

The Veracity of Dating the Armenian Church in Iași to the Year 1395
(Abstract)

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Discussions regarding the establishment date of the Armenian church in the Romanian city of Iași have been ongoing for a long time within Romanian and Romanian-Armenian scientific circles. There are numerous facts supporting the authenticity of the date 1395, which have been highlighted in red on the church's oldest inscription. These facts have not been thoroughly examined until now.

The establishment of the Armenian church in Iași in 1395 is supported by the comparison of two inscriptions found in the church. These inscriptions reveal that in 1803, during the church's renovations, the renovators had access to more information about the church's construction in 1395 and its founders. Furthermore, references to Armenian churches in the Principality of Moldova (including Iași as an important city) can be found in the kontakions of 1379, 1388, 1398, and 1409, as well as in Prince Alexander the Kind's edict of 1401. Additional significant evidence includes the donations of the New Testament and Lectionary (Chashots) to the Armenian church of Iași in 1451 and 1460, along with a stone inscription from 1456 found within the church. The work of the Armenian historian M. Bjshkian in 1808, as well as the writings of renowned Romanian historians, hold particular importance in confirming the existence of the Armenian church in Iași during the 14th century and suggesting 1395 as a probable date for its construction.

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