

## **Saint Hierarch Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople and Metropolitan of Wallachia. Biographical and Hymnographic Landmarks**

**PhD Lecturer VICTOR ȘAPCĂ,**  
**University of Craiova,**  
**victortsapca@yahoo.com**

### **Abstract**

The life of Saint Hierarch Niphon was written for the first time at the time of the canonization of the saint; on the occasion of the consecration of the Curtea de Argeș monastery; the foundation of the worthy Neagoe Basarab. Its creator, in the opinion of all researchers, is without any doubts Gavriil Protul, the abbot of Mount Athos, who wrote this in Greek, between 1517 and 1519, when he was in Wallachia. The Romanian translation bears the signature of Tit Simedrea, Bishop of Hotin. In 1484, he participated as a Metropolitan of Thessalonica and as a representative of the Metropolitan of Ancyra in the Council held in Constantinople organized against the union of Florence in 1439. After four years of pastoring the Church of Thessalonica, Niphon was elected patriarch of the Great Church of Constantinople. In the spring of 1503, St. Niphon was called to pastor the Church in Wallachia. The ruler at that time was Radu the Great (1496-1598). In 1517, on August 16<sup>th</sup>, Saint Niphon was canonized as a saint at the Curtea de Arges Monastery by the ecumenical patriarch Teolipt with the whole Council. This was the first canonization of saints known in our country. The complete service of Saint Niphon, Little Vespers, Great Vespers, Matins and notes on the Holy Liturgy are published for the first time into a Menaion in 1852, a Bucharest Romanian edition. The relics of Saint Niphon, the head and the right hand, are to be found for worship into the Metropolitan Cathedral of Craiova.