

**WORKS OF RENEWAL AND MODERNIZATION
AT DINTR-UN LEMN MONASTERY.
THE ROLE OF GENERAL PAUL TEODORESCU¹**

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In the summer of 1938, the situation of the monuments at Dintr-un Lemn Monastery was worrying. They all required works of reparation, preservation and modernization. The aid was to come from General Paul Teodorescu (1888-1981), from 1938, the head of the Ministry of Air and Marine. General Paul Teodorescu was about to tell the context in which he came to Dintr-un Lemn Monastery to his doctor, I. Ciucă. The doctor was brought on pilgrimage at the Holy Place from the summer of 1932 when he was 11 years old. The general knew him in 1938 when great works were being done at the monastery. In the biographical notes left to the monastery, Dr. I. Ciucă writes that General Paul Teodorescu told him: “*One day I was invited by Queen Mary at the Palace. To his surprise, she did not discuss any professional issue, she only asked for his opinion on a series of historical monuments. At the end of the meeting, seeming to have remembered something, she asked him if he knew the Oltenian monasteries. He confessed that he did not know all of them, and the Queen continued: ‘There is a monastery in Vâlcea County, which is called Dintr-un Lemn, with a beautiful legend, studied and published by Odobescu in his short story, Mrs. Chiajna.’*”

Intimidated, he replied that he did not know the monastery and did not even hear of it. Instead he knows Odobescu's short story, Mrs Chiajna. The Queen told him that in one of her trips to several monasteries in Oltenia she accidentally came across this monastery, which is actually isolated.

‘General, when you go through Oltenia, visit this monastery. I'd love you to tell me your impressions at a new meeting. As I know you a man of faith, seek to speak with the abbess of the monastery. She is a nun who has a great charm and a mystery and great intelligence. What destiny may have hidden it in this corner of the forest?’

I remember that the general continued his confession.

I left the queen puzzled, not understanding why she was sending me to this monastery I had not heard of, where the queen had met a nun who had impressed

¹ Pages from the work *Dintr-un Lemn Monastery. A Unique Monastic Complex in Romania. Historical Monograph* under press at the publishing house of the Academy of Romanian Scientists.