

(from Matthew Peresford,
2008/2009,
From Demons to Dracula)



A 15th-century
portrait of Vlad
the Impaler from
Castle Ambras,
Austria.

'devil' in Romanian, so some think Dracula means 'son of the Devil'.

Many people do not realize that there actually was a real life 'Dracula', a person as bloodthirsty as his fictional counterpart, but certainly not a vampire. What this creates is a 'split personality' for Vlad: in the West he is seen as a cruel and bloodthirsty tyrant with strong vampire connections (recently depicted in Francis Ford Coppola's film adaptation of *Bram Stoker's Dracula* and Elizabeth Kostova's novel, *The Historian*, wherein the vampire Dracula and Vlad Dracula are one and the same), while in the East he is regarded as a national hero who defended his country from Turkish oppressors and who has no vampire connections whatsoever.