

Tracing a Collection.
Gheorghe Ghibănescu's Documents in the Archives in Iași
(Abstract)

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In the modern historiography of Moldavia, Gheorghe Ghibănescu (1864-1936) occupies a prominent place, being considered one of the most prolific editors. Passionate about the historical past and a lover of the written letter on old documents, he succeeded to form an impressive collection of documents, parchments, registry books, manuscripts, old books and newspapers. In old age, he was forced by circumstances to sell a small part of his collection to the royal foundation "Ferdinand I" of Iași. The largest part of the collection was inherited by a nephew of his, Mircea Constantin Ghibănescu, who went on to sell the most valuable part of the collection to various institutions in the country. His descendants continued to sell documents after his death, until 1965. The State Archives of Iași, through the efforts of its representatives: Sever Zotta, Gheorghe Ungureanu, Constantin Turcu, Virginia Ghibănescu *et alii*, came, through various ways, into possession of an important part of the collection. The first and most valuable move was undertaking the over 12,000 documents from the royal foundation of Iași, when it was abolished in 1948.

Most documents of Gheorghe Ghibănescu's collection that entered the Iași Archives have been regularly purchased with money allocated annually from the state budget. Sadly, the last offer made to the Archives, in 1965, was a failure. The inheritors of the collection demanded 50,000 Lei for the four boxes of documents and books brought to Iași, an amount that exceeded the financial possibilities of the Archives.

The identification of these documents in the state or private archives both in our country and abroad can be an endeavour in the perspective of their scientific use.