

ALEXANDRU ISTRATE*

THE CHURCHES IN HOLBOCA AND RUSENII VECHI.
GLIMPSES OF SILENT PERIODS IN THE (NOT TOO FAR) PAST
(Summary)

Keywords: heritage, churches, narrativisation, local history, restorations.

Nowadays, in the lack of comprehensive and clarifying monographs, the historical reconstruction of the heritage value of the “Sfântul Nicolae” [Saint Nicholas] church in the commune of Holboca (Hulboca) and “Adormirea Maicii Domnului” [Dormition] in Rusenii (Rusăanii) Vechi is like a puzzle with many pieces still missing. The pieces available – mainly the determination and confirmation of limit-setting decisions and statistical data, all somewhat irrelevant to this endeavour – are hard to arrange within a coherent, reliable, and informative story. The fact that it was close to the city of Iași focused attention towards the emblematic constructions erected in the old Moldavian city. Therefore, Nicolae Iorga saw in the former capital of the principality east of the “a church, the church of churches for our past”. The cliché – perpetuated in an insipid wooden language in Romanian culture – had unwanted consequences in the maintenance and cultivation of curiosities in local society. The two places of worship mentioned above may not included in the category of representative establishments in Romanian culture. However, the author believes that the reconstruction of their history and the inclusion into a seductive narrative are not only a moral obligation assumed with all the perks and downsides but also a suitable opportunity to promote experiences, beliefs, discrete wisdom and achievements supporting a form of elevated patriotism. The last is far from the public speeches and stances where the Romanian country and nation are encompassed by hyperbolae and metaphors, inadequate and uninspired simultaneously.

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