170 YEARS SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE PENTECOSTARION PRINTED IN 1854 BY BISHOP FILOTEI OF BUZĂU

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Abstract: This study presents the biography of Bishop Filotei Pîrșoi of Buzău, who actively supported cultural endeavors by printing over 25 church books. Among these, only a portion is available in the collection of the "Ecclesia" Library at the "Justinian Patriarch" Orthodox Faculty of Theology in Bucharest, including the "Pentecostarion" published in Buzău in 1854. This book contains the Holy Services from Easter Sunday to All Saints' Sunday.

Keywords: Pentecostarion, library, faculty, theology, Church.

Filotei Pîrșoi (baptized as Filip), Bishop of Buzău, was born in 1805 in Cernatu-Săcele, Brașov County. From a young age, he lived in the monasteries of Suzana, Cheia, Sinaia, Neamț, Vatopedi on Mount Athos, and "Saint Catherine" in Bucharest[1]. He served as an archdeacon and steward at the Diocese of Buzău during the episcopate of Bishop Chesarie[2], who elevated him to the rank of Archimandrite. In 1846, he became the bishop of Buzău until 1850, when he was elected diocesan bishop, a position he held until 1859[3]. He entered into eternal rest on August 16, 1860, and was buried at Ciolanu Monastery in Buzău[4].

Bishop Filotei took great care of the schools and places of worship within his diocese, being a church founder as well. He was a member of the Ad-hoc Divan in Bucharest and the Elective Assembly of 1859, actively supporting the Union[5], which highlights that this servant of the Church, along with other bishops of his time[6], was dedicated to the well-being of the people. It is also worth mentioning the nine letters he sent to Filaret Scriban between 1851 and 1858. From their content, it is evident that the two bishops contributed to enlightening the clergy and faithful in the Romanian historical provinces, particularly through the exchange of books[7]. Bishop Filotei undertook efforts to improve the printing press within the Diocese of Buzău, and in 1854 he procured a printing press from Vienna through the intermediary of George Ioanid, a bookseller in Bucharest. He successfully printed over 25 books, of which we mention: *Acatistier*, 1852, 8°, 342+2 pages;

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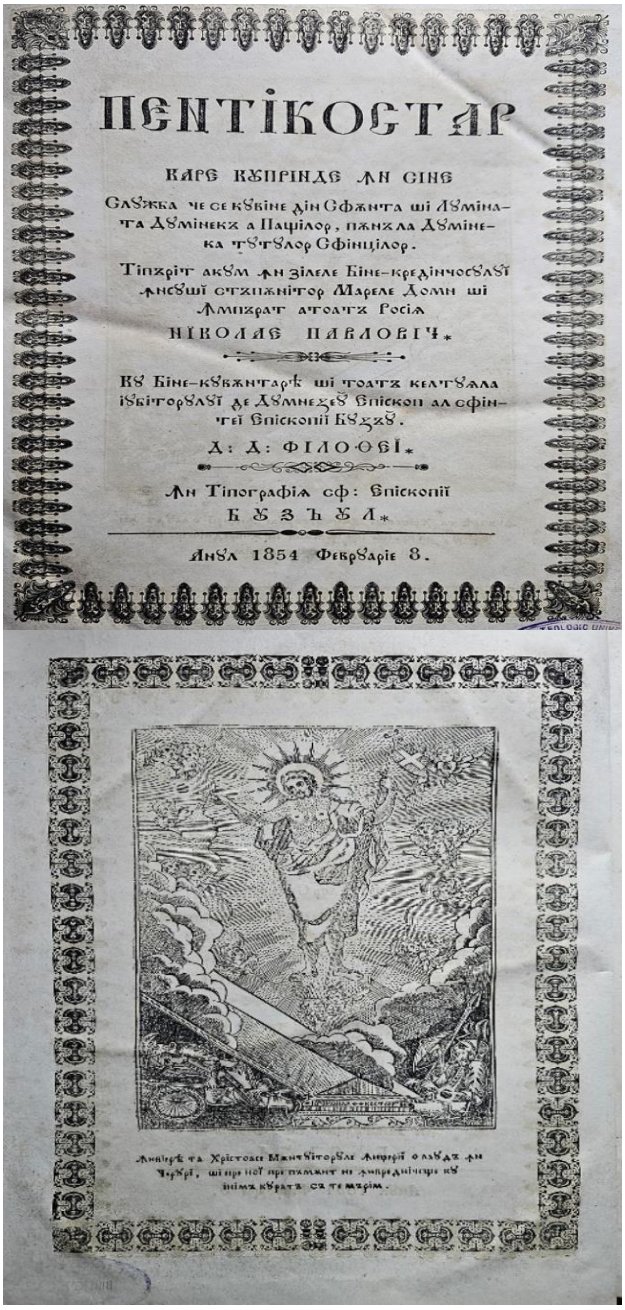
[1] PĂCURARIU, Mircea (coord.). *Enciclopedia Ortodoxiei Românești*. București: Editura Institutului Biblic și de Misiune Ortodoxă, 2010, p. 278.
[2] Bishop of Buzău from 1825 to 1846.
[3] PĂCURARIU, Mircea. *Dicționarul teologilor români*. Sibiu: Editura Andreiana, 2014, p. 245.
[4] COCORA. Gabriel. „Episcopul Filotei al Buzăului, luptător pentru Unirea Țărilor Române", în: *Biserica Ortodoxă Română*, LXXVII, (1959), 1, p. 52.
[5] PĂCURARIU, Mircea. *Op. Cit.* p. 245.
[6] Bishops Calinic of Râmnic and Filotei of Buzău issued circulars to the deans, urging them to call upon the clergy to offer prayers for the unification of Romanians, as noted by Father Professor Mircea Păcurariu in: *Istoria Bisericii Ortodoxe Române*, vol. III. București: Editura Institutului Biblic și de Misiune al Bisericii Ortodoxe Române, 1981, p. 338.
[7] PORCESCU, Scarlat. „Știri noi referitoare la activitatea Episcopului Filotei al Buzăului (1850-1860)", în: *Biserica Ortodoxă Română*, CV, (1987), 3-4, p. 81-82.

Ciaslov, 1852, 8°; *Psaltire*, 1852, 8°, 325+3 pages; *Slujba sfinţirii bisericii*, 1853, 4°, 59+1 pages; *Carte foarte folositoare de suflet*, 1853, 4°, 154 pages; *Opt-glasar şi Catavasier*, 8°, 268+2 pages; *Catehisul*, 1853, 8°, 156 pages; *Scurtare de Aritmetică*, 1853, 8°, 104+5+1 pages; *Prohodul*, 1853, 4°, 38+4 pages; *Slujba Sfintelor şi Dumnezeeştilor patimi*, 1853, 4°, 285 pages; *Cuvinte la Apostoilii Duminicilor de peste tot anul*, 1853, 4°, 623 pages; *Penticostar* (*Pentecostarion*), 1854, 4°, 555 pages; *Orologiu* (*Ciaslov*), 1854, 4°, 310 pages; *Sentinţii morale*, 1854, 4°, 126 pages; *Psaltirea*, 1856, 8°, 360 pages; *Anastasimatar bisericesc*, 1856, 4°, 298 pages; *Irmologhion sau Catavasier*, 1856, 4°, 218 pages; *Teoreticon*, 1856, 4°, 42 pages; *Tomul I al Antologhiei*, 1856, 4°, 325+1 pages; *Rânduiala Sfintei şi Dumnezeieştii leturghi*, 1856, 4°, 264 pages ; *Aghiasmatar mic*, 1857, 4°, 212+2 pages; *Datoriile soţietăţii casnice*, 1857, 8°, 91+1 pages and *Viaţa şi 183 de fabule ale lui Esop*, 1857, 8°, 82+16+175 pages [8]. However, the most significant work is the *Bible of Buzău*, published in five volumes between 1854 and 1856, based on the Blaj edition, which was revised[9]. These volumes were printed on fine white paper, each bound with hardboard (*mucava*) and covered in English cloth, with Moroccan leather at the spine[10].

The *Pentecostarion* (*Penticostar*) is among the earliest translations of liturgical books into Romanian, with the edition published in Târgoviște between 1557 and 1558 during the reign of Prince Pătrașcu being a notable example, achieved through the efforts of Deacon Coresi and his disciples. This service book has been enriched through numerous reprints, incorporating the necessary refinements dictated by the evolution of the Romanian language and supplemented with typiconal clarifications[11].

In the collection of the *Ecclesia* Library at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Bucharest, only a portion of the books printed by Bishop Filotei are preserved. Some of these are available in multiple copies, including the *Pentecostarion (Penticostar)*, printed in Buzău in 1854[12], which is the focus of this study.

[8] COCORA. Gabriel. „O sută de ani de la moartea Episcopului Filotei al Buzăului (16 august 1860 – 16 august 1960)", în: *Glasul Bisericii*, XX, (1961), 1-2, p. 139.
[9] PĂCURARIU, Mircea. *Op. Cit.* p. 245.
[10] COCORA. Gabriel. „O sută de ani de la tipărirea Bibliei de la Buzău", în: *Glasul Bisericii*, XIV, (1955), 3-4, p. 214.
[11] As noted in the seventh edition of the *Pentecostarion* (*Penticostar*). București: Editura Institutului Biblic și de Misiune al Bisericii Ortodoxe Române, 1988.
[12] Information about this book can be found in: *Bibliografia Românească Modernă (1831-1918)*, vol. III (L-Q), coord. Gabriel Ștrempel, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1989, p. 226.



ПЕНТІКОСТАР

КАРЕ КЪПРІНДЕ АН СІНЕ

Слъжба че се кънтіне дін Сфънта ші Лъміната Лъмінеке а Пащілор, пънзла Лъмінека тътълор Сфінціlор.

Тіпъріт акъм ан зілеле Біне-кредінчосълъ-ънсъші стъпънітор Мареле Домн ші Ампърат атотця Росіа

НІКОЛАЕ ПАВЛОВІЧ.

Кі Біне-кънвънтаре ші тодтя келтъяла ісвітореле де Лъмнезеі Епіскоп ал сфінтей Епіскопіі Бъзъ.

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Ансъ 1854 Февруаріе 8.

Ампърат та Христосе Мънтъіторъле Ампърі оляъдя ан Черурі, ші пре ноі пре пъмънт ні ампредінцезе кі інімі кърате ка те мърім.

The book contains the sacred services from Easter Sunday to All Saints' Sunday and retains its original binding, in 4° 27 x 20 cm. On the endpaper, there is a rectangular stamp of the Library of the University Theological Institute of Bucharest, which includes the inventory number. On an unnumbered page, the title page can be found, mentioning His Majesty Nicholas Pavlovich, Emperor of Russia, and Bishop Filotei of Buzău. Additionally, it is specified that this book was printed in the Printing House of the Holy Bishopric of Buzău on February 8, 1854.

At the bottom of the title page, an oval stamp of the Library of the University Theological Institute of Bucharest is applied. On the reverse side, there is a black-and-white engraving depicting the Resurrection of Christ and the prayer: *"Your Resurrection, O Christ Savior, the angels praise in the heavens, and on earth, make us worthy with pure hearts to glorify You"*. On the first page, at the top, there are three black-and-white frontispieces. This book[13] has 555 pages, written in Cyrillic characters, and is in good condition. This valuable book is kept in a special storage space that holds to the requirements for the conservation and use of ecclesiastical heritage.

Bishop Filotei made numerous efforts to improve the Printing Press of the Holy Episcopate of Buzău through various means, even seeking the support of booksellers of the time. Through these initiatives, he succeeded in printing several dozen ecclesiastical books, including the *Pentecostarion*, published in 1854, marking 170 years since its printing in 2024.

Through his diverse initiatives and remarkable accomplishments, Bishop Filotei Pîrșoi of Buzău has been remembered in the history of the ancestral Church as a model Hierarch, worthy of commemoration.

[13] We thank PC Deacon Dr. Marius-Nicolae Șerban from the Holy Synod Library for the information regarding this book.

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