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***DE VIEUX LIVRES ECCLESIASTIQUES SIGNALES PAR
ZAMFIR ARBORE DANS LE DICTIONNAIRE GEOGRAPHIQUE
DE LA BESSARABIE AU DEBUT DU XX^E SIECLE***

OLD RELIGIOUS BOOKS POINTED OUT BY ZAMFIR ARBORE
IN THE GEOGRAPHIC DICTIONARY OF BESSARABIA
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY

- Abstract -

The Geographic Dictionary of Bessarabia, published by Zamfire Arbore in Bucharest in 1904, represented a historiographic, as well as political and national requirement, the author presenting, in most cases, accurate scientific data. At the beginning of the century, remarkable political transformations were being announced throughout the entire Europe, in line with the tendency of the identity affirmation of the peoples comprised by the great empires. Z. Arbore's *Dictionary*, apart from its strict scientific role, represented the support offered by the Romanians from the Kingdom of Romania to the national emancipation of the Bessarabian Romanians from the Russian Empire. *The Dictionary* contains a lot of information regarding the old religious prints and manuscripts, once widespread in the churches and monasteries of Bessarabia. The Romanian language reached Christian believers, first of all, through religious books and the spoken word also, therefore, it was through Orthodoxy that the Romanian national consciousness was being affirmed during all this time.

Keywords: Bessarabia, Russian occupation, religious books, Bessarabian clerics, Romanian national consciousness