

Zamfira MIHAIL, **Rezistența prin cultură în Basarabia (secolul XIX)**, vol. I, **Scieri parenetice**, București – Brăila, Editura Academiei Române, Editura Istros a Muzeului Brăilei “Carol I”, 2019, 280 p.

Zamfira Mihail, PhD, a linguist and a philologist, has worked as a researcher first at the Center of Linguistics, Literary History and Folklore – the Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy [Centrul de Lingvistică, Istorie literară și Folclor – Filiala din Iași a Academiei Române] – the previous name of The “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology, then at The Institute of South-European Studies of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest [Institutul de Studii Sud-Est Europene al Academiei Române din București] as well as a university professor. She has been awarded several prizes for her linguistic research: the Prize of the Romanian Academy in 1978, 1988 and 1993, the *Galex* Prize offered by the National Library of the Republic of Moldova, and many other distinctions.

In 2019 Zamfira Mihail published *The Cultural Resistance in Bessarabia (19th Century)*, vol. I (*Parenetical Writings*). The book consists of four chapters: I. Introduction (The importance of the village libraries of Bessarabia in preserving the linguistic identity in the 19th century; The cultural resistance in Bessarabia in the 19th century). II. Steadfastness through the Romanian language in Bessarabia in the 19th century (The circulation of the Romanian religious book in Bessarabia in the 19th century; *The Bible* in Romanian, Sankt Petersburg, 1819; Homiletical writings printed in Bessarabia in the 19th century; Preachings in Romanian written in Bessarabia in the 19th century: Preachings by metropolitan Gavriil; Preachings by priest Gheorghe; Preachings by priest Dumitru). III. Norm and linguistic use in the Romanian language written in Bessarabia in the 19th century. IV. Parenetical writings. Philological edition and study: Preachings by metropolitan Gavriil; Preachings by priest Dumitru.

With her volume *The Cultural Resistance in Bessarabia (19th Century)* Zamfira Mihail continues her research subsequently published in several studies along time. A few of them are mentioned below: *Documents in Romanian Printed in Bessarabia Preceded by the Bibliography of the Romanian Prints in Bessarabia* (together with priest Paul Mihail), [Acte în limba română tipărite în Basarabia precedate de Bibliografia tipăriturilor românești din Basarabia (împreună cu Paul Mihail), București, Editura Academiei Române, 1993]; *The Romanian Language in Parenetical Writings from Bessarabia (1812–1865)* [Limba română în scieri parenetice din Basarabia, (1812–1865)], București, Editura Fundației România de Măine, 2001; *Nicolae le Spathaire Milescu à travers ses manuscrits*, București, Editura Academiei Române, 2009; Antim Ivireanul, “*Preaches. An Unpublished Manuscript from Bessarabia (1824)*” [Antim Ivireanul, “Predici. Un manuscris inedit din Basarabia (1824)”], ediție critică, studiu introductiv, note, facsimil de Zamfira Mihail și pr. Paul Mihail; preambul de Victor Spinei, Ionel Căndea; cuvânt înainte de Arhiepiscop dr. Casian Crăciun, București – Brăila, Editura Academiei Române și Muzeul Brăilei “Carol I”, Editura Istros, 2017, and other books.

As is mentioned in the Introduction to the volume *The Cultural Resistance in Bessarabia (19th Century)*, “in the circumstances in which teaching Romanian had been forbidden in schools, in the situation in which especially texts translated from Russian with administrative character or ecclesiastical literature of worship were printed, most of them being reprints of older editions in Romanian, edited in other centers from the Romanian Countries, the study of some manuscripts written in Romanian in Bessarabia in the second

half of the 19th century reveals the way in which standard Romanian language was used in the speech delivered from the pulpit. Such texts are obvious proof of the manner in which the Romanian language resisted the attempts of forcing the population to use the foreign-tongue of the tsarist rule (Russian) during 1812–1918” (p. 9).

The book offers a rich material for study, the unpublished parenetical writings being representative for the history of the Romanian language.

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