

Saint Hierarch Petru Movilă's Confession of Faith

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Abstract

Peter Movilă was born at Suceava on December 21, 1596 as the fourth son of Simion Movilă, lord in Țara Românească (1600-1601) and in Moldova (1606-1607) and his wife Marghita, who became a nun after her husband's death with the name Melania. He started his studies at princely Court of Suceava. After his father's death he left with his family in Poland where he continued his studies at the College of Orthodox Brotherhood of Lvov. He became monk at Pecerska Monastery of Kiev, became Archimandrite and later reached Metropolitan of Kiev, Galicia and of all Russia.

Noting the lack of an educational book for both simple people and the Orthodox clergy, but especially to strengthen Orthodoxy and fight Catholic propaganda, Saint Hierarch Peter Movilă composed in 1639-1640 a Confession of faith in Latin, entitled *Expositio fidei Ecclesiae Russiae Minoris*, in the form of Catechism, with questions and answers, which was approved by the Synod of Kiev in 1640 and then those of Constantinopol in 1642 and 1643 and the one in Iasi in 1642. The Orthodox Confession was translated into several languages, which gives it a large circulation. Underlying these translations was the interest in knowing it and especially its unquestionable value.