Die Geschicht Dracole Waide (Anonymous, 1488)
The History of Voievod Dracula

In the year 1461 after the birth of Christ, Dracula\(^1\) did many frightful and strange things.

1. Item: The old governor had the old Dracol\(^2\) killed. And Dracula and his brother\(^3\) abjured their faith, and promised and swore to defend the Christian faith.\(^4\)
2. Item: The same year, he was put [on the throne] and became lord of Wallachia.\(^5\)
   He immediately had Ladislaus\(^6\) killed, who himself had been lord [of Wallachia].
3. Item: Soon after, in Siebenbürgen\(^7\) and also in Burzenland,\(^8\) he had [a town] called Beckendorf\(^9\) burned. Both women and men, young and old, [were killed].
   Some he brought with him to Wallachia, in iron chains, and there all were impaled.
4. Item: He had all young boys, who had been sent to his country to learn the language, locked in a room and burned. There were four hundred.
5. Item: He concluded a truce agreement, and [during that truce] he had many merchants and wagoners from Burzenland impaled.

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[Editor's note]: This translation is based on Cazacu's edition and French translation (L'histoire du prince Dracula, pp. 158–167), which in turn is based on the pamphlet published by Marcus Ayrer in Nuremberg, on October 14, 1488. The only known exemplar is located in the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek, in Weimar. This incunabulum is currently accessible online in an excellent digitized format (http://haab-digital.klassik-stiftung.de/viewer/resolver?identifier=2113&field=MD_DIGIMOID [accessed August 1, 2017]).

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1 Throughout the pamphlet, Dracula is referred to as “Dracole” (title etc.), “Dracol” (episode 1 etc.), “Trakole” (episode 9), and “Tracol” (episode 29). The most frequent form is “Dracole.”
2 In the German, “Dracol,” i.e., Vlad II Dracul, who died in 1447.
3 I.e., Dracula and Radu the Handsome.
4 Although the faith which Dracula and Radu purportedly renounced is not specified, the plausible implication is Islam.
5 In the German, “Walachey.”
6 I.e., voievod Vladislav II, 1448–1456. In the German, “Lassla Wayda.” “Ladislaus” is the Latin form of his name. The Hungarian is László.
7 In the German, “Siebenbuergen,” with “Siebenpuergen” (episode 19) as a variant spelling. In the fifteenth century, Siebenbürgen designated the region of Sibiu.
8 In the German, “Wurtzland,” which in Romanian is “Țara Bârsei,” a region of southeastern Transylvania.
9 In the German, “Beckendorff.” The toponym in Romanian is possibly Bod, in Brașov County.
6. **Item:** He had a great [boyar] clan exterminated and impaled, from the smallest to the largest, young and old.

7. **Item:** He had [some of] his people buried naked up to the navel and [then] shot at. He also had a number [of others] roasted and flayed.

8. **Item:** He captured young Dan\(^{10}\) and had a grave made for him, and had a [funeral service] sung following the Christian order, and had him beheaded next to the grave.

9. **Item:** Fifty-five ambassadors were sent by the kingdom of Hungary and the Saxons in Siebenbürgen to Wallachia. Dracula let these lords wait for five weeks, and had stakes erected before their lodgings, and thus they were deeply concerned. He did this [because] he feared [their] betrayal. He went forth to Burzenland and destroyed the grain, and had all the crops burned, and he had people captured and brought outside the [city] called Kronstadt,\(^{11}\) and there Dracula rested near the chapel of Saint James. He had the suburbs burned. And as the day came, in early morning, he had women and men, young and old, impaled near the chapel and around the hill, and he sat amidst [them], and ate his morning meal with joy.

10. **Item:** He had the church of St. Bartholomew burned, and he made off with all the liturgical vestments and chalices.

11. He sent one of his captains to burn a large village named Seiding.\(^{12}\) But this captain was not able to burn it on account of resistance from the villagers, and then he came back to Dracula and said: "I wasn't able to carry out what you ordered me [to do]." He immediately had the captain impaled.

12. **Item:** Merchants and others with merchandise came from Burzenland to the Danube, near Brăila,\(^{13}\) numbering four hundred, all of whom Dracula had impaled and whose possessions he had taken [from them].

13. **Item:** He had a great cauldron made, and over it [were placed] boards with holes, and he had people's heads shoved through there, and thus he had them imprisoned. And he had the cauldron filled with water, and a great fire made under it. And thus he had the people scream miserably until they were boiled to death.

14. He invented horrifying, dreadful, and unspeakable torments. He had mothers impaled with their suckling babies, so that the babies thrashed about on their [mothers’] breasts until they died. He likewise cut away mothers' breasts, and stuffed their children headfirst [into the gaping wounds], and then impaled [them].

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10 In the German, “Dann.” Refers to the pretender Dan, defeated and executed in 1460.
11 In the German, “Cronstat.” The toponym in Romanian is Brașov, center of Brașov County.
12 In the German, “Zeiding.” The toponym in Romanian is Codlea, which is nearby Brașov.
13 In the German, “gegen der Tunaw gen Pregel.” Brăila was the key Wallachian port city on the lower Danube.