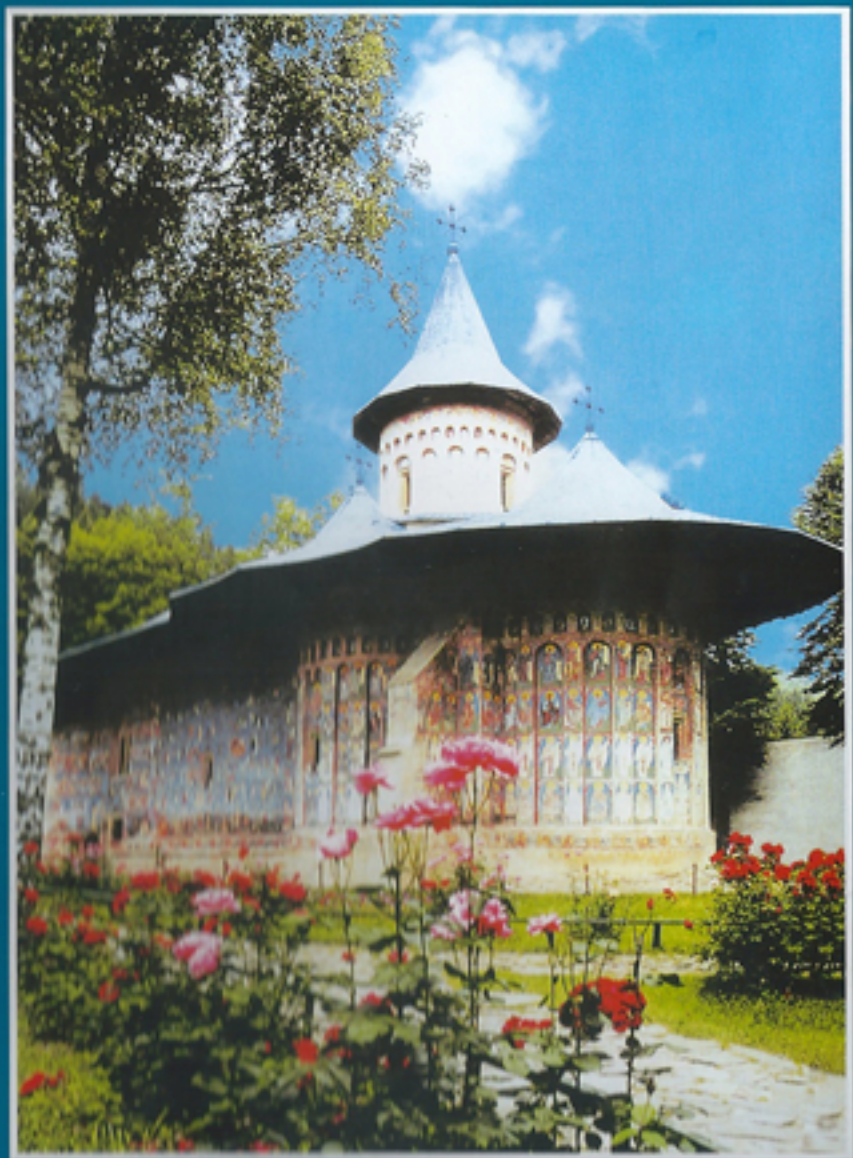


*The Holy Monastery
of*



VORONET



By the will of our Gracious God, through the prayers of St. Pious Daniel the Hermit and the zeal of the good and faithful Voivode (Prince) Stephen the Great, the Voronej Monastery was built, between the 26th of May and the 14th of September 1488, having St. George the Martyr as its patron saint.

On the left of the entrance door lies the haloed image of St. Pious Daniel the Hermit. The beautiful "Deisis" Icon rests above the door; it depicts the Redeemer, our Saviour Jesus Christ, the Perfect Judge, watching over all those who cross the threshold of our Church, with the Mother of Our Lord and St. John the Baptist to His right and left, mediating, on our behalf, for mercy.

St. Great Martyr George, the Vanquisher





Our Saviour Jesus Christ (the eastern side)

In 1547, under the supervision of the Metropolitan Bishop Grigore Roșca (whose tomb can now be found here), the porch was added and all the exterior paintings were carried out.



The Tree of Jesse (the southern side)

The "Voronej Blue" has been added to the lexicon of art by specialists, who consider it unique. On this blue background there has been painted the "Tree of Jesse", or the genealogy of our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Greek and Roman philosophers are depicted in the columns to the left and right, Aristotle and Plato being amongst the better known philosophers to be found here.



*On the whole western wall of our monastery, the magnificent fresco of "The Last Judgment" is painted. Owing to this great, convincing and dramatic icon, the Monastery of Voronej is called the **Sistine Chapel of the Orient**.*



The Death of the Just



The Mother of God in Heaven

The Icon of the Last Judgment is the expression of God's love for His intelligent creation, a creature reasonable and free, for the human being who has the power and the possibility of choosing the light or the darkness into Eternity.



"Sweet Embrace"

The paintings in the Holy Altar and in the narthex are blackened by smoke and old age and are awaiting restoration. Tests have already been carried out by art specialists to determine their suitability for restoration, and it has been found out that the original colours are well-preserved. This demanding and costly task will be funded by the donations by tourists and worshippers, both Romanian and foreigners, who love Voronej.

The paintings in the porch represent the Christian Orthodox Calendar. Above the entrance to the narthex, there lies a superb icon, "the Sweet Embrace" and above it, an inscription in stone mentions the name of the monastery's founder and the time when it was built.

The tomb of St. Pious Daniel the Hermit, who became the first Abbot of Voronej Monastery can also be found in the narthex, watched over by a lit candle.



The Votive Picture

The monastery's votive picture is painted in the nave, where His Majesty Stephen the Great and the Holy along with Lady Maria-Voichija and Bogdan, his heir, are depicted in the act of giving the Monastery, through the mediation of St. George the Martyr, to our Redeemer Jesus Christ, as a token of gratitude for the divine aid received in the battle against the Turkish invaders.

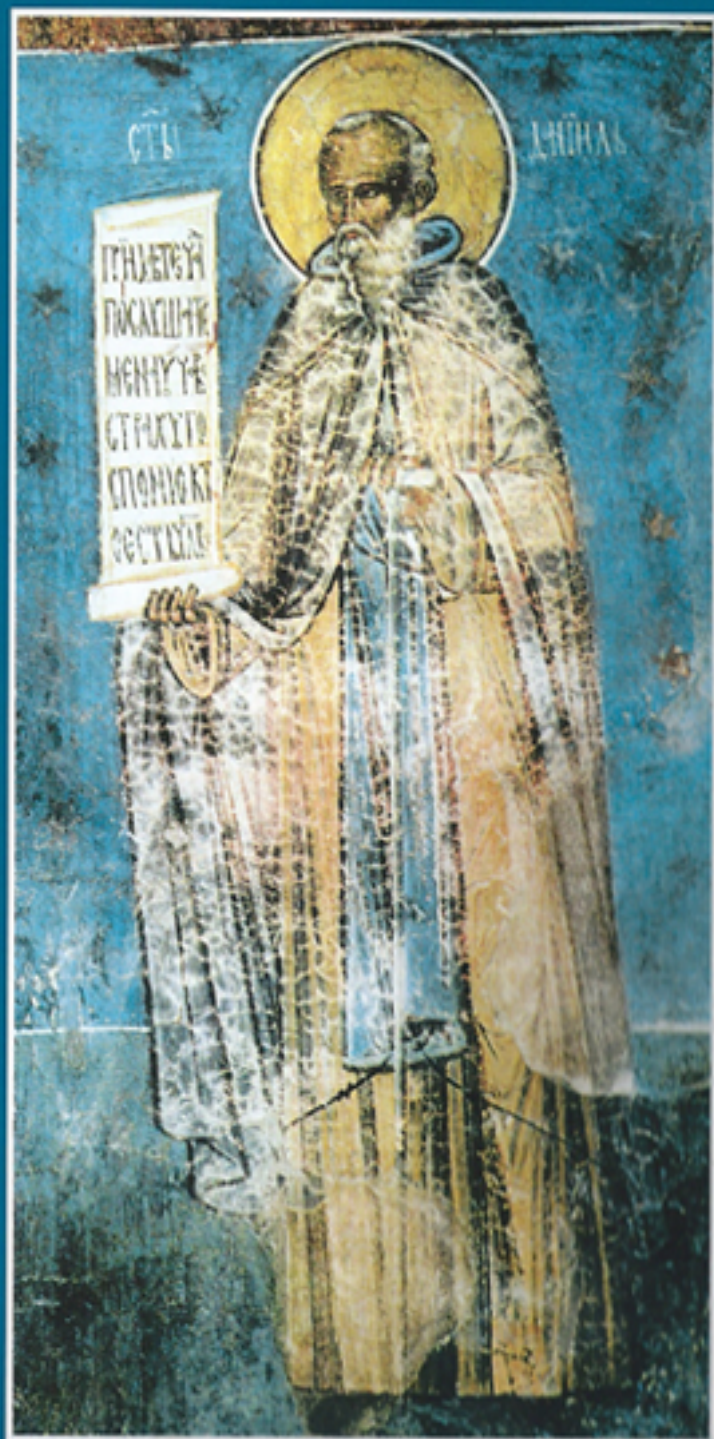


From the very beginning of its history, the monastery has been blessed with monks of extremely high spiritual status and in the time of St. Pious Daniel the Hermit it was a true example of Romanian hermitage.

Monastic life at Voronej was interrupted in 1785 due to the annexation of Bucovina to the Hapsburg Empire, and it was resumed only in 1991, with a community of nuns. Under the abacy of their Mother Superior Irina Pântescu, this new community strives to harmoniously combine a religious life of prayer and worship with housekeeping and farm work, running a painting workshop and providing guided tours of the monastery to visitors.



The Holy Voronej Monastery is an artistic expression of our true faith and it shows the refinement of our people and their love for the beautiful. It is an urge to prayer and meditation for all those who come here from all over the world.



Saint Daniel the Hermit (1547)