

Manouk Bey , l'Arménien, a failli occuper le trône de Moldavie, avec l'appui du général ottoman Alemdar Mustafa Pasha



Manuc Bey (the common [Romanian](#) rendering of *Manuk Bey*, the [Armenian](#) name of **Emanuel Mârzayan**; 1769–1817) was an [Armenian](#) merchant, diplomat and inn-keeper.

Life

He was born in [Rousse](#) (modern [Ruse, Bulgaria](#)) as a subject of the [Ottoman Empire](#). A grain merchant, he amassed considerable wealth, and was rumored at the time to be the wealthiest man in the [Balkans](#). In 1803, he was awarded the [boyar](#) rank of *paharnic* by [Constantine Ypsilanti](#), Prince of [Wallachia](#).

In 1808, the highly influential Manuc was advanced by his protector, the Ottoman general [Alemdar Mustafa Pasha](#), to occupy the [Moldavian](#) throne, but was prevented from taking the throne by the fall of his protector; he himself had to flee [Istanbul](#) to avoid execution. Settling in [Bucharest](#) (after a short period of refuge in [Transylvania](#)), Manuc-Bey kept the inn known today as *Manuc's Inn*; in time, he also acquired estates in [Bessarabia](#), near [Hîncești](#) and [Reni](#), and was to remain the main financial backer of Ypsilanti, lending the treasury 160,000 [thalers](#) in all.

During the [Russo-Turkish War of 1806-1812](#), he was also a mediator (1809) between the [Russian Imperial Army](#) of



Mikhail Andreyevich Miloradovich and a rebel Ottoman garrison in Giurgiu. A Russian agent, Manuc took part in the negotiations for the 1812 Treaty of Bucharest between the Russian and Ottoman empires, which were held in his inn in Bucharest.

The yard of Manuc's Inn in 1841

Towards the end of his life, he retired to his estate of Hîncești, where his son later built a manor house.

Manuc died in an accident in 1817, and was buried in the Armenian Church in Chișinău.

References

Neagu Djuvara, *Între Orient și Occident. Țările române la începutul epocii moderne* ("Between Orient and Occident. The Romanian lands at the beginning of the modern era"), Editura Academiei Române, Bucharest, 1995, p. 169, 287, 348-349

Constantin C. Giurescu, *Istoria Bucureștilor. Din cele mai vechi timpuri pînă în zilele noastre* ("History of Bucharest. From the earliest times to this day"), Ed. Pentru Literatură, Bucharest, 1966, p. 270-271.



External links

(in English) [Manuc Bey – A legendary historical figure of the 18th century](#), Biographical article on the Radio Romania International website.

(in Romanian) [Expoziția "Manuc Bey – negustor și diplomat" își deschide porțile pentru public](#)^[*permanent dead link*] ("The 'Manuc Bey – Merchant and Diplomat' Exhibition opens its doors to the public"), *Știri*, 8 August 2005, describing a Bucharest exhibition dedicated to Manuc-Bey

(in Romanian) [Article One of his palatial residences](#) in Hîncești (now in the Republic of Moldova, and (in English) [a short description](#)

(in English) *Spiritual Romania Dream Tour: Manuc's Inn*, includes a tidbit about Manuc-Bey in Paris.