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## **SUMMARY**

# **THE STATE ARCHIVES OF IAȘI** **1832-1948**

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Through this doctoral thesis, entitled "The State Archives of Iași (1832–1948)", we aimed to comprehensively analyze the activity of this institution, an objective that required the consultation of a wide range of sources. The research was based on general historical works, studies and specialized articles dedicated to the topic, archival guides, legal sources, periodicals and analytical bibliographies. A central place was occupied, however, by the investigation of unpublished historical sources, originating from the Iași County Service of the National Archives, respectively from the funds and collections: *Iași State Archives (1832–1948)*, *The Ministry of Justice of Moldova*, *The State Secretariat of Moldova*, *The Treasury of Moldova*, *The Document Collection*, *The Iași County Prefecture* and *The Iași City Hall*, as well as from the National Archives of Romania in Bucharest, included in the funds: *The General Directorate of State Archives (1862–1948)* and *The Ministry of Instruction*, under its various institutional names from 1862–1948.

For a clear and coherent exposition, the work was structured in six chapters. The first chapter, entitled *The Legislative Framework*, traces the organizational evolution of the institution, analyzing the founding act, the instructions and regulations that were the basis of its operation, as well as the impact of natural disasters and the two world wars, including the evacuation measures of the archives.

The State Archive of Moldova was established on January 1, 1832, in accordance with the provisions of the *Organic Regulation of Moldova* (art. 366 in conjunction with art. 410), an act that constitutes its legal foundation. Through its mission of preserving and conserving the documentary treasure, the institution is among the oldest and most important cultural establishments in Romania. The organization of the Moldovan archives is essentially due to the activity of Costache Conachi, as well as aga Gheorghe Asachi.

To ensure proper functioning, the Ministry of Justice issued, on January 26, 1832, a set of internal rules, called instructions, which were later supplemented by new provisions in April 1833 and in 1836. Other changes were introduced in January 1838, with the issuance of the document entitled: *Clarification sheet on how to prepare the documents sent to the State Archives at the*

*tribunals*, brought to the attention of the courts through the circular of the Ministry of Justice of January 13, 1838.

The Union of the Principalities also generated significant changes in the organization of the Archives. The relocation of the central institutions to Bucharest raised the issue of the abolition of the Archives of Moldavia. Through the journal of the Council of Ministers of April 4, 1862, approved by Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza, it was decided to centralize the Archives of both Principalities, which were until then under the administration of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior, at the Ministry of Religions and Public Instruction.

The decision regarding the abolition of the Archives of Iași was not implemented, however, because, on August 10, 1862, Minister A. Odobescu approved, provisionally and until the implementation of the budget for 1863, the maintenance of the Archives of Iași as a branch. Its status was enshrined both by the *Regulation for the administration of the Archives of Romania* of October 31, 1862, and by the Regulation for the organization of the Archives service of March 4/16, 1869, with subsequent amendments adopted in the same year.

Although it retained its branch status, in 1865 the proposal was formulated to transform the Iași Archive into a county archive, an idea officially communicated by the General Directorate of State Archives through address no. 764 of December 7/19, 1864. The initiative was resumed in 1870, when the director Gr. N. Manu submitted a request to the Minister of Religions and Public Instruction regarding the establishment of county archives.

Following this proposal, the ministry requested the county councils to express their position on the allocation of the necessary funds. Of these, only the county councils of Botoșani, Iași, Mehedinți, Olt, Râmnicu Sărat, Suceava, Vaslui and Vâlcea responded favorably.

The initiative to establish county archives continued until 1872, when, regardless of the negative responses of some county councils, it was even proposed to oblige them to create archives intended for the preservation of public files and documents in each county, as well as to transfer existing documents from the Central Archive in Bucharest to the new county structures. In this context, a bill was drafted for the establishment of county archives, submitted to the Ministry of Religious Affairs in January 1872, accompanied by a Regulation for the application of the law, intended to support this initiative.

The initiative did not materialize, and the Archive in Iași continued to operate with the status of a branch, a fact also enshrined in the *Regulation for the organization of the State Archives Service* of July 11, 1872, published in the Official Gazette of Romania, no. 163 of July 25, 1872.

In 1876, the issue of the dissolution of the Branch was resumed, following its elimination from the state budget. Consequently, the service was suspended starting with January 1, 1876, and on February 25 of the same year, a delegation formed by C. D. Mumuianu, archivist of the General Directorate of the State Archives, and Samson Bodnărescu, designated by the Ministry of Religions and Public Instruction, traveled to Iași.

Following this intervention, Minister Ghidionescu decided to maintain the State Archives Branch in Iași, entrusting the task of preserving the archival funds to Gheorghe Tăutu, who was to take over the management from the ministry's delegate, C. D. Mumuianu. The handover-reception protocol was concluded on May 31, 1876, between C. D. Mumuianu, as delegate of the Ministry of Religions and Public Instruction and of the General Directorate of the State Archives, and Gheorghe Tăutu.

The activity of the service was ensured, until February 1877 inclusive, by the conservator Gheorghe Tăutu, assisted by the copyist Neculai Roiu. With the voting of the state budget and its implementation from March 1, 1877, the Branch resumed its operation under normal conditions, the staffing scheme reflecting this resumption: a head of service, an assistant, a copyist and a servant.

The service operated based on the regulation from 1872 until 1906, when minor changes were made by the *Decree amending the regulation on the organization of the State Archives Service*, from February 27, 1906, which introduced the appointment of registry staff through competition, an act published in the Official Gazette, Official Part, no. 268 of March 5 (18) 1906.

Romania's entry into World War I determined the suspension of the Branch's activity, since, starting with August 16, 1916, all officials, except the head Sever Zotta, were mobilized. The resumption of activity was gradual, in 1918.

The service was suspended again on November 24, 1918, as a result of the interruption of fuel supply and difficult economic conditions, the activity being resumed on January 8, 1919.

In the context of the First World War, a significant part of the documents of the Archives of Iași — charters, records, court books, judicial testimonies, anaphora and others — was evacuated to Russia, being returned almost in full on March 13, 1936, some pieces showing the

mention "missing". Also in connection with the documents sent to Moscow, on April 10, 1936, the handover took place by Gheorghe Ungureanu, subdirector archivist of the Iași Regional Directorate of the State Archives, of the correspondence and documents belonging to the former regional director Sever Zotta, returned through the General Directorate of the State Archives. Another 12 documents belonging to the Iași Regional Directorate were submitted to it on December 17, 1942, together with the archival material repatriated from Russia.

During the interwar period, as a result of the new administrative organization, the *Law on the Organization of the State Archives* of June 25, 1925 was adopted, published in the Official Gazette, Official Part, no. 153 of July 15, 1925, by which the Iași Archive was reorganized as a regional directorate. The law was subsequently amended by the normative acts of 1932 and 1934, which adjusted some provisions regarding the organization and functioning of the State Archives.

In the context of the events generated by the Second World War, in order to protect the documentary heritage, two extensive evacuation operations of the Iași Regional Directorate of the State Archives were organized.

The first evacuation took place in March 1941, when the Iași Archives' deposits were transferred to Bascov, near Pitești, Argeș County. The archival material was packed in approximately 2,300 crates and transported in 21 wagons. The operation was carried out under emergency conditions, which caused some crates to be partially damaged, either by getting wet or by exposure to rain during transport. Subsequently, they were stored in the halls of some school units, where they remained until June 1942, without the possibility of ventilation, in extremely unfavorable conditions for the conservation of already fragile documentary material. In June 1942, the entire archival treasury of Moldova was returned to Iași.

The second evacuation took place in 1944, with the town of Săcelu, in Gorj County, being established as a refuge point. The transfer of the archival material was carried out in two stages. In the first stage, in March 1944, 13 wagons were sent; of these, nine arrived with difficulty by May 5 and were stored in the primary school in Săcelu. The last wagon in this series arrived on January 5, 1945, being unloaded at the Copăcioasa railway station; it contained 87 crates of documents of exceptional value and showed signs of a long and difficult journey. Two of the 13 wagons sent in March 1944 were destroyed following the bombing of the Bucharest railway station.

In the second stage of the evacuation, six more wagons were sent. In an attempt to save the archival material remaining in Iași, in May 1944, the director Gheorghe Ungureanu returned to the city. After sending five more wagons with undelivered documents, preparations began for a new transport that was to include both archives and works of art, for which he had received an order from the Military Command in Iași. However, on the night of June 5/6, 1944, the Archives building was bombed and set on fire. Despite the efforts made, without external support, the fire could only be contained to the offices, the rest of the building being engulfed in flames.

Under these conditions, Gheorghe Ungureanu managed to remove the already prepared crates, as well as other volumes and documents, from the building during the night. With the help of a truck provided by the Military Command, they were transported on June 6, 1944, to the Vaslui railway station, as loading was no longer possible in Iași. Having not initially obtained the wagon authorization, he returned to Iași with a truck provided by General Carp from Vaslui, recovered the documents and books that remained untouched by the fire and transported them again to Vaslui, where he obtained the necessary authorization. Thus, the sixth wagon was loaded and sent to Copăcioasa (Gorj County). As a result of the fire, only a few shelves with files of the Iași Police Prefecture were destroyed, the rest of the archival material being saved. Part of the archives was also located in the tower of the Golia Monastery, and the building in Iași remained under surveillance.

In total, 17 wagons with archival material arrived at their destination, which would have been almost certainly destroyed, since the building that housed it was almost entirely destroyed by the bombings and fire on the night of June 5/6, 1944.

After the end of World War II, in 1945, the process of re-evacuating the archival material and other assets began. This took place gradually and was prolonged until 1948, due to transportation difficulties and the slow restoration of the Archive building in Iași, seriously damaged by the bombings of June 1944.

The second chapter, entitled *Personnel*, is dedicated to presenting all the employees of the Archive, identified on the basis of existing documents, which allowed for the outline of a more complete picture of the people who contributed to the functioning and continuity of the institution over the course of over a century. Both those who supported the Archive's activity during periods of stability are highlighted, as well as those employees who lost their lives in the context of major

world conflicts, such as Ioan Țăranu, who died during World War I (1916), and Pânteia Virgil, who fell on the front in 1941, during World War II.

The presentation of the personnel is carried out in chronological order, depending on the succession of the institution's management, being structured in relation to the positions held by the state archivists, the heads or heads of the State Archives Branch in Iași, respectively the regional directors, as follows:

- STATE ARCHIVISTS (1832-1862): Gheorghe Asachi (January 1, 1832-September 27, 1849), Vasile Alecsandri (September 28, 1849-February 2, 1850), Vasile Alecsandri (February 3, 1850-April 13, 1853), Iacovachi Palade (April 14, 1853-January 21, 1855), Alecu Fotino (January 22, 1855-July 14, 1855), Gheorghe Sion (July 15, 1855-April 26, 1856), Teodor Codrescu (27 April 1856-October 26, 1856), Alecu Soroceanu (October 27, 1856-December 31, 1856), Gheorghe Asachi (January 1, 1857-August 21, 1858), Iancu Alexandrescu (August 22, 1858-March 6, 1859), Tucidide Durmuz (March 7, 1859-August 9, 1860), Iosif Patriciu Popescu (August 10, 1860-January 10, 1862), Tucidide Durmuz (January 11, 1862-March 31, 1862);

- HEADS/CHIEFS OF THE BRANCH OF THE STATE ARCHIVES IN IAȘI (1862-1925): Panaite Malcoci (April 1, 1862-May 31, 1864), Tucidide Durmuz (June 1, 1864-September 23, 1867), Gheorghe Tăutu (September 24, 1867-July 28, 1874), Ion Stamati (July 29, 1874-December 31, 1875), Gheorghe Tăutu (June 1, 1876-February 28, 1877-conservator; March 1, 1877-August 8, 1885-head of the Branch), C. D. Mumuianu (August 9, 1885-September 28, 1885), Neculai Roiu (September 28, 1885-September 30, 1897), Gheorghe Ionescu (October 1, 1897-September 30, 1897-1912);

- REGIONAL DIRECTORS (1925-1948): Sever Zotta (October 1, 1912-April 30, 1934), Alexandru Băleanu (May 1-September 30, 1934-delegate director; October 1, 1934-October 31, 1940-director), Gheorghe Ungureanu (November 1, 1940-November 1, 1941-delegate director; November 1, 1941-1948-director).

The third chapter, entitled *Headquarters and Furniture*, is devoted to the presentation of the spaces in which the Archive of Iași was housed, from its establishment in 1832 until 1948, as well as the furniture necessary for the conduct of the activity and the preservation of documents. Given the large number of locations used between 1832–1911, these are analyzed separately, delimiting the provisional headquarters and the permanent headquarters at the Golia Monastery, which operated between 1911–1948.

The category of temporary headquarters includes: the houses of aga Alecsandru Banu (1832–1834), the houses of aga Costache Ghica (1834–1835), the cellars of the buildings where the Treasury operated (1835), the houses of Bishop Sebastian (1835–1836), the vaults of the Vasiliene School at Trei Ierarhi (1836–1844), to which a gargoyle of the Vasiliene Academy was added between 1840 and 1844. Subsequently, the Archive was housed in rooms in the old princely court/Administrative Palace (1844–December 1879), as well as in five vaults of the “Saint Spiridon” Hospital (1853–1860). Other temporary locations were Frumoasa Monastery (1865), Cetățuia Monastery (1865), rooms rented from Avram Itic Cauffman (1865–1871), spaces at “Three Hierarchs” (December 1879), the General Treasury (December 1879), again rooms rented from Avram Itic Cauffman (1880–1882), spaces belonging to Maria Burchi (1880–1882), a room in the Administrative Palace (1882–1911), as well as rooms of the Gymnastics Society (until 1911). In 1911, the Archive was moved entirely to the Golia Monastery, where it operated until 1948.

The fourth chapter, entitled *Submissions of documents*, follows the numerical evolution of the archival units entered into the custody of the Archive, the procedure for depositing, the method of organizing the files, as well as the rules regarding their ordering and recording.

In accordance with its fundamental mission, the Archive could not function in the absence of documents, which is why the first deposits were made as early as 1832, based on instructions issued in January of the same year, later supplemented by the provisions of 1833, 1836 and 1838. The files were transmitted accompanied by two lists, one of which remained in the Archive, and the second, after verification and signing by the archivist and secretary, was returned to the depositing institution.

In order to increase the archival fund, in 1853 a special commission was established, consisting of the state archivist, Iacovachi Palade, Ilie Kogălniceanu and Dimitrie Gran, members who, through their positions, had competence in identifying and recovering public documents.

During the period 1832–1863, the evolution of the deposits was as follows: by the end of 1832 – 1,190 archival units; in 1836 – approximately 40,000 archival units; in 1838 – 53,700 archival units; in 1839 – 68,973 archival units; in 1845 – 123,370; and in 1863 – 231,381 archival units.

After 1862, the deposits continued to be made on the basis of an inventory drawn up in duplicate, one of which belonged to the institution creating the documents. The pace of deposits was influenced by the available space and the historical context, but, in general, they were carried

out constantly. Thus, in 1873, the Branch held 255,114 files and public documents, as well as 16,899 seals, and by 1890 the archival fund reached 340,486 archival units.

*The Law amending some provisions of the Law on the organization of the State Archives* of 5 April 1932, published in the Official Gazette no. 81 of the same date, introduced the obligation for public institutions to draw up an annual list of files created during the previous year. In the absence of a standardized model, the Cluj Regional Directorate requested, by address no. 42 of 17 March 1933, instructions from the General Directorate of the State Archives. Its response, formulated by address no. 192 of 24 March 1933, established that the inventories had to include the serial number of the file and its brief content. These inventories were to be kept in special files at the regional directorates until the actual submission of the documents, subsequently serving to verify the integrity of the funds. At the same time, the Cluj Regional Directorate was given the right to adopt other measures deemed necessary regarding the drawing up of inventories.

Also, the *Regulation on the storage and preservation of army archives*, published in the Official Gazette no. 156 of 11 July 1933, Part I, provided, in chapter II, for the division of military archives into four chronological categories: old archives up to 31 December 1902; archives from the period 1 January 1903–31 December 1912; archives from the period 1 January 1913–1 April 1921; and archives established after 1 April 1921. Of these, the old archives up to 31 December 1902 were to be deposited with the State Archives (General Directorate and regional directorates). The Iași Regional Directorate was responsible for the archives of the military authorities in the counties of Dorohoi, Botoșani, Iași, Fălticeni, Neamț, Vaslui, Fălciu, Putna, Tutova, Bacău, Tecuci and Covurlui.

In general, the documents subject to deposit, with certain exceptions provided for by law, were: documents older than 30 years, which were no longer necessary for the current administration, seals and stamps that were no longer in use, as well as official publications, according to art. 2 of Law no. 151/1925.

Regarding the handover of military archives, the relevant authorities were obliged to send to the Regional Directorate of State Archives with territorial jurisdiction an inventory drawn up in accordance with art. 17, letter b of the regulation, an inventory that had to include files older than 30 years that were likely to be deposited. The Regional Directorate analyzed the documentation sent and determined which of the files were to be taken over and which were refused, the result of this evaluation being communicated to the General Staff - Historical Service, the institution that

made the final decision on the takeover of the funds. The operations of packaging, transport and pouring of the archives had to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of art. 14–16 of the same regulation.

At the same time, the military authorities were obliged, annually, in the first month of each budgetary year, to transmit to the regional departments of the State Archives, within whose jurisdiction they carried out their activity, an annual inventory including the number and title of the files created during the previous year.

The fifth chapter, entitled *Selection of Documents*, analyzes the steps taken to reduce the volume of documents, both at the level of the State Archives and at the level of document creators, actions that entailed, in certain situations, checking the archives on site.

Regarding the selection of documents in the custody of the Archive, the issue was raised as early as 1838, against the backdrop of the rapid growth of the volume of documents filed and the insufficiency of storage spaces. The state archivist Gheorghe Asachi formulated the first proposals for selecting documents, but these were not accepted by the Ministry of Justice. In February 1839, the idea was advanced that documents considered unimportant should not be destroyed, but stored in a monastery, a proposal that was not put into practice. Later, in 1843, the separation of "necessary" documents from "unnecessary" ones was approved in principle.

In 1844, Gheorghe Asachi submitted to the Administrative Council proposals regarding the establishment of retention periods for judicial and administrative files, as well as the establishment of a selection commission. Following the visit of Mihail Sturza to the State Archive, on June 16, 1844, noting the existence of 105,530 documents, he ordered that the documents concluded for ten years be destroyed, a measure that, fortunately, was not implemented.

A significant step in regulating the issue of document selection was achieved by Vasile Alecsandri, who, in April 1850, submitted the *Project for the Regulation of the State Archive*. In order to legislate the procedure for eliminating documents considered useless, the General Council voted, on July 4, 1853, the law entitled the *Law for the Disposal of Unnecessary Documents from the State Archives*, applied in 1855.

In August 1855, a selection commission was established, consisting of the state archivist, Gheorghe Sion, the director of the Royal Council, Haralamb Cernea, the director of the Appeals Council, Alecu Cernea, and the director of the Fortifications Council, Mihai Tăutu. Based on the

adopted law and the orders received from the Department of Justice, the commission met in order to select the useless documents.

However, in 1863 it is noted that no actual selection took place. By address no. 269 of July 15, 1863, the State Archives Branch in Iași reported to the General Directorate the status of the selection of documents, mentioning that the said commission of 1855 had initially selected 314 documents of the Neamț Governorate. Subsequently, for various reasons, the members of the commission stopped meeting, the duties falling to the Secretary of the Archives, who, assisted by two writers and under the supervision of the archivist, selected a number of 7,332 documents by 1860. At the time of their analysis, the new state archivist considered it necessary to reconvene the commission, but the ministry replied, by office no. 9,289, that the directors of the Divans were involved in the current activities of their institutions, which is why the selection work was suspended.

Regarding the selection of archives at the level of document creators, starting in 1925, the legal framework was created that allowed specialists from the regional departments of the State Archives to carry out field checks, in order to select and take over documents considered historically valuable.

The documents eliminated following the selection were capitalized by sale, with the authorities having the obligation to address the Society of Housewives' Circles and the Society for the Protection of Young Girls to hand over the waste paper.

By the journal of the Council of Ministers no. 588 of 1936, published in the Official Gazette no. 74 of March 28, 1936, the prohibition was established for the civil, military and church public authorities of the state, counties and communes, as well as for the public and autonomous regies (C.F.R., P.T.T., R.M.S., State Printing House) to sell waste paper from registers, files, receipts, receipts, concepts, official monitors, magazines, brochures and other printed matter that had been taken out of use. According to this normative act, all archival waste paper older than that provided for by the legislation in force became the property of the General Directorate of State Archives and had to be handed over exclusively to the Association of Housewives' Circles and the Society for the Protection of Young Girls.

By the journal of the Council of Ministers no. 2746 of November 1, 1938, it was approved that the paper resulting from archives, receipts, registers and various printed matter that were no longer in use, as well as any other paper scraps coming from the state authorities, counties,

communes and autonomous regions, should be handed over to paper mills through the Paper Sales Office. Subsequently, by the journal of the Council of Ministers no. 32, published in the Official Gazette no. 9 of January 11, 1941, it was decided that the entire quantity of waste paper coming from the authorities should be given free of charge to the Legionary Command of Raw Materials.

Noting that the Archives sections did not keep a rigorous record of the funds received in deposit or processed in the public archives by their delegates and that, also, there was no systematic record of the historical funds, as no catalogues were drawn up, the Director General Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu ordered, by Decision no. 34 of February 13, 1941, that all deposits and selection works be recorded in special registers, organized by sections and kept with maximum rigor. Each register was to be structured in two distinct parts: one intended for deposits and the other dedicated to selection activities.

In 1942, the *General Instructions for the rationalization and simplification of office work* were drawn up, applicable to the mayors of municipalities and residence cities, with the exception of those in Bessarabia, Bucovina and the municipality of Bucharest (November 23, 1942). In chapter IX, these instructions contained explicit provisions regarding the selection of archives.

The sixth chapter, entitled *Valorization of documents*, is devoted to the ways in which archival documents were put to good use, both by issuing legalized copies and by scientific research and presenting documents within the framework of cultural and scientific events.

The State Archives were conceived since their establishment with the aim of valorizing the documentary material in storage. In this sense, since January 1832, the attribution of the State Archives to issue legalized copies of documents, upon request, was regulated.

In accordance with the *Law on the Organization of the State Archives* of June 25, 1925, published in the Official Gazette no. 153 of July 15, 1925, the General Directorate and the regional directorates had the power to issue to public authorities and private individuals legalized copies of both the documents in the State Archives' deposits and old documents presented for this purpose. At the same time, they could issue legalized translations of documents written in the languages previously used in the chancelleries in the Romanian space (Latin, Slavic, Greek, Turkish, Hungarian, German, Russian). For these services, individuals and private institutions were required to pay legal fees.

In 1924, the *Regulation of the General Directorate of the State Archives on the legalization of old documents presented by private individuals and institutions* was adopted, dated June 14, 1924, published in the Official Gazette no. 127 of the same date.

In 1938, the General Director Constantin Moisil sent a circular to the regional directorates of the State Archives that established uniform norms regarding the issuance of copies and legalized translations, both for documents presented by authorities and private individuals, and for those in the Archives' deposits. Its purpose was to eliminate the non-uniform practices existing at the level of regional services.

The circular specified that, according to art. 7 of the Organization Law, the State Archives could issue copies and legalized translations exclusively from old documents presented by authorities or private individuals, a document being considered old, according to art. 2, when it was at least 30 years old. In contrast, for documents already in the State Archives, the law did not impose any age requirement, making it possible to issue copies for documents more recent than 30 years. It also emphasized the obligation to comply with the legal provision that provided for the preservation, in the archives of the State Archives departments, of authentic copies of documents prior to 1881, presented by authorities and individuals.

By the Decision of the Ministry of National Culture and Religious Affairs of 1943, published in the Official Gazette no. 99 of 30 April 1943, the regional departments of the State Archives were authorized to charge fees for the issuance of copies, translations and collation operations.

The documents in the custody of the State Archives could also be used for scientific purposes, constituting a fundamental source for the editing of document collections and for the conduct of historical research. At the same time, a special emphasis was placed on the public valorization of archival material, a significant moment for the Iași Archive being its participation in the National Exhibition of 1906. In this context, the Ministry of Religions and Public Instruction, through address no. 61.077 of November 11, 1905, informed the Iași State Archives Branch about its intention to participate in the exhibition together with its cultural institutions, requesting the communication of objects and documents that would be suitable for exhibition. As a result, the Branch drew up an inventory with 24 documents, of which three were selected to be exhibited. In conclusion, we consider that our scientific approach achieved its proposed objectives, demonstrating, based on the researched documents, the evolution of a cultural institution that

initially functioned as a state institution, to be later transformed into a branch and, later, into a regional directorate. Throughout its existence, the State Archive of Iași has had to face difficult historical periods, but, thanks to the personalities who led it and the sustained efforts made to collect and preserve documents, provide storage spaces and adapt to the historical context, the institution managed to survive all these trials.

As Vasile Alecsandri emphasized, the Archive represents “a public asset that deserves the closest care of the Government. It is the collection of all public acts, both administrative, judicial and political, which serve as the basis for the legislation and history of the country”.