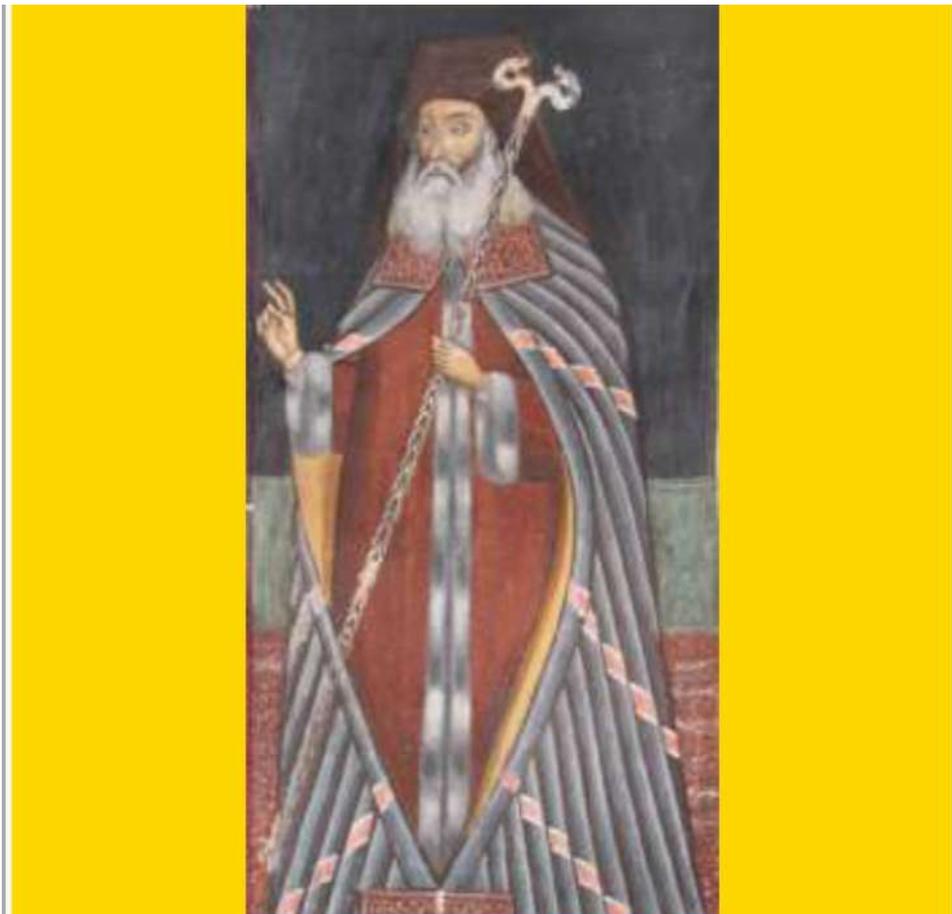


St. ANTHIM the IBERIAN
(The Commemoration of 300 years since the martyrdom, 1716 - 2016)
**THE EUROPEAN AND CAUCASIAN CULTURE
AND SPIRITUALITY FROM LATE 17th CENTURY
AND EARLY 18th CENTURY**
15th-18th September 2016 CONSTANTA - RAMNICU-VALCEA (ROMANIA)
- INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM -

St. Anthim the Iberian (Antim Ivireanul)



The International Symposium dedicated to the commemoration of 300 years since the martyrdom of St. Anthim the Iberian proposed the theme *The European and Caucasian Culture and Spirituality from Late 17th Century and Early 18th Century* and it was organized Academy of Romanian Scientists, Georgian National Academy of Sciences, Centre for Religious and Juridical-Canonical Study and Research of the Three Monotheistic Religions: Mosaic, Christian and Islamic (Ovidius University of Constanta, Romania), in collaboration with the University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland), at Constanta and Ramnicu Valcea, September 15-18, 2016.

The organizers and the participants gathered at this international symposium to honour the great commemoration of martyrdom of St. Anthim, for the Romanian Patriarchate declared the year 2016 as the year of St. Anthim the Iberian, who is also one of the great exponents of the European and Caucasian culture and spirituality from the late 17th century and early 18th century.

In the presentation of the conference the organizers explain: "As hieromonk, a bishop and then as a Metropolitan of the Romanian Principality, 'Antimos Ivirelli' got a remarkable place in the history of Romanians grace to his printing activity, to his pastoral-canonical activity (teaching, sanctifying and leading), to his works - both the printed and those left in the manuscript (the *Didaches*) - to his contribution to the introduction of printing in his homeland (Georgia), through books printed in Romanian, Greek, Slavic and Arabic, and their dissemination throughout the area of the Eastern Orthodox Church, to his decisive contribution to the introduction of the romanian language in the Cult of the Church and its affirmation as a literary language, to his impact on the european and caucasian culture etc.

Since, this year marks 300 years from the death of St. Anthim the Iberian, it is therefore our duty to honour the memory of this great scholar bishop and martyr through an International Scientific Symposium, where the Academicians and university Professors, from different countries, can make valuable contributions through their communications, not only from his adoptive country, Romania, but also from his native homeland, Georgia, and throughout Europe and Caucasus. Of course, through their papers, the Europeans and Caucasian specialists will make also a worthy contribution to a better understanding of the culture and spirituality from their countries and, *ipso facto*, of the intercultural relations of that epoch."





On September 15th, took place the opening of the Symposium's works and allocutions. This was moderated by Professor **Nicolae V. Dura**, PhD, and the Opening Speech, entitled *Saint Anthim, a Spiritual Beacon and a Confessor of Faith* was delivered by Professor **Teodosie Petrescu**, PhD, The Archbishop of Tomis, Member of the *Academy of Romanian Scientists* (AOSR). The allocution shown that Romanian culture and spirituality had and still has in Saint Antim a spiritual beacon and a confessor of faith. We simply cannot honor Romanian culture and spirituality unless we are also honouring Saint Antim. Other speakers emphasized also this idea from different perspectives: Prof. **Doru Sabin Delion**, PhD, Vice-president of the *Academy of Romanian Scientists* (AOSR), Acad. Prof. **Giorgi Kvesitadze**, PhD, President of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences (GNAS), Councilor **Giorgi Tsikarishvili**, Embassy of Georgia in Romania, Prof. **Angela Botez**, PhD, President of the Department of Philosophy, Theology, Psychology and Journalism (AOSR), Prof. **Dan Riga**, PhD, President of the Department of Medical Sciences (AOSR) Prof. **Victor Ciupina**, PhD, President of the *Academy of Romanian Scientists, Branch of Constanta* (AOSR), Prof. **Sorin Rugina**, PhD, Rector of the Ovidius University of Constanta, Member of the *Academy of Romanian Scientists* (AOSR), **Decebal Fagadau**, Mayor of Constanta, Prof. **Giorgi Alibegashvili**, PhD, Chairman of Tbilisi City Municipal Assembly and Prof. Nicolae V. Dura, PhD, Member of the Academy of Romanian

Scientists, Director of the Centre CRM (AOSR) and Prof. **Mihai Bădescu**, PhD, Full Member of the Academy of Romanian Scientists. All the personalities invited to take part into this first part of the international symposium honoured in their speeches and allocutions the personality of St. Anthim recalling important and often novel aspects of his life, his work and his extraordinary contributions to the Romanian culture, Romanian liturgical language and to the history and culture of the Romanian Orthodox Church.



The next section, of plenary speeches included a wide range of themes presenting important aspects describing the role of St. Anthim within the history and the Orthodox thought of the period. The moderators of the section were Acad. Prof. Giorgi Kvesitadze, PhD Prof. **Doru Sabin Delion**, PhD. Acad. Prof. **Guram Lortkipanidze**, PhD, from the Georgian National Academy of Sciences, presented the paper entitled *Antimoz Iverieli (Anthim the Iberian) and the Georgian heraldic*; Prof. **Mariam Chkhartishvili**, PhD, Head of the Department of Medieval History of Georgia and Source-Studies, Institute of History and Ethnology, Tbilisi State University, Georgia, delivered a communication on the theme *Deed of Anthim the Iberian Seen in the Context of Georgian Identity Forging*; Prof. Archim. **Adam Vakhtang Akhaladze**, PhD, Rector of St. King Tamar University of Georgian Patriarchate, Georgia, approached the subject

Activities of Anthim the Iberian in the context of intercultural communicative competence; Prof. **Ketevan Pavliashvili**, PhD, Tbilisi State University, Georgia, discussed the topic "*Great Triangle*" - *Catholic Europe, Orthodox Russia and Islamic World Religious-Political Orientation of Georgia (XVII century)*; Prof. **Ramaz Shengelia**, PhD, Tbilisi State Medical University, Georgian National Academy of Science, presented the paper *Anthim the Iberian and the Contemporary Georgian Medicine*; Assoc. Prof. **Badri Porckhidze**, PhD, **Kutaisi Akaki** Tsereteli State University, Georgia, communicated on the theme *Anthimos the Iberian The Great Initiator of orthodox Christianity and National Public Contribution*; Prof. **Mamuka Dolidze**, PhD, Tbilisi State University, Georgia, discussed *Aristotle's Metaphysics and Theological Conception of Saint Antim*; Assoc. Prof. **Rozeta Gujejiani**, PhD and Assoc. Prof. **Ketevan Khutsishvili**, Tbilisi State University, Georgia, "*Second Chronicles of Svaneti*" an important source of the 17th - 18th cc. Georgian culture. The papers emphasized the scope of this extraordinary personality and the great directions in which his work is still relevant and in-depth research is still necessary.





The next session of scientific papers had as moderators Prof. **Angela Botez**, PhD, and Prof. **Victor Ciupina**, PhD. The first paper presented by Professor **Angela Botez**, PhD and **Victor Botez**, PhD, Academy of Romanian Scientists, was entitled *Antim the Iberian an Exponent of Caucasian and*

Romanian Spirituality in the 18th Century. The paper approaches the theme about Anthim the Ivirite is an exponent of Romanian and Caucasian spirituality. Honouring this personality we start from the observation that his spiritual heritage remains relevant over the ages. Saint Anthim was a scholar, spoke several foreign languages among which Romanian, Greek, Arabic and Turkish, he was a printer of religious writings, he wrote religious literature and succeeded to leave a deep mark in the Romanian culture that times undimmed. We consider relevant also that among the important anniversaries of the year 2016 along with the anniversary of Saint Anthim the Ivirite the Romanian Orthodox Church celebrates all the Romanian Church typographers who have contributed fundamentally to a rich religious culture in Romanian. A religious journalist notice for a specialized publication that *The fact that the Romanian Orthodox Church, under the clear vision of His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel has chosen to inscribe amongst the paramount holidays of the year 2016 the Church typographers represents a memorable and soul-uplifting gesture, a gesture of conscience in agreement with all who wanted and succeeded to conquer time through the eternity of the typed letter, taking the Word of God in all the four skies and seeding the values of Christian faith and Christian moral in the hearts and thoughts of all Romanians.*

Prof. **Dan Riga**, PhD and Prof. **Sorin Riga**, PhD, Academy of Romanian Scientists, presented the paper entitled *Anthim the Iberian - the man of culture and spirituality*. In their both interesting and informing paper, the authors have correlated the cultural contributions made by Saint Anthim to the Romanian culture and the spiritual teachings of his main works, which are still relevant for contemporary times and also remain spiritual and substantial over the ages.

Prof. **Victor Ciupina**, PhD Academy of Romanian Scientists, presented the paper entitled *Iosif Moesiodax and Ibrahim Muteferrika, two great cultural personalities from Dobroudja (second half of the XVIIth century and first half of the XVIIIth century)*. This paper highlights an important part of the diversity of the Romanian cultural life, approaching the life and the work of Iosif Moesiodax and Ibrahim Muteferrika, two great cultural personalities during this epoch of interest when Anthim the Iberian lived and worked. They are considered representative for Dobroudja, although Ibrahim Muteferrika was originary Hungarian and born in the city we know today as Cluj and succeeded to publish both religious and non-religious books: the first atlas of maps in Arabic, a Turkish-Arab dictionary, an interesting book on Mathematics etc. Iosif Moesiodax, born at Cernavoda, was

a philosopher, professor and director of the Royal Academy of Iasi, one of the greatest exponents of Neo-Hellenic and Romanian Enlightenment.

Researcher **Henrieta Anisoara Serban**, PhD, Academy of Romanian Scientists and the Institute of Political Science and International Relations "Ion I.C. Brătianu" of the Romanian Academy and **Elena Lazar**, PhD, Romanian Academy, discussed the paramount importance of Saint Anthim in their paper *An Orthodox Thinker and a Romanian Heart: The Saint Hierarch Antim*. The study approached several aspects describing the great cultural impact of the 68 books of Saint Anthim and his devotion for Romanian culture and certain dimensions of his theological and political work interpreted through *imago Dei* doctrine and within the heterogeneous literary and philosophical current known as "the mirror of princes".

Prof. **Marin Petrisor**, PhD, Academy of Romanian Scientists, Ovidius University of Constanta, presented the paper entitled *Anthim the Iberian the promoter of the Romanian modern homiletics*. In his substantial paper, the author presents the dimensions of homiletics at Saint Anthim, insisting on its wise content and on the beauty of the Romanian language used in his homilies.

Prof. **Mihai Badescu**, PhD, Academy of Romanian Scientists, University of "Titu Maiorescu", presented *The Role of Antim Ivireanul in the flourishing of the Romanian culture*. The speaker described in extent the life and work of Saint Anthim, structuring his works into relevant categories and indicating the impressive achievements as priest, moral teacher, typographer, and polyglot, as well as the role of Saint Anthimos the Ivirite in the development of the Romanian language and Romanian culture. *The Didaches* (The Teachings) of Anthimos the Ivirite, were extremely valuable in their content, and had also an obvious social character. Through these writings certain mores of society were condemned, such as the injustice to which the peasants were subjected because of their boyars, along with the condemnation of the sins which he determinedly criticized: the dishonoring of the parents by the children, the dishonoring of the Church figures by the members of the „flock”, the frequent presence in the drinking houses, the curses, the failure to comply to the respect for Sundays and holidays. The name of Saint Anthimos the Ivirite remained inscribed in the Romanian consciousness as a founder of the Romanian Church.

Prof. **Ioan N. Rosca**, PhD, University of "Spiru Haret" in Bucharest, communicated on the theme *The respect of philosophy for religion in Europe at the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century*. The author

argued that the philosophers from this period, regardless if they were empiricist or rationalist, showed respect for religion, as well by their admittance of God, as by the adoption of religious morality. Ontologically, these philosophers identified God with the supreme substance, which, by the attribute of scope and that of thought, as Spinoza considered, or, by the extended or omnipresent substance and thoughtful or omniscient substance, as the Deists stated, made is intrinsic to the world of things and, respectively, to the human souls.

Prof. **Gheorghe Danisor**, PhD, Academy of Romanian Scientists, University of Craiova, discussed *La conception morale dans la philosophie de Kant*. The author made reference to *The Critique of Pure Reason*, *The Critique of Practical Reason* and *The Critique of the Power of Judgement*. In the first of the three, Kant does nothing more than demonstrate the limits of speculative knowledge, that which bestows access to the world of the phenomenon, but which can circumvent the element in itself. Theoretical knowledge is limited to patterns of sensitivity, diversity, placing it under categories enabling the apparatus through which we think. In order to eliminate any confusion regarding the abovementioned elements, Kant, using a footnote, clarifies the connection between morality and freedom: freedom is without a doubt the *ratio essendi* of moral law, but that the moral law is the *ratio cognoscendi* of freedom. Kant deliberately draws attention to the fact that freedom and, as a consequence supreme Good, cannot be conceptualised. The so-called Kantian constructivism relies on this pattern of devising freedom as a principle which cannot be demonstrated, the pillar of the entire construction. Good will is what makes *duty*, *categorical imperative*, and even *freedom* possible.

Prof. **Nistor Bardu**, PhD, Ovidius University of Constanta, approached in his paper *Aspects of Romanian in the times of Anthim the Iberian*. The paper studies the particularities of the Romanian language in Saint Anthim's work and in the culture of the times, emphasizing the beauty of the Romanian language used by Saint Anthim in his works and in his sermons. Teaching Assistant **Carmen Ciornea**, PhD, Ovidius University of Constanta, presented the paper *Anthim the Iberian based on the recollections of the Burning Altar's coryphaei*.

Assoc. Prof. **Cosmin Caprioara**, PhD, Ovidius University of Constanta, presented the communication entitled *On the texts of Antim. Observations about language and style*.

Prof. **Stoica Lascu**, PhD, Academy of Romanian Scientists, Ovidius University of Constanta, approached the topic *The First Romanian Perceptions on the Existence of the Balkan Romanity (17-18 Centuries)*.

Assit. Prof. **Andrei Tinu**, PhD, and **Catalin Boboc**, PhD, Faculty of Law, "Titu Maiorescu" University in Bucharest, presented the paper entitled *Certain considerations on the development of the Romanian state and law in the eighteenth century*. The papers brought to the fore interesting and specialised observations on specific direction of research of Saint Anthim's work.

The next section was dedicated to papers sustained in Romanian and English and it was moderated by Prof. **Bogdan Moise** PhD, Assoc. Prof. **Catalina Mititelu**, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. **Bogdan Chiriluta**, PhD. Prof. **Teodosie Petrescu** PhD and. Assoc. Prof. **Bogdan Chiriluta**, PhD, Ovidius University of Constanta, who presented the paper entitled *The main themes of the sermons of St. Anthim the Iberian*; Prof. **Bogdan Moise**, PhD, Ovidius University of Constanta, communicated on the topic of *Style and language in the musical work of Filotheos sin Agai Jipei*; Prof. **Danut Popovici**, PhD, Ovidius University of Constanta, approached the subject *Homiletical Work of Saint Anthim the Iberian and Timeliness of its Theme*; Prof. **Nechita Runcan**, PhD, Ovidius University of Constanta, discussed *The importance of the "Sermons" for the development of the Romanian literary language*; Prof. **Piotr Kroczek**, PhD, The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow, Poland, presented the paper *Civil jurisprudence as an inspiration for the Catholic church law: codification as an example*; Assoc. Prof. **Catalina Mititelu**, PhD Ovidius University of Constanta, talked *About the printing activity of Sf. Anthimos Iverieli*; Assoc. Prof. **Damean Doru**, PhD, Ovidius University of Constanta, presented the topic *Saint Anthim Iberian - Forerunner of Romanian Culture in the European Area*; Lect. **Iosif Gyulai Muresan**, PhD, Ovidius University of Constanta, communicated on the subject *The Metropolitan Anthim the Iberian, a great personality of Brancoveanu epoch*; **Pance Kjosev**, PhD, Faculty of Law "St. Clement of Ohrid" in Skopje, Macedonia, presented the paper entitled *Karpos uprising, one of the Christian uprisings against the Ottoman Empire in the 17th century*; **Stefan Leoca**, PhD, Ovidius University of Constanta, approached the theme *Saint Anthim the Iberian and his teaching activity*; **Petrica Pirlea**, PhD, Ovidius University of Constanta, talked about the *Manifestations of the Ungrovlahia Church s autocephaly during the Metropolitan Anthim the Iberian*; Prof. **Nicolae Dura**, PhD, Ovidius University of Constanta, presented the paper entitled *"Mihail Stefan" (Michael Stephen), disciple and fellow laborer of Metropolitite "Antimoz Iverieli" (Anthim the Iberian), and his activity in the Printing Press of Walachia (Romanian Country) and in the Printing Press in Georgia. New contributions*. All these substantial papers covered most of the multiple dimensions of an extremely

complex personality, from the literary and linguistic dimensions and to the magister dimension of Saint Anthim whose disciples were as well key cultural creators.

* * *

The Conference continued with a trip to Saint Anthim Monastery in Bucharest and Ramnicu Valcea where the papers were moderated by Professor **Nicolae Dura**, PhD: **Varsanufie Gogescu**, PhD, Archbishop of Ramnic, presented the opening allocution, followed by Professor **Teodosie Petrescu**, PhD, Archbishop of Tomis, Founding Member of the Academy of Romanian Scientists, Academician Professor **Giorgi Kvesitadze**, PhD, President of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences (GNAS), **Mircia Gutau**, Mayor of Ramnicu-Valcea City, Professor **Giorgi Alibegashvili**, PhD, Chairman of Tbilisi City Municipal Assembly. The section for the scientific papers had as moderators Prof. Archim. **Adam Vakhtang** Akhaladze, PhD, and Prof. Mariam Chkhartishvili, PhD., Acad. Prof. **Giorgi Kvesitadze**, PhD, President of Georgian National Academy of Sciences, Presented the theme *The major role played by the Church in the formation of the Georgian culture (Ith–XIIIth centuries)*, Prof. **Giorgi Alibegashvili**, PhD, Chairman of Tbilisi City Municipal Assembly, presented the paper entitled *The enlightenment activity of Saint Anthim the Iberian*, Assist. Prof. **Zviad Tkeshelashvili**, PhD, Patriarchate of Georgia Saint King Tamar University, Georgia, approached the topic *Cultural and Political Legacy of Vakhtang VI: Struggle for National Independence (XVII-XVIII centuries)*, Prof. **Mikheil Kartvelishvili**, PhD, Tbilisi State University, Georgia, presented the subject of *The Study of St. Anthym of Iberia's merit in Georgian Historiography (Soviet Era)*, **Giorgi Macharashvili**, PhD, G. Tsereteli Institute for Oriental Studies, Ilia State University, Georgia, communicated on the theme *The Great Council of Sophia and the Great Council of Crete (similarities and differences)*, and **Zurabi Targamadze**, PhD, Tbilisi State University, Georgia, presented the paper *Outlining the Political Development of Georgia: from the late seventeenth century until first decades of the eighteenth century*. All these interesting and substantial papers brought to the fore a wealth of ideas, opening future new avenues for reasearch in a novel sub-domain that gradually shapes the Saint Anthim studies.

*Henrieta Anișoara Serban
Elena Lazăr*
