

# **THE UNKNOWN WORKS OF AN 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ROMANIAN SCHOLAR: VLAD BOȚULESCU'S TRANSLATIONS FROM ITALIAN AND GERMAN. CRITICAL EDITION WITH PHILOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL STUDIES**

## **Summary**

The philologists and historians united around this interdisciplinary project aim to produce a volume containing a first edition of Vlad Boțulescu's literary works written during between 1763-1764, accompanied by philological studies which should reveal the place and importance of these works for the 18<sup>th</sup> century Romanian language and literature, and by a comprehensive historical study, which aims to reconstruct the author's biography in the context of the European intellectual and political history of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Boțulescu's literary work consists of more texts translated from Italian and German, totaling over 1,000 manuscript pages, such as *Life of Skanderbeg*, *Life of St Joasaph*, *Life and Miracles of St Felice*, *World History*. The manuscripts are currently kept at the Archivio di Stato (Venice) and in the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Vienna).

Editing these writings will add to the understanding of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Romanian literature and improve the scientific knowledge of the Western influence on Romanian culture in this period. This contribution will be exploited from the perspective of current research on the influence of Italian literature on the literatures of Central and Southeastern Europe. The research will bring a significant contribution to the study of the history of the Romanian vocabulary, particularly as regards the neologisms of Italian origin that were used in the 18th century Romanian language.

The historical studies that will accompany the transcripts will reconstruct the intellectual profile of the author, who was interested in world history, in the history of Southeastern Europe and of the Ottoman Empire. His biography will be placed in the context of the movement of ideas in Central and Southeastern Europe in the early modern era, in a cultural space located at the crossroads between the Byzantine tradition and Western influences.