć* holster pistols, with 23 parts (38%); they are followed by *Elbasan* pistols, with 10 pieces (18%); the Montenegrin *zlatka* type is represented by 8 pieces (13%); the *Shkodra* holster pistol was identified in 7 cases (11%); the *Foča* holster pistol occurs in 5 cases (8%); the famous *ledenica* pistols count for a total of 4 pieces (6%); the penultimate place is occupied by the *prizrenac* type, with 2 pieces (4%); the Other category includes the types of flintlock pistols represented with only one specimen identified (2%).

Bibliography

The bibliography used is divided into primary and secondary bibliographic sources, and under the conditions of the subject studied, the secondary one has the predominant role. Most of the secondary sources come from the former Yugoslav territory, with the titles published in Belgrade, Zagreb, Sarajevo, etc. As far as the domestic bibliography is concerned, it is worth mentioning that 11 titles (scientific papers and specialized catalogues) were published by the author of this thesis.

Annexes

From the *Annexes*, the most important are the 30 colour drawing boards, which illustrate all the types of Balkan weapons identified during our research. Along with drawing boards, we also prepared abbreviations, a glossary of speciality terms, tables, charts, and maps.