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THE TESTAMENT OF SMARANDA (SERAFIMA) GANE (1826)
(Summary)

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This study examines a previously unpublished will belonging to Smaranda (Smaragda in the testament) Gane, a nun at the Văratec monastery (where she took the name Serafima). She had joined the old family of Moldavian noblemen Gane (Ganea, Gănescu) through her marriage to the *spătar* Mihai Gane. This investigation relies on the fact that many members of the Gane family – especially the women – became monks, as shown in all historiographical contributions to the history of this family. For the time when Smaranda/Serafima Ganea's will was drafted (i.e., in the third decade of the 19th century), wills were generally elaborated considering the legal and canonical regulations contained in the collections of laws circulating in Moldavia for a long time, on which the princely and the ecclesiastical authorities had agreed. Consequently, the *Calimach Code* – compiled in 1817 under the supervision of Prince Scarlat Callimachi – that circulated until 1833 in Greek, after which its Romanian version was translated and printed, established clear rules concerning the property of people entering monasticism, namely articles 762-768, in the subchapter titled “*For Monks*”. I highlight here that the sources of these regulations were taken from canon and Roman law. Another rule to be followed by those entering monasticism who had a fortune was that at least one-third of it should go to the monastery they would join, a rule that was included in the Civil Code of 1817, in addition to others, such as the need for the testator's signature, the confirmation of the testament by the administrator of the place, the presence of seven or five witnesses due the influence of the ecclesiastical tradition set out in the canons comprised in the collections of laws mentioned in the *Calimach Code*. This ecclesiastical tradition – powerful in the Romanian space – led to wills being carefully drafted and their observance becoming customary.

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