

## GRECI, ROMÂNI, SLAVI: LA RĂDĂCINILE „FILOCALIEI”

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### Abstract

*The article deals with the question: who in the 18<sup>th</sup> century can be considered the creator of the concept of "Philokalia"? The author draws from the observation that in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with a gap of a few years, Greek, Romanian as well as Slavic monastic collections of related "philokalic" content were created in the Greek, Romanian and Slavic monastic milieus. The first of them was created in Romanian; St Paisius Velichkovsky was the earliest who searched for "philokalic" authors and compiled such convolutes, while St. Macarius (Notaras) and St Nicodemus the Hagiorite, who published the Venetian "Philokalia" and are therefore considered the fathers of the "philokalic project", are the last in this line. The author concludes that discussions about primacy are meaningless, since the tradition of ascetic collections had existed for centuries. None of the Greek, Romanian, and Slavic monks were the first to compile such a collection. Some of them had apparently made more than one. They all belonged to the same tradition and drew equally from it. The fact that only one of many such collections was published – in Venice in 1782 – does not affect the parity of all of them in the sense of emergence in the context of the same centuries-old tradition. The author concludes that it is legitimate to speak about the genre of philokalia and to call such collections "philokalias".*

**Keywords:** St Paisius Velichkovsky, St Macarius Notaras, St Nicodemus the Hagiorite, Philokalia, Dobrotolyubie, sborniki, ascetic collections, hesychasm, monastic literature, ascetic literature, the Orthodoxy in the 18<sup>th</sup> century

„Paisie Velicikovski fără Țara Românească și Moldova ar fi fost ca un Napoleon fără Franța și fără poporul francez.”<sup>1</sup> Această frază, cu siguranță faimoasă, aparține Arhimandritului Ciprian Zaharia. Prin

<sup>1</sup> Arhim. Ciprian ZAHARIA, „Contribuția românească la sinteza paisiană. Paisianismul și spiritualitatea cernicană”, în *Paisianismul, un moment românesc în istoria spiritualității europene*, Dan ZAMFIRESCU (ed.), București, 1996, pp. 65-115, aici p. 80. I se alătură: Ierom. Marcu PETCU, „Starețul Paisie Velicikovski, Mănăstirea Dragomirna și prima Filocalie în limba română”, în \*\*\*, *Dragomirna și ctitorii ei. Actele colocviului din 20-23 iulie 2009*, Sfânta Mănăstire Dragomirna, Putna, 2014, pp. 65-88, aici, p. 83.