

MIRCEA-GHEORGHE ABRUDAN, *Considerations about the cordial relationships between two exceptional ecclesiastical personalities of Transylvania: Metropolitan Andrei Șaguna and Bishop Georg Daniel Teutsch*

Abstract: The Orthodox metropolitan Andrei baron of Șaguna and the superintendent of the Evangelical Church C.A., the bishop Georg Daniel Teutsch represent and embody figures of religious and political leaders of the confessional and national community of the Romanians, respectively of the Saxons from Transylvania for over a quarter of a century.

Being European personalities through their education, pastoral mission and extensive activity dedicated to the culturalization and raising the flock's degree of education and to their opening towards the others by maintaining friendships, cooperation relationships and creating a common front against the Hungarian government's hegemonic tendencies after 1867 and the policy of monopolizing and secularizing the confessional education system managed by the two main Transylvanian churches.

This article intends to highlight, in a synthetic manner, the personalities of the two leaders who had their residence in Sibiu and the cordial contacts that existed between them. These contacts were retraced based on archival documents, press, mail, records of the age and the existent bibliography.

The cordial cooperation was mainly the result of the efforts of Andrei Șaguna, who managed, through his extensive activities, to become an imposing figure on the social, religious and political 'stage' of Transylvania, but also in the circles of influence around emperor Franz Joseph, in this way gaining the appreciation of the Saxon Lutherans and of their bishop, Georg Daniel Teutsch. The respect and consideration for the metropolitan Șaguna is mainly shown by the extensive obituary wrote by the Saxon bishop on the metropolitan's death, obituary from which I have quoted.

Keywords: nineteenth century, ethnicity and denomination, the Romanian Orthodox metropolitan seat of Transylvania and Hungary, the Lutheran Evangelical Diocese C.A. of Transylvania, interconfessional relationships.