

## **THE ASCENSION OF THE THEOLOGICAL ELITES WITHIN THE ROMANIAN ACADEMICS INSTITUTIONS: CASE NICOLAE DOBRESCU**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FIRST PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY OF THE ROMANIAN CHURCH AT THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY IN BUCHAREST HAS INVOLVED NUMEROUS DEBATES, CONVERSATIONS WITH PASSION AND WITH A LOT OF EXPENSE OF THE INK AND PAPER. THE CANDIDATES REQUESTS FOR THIS DEPARTMENT WERE SENT BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO BE INVESTIGATED BY THE HOLY SYNOD. ALSO IT WAS ASKED AND UNIVERSITY SENATE TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION IN THIS REGARD. THE COLLEGE SENATE WITH THE TEACHING COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY IN BUCHAREST, RECOMMEND DUMITRU STĂNESCU, WHO WAS ELECTED AND BY THE HOLY SYNOD. BECAUSE THERE WERE COMPLAINS ABOUT THIS DECISION, THE UNIVERSITY SENATE ASKED THE COMMISSION TO REPORT MORE RESEARCH. THE CONCLUSION THAT WAS REACHED WAS INAPPOSITE FOR ANY OF THE CANDIDATES PROPOSING KEEPING A AGGREGATION CONTEST. BUT THE MINISTER OF CULTS AND EDUCATION, MICHAEL VLĂDESCU, ON THE BASIS OF RIGHTS THAT WERE GRANTED THEM BY LAW APPOINTS NICOLAEDOBRESCU SUBSTITUTE THE ROMANIAN CHURCH HISTORY DEPARTMENT.*

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**KEY WORDS:** Professor, Nicolae Dobrescu, University Selection, Career, Theology.

### **THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ROMANIAN CHURCH HISTORY AT THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY IN BUCHAREST**

The statute of the Faculty of Theology in 1899 which was implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> October the same year provide separate study of Romanian Church History of Universal Church History as predicted until then. So, the duration “up to 1700” will teach students of first year, and “from 1700 to the present” second year students. A department of Romanian Church History was provided even in the first project to establishing a Faculty of Theology within the University of Bucharest<sup>2</sup>. Though in the first 25 years of the establishment of this faculty, among disciplines has not included the Romanian Church History, because the project of V. A. Urechia from 1881, did not foresee this chair but only one “Ecclesiastical History with special looks at the Romanian Church”<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup>Arhiva Sfântului Sinod [The Holy Synod Archive], File no. 58, 102.

<sup>3</sup>Article 4. See *Biserica Ortodoxă Română* [The Romanian Orthodox Church], 1880-1881, 825-826.

Article Three of the Regulations from 1899 stipulate that unlike other “studies” that had to “expose by owners of the eight Departments, Romanian Church History, Patristic Exegesis and Reading is expose by an aggregate”<sup>4</sup>, which involved the appointment of a new professor in the staff of the Faculty.

On the basis of these regulatory provisions, in its meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 1900, Council of the Faculty decided to ask the Ministry to publish “competition” to occupy the new aggregates of Romanian Church History. According to this decision, on 20<sup>th</sup> of January 1900, the deanship, addressing the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education wrote: “Romanian Church History Department by Article 2 of Regulation, it is provided with the start of the year 1899-1900 between courses, and by Article 3 of the same Regulation, this Department following to be occupied by an aggregate, We have the honor to ask you to publish aggregation contest to complete it”<sup>5</sup>. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of the January 1900, Ministry replies that “has no funds for this department”, so they remained forth just a purpose<sup>6</sup>. However, beginning with the 1902-1903 school year and until the creation of the Department of Romanian Church History, although he was train by the same teacher, appear separately in the syllabus and even on other days than those of the History of the Universal Church.<sup>7</sup>

With the beginning of academic year 1902-1903 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of october 1902 the deanship of the Faculty of Theology, invoke again the Minister to approve the unanimous request of the Teaching Council, comply with rules “to provide for the proper payment of an aggregate budget of Romanian Church History, Reading and Patristic Exegesis, starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> of october 1903”<sup>8</sup> but again with no immediate result.

Only after the deanship’s intervention to the Ministry in the year 1905 begin to change the situation. On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1905 it was voted *Law for the separation and establishment of Chairs at the Universities of Bucharest and Iasi from the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1905*, which sanctioned by King Charles I with decree no. 2863 from the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 1905. The article IX of this law provided that on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1905 when it was to implement: “*It divides the current Chair of Church History at the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest in two, namely: one of Romanian Church History and one Universal Church History*”.<sup>9</sup> Although for now the new Chair it was not provided in the budget<sup>10</sup> on the 12<sup>th</sup> of october 1905, it was requested by the deanship to refill, by Stefan Dinulescu, doctor of Theology and graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy and Law who in the fall of 1904 demand the Holy Synod to intervene at the Ministry for the establishment of a post of aggregate for Romanian Church History.<sup>11</sup> This time refer to Holy Synod with the request to recommend

<sup>4</sup>*Regulamentul pentru Facultatea de Teologie din București* [Statutes for the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest], (Bucharest, 1899), 3-4.

<sup>5</sup>Toma G. Bulat, *Contribuții la istoricul Facultății de Teologie și Institutului Teologic Universitar din București* [Contributions to the History of Faculty of Theology and University Theological Institute from Bucharest], în *Biserica Ortodoxă Română* in [The Romanian Orthodox Church] no. 11-12/1957, 1135.

<sup>6</sup>Nicolae Șerbănescu, *Profesorul Nicolae Dobrescu (1884-1914)* [The professor Nicolae Dobrescu] in *Studii Teologice* [Theological Studies] no. 7-8, 1974, 571.

<sup>7</sup>Nicolae Șerbănescu, *Catedra de Istoria Bisericii Române de la Facultatea de Teologie și Institutul Teologic Universitar din București* [Romanian Church History Department of the Faculty of Theology and University Theological Institute from Bucharest], in *Studii Teologice* [Theological Studies], no 7-10, 1981, 515.

<sup>8</sup>Toma G. Bulat, and Al. I. Ciurea, *75 de ani de la întemeierea Facultății de Teologie din București* [75 years since the founding of the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest] in *Biserica Ortodoxă Română* [The Romanian Orthodox Church], LXXV (1957), no 11-12, 1140.

<sup>9</sup>See *Monitorul Oficial* [The Official Monitor], no. 33 from the 19<sup>th</sup> of May/1<sup>st</sup> of June 1905, 1485.

<sup>10</sup>Arhiva de Stat București, Ministerul Cultelor și Instrucțiunii Publice [State Archive Bucharest, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education], File no. 518/1905, 15, 16, 25.

<sup>11</sup>Arhiva Sfântului Sinod [The Holy Synod Archive], File no. 113, 15.

him to the Honorable Minister for compensating this Chair now become apart chair until occupancy it according to the law. At the same time he offered as if the Ministry will not grant for suppleant any feeto fill for free, up to the competition<sup>12</sup>.

During November 1905 Nicolae Dobrescu “Doctor of History at the University of Vienna bachelor of Theology and graduate of the Faculty of Letters in Bucharest and the Faculty of Theology in Chernivtsi he was a fellow of the Ministry to specialize in the study of Romanian Church History” recently returned from studies abroad, request the Ministry of Education to be given until other instructions filling the Chair of Romanian Church History created on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1905 at the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest by law promulgated in Official Monitor no. 38 of the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 1905<sup>13</sup>. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 1905 reapply Ministry to authorize him to begin from now on to fill - for free up to April - Department into cups, because now being in the first part of the year can be done, incontestable, by long chalk than if they start only from April when the school year is coming to an end<sup>14</sup>. The Ministry has responded: “The application can not approve; The Department is not budgeted, only with start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1906”<sup>15</sup>.

### BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Nicolae Dobrescu was born on 20<sup>th</sup> of July, 1874, in the village of Popa Șapca’s, Celeiul Romanatilor<sup>16</sup>, from parents peasants who lived in a hut<sup>17</sup>. During primary school, which he finished in the native village, he has received the name of Dobrescu, after his father’s baptism name (Dobre D. Diaconu). The young “vigorous and with the handsome face, trustworthy person, cut from the rock”, as characterized him the succesor in the chair, professor and academician Niculae M. Popescu<sup>18</sup>, continued to prepare for eight years on Central Seminary in Bucharest, where he acquired the diploma in the year 1896, being in all these years among prizewinning pupils. From the school transcripts it can be observe that during the Seminar, in all eight classes he promoted in second place, most of the times after his colleague Georgescu Nedelea. And he has passed the diploma examination in the Session of June 1896 with 8,88<sup>19</sup> the arithmetic average. Two years later, in 1898, he graduated also the “Secondary course”.

After graduation of the seminar, he has enrolled at the faculties of Theology and Letters of the University of Bucharest. During his student years he lived in the theological boarding school in the Capital, being secretary for a while at the School for boys and Society for the teaching of the Romanian people<sup>20</sup>. He obtain the Bachelor degree of the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest on 1<sup>st</sup> of June, 1902, presenting the thesis *Apology Octavius*, by Minucius Felix, which he has translated and printed into Romanian, accompanied by an introductory critical study and a biographical contour of the author<sup>21</sup>. The same year he will graduate in the Faculty of Letters in Bucharest<sup>22</sup>.

<sup>12</sup>Arhiva Sfântului Sinod [The Holy Synod Archive], File no. 386.

<sup>13</sup>Arhivele Statului din București [State Archives of Bucharest], Bucharest, File no. 518/1905, 15.

<sup>14</sup>Arhivele Statului din București [State Archives of Bucharest], Bucharest, File no. 518/1905, 16.

<sup>15</sup>Arhivele Statului din București [State Archives of Bucharest], Bucharest, File no. 518/1905, 16.

<sup>16</sup>See: Dumitru Buzatu, *Despre Celeiul Romanatilor* [About Celeiul Romanatilor], în *Mitropolia Olteniei* [Metropolis of Oltenia], XIV, 1962, no.7-9, 473-479.

<sup>17</sup>Nicolae M. Popescu, *Comemorări. Nicolae Dobrescu (1875-1914)* [Commemorations. Nicolae Dobrescu] in *Mitropolia Olteniei* [Metropolis of Oltenia], VI, 11-12, 1954, 627.

<sup>18</sup>Ibidem, p.627. See also the specifications by Nicolae Șerbănescu, *op.cit.*, 572.

<sup>19</sup>The Diploma no. 7 of 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1896.

<sup>20</sup>P. Gârboviceanu, *Profesorul N. Dobrescu* [Professor Nicolae Dobrescu], in *Biserica Ortodoxă Română* [The Romanian Orthodox Church], XXXVIII, 1914, 383.

<sup>21</sup>The Diploma no. 2746 of 11<sup>th</sup> of July 1902.

<sup>22</sup>With Certificateno.226 issued by the Dean at 24<sup>th</sup> of october 1902.

As a theological student, in 1902, he won the Hillel prize, granted by the Bucharest University for the paper “Status of the Romanian Church from 1850 to 1894”<sup>23</sup>, title fixed by the Council of the professors of the Faculty of Theology for the contest of that year.

In the autumn of 1902 he obtained by contest a scholarship to study abroad. He chose to study at the Faculty of Letters in Vienna where he attends the courses of the famous Czech history teacher, Constantin Jireček, a great connoisseur of Balkan and Byzantine history. Here he has followed the courses of Church History at the Catholic and Protestant Faculty of Theology at the University of Vienna<sup>24</sup>. He has consulted hundreds of original documents relating to the political past of the church and of the Romanians, kept in the archives of the Imperial City.

In the framework of the Viennese prestigious cultural institution he has claimed the PhD examination in History<sup>25</sup>, exam preceded by the presentation of a dissertation in German: *Anfänge der Kirchenorganisation in den rumänischen Fürstentümern*. For the developing of this dissertation he has used the original documents of the Ecumenical Patriarchate concerning the beginnings of organizing church life of the Romanians, documents found in the library of the Court of Vienna. Also in Vienna he studied and copied other documents relating to the History of Romanians, documents which had not been collected by Hurmuzachi and which it will be published later<sup>26</sup>.

Later he will research also the library of the Faculty of Theology in Chernivtsi and he will attend the Universal Church History courses and History of the Church in Bucovina. Nicolae Dobrescu has rebuilt his PhD dissertation by prolonging the research until the tenth century, studying at the same time the problems related to the establishment of the first monasteries in the Romanian lands.

Since 1903 he investigated, in Budapest, documents relating to the history of the Church in Transylvania publishing some of them in the “Luceafarul” magazine. More than 1,000 priceless manuscripts have been copied by him from the archives from Vienna and Budapest. So there are two contributions very important young Nicolae Dobrescu in the field of church history of Romanians: *Întemeierea mitropoliilor și a celor dintâi mănăstiri din țară* [The establishment of the metropolitan church and of the former monastery in the country],

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<sup>23</sup>The work will be published in 1905 with title: *Istoria Bisericii din România (1850-1894)* [The history of the Church in Romania], 206pages.

<sup>24</sup>Gabor Adrian, *Studia ecclesiastica: contribuții în domeniul Istoriei Bisericești ale profesorilor de la Facultatea de Teologie Ortodoxă din București: 1881-1989* [Studia ecclesiastica: contributions in the field of Church History of teachers from the Faculty of orthodox theology in Bucharest: 1881-1989], (București, Editura Bizantină, 2003), 26.

<sup>25</sup>As confesses into the memorial submitted the Ministry of Public Instruction, professor Jirecek has examined him on the history of the Church of the peoples of the orthodox church: Romanians, Polish, Bulgarians, Greeks, Russians, etc. (See: Nicolae Șerbănescu, *op. cit.*, 575. The Diploma has been released with the date of 3 April 1905, and equalized at the Faculty of Letters in Bucharest with his doctorate in History.

<sup>26</sup>*Istoria Bisericii Române din Oltenia în timpul ocupațiunii austriece (1716-1739), cu 220 acte și fragmente inedite culese din arhivele din Viena* [The history of the Romanian Church in Oltenia region during the Austrian occupation (1716-1739), with 220 papers and unique fragments collected from the archives of Vienna], (Editura Academiei Române, București 1906), 385pages, and *Documente și registre privitoare la Constantin Brâncoveanu* [Documents and records relating to Constantin Brancoveanu], with coauthor C. Giurescu, (Bucharest 1907), 434.

whose introduction has signed it at Vienna on 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1905<sup>27</sup>, and *Fragmente privitoare la Istoria Bisericii Române*<sup>28</sup>[Fragments relating to the history of the Romanian Church].

In September 1905, in the Romanian Orthodox Church magazine, prof. P. Gârboviceanu make a presentation with praise for two printed works of the young Romanian historian and mention also that he is expected to return to the country for the new department of the Romanian Church History.

### **THE MECHANISMS OF SELECTION AND INTEGRATION OF THE ROMANIAN THEOLOGICAL ELITE**

The appointment of the first professor at the Romanian Church History Department of the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest involved numerous debates, discussions with passion and with a lot of consumption of ink and paper. For his frequent applications, Stefan Dinulescu was considered to be a “perpetual and unhappy candidate”<sup>29</sup>. On 12<sup>th</sup> of October 1905 he address a new request to the Holy Synod, through which he demanded to temporary substitute for free the recently established Department until to the organization of the examination of occupying. In the reply received on 21 of October 1905<sup>30</sup>, the Holy Synod informed him that it had decided “to put in mind of the petitioner to file the application to Mr. Minister of Religious Affairs, which, if find it necessary, will advance it to the Holy Synod, to take a decision in accordance to the law of the education”<sup>31</sup>.

In accordance with the response received, Stefan Dinulescu, on 24<sup>th</sup> of November 1905, he addressed the Ministry, requesting him to supplant the department concerned and offering him to teach “free of charge, because funds not exist”. Ministry has not fulfilled this wish, because “the Department was not budgeted”<sup>32</sup>. The same response receives also the former scholar of the Ministry, Nicolae Dobrescu, who had been to specialize in the study of the history of the Romanian Church in Vienna.

Other requests to substitute this new department came from another candidate, named George M. Ionescu, who graduated in science and letters, licentiate in Letters and Philosophy, which on 12<sup>th</sup> of December 1905, requested him also the dean’s of the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest the approval to support a free course of Romanian Church History to the students. The same thing is repeated by Stephen Dinulescu himself. The deanship of the Faculty of Theology responds both to February 22, 1906 that they can fulfill the requests because “the newly established Department of Romanian Church History, soon will handle by a holder”<sup>33</sup>.

In The Official Monitor appeared on 13<sup>th</sup> of March, 1906, the Ministry of Instruction makes the following announcement: “The Ministry, in accordance with Article 69 of the Law on Secondary Education, informs the general public that there is vacant the chair of Romanian Church History at the Faculty of Theology Bucharest”. Aspirants have had a period

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<sup>27</sup>The paper will appear in the periodical: *Biserica Ortodoxă Română*[The Romanian Orthodox Church], year XXIX (1905-1906), no.2, 175-188, no.3, 270-278, no.4, 423-434, no.5, 531-546, no.6, 597-606, no.7, 756-796, no.8, 939-944, no.9, 985-1000, no.10, 1110-1125, no. 11, 1210-1221 (and then at Tipografia Cărților Bisericești, București 1906), 128 pages.

<sup>28</sup>Published at the Institute Print “Luceafarul”, Budapest 1905, p. 84, with a preface signed in Budapest on 1<sup>st</sup> of July of the same year.

<sup>29</sup>Toma G. Bulat, *Contribuții la istoricul Facultății de Teologie și Institutului Teologic Universitar din București*, 1146.

<sup>30</sup>Arhiva Sfântului Sinod [The Holy Synod Archive], Fileno. 113,384.

<sup>31</sup>Arhiva Sfântului Sinod [The Holy Synod Archive], Fileno., 377.

<sup>32</sup>Arhiva de Stat București [State Archive Bucharest], Fileno. 518/1905,18.

<sup>33</sup>Toma G. Bulat, *Contribuții la istoricul Facultății de Teologie și Institutului Teologic Universitar din București*, 1146.

of two months at their disposal in order to address to the Ministry their applications accompanied by a statement in two copies on their attributes, titles and scientific work. It also had been asked them two copies of their scientific work, which have been printed, and the acts and their supporting documents which they would have believed it necessary to satisfy the request<sup>34</sup>.

In the contest had signed up four candidates: George M. Ionescu, Nicolae Dobrescu, Stefan Dinulescu and Dumitru Stănescu, which, in 22 and 27<sup>th</sup> April 1906, have deposited at the Ministry the applications and the pleadings referred to in the communication of the Official Monitor. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Instruction, on 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1906, with address No 24/1906, has sent it to the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church with the request that: “in accordance with the provisions of the Law on secondary and superior education and Regulation to the appointment of the docents, aggregates and professors, to pronounce on the work of the presented” and to “notify the result”<sup>35</sup>. On the same day the Ministry sent such requests and memories - with the same purpose - the Rector's of the University of Bucharest<sup>36</sup>.

The Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> of May 1906, has entrusted these documents to a special commission made up of bishop Safirin Gherasim of Roman, Sofronie Vulpescu Craioveanul and Nifon Niculescu Ploiesteanul. After the “Research works of the candidates willing to be appointed teachers at the Department of Romanian Church History of the University our Faculty of theology, finds that the work of the Mr. Dumitru Stanescu accomplish all of the conditions required”, trough the ratio of 7<sup>th</sup> May 1906, the Commission has concluded that the Mr. Dumitru Stanescu to be recommended from the Holy Synod as a holder professor in the Department of Romanian Church History, created by the law promulgated in the Official Monitor No. 263 of 28<sup>th</sup> of February 1906 at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Bucharest<sup>37</sup>. At its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1906, the plenary session of the Holy Synod approved unanimously the conclusions reached by the Commission to be recommended Dumitru Stanescu for employment of the Department of the history of the Romanian Church<sup>38</sup>.

The University Senate together with the College of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Theology, on 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1906, appointed a commission composed of the dean of the faculty, dr. Constantin Chiricescu, and of the professors Dragomir Demeterscu and Dimitrie G. Boroianu to analyze the titles and scientific works of the same candidates at the free chair of Romanian Church History. On 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1906 the Rector of the University of Bucharest asked to the deanship of the Faculty of Theology that as soon as possible the Commission to commence work. During the day of May 16 the Commission was convened in its first meeting for this purpose. After a further two sessions, on 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1906, its members have drawn up a report which expressed their opinion to be recommended as aggregate at the Department of Romanian Church History the candidate Dumitru Stanescu, who, after them, gave evidence of authorisation and by the fact that he is the secondary teacher of religion and he is entered in the education system through the contest. That same day, they communicated to the Rector their decision<sup>39</sup>.

<sup>34</sup>Arhiva de Stat București, Ministerul Cultelor și Instrucțiunii Publice [State Archive Bucharest, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education], Fileno 1452,9; *Monitorul Oficial*[The Official Monitor],no. 263 of 28 februarie/13 martie 1906, 9349-9350.

<sup>35</sup>Arhiva Sfântului Sinod[The archive of the Holy Synod], Fileno. 114,147.

<sup>36</sup>Arhiva de Stat București[State Archive Bucharest], Fileno. 1452/1006,10.

<sup>37</sup>Arhiva Sfântului Sinod [The archive of the Holy Synod], Fileno. 114, 145v-146.

<sup>38</sup>With adressno. 100 din 18 mai 1906. Arhiva Sfântului Sinod [The archive of the Holy Synod], Fileno. 114, 142.

<sup>39</sup>With adressno. 538 of 2/15<sup>th</sup> of June 1906.

There were dissatisfaction in connection with this Decision, the University Senate has applied to the reference Commission detailed examination. On 19<sup>th</sup> of June 1906 the Rectorate demanded deanship to submit as soon as possible an analytical and detailed report on the titles and the work of the candidates in the manner set out in the Article 61 of Regulation<sup>40</sup>. They held several meetings, but it always has been postponed a decision. The Commission requested further postponements for submitting of such referral, the debates were extending to the end of November 1906, during which some of the candidates have presented new works.

Only after more than half a year of work, through the protocol signed on 15<sup>th</sup> of November 1906, the report Commission has been found that two of the candidates: George M. Ionescu and Dumitru Stanescu, which he had recommended for the first time, do not hold the titles required by law and consequently would not have been analyzed the works. Of the other two candidates, Stefan Diculescu has the title required by law, and Nicolae Dobrescu only "in interpretative reserve" has such a title. The conclusion consists in: any of the candidates are not recommended and proposing to keeping a contest of aggregation<sup>41</sup>.

Minister for Religious Affairs and Instruction Mihail Vladescu had a different opinion, and on the basis of the rights conferred by the law, has taken different measures from the conclusions of the two commissions. On 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1906, with order 61474/1906 has entrusted to Nicolae Dobrescu the leading of the Department of the Romanian Church History at the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest. On 3<sup>rd</sup> of November it started the course becoming the first professor in the speciality mentioned. Some think that the decision of the minister has been influenced by the professors at the Faculty of Letters of Bucharest headed by Nicolae Iorga.

Nicolae Dobrescu has worked as a substitute to this Department only in the university year 1906-1907. Having the University of Bucharest Senate's approval met with the College of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Theology, during the month of May 1907, minister finalized the appointment of Dobrescu at his desk in the history of the Romanian Church, calling him permanently aggregate. On 9<sup>th</sup> of May 1907, King Carol I sanctioned the decree, countersigned by the minister Spiru Haret and published in the Official Monitor No. 34: "Mr. Nicolae Dobrescu, Licentiate in theology in Bucharest and doctor in philosophy in Vienna, is called on the day of 1 November 1907, definitively aggregate to the Department of the Romanian Church History at the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest, in accordance with Article 69, paragraph d and art. 71, paragraph I of the Law on Secondary and Higher Education"<sup>42</sup>.

The Ministry replied to the Holy Synod only on 11<sup>th</sup> of May 1907 arguing the different decision from the Holy Synod in which opinion it ought to be chosen Stefan Dinulescu: "Considering that this opinion is not valid, because it is not based on thorough and reasoned research of all the work presented from all candidates; Then considering that Article 71 of Law cited gives us the right to do, we, the appointment at a university department in the case when the recommendations are not made in the rule and in the legal deadlines. On all these reasons, we have the honor to make known that I recommended to His Majesty King, on Mr. Nicolae Dobrescu, to be called permanently aggregate to the Romanian Church History at the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest and His Majesty was pleased to

<sup>40</sup>With adressno. 267 of 19<sup>th</sup> of June 1906.

<sup>41</sup>Arhiva Institutului Teologic din București, *Actele Concursului de agregatie* pentru Catedra de Istoria Bisericii Române 1905-1906 [The Archive of Theological Institute in Bucharest, the acts of the aggregation contest for the department of the history of the Romanian Church 1905-1906], adress of registration no. 1101 from 22 of november 1906.

<sup>42</sup>The Decree no. 2260/1907, in *Monitorul Oficial* [The Official Monitor], no. 34 of 15/28<sup>th</sup> of may 1907, 1305.

approve this appointment with the decree No 2260 of 9<sup>th</sup> of May 1907". Faced with this situation, the Holy Synod, in its meeting of 14 May 1907 has taken note of the permanently appointment of Nicolae Dobrescu at the Department of the history of the Romanian Church at the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest<sup>43</sup>.

After more than four years of operation as definitive aggregate, on 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1911, has been raised to the professor rank<sup>44</sup>, keeping this quality to death. Following the example of Iorga's history school, which commemorated with piety, Dobrescu was regarded as the most authoritative expert and developer of the Romanian Church History, enjoying by chosen consideration in the scientific world. Following the example of his famous teacher Jireček, he not used to speaking freely in front of the students but used to read the courses that were always based on reliable sources and good books.

Constantin Tomescu stated about him: "When he taught at the desk was severely, cold as a monolith, without digressions, he didn't make the ironies against someone, nor jokes, and he didn't shown us tired. The system at the exam was: call for the first bank 6 students, in alphabetical order: if a student did not respond satisfactorily he passed to the neighbor, leaving him the one to formulate a better answer; After listening to all the others, he returned to the first and so continue with 3-4 questions but without to help you with answer, but neither hurry. Almost all the students were afraid to go to the exam and they postponed the presentation on another session. But Professor Dobrescu demanded only matter that was surrendered and was a righteous man"<sup>45</sup>.

Appreciated by Nicolae Iorga and Vasile Pârvan, loyal friend of Nicolae Titulescu, Nicolae Dobrescu was part of the elite of Romanian historians, being known and abroad. But he has failed to highlight the value of everything that had accumulated because his activity was interrupted unexpectedly.

The professor who was imposing by his stature, through the power to work, as well as through the physical construction has gone beyond the borders of this life on 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1914 due to a cancer in his stomach. Although he was not even forty years old, in almost eight years in which he taught at the Faculty of Theology in Bucharest, he managed to let to his discipline and to Romanian history generally quite rich heritage.

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<sup>43</sup>Arhiva Sfântului Sinod[The archive of the Holy Synod], Fileno. 115,444.

<sup>44</sup> With the Decree no. 2361 din 5 iulie 1911 (See: Toma G. Bulat, *Contribuții la istoricul Facultății de Teologie și Institutului Teologic Universitar din București*, 1156).

<sup>45</sup>Constantin Tomescu, *Jurnal, manuscris*[ Journal, The manuscript],147.



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