

The 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress of South-East European Studies which took place in Bucharest from 2 to 6 September 2019 included a panel dedicated to the study of apocrypha and its transmission in South-East Europe and related areas. Volume 16 of the “Bibliothèque de l'Institut d'Études Sud-Est Européennes” contains eleven chapters based on papers presented at this panel. Each chapter attests to the multifaceted and complex transmission history of apocryphal literature. This literature was transmitted in three main linguistic traditions, Greek, Slavonic, and Romanian, and it played an important role in the culture of South-Eastern Europe. Many apocryphal texts were translated from Greek into Slavonic and Romanian, and from Slavonic into Romanian. Texts were considerably modified and adapted to different contexts, and new compositions were created as well.

The interaction between apocrypha and popular religion and customs features in several of the contributions, and their usage within the liturgical life of the church, for example within homily and hagiography, in others. Another reoccurring focus is the reappropriation of ancient works in different cultural contexts, involving translation, edition, and continuous copying as texts were transmitted throughout the centuries, particularly in manuscripts of mixed content. Dealing with a wide range of texts, motifs and traditions around characters and themes from the Old and the New Testaments, the volume as a whole opens up a world of living traditions. It contributes in various ways to current debates within the interdisciplinary study of apocrypha.

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BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE L'INSTITUT D'ÉTUDES SUD-EST EUROPÉENNES 16

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Proceedings of the session held at  
the 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress of South-East European Studies  
(Bucharest, 2-6 September 2019)

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EDITURA ISTROS A MUZEULUI BRĂILEI „CAROL I”