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CONSIDERATIONS ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF SAINT PAISIUS VELICHKOVSKY
AND HIS COMMUNITY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
ROMANIANS AND MOUNT ATHOS
(Summary)

Keywords: Paisius Velichkovsky, Mount Athos, the Neamț-Secu Monastery.

This article comprises a few aspects concerning the role of Saint Paisius Velichkovsky, abbot of the Dragomirna, Secu, and Neamț monasteries in Moldavia, in the intensification, or rather the re-establishment, of relations between the Romanians and Mount Athos. This re-establishment had many dimensions, to the extent that we can speak of an outpouring of Athonite spirituality into the monastic life of the Romanian Principalities. The primary receptacle and, later, the diffusion centre of this spirituality was the Neamț-Secu Monastery for nearly three generations, from the organisation of the Paisian monk community in the last three decades of the 18th century until its destruction in the seventh decade of the subsequent century. In this article, I focus on several smaller-scale aspects of the history of relations between the Romanian Principalities and Mount Athos, starting from the 15th century until the time when Saint Paisius Velichkovsky became the abbot of several Moldavian monasteries (the second half of the 18th century): the beginnings of Romanian monastic settlements on Mount Athos, the emergence of a new phenomenon in the 18th century, the organised pilgrimage to Mount Athos, which had previously been disorganised and random, and the establishment of *sketes* or “import” in Moldavia and Wallachia of monks from the large Paisian community of Neamț-Secu.

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