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ASPECTS OF THE CULT OF THE DEAD IN MOLDAVIA
(SEVENTEENTH – EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURIES). BETWEEN
LITURGICAL NORM AND SOCIAL PRACTICE
(Summary)

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The present study offers preliminary findings on the rites of burial and post-mortem commemorations that draw on Moldavian testaments and lists of expenses from the early seventeenth century to the third decade of the nineteenth century. Across several generations there are no observable shifts in the patterns of funeral and commemorative rites, apart from some details due to economic and cultural changes in Moldavia. Notable changes are visible in the diversification of sites chosen by testators as recipients of their bequests made in the hope of gaining redemption of their souls and obtaining divine forgiveness. The Church remained the main recipient, but, starting from the mid-eighteenth century, the list of recipients grows and includes the Hospital of the St. Spiridon Monastery in Iași, as well as other hospitals and schools, and even planned “homes for children” (orphanages) in Moldavia’s capital city and towns.

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