

Hurezi Monastery – As Part of the National and World Heritage. Case Study: the Permanent Exhibition of the Monastery, Illustrating the Present as a Link between the Past and the Future

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Abstract: *Hurezi monastery (1690-1697), a stately and splendid building is a national architectural monument (VL-II-m-A-09894) which is a part of UNESCO's World Heritage. The main building was founded by Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu, the largest compound of monastic architecture in Wallachia, and is home to one of the most important religious collections hosted by a known museum, showcasing various exhibits: icons, jewels, old books, goldsmithing pieces, embroideries, cult vessels, furniture, altars, iconostases, the holy doors etc. These heritage items are hosted by the Royal Mansion, which was a guest house, and now it's a museum. As far as the art and culture of Wallachia is concerned, the 17th and the 18th centuries witnessed a period of crystallization and flourishing of Romania's first national style – the Brancovan style – named after Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu – a synthesis inspired by art symbols of the Byzantine tradition and echoes of late Renaissance and Baroque. In 2014, the National Institute of Heritage, by means of the cultural project "Museums and religious collections". The Brancovan and Post-Brancovan treasury harbored by the Hurezi and Brâncoveni monasteries" is meant to restore an exhibition that showcases high-value heritage objects that are part of our national culture, dating back to the above-mentioned period, but also to refresh the memories of modern people about the exceptional cultural dimension that Wallachia knew during Brâncoveanu's reign; other purposes of this endeavor are (1) to draw the attention upon the poor preservation state of most of this part of our movable heritage, (2) the manner in which it is presented in collections and religious museums and the need for restoration, (3) its inclusion in the National Cultural Heritage, according to Law 182/2000 (amended by Government Decision 886/2008), and its classification into "Fund" (national value) and "Treasury" (goods with special value for humanity) and other cult objects of very high value.*

Keywords: *cultural heritage, cultural assets, religious museum collection, exhibition, cult objects*

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