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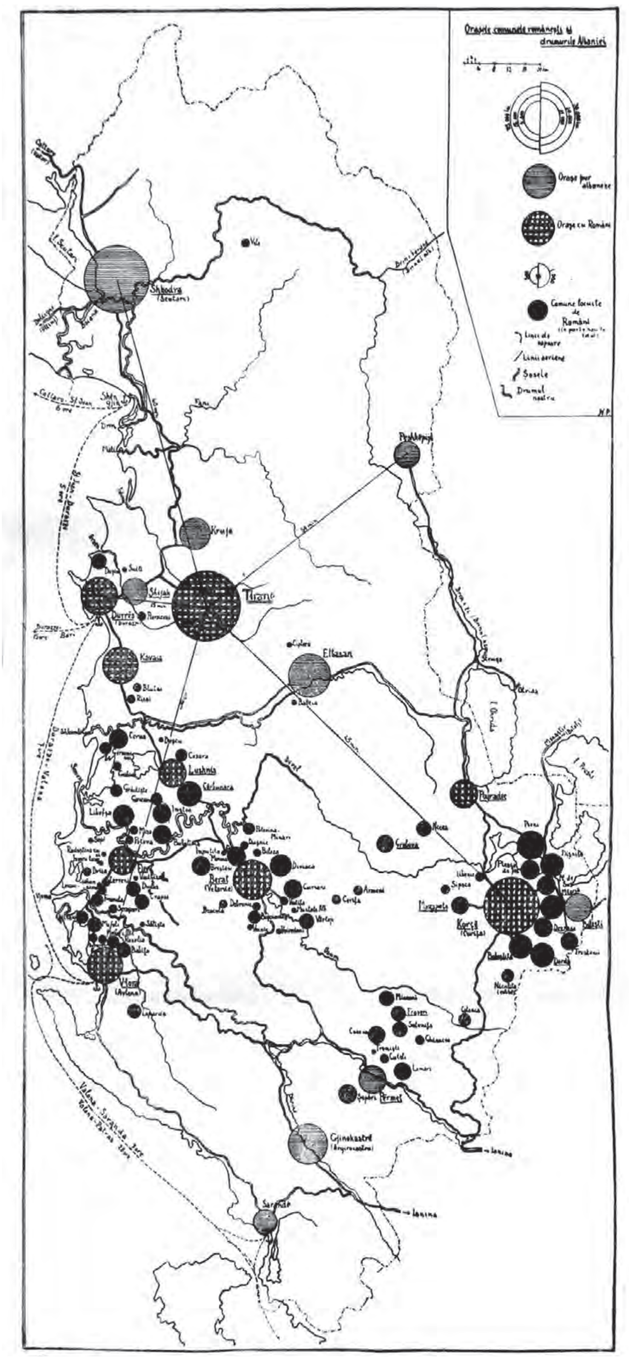
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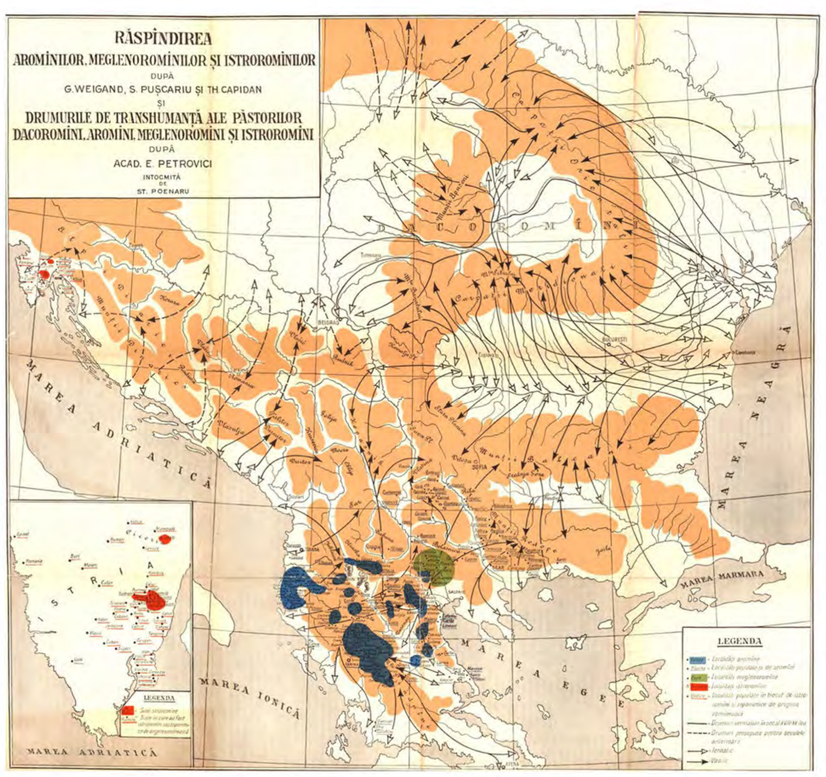
ETHNOGENESIS

Two fundamental elements contributed to the formation of the Romanian people: the Thracian-Geto-Dacian component and the Roman one. From the Daco-Roman synthesis, the Romanian ethnic synthesis was formed. The Thracian bloc, specifically the Thracian-Geto-Dacian one north of the Jireček line—Skopje – Lake Ohrid – western Serdica (today's Sofia) – the northern slopes of the Balkans, up to near the western coast of the Black Sea—became part of the Eastern Romanity, the cradle of the Roma-nian people's formation. The arrival of the early Slavs into the Romanic environment of Daco-Romania (in the second half of the 5th century and the beginning of the 6th century, in Transylvania) brought about linguistic changes, but insignificant ones. The collapse of the Danubian frontier of the Byzantine Empire in the year 602, under the pressure of Avaro-Slavic tribes, along with their presence in the region, pushed the Balkan Romanity into the higher and more sheltered areas of the interior of the Balkan Peninsula. The arrival of the Slavs and later the Bulgarians—who were better organized militarily—caused a displacement of the Romanity south of the Danube.

Some crossed to the north of the Danube, while others remained in the mountainous regions of the Balkans. These groups would later become known as Aromanians, Megleno-Romanians, and Istro-Romanians. Byzantine sources refer to them as Vlachs. In Thessaly, a region called Great Vlachia is mentioned. "The remnants of the trans-Danubian Romanians from the Balkan Peninsula have been preserved to this day in the form of two popula-tions—some of whom arrived earlier from the northern parts and are known as Aromanians, while the others descended a few centuries later and settled near the Meglen region, from which they take their name: Megleno-Romanians" (Th. Capidan). The Macedo-Romanians are known by various names: Macedo-Romanians, trans-Balkan Vlachs, Fărșeroți, Epirote Romanians, Megleno-Romanians, Aromanians, Arumanians, Rumanians, Rămăni, Rrămâni—as they call themselves—and Vlachs, Belivasi, Romeri, Cobani, Cuțovlahi, Țințari, Megleno-Romanians—as they are called by others. Today, they are also known as "the Romanians south of the Danube"; they have managed to pre-serve their identity for more than two thousand years in a space bordered by the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea, and the Adriatic Sea—namely, within the territories of Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Croatia.



Map of Macedo-Romanian Towns and Villages, in N.M.A. Popp, *A Hospitable Country: Albania*, 1930 (AMAE)



The Geographical Spread of the Macedo-Romanians, with Transhumance Routes, E. Petrovici, Șt. Poenaru (AMAE)



Ethnographic Map of the Macedo-Romanians, by A.D. Atanasescu, 1919 (AMAE)



Map of the Megleno-Romanians, Th. Capidan (digibuc.ro)

MEMORIA LOCURILOR 2.0 DESTINE AROMÂNEȘTI

RACING THE SOUTH-DANUBIAN ROMANIANS

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THE CHURCHES AND THE MACEDO-ROMANIANS

The Macedonian Romanians' belonging to the Orthodox tradition made church institutions and the Orthodox faith one of the key pillars of national identity, alongside school and family.This is evidenced by the colonies and companies of Macedonian Romanians (sometimes referred to as "Greek," not due to their ethnic composition but due to their affiliation with the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople) in cities such as Vienna and Budapest, Miskolc and Tokaj, Bucharest, Sibiu, Brașov, Oradea, Timișoara, Cluj, and Craiova, where they founded their own churches. In the Ottoman Empire, in communities inhabited by Macedonian Romanians, having a church where services could be held in Romanian or in their dialect was a constant aspiration. The Transylvanians' struggle for national rights resonated with that of the Macedonian Romanians in the Ottoman Empire, especially since some noble families from the Austro-Hungarian Empire also had Macedonian Romanian roots. Șaguna, Mocioni, Sina, Dumba, Gojdu, Lyka, Duka, Tirka, Ioanovici, Nako, Poynar, and Bellu are just a few of the Macedonian Romanian family names that supported the national emancipation of the Romanians from their own wealth.
In support of the national cause of the Macedonian Romanians, starting from the second half of the 19th century, political leaders from all parties, the church leadership, and the state leadership were involved—united by the ideals and actions of the Macedo-Romanian Cultural Society, a true national forum.



The Greek Church in Vienna, built in 1782–83; many of its parishioners were Aromanians, the most notable belonging to the Sina and Lyka families (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)



St Nicholas Church in Moscopole, the spiritual centre of the Macedo-Romanians (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2018)



Biserica românească nouă din Corcea; pe trepte, Adina Berciu-Drăghicescu, alături de regretații Papu Veriga și Virgil Coman (Foto: Marian Crăciun, 2011)



The Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Cathedral in Budapest, built by Aromanians at the end of the 18th century, now under the jurisdiction of the Moscow Patriarchate (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)



The Church in Huma on its feast day (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2011)



St George Church in Șipsca, Albania; it preserves a collection of Romanian-language liturgical books, but services are now conducted only on the feast day, and in Albanian (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2011)



The Aromanian Church in Ohrid (now in North Macedonia), in Fr. Lebrun, *Macedonia*, 1911 (digibuc.ro)



The Romanian Church of the "Transfiguration" in Korçë, before the 1931 earthquake (SANIC, Constantinople Collection)

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THE CHURCHES AND THE MACEDO-ROMANIANS

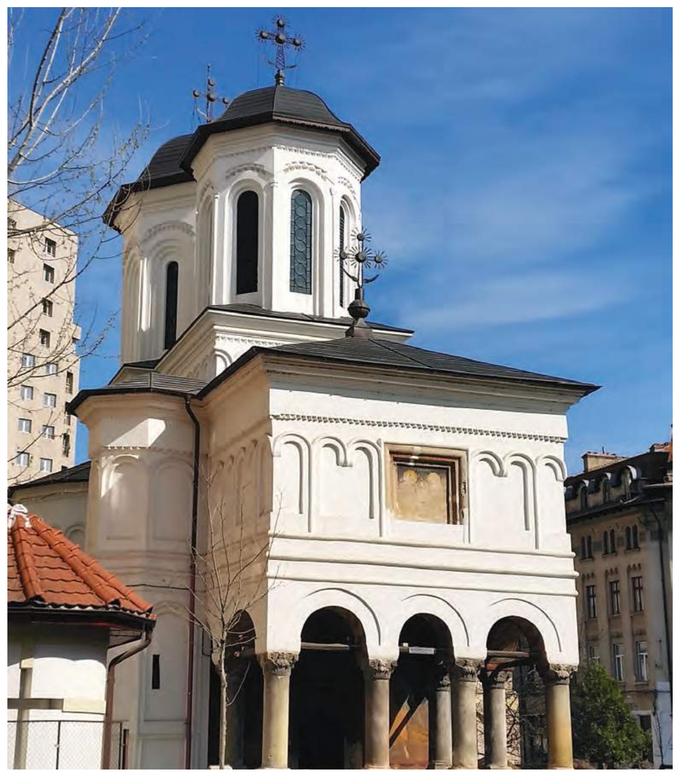
"The national struggle of the Balkan Romanians was fought on three distinct fronts: education in the national language, the establishment of their own ecclesiastical organization up to the recognition of a Romanian bishop, and, finally, proportional representation on an ethnic basis in various local bodies. The movement to awaken national consciousness began at the end of the 18th century and culminated, in the second half of the following century, with the establishment of schools and churches in the Romanian language, with the support of the Romanian state. The national aspirations of the Romanians did not aim at either annexation to Romania or the creation of their own state in the Balkans. They desired equal civic rights with the other nations of the Ottoman Empire and cultural autonomy."** (Adina Berciu-Drăghicescu)

In 1900, in the (European part of the) Ottoman Empire, there were over 30 churches where services were conducted in Romanian. By 1903, Romanian-language services were held in the following churches:

- In the Albania district: Pleasa, Nicea, Șipsca, Elbasan, and Moscopole — served by 5 priests;
- In the Bitola district: Crușova, Gopeși, Hrupiște, Ohrida, Vlaho-Clisura — served by 11 priests;
- In the Epirus district: Abela-Grebena, Perivole-Grebena, and Turia — served by 5 priests;
- Also in Epirus: Doliani, Lumnița, Huma, Lugunța, Oșani, Murihova, Livezi, Cupa, and Fetița — served by 22 priests.

The imperial decree (irade) of May 9/22, 1905, officially recognized the rights of the Macedonian Romanian communities, including the right to conduct church services in the Romanian language. By 1909, Romanian-language services were being held in 43 localities south of the Danube. After the establishment of communist regimes in Romania, Albania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia, and following the Greek Civil War, the situation of Romanian churches and schools fell into silence. Romanian churches were closed, and some were even demolished.

After 1990, only one Romanian church was built, thanks to the efforts of Romanian patriots and several institutions: the "St. Sotir" Church in Korçë, Albania, built through the efforts of the late parish priest Veriga, known as Papu Veriga.



The "Holy Apostles" Church in Bucharest (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2023)



The memorial plaque in the porch (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2023)



The Romanian Church in Kruševo, 1903 (SCMR Archive)



The Romanian Church in Kruševo (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2011

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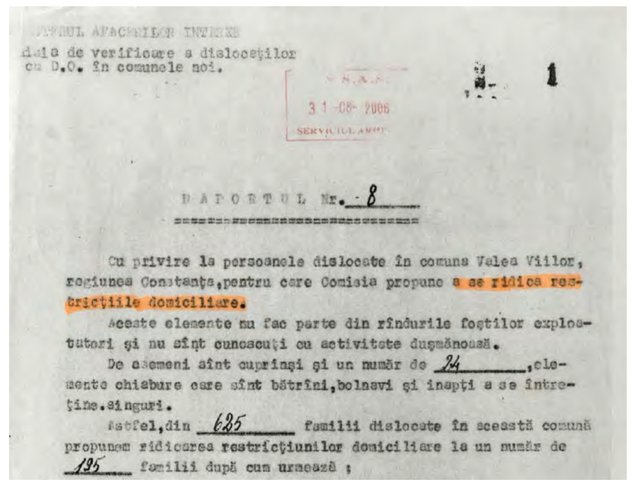
THE MACEDO-ROMANIANS AND THE ANTI-COMMUNIST RESISTANCE

After the Second World War, communist regimes were established in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Albania; the Macedo-Romanians were isolated within the new borders, and the process of denationalization intensified. The schools and churches of the Macedo-Romanians were closed and confiscated. Between 1945 and 1990, in communist-ruled Romania, the subject fell into obscurity. Connections with the Macedo-Romanians in the Balkan Peninsula were cut off. Only a few works dedicated to the Macedo-Romanians appeared, mostly in research institutes focused on history or the comparative study of Romanian dialects.

Many of the Macedo-Romanian leaders in the country, prominent figures in Romanian culture, were arrested, expelled from the Academy and universities during the years of communist persecution. Some Macedo-Romanians—peasants, craftsmen, and businesspeople—faced, for the third time in less than 50 years, the loss of their private property, due to collectivization and the confiscation of assets earned through honest labor.

As a result, many Macedo-Romanians became involved in the anti-communist resistance movement. Resistance groups in Northern Dobruja were led by the brothers Nicolae and Dumitru Fudulea, from Stejaru, while those in the South were led by Gogu Puiu. After 1949, the State Security (Securitate) began taking total extermination measures against the anti-communist resistance. Numerous fighters from these resistance groups were sentenced to death or to long years of imprisonment; their families were subjected to constant pressure.

Another extreme moment that remains in collective memory is known as the Black Pentecost (Rusaliile Negre): on the night of June 17–18, 1951, numerous German and Macedo-Romanian families were deported to the Bărăgan Plain. A total of 12,791 families, or 40,320 people (including "kulaks" and tavern keepers, Titoists, Bessarabians, Germans, enemies of the socialist regime, individuals who had supported the anti-communist resistance, former landowners and industrialists)—among them **3,575 Macedonians** (the name under which they appear in the lists) from 258 localities near the Yugoslav border, in what are now the counties of Timiș, Caraș-Severin, and Mehedinți—were taken from their homes and deported to the Bărăgan. In the summer and autumn of 1951, 18 new settlements were established in the regions of Ialomița and Galați. Although in 1955 and 1956 some of the deportees were allowed to return to their original localities, they did not recover their properties. Some of the deported Macedo-Romanians remained in the newly established settlements.



DIRECTIA APARARII INTERNE
Lista de verificare a dislocaților
cu D.O. în comunele noi.

C.N.S.A.S. 31-08-2006 SERVICIUL ARHIVE

RAPORTUL Nr. 8

Cu privire la persoanele dislocate în comuna Valea Viilor, raionul Constanța, pentru care Comisia propune a se ridica restricțiile domiciliare.

Aceste elemente nu fac parte din rîndurile foștilor exploatatori și nu sînt cunoscuți cu activitate dușmănoasă.

De asemeni sînt cuprinși și un număr de 24, elemente chisbure care sînt bătrîni, bolnavi și inepți a se întreține singuri.

Astfel, din 685 familii dislocate în această comună propunem ridicarea restricțiunilor domiciliare la un număr de 195 familii după cum urmează ;

133.- PRANZA DIONISIE dislocat cu soția - născ. la 31 dec. 1885 în Ogani-Grecia, fiul lui Ștefan și Totu, de profesie agricultor. În anul 1925 a venit din Grecia în Basarghina-Durostor unde a primit 1o ha. t.a. În anul 1940 cu ocazia schimbului de populație s-a mutat în Cerna-Tulcea, unde a reprimit 1o ha.t.a. În anul 1946 s-a mutat în com. Variaș unde a fost înproprietărit cu 5 ha.t.a. pe care le-a muncit pînă în anul 1951 cînd a fost dislocat. Atît el cît și soția sînt inepți de muncă.

13.- COCIU GHEORGHE dislocat cu 2 membrii de familie. - născ. la 15 ian. 1921 în Ogani-Grecia, fiul lui Hristea și Bianca, de profesie agricultor, are ca studii 4 cl primare. În 1926 a venit cu părinții din Grecia în comuna Basarghina-Durostor, unde a stat pînă în 1940 cînd a plecat cu ocazia schimbului de populație în comuna Cernatul-Tulcea, unde socrul lui a primit 1o ha. pămînt, unde a lucrat și el. În anul 1947 s-a mutat în comuna Variaș-Timiș, unde a fost înproprietărit cu 5 ha, t, a. pe care l-a muncit pînă în 1951 la dislocare.

28.- CIUPITA ANASTASE dislocat cu 6 membrii de familie- -născ. la 29 iunie 1894 în Ogani-Grecia, fiul lui Dimitrie și Petrana, de profesie agricultor. În anul 192 a venit în comuna Doimuglar-Durost unde a primit 1o ha. t. a., iar în 94 cu ocazia schimbului de populație s-a mutat în com. Cerna Tulcea unde a reprimit 1o ha. t. a. pe care l-a muncit pînă în 1947 cînd s-a mutat în comuna Variaș - unde a fost înproprietărit cu 5 ha, t, a. pe care l-a muncit pînă în 1951 la disloca

7.- BARA GHEORGHE dislocat cu 3 membrii - Născut la 28 iunie 1892 în com. Toroi de sus-Grecia, fiul lui Dumitru și Sultana, de profesie agricultor, studii 4 cl In 1927 a venit din Grecia în Durostor, stabilindu-se în com. 2 Mugiar, fiind înpropietărit cu 1o ha. teren arabil și de unde în 1940, cînd s-a făcut schimbul de populație, a plecat în com. Mihai Kogălniceanu-Ialomița, primind deasemeni 1o ha. teren pe care la lucrat pînă în 1947, cînd a plecat în com. Șimnicul German-Timișoara, fiind înpropietărit cu 5 ha. teren arabil și de unde în 195 a fost dislocat în categoria coloniști macedoneni.-

The decision regarding the lifting of domicile restrictions and several Aromanians who benefited from it (deportatiinbaragan.ro)



Family of deportees in front of an improvised hut in the Bărăgan Plain (glsa.ro)



Dâlga village, 1964 – young people from Aromanian families who had been deported (Private collection of Ion and Gheorghe Bracea)



Boarding of Banat deportees into livestock wagons (glsa.ro)





The funeral of one of the deportees in Movila Gâldăului – Petroiu (deportatiinbaragan.ro)



House in Salcâmi (New Jăgălia), belonging to a deportee family (deportatiinbaragan.ro)



△ 'Hora' dance at Dâlga, 1964 (Private collection of Ion and Gheorghe Bracea)
▽Aromanian family settled in Dâlga, 1964 (Private collection of Ion and Gheorghe Bracea)

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Departamentul de Consiliere și Orientare pentru Carieră

THE COLONIZATION OF THE MACEDO-ROMANIANS

The colonization of the Macedo-Romanians had two visible causes. On the one hand, the arrival of Greek refugees—following the population exchange with the Turks—put even more pressure on the Macedo-Romanians, as the Greek government sought to strengthen the ethnic composition of the Macedonian region with these new citizens. On the other hand, the Romanian government needed to reinforce the Romanian presence in Southern Dobruja (in the Quadrilateral). "In November 1924, a congress took place in the city of Veria, the most important Aromanian winter center, where the situation of the Aromanians and the path to follow were discussed. All recognized the impossibility of living in Greece." (S. Hagiogu) At the request of Macedo-Romanian leaders (including Gh. Celea, Gh. Badralexi, I. Papanacea, G. Caranica, etc.) and with the approval of the authorities in Bucharest, the colonization of the Quadrilateral began. A committee of initiative was formed, composed of Macedo-Romanian leaders and delegates from the community, which visited the Quadrilateral. A second congress, held in December 1925 in Veria, decided on the general emigration of the Macedo-Romanians. In April 1926, the first two ships with colonists arrived. Despite some organizational and political difficulties, the colonization was carried out successfully. By 1939, over 5,000 Macedo-Romanian families had arrived in Romania.

The Treaty of Craiova, signed on September 7, 1940, triggered another migration for the Macedo-Romanians. Romania agreed with Bulgaria to cede Southern Dobruja and carry out a population exchange. Approximately 63,000 Bulgariansleft from the counties of Northern Dobruja, and about 130,000 Romanians came from Southern Dobruja—among them the 5,000 families of Aromanians and Megleno-Romanians, as well as a few dozen Timok Romanians. The process of accepting Macedo-Romanians from the Balkans into Romania continued, through family reunification efforts, throughout the war and even afterward. The Macedo-Romanians were colonized and took refuge mainly in the counties of Călărași, Tulcea (e.g., Beidaud, Ceamurlia de Sus, Camena, Panduru, Lăstuni-Hagilar, Testemel – now Vasile Alecsandri, Rândunica – Congaz, etc.), and Constanța (e.g., Cobadin, Râmnicu de Jos, Colilia, Sinoe, etc.). Others relocated to villages in the Banat region, abandoned by the German population. These people later became victims of the 1951 deportations to the Bărăgan.



Report on the Colonised Macedonians, *Realitatea Ilustrată*, no. 503, 9 September 1936 (digibuc.ro)



"Dobrogea. Macedonian Children – Culai and Flora" (Collection of Irina and Ernest Oberländer-Târnoveanu, imagoromaniae.ro)



Fig. 1. — Harta așezărilor românești din Balcani. Coloniștii din Cadrilater provin din regiunea Macedoniei a Greciei (cultul drept de jos al bărții. În mijlocul Macedoniei regiunile Meglenito, Veria și Vodena din care a pornit mișcarea de culmurare



Fig. 2. — Harta înființării colonizării în Cadrilater (1923—28). Coloniștii au pătruns de abia în satele de pe malul Dunării, de lângă calea ferată Medgidia-Cazargic și din apropierea litoralului.



Fig. 3 — Cadrilaterul la 1 Ianuarie 1939. Numărul satelor a sporit considerabil prin așezarea coloniștilor.

The maps by C. Noe concerning the Colonisation of Southern Dobruja, published in 1938 (digibuc.ro)



Group of Aromanians from Gopesh, 1933 (SCMR Archive)



Group of Aromanians from Gramostea, settled in Sansârlar – Durostor, 1938, in *Analele Dobrogei*, Year XIX, Vol. III (minac.ro)



N. Iorga among Aromanians from the village of Frășari, during the colonisation, 1929? (Collection of the National History Museum of Romania – MNIR)

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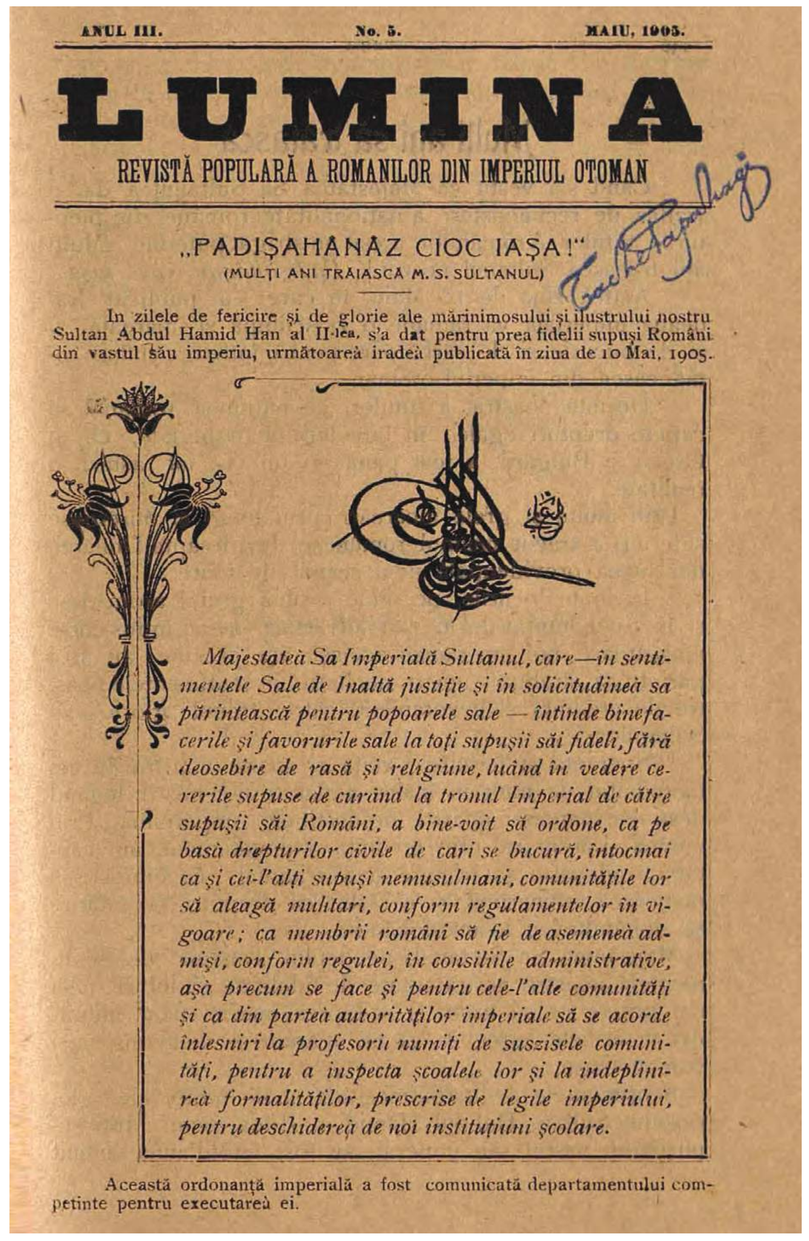
Departamentul de Consiliere și Orientare pentru Carieră

THE IMPERIAL EDICT OF MAY 9/22, 1905

Following the "national awakening" of the Macedo-Romanian population in the 19th century, the main directions of action were the establishment of schools with instruction and churches with liturgy in the Aromanian dialect and the Romanian language. These nu-merous initiatives—supported by the Romanian state as well as by patriots, either organized in associations (such as the Macedo-Romanian Cultural Society, the Association of the Teach-ing and Clerical Body for the Education of the Romanian People in the Ottoman Em-pire, Albina – the association of students of the Romanian normal and vocational school) or independently—led to the creation and operation of many such institutions. As a result, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, on the one hand, and the Greek government in Athens, on the other, constantly reacted and protested to the Ottoman authori-ties against the actions of the Romanians. These protests were part of broader Hellenization ef-forts aimed at the Aromanian communities—strategies meant to support the expansion and con-solidation of the Greek state, with the goal of eventually incorporating Macedonia, Albania, Epirus, and Thessaly.

The issuance of the Imperial Irade (Decree) on May 9/22, 1905, was both a success of the struggle and sacrifices of the Macedo-Romanians and a diplomatic victory for Romania. This event was based not only on a favorable cultural background but also on previous dramatic in-cidents, including persecutions and murders of Romanian clergy, teachers, and ordinary people in Aromanian communities. Under international diplomatic pressure, and due to the skillful negotiations of Alexandru Em. Lahovari (1855–1950), Sultan Abdul Hamid II (1876–1906)—faced with the Romanian minister's threat to resign within 10 days—issued, on May 9/22, 1905, the Imperial Irade, which confirmed the right of Macedo-Romanians to have schools and churches in the Roma-nian language, while also officially recognizing the existence of a Romanian national popula-tion in Macedonia, within the Ottoman Empire.

The Irade was accompanied by a ministerial "teskere" (official note), issued by the Ottoman Minister of Justice and Religious Affairs, which formally informed the Ecumenical Patri-arch of Constantinople and warned the leading figures of the Patriarchate about the rights now recognized for the Macedo-Romanian community.



ANUL III. No. 5. MAIU, 1905.

LUMINA

REVISTĂ POPULARĂ A ROMANILOR DIN IMPERIUL OTOMAN

„PADIȘAHÂNÂZ CIOC IAȘA!"

(MULȚI ANI TRĂIASCĂ M. S. SULTANUL)

In zilele de fericire și de glorie ale mărinimosului și ilustrului nostru Sultan Abdul Hamid Han al II-lea, s'a dat pentru prea fidelii supuși Români din vastul său imperiu, următoarea iradeà publicată în ziua de 10 Mai, 1905.

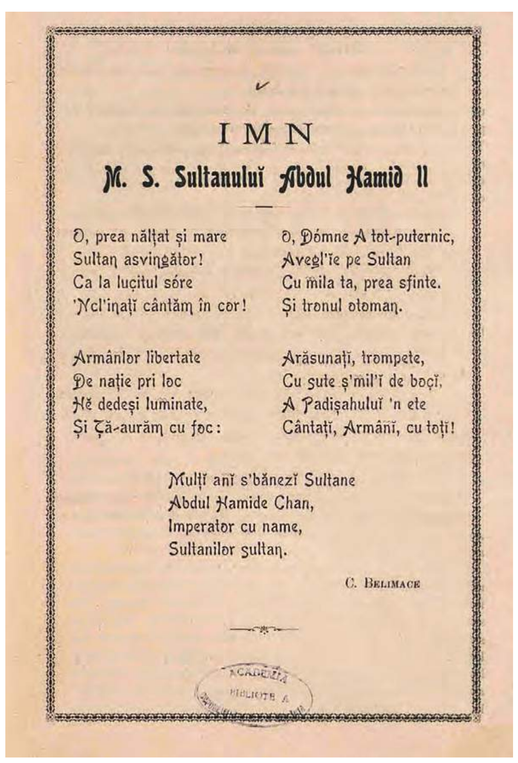
Majestatea Sa Imperială Sultanul, care—in sentimentele Sale de Inaltă justiție și în solicitudineà sa părinteascâ pentru popoarele sale — întinde binefacerile și favorurile sale la toți supușii săi fideli, fără deosebire de rasă și religiune, luând în vedere cererile supuse de curând la tronul Imperial de către supușii săi Români, a bine-voit să ordone, ca pe basà drepturilor civile de cari se bucură, întocmai ca și cei-l'alți supuși nemusulmani, comunitățile lor să aleagă muhtari, conform regulamentelor în vigoare; ca membrii români să fie de asemeneà admiși, conform regulei, în consiliile administrative, așà precum se face și pentru cele-l'alte comunități și ca din parteà autorităților imperiale să se acorde înlesniri la profesorii numiți de suszisele comunități, pentru a inspecta școalele lor și la indeplinireà formalităților, prescrise de legile imperiului, pentru deschidereà de noi instituțiuni școlare.

Această ordonanță imperială a fost comunicată departamentului competinte pentru executareà ei.

Lumina, no. 5, May 1905 (digibuc.ro)



Alexandru Em. Lahovary in 1916, during the diplomatic mission to Paris (bnf.gallica.fr)



IMN

M. S. Sultanului Abdul Hamid II

O, prea nălțat și mare
Sultan asvingător!
Ca la luciul sóre
'Ncl'inați cântăm în cor!

O, Dómne A tot-puternic,
Avegl'ie pe Sultan
Cu mila ta, prea sfinte.
Și tronul otoman.

Armânlor libertate
De nație pri loc
Hé dedeși luminate,
Și Ță-aurăm cu foc:

Arăsunați, trompete,
Cu sute ș'mil'i de boți,
A Padișahului 'n ete
Cântați, Armâni, cu toți!

Mulți ani s'bănezi Sultane
Abdul Hamide Chan,
Imperator cu name,
Sultanilor sultan.

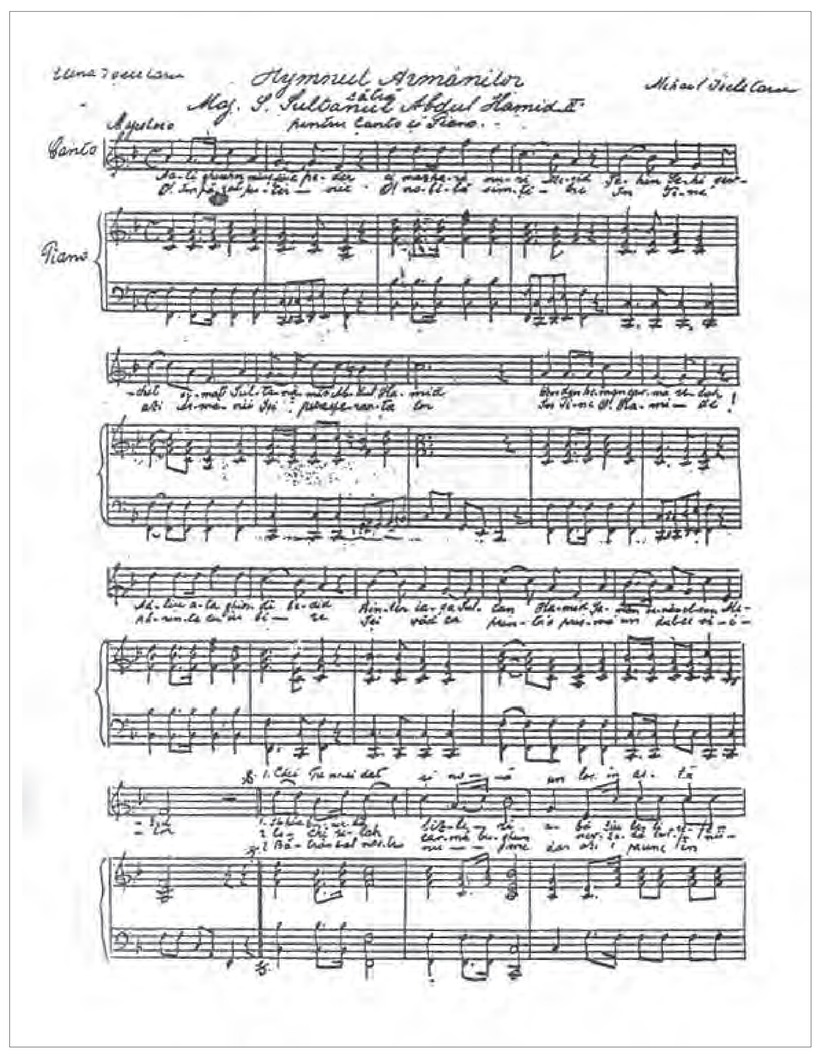
C. Belimace

ACADEMIA BIBLIOTECA

Hymn dedicated to the Sultan, published in the magazine *Lumina*, as a token of gratitude for the benefits brought by the Irade (digibuc.ro)



Abdul Hamid II (bnf.gallica.fr)



Imnul Armânilor

Page from the score of the Hymn dedicated to Sultan Abdul Hamid, composed by Mihail Pocletaru from the Romanian Girls' Vocational School in Bitola, with lyrics by Elena Pocletaru, the school's headmistress (AMAE, Constantinople Collection)

MEMORIA LOCURILOR 2.0 DESTINE AROMÂNEȘTI

RACING THE SOUTH-DANUBIAN ROMANIANS

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Departamentul pentru Românii de Pretutindeni

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Departamentul de Consiliere și Orientare pentru Carieră

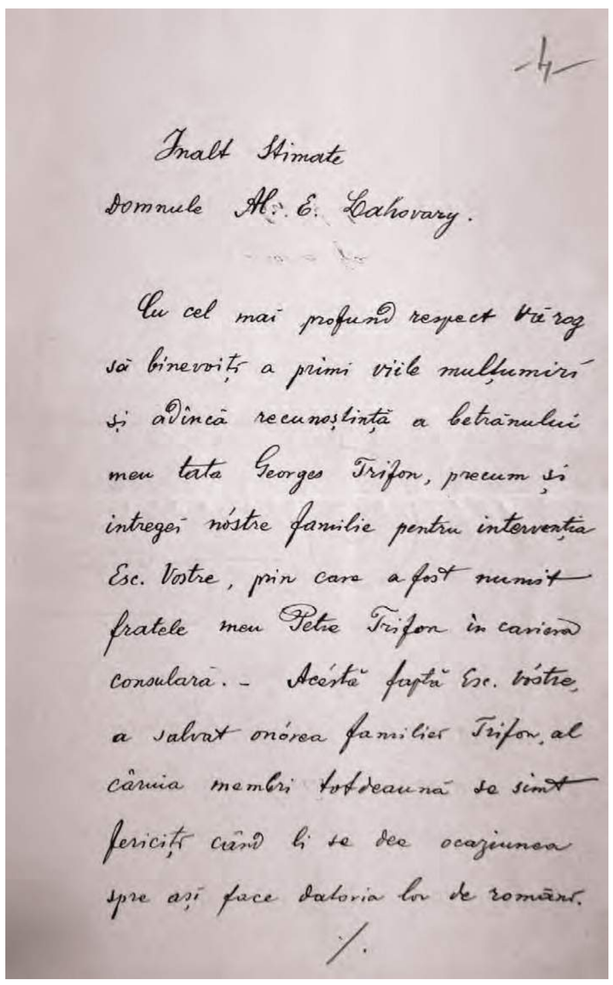
THE IMPERIAL EDICT OF MAY 9/22, 1905

The document stated that the Aromanians "must no longer be prevented from celebrating their religious services through their own priests and in their national language, and from participating in elections for administrative councils." Officially, Aromanians and Megleno-Romanians were guaranteed the right to education, religious worship, and local self-governance, effectively granting them the rights of a "millet" (an autonomous religious and ethnic community) within the Ottoman Empire. The free use of the Romanian language / Aromanian dialect in schools and churches was recognized and permitted. The formation of Vlach communities in the Ottoman Empire was allowed. From that moment, Romanian educationattained the same status as that of other nationalities. By 1906, there were 107 primary schools and 40 churchesoperating in the Balkans.

“The impression caused throughout Turkey by this Irade was considerable. The Romanians expressed their joy loudly at finally being placed on equal footing with the other Christian nationalities. Through countless telegrams and letters received from Aromanian centers in Turkey, I was sent expressions of gratitude for the liberation of their people. The same enthusiastic demonstrations occurred in Romania upon hearing the news. [...] As for the Greeks, their astonishment was matched only by the dismay with which they witnessed the Romanian success and the loss of the privileged position they had enjoyed until then at the Palace and the Porte, where their powerful means and the support they could count on were well known.” — Alexandru Em. Lahovary, *Diplomatic Memoirs*

The issuance of the Irade prompted immediate retaliation from the “secret committees” and Greek “antart” bands, who began applying pressure and violence against the Macedo-Romanians in an effort to force them to abandon their Romanian identity. In just two years, 1905–1906, 300 Romanians were killed. In 1905 alone, 23 people were killed and 7 wounded; there were 13 armed raids that led to the burning of schools, slaughter of flocks, destruction of households, and burning of textbooks and religious books in churches.

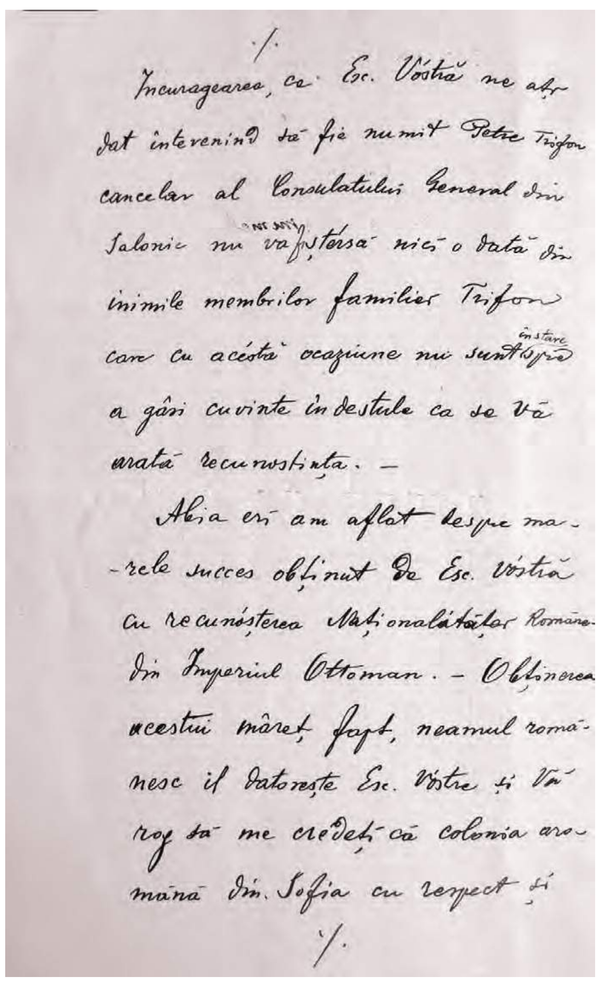
(Source: Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archive, Constantinople Fund, Report 259)



Înalt Stimate
domnule Al. E. Lahovary.

Cu cel mai profund respect vă rog să binevoiți a primi vii le mulțumiri și adîncă recunoștință a bătrînului meu tată Georges Trifon, precum și întregei noastre familie pentru intervenția Esc. Vostre, prin care a fost numit fratele meu Petre Trifon în cariera consulară. – Această faptă Esc. Voastre a salvat onórea familiei Trifon, al cărui membri totdeauna se simt fericiți când li se dee ocaziunea spre a și face datoria ca de români.

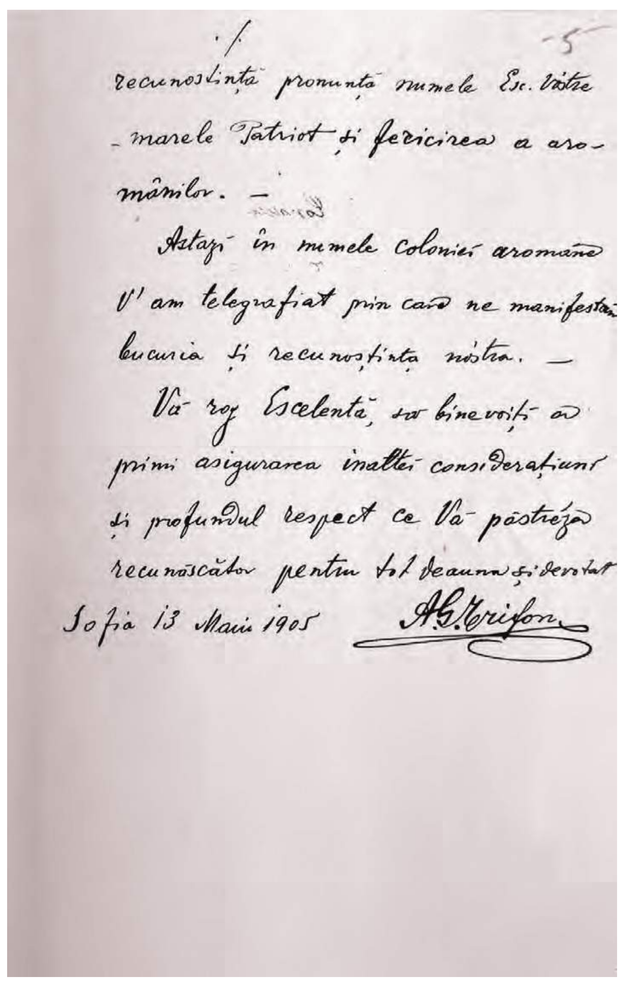
/.



Încurajarea, ce Esc. Voastră ne a dat intervenind să fie numit Petre Trifon cancelar al Consulatului General din Salonic nu va șterge niciodată din inimile membrilor familiei Trifon care cu această ocaziune nu sunt în stare a găsi cuvinte îndestule ca să Vă arată recunoștința. –

Abia eri am aflat despre mărețele succes obținut de Esc. Voastră cu recunoșterea Naționalităților Române din Imperiul Ottoman. – Obținerea acestui măreț fapt, neamul românesc îl datorește Esc. Voastre și Vă rog să me credeți că Colonia aromână din Sofia cu respect și

/.



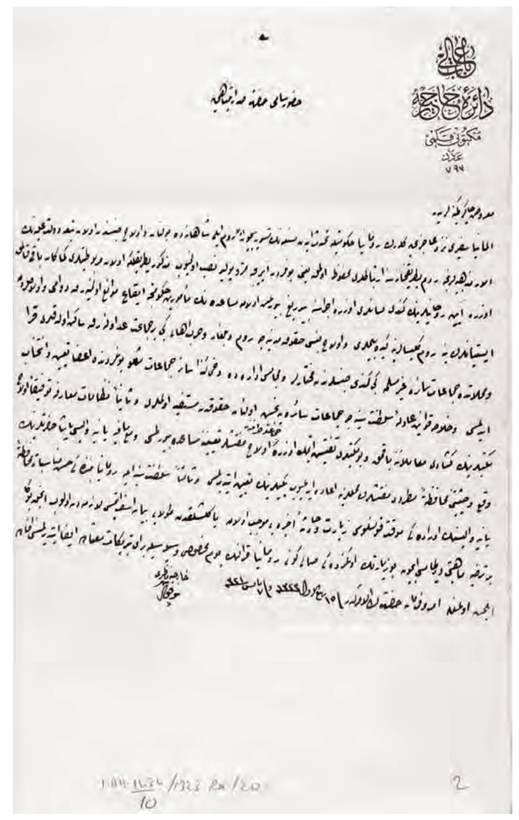
recunoștință pronunță numele Esc. Voastre – marele Patriot și fericirea a aromânilor. –

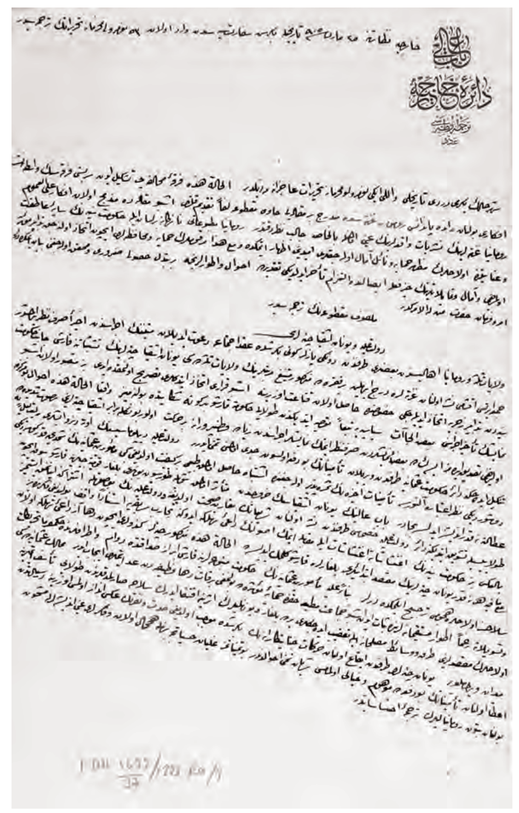
Astăzi în numele Coloniei aromâne V'am telegrafiat prin care ne manifestam bucuria și recunoștința nóstra. –

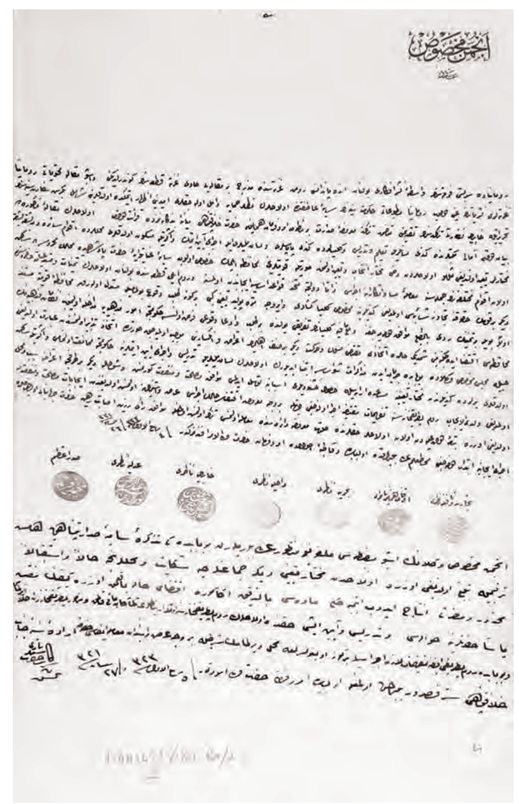
Vă rog Escelență, să binevoiți a primi asigurarea înaltei considerațiuni și profundul respect ce Vă păstrează recunoscător pentru totdeauna și devotat

Sofia 13 Maiu 1905 A.G. Trifon

To A.G. Trifon, head of the Aromanian colony in Sofia, addressed to Al. Em. Lahovary, conveying the family's gratitude and congratulations on the success of the Irade (SANIC, Constantinople Collection)







Pages from the digitised documents of the Irade, published by the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Departamentul de Consiliere și Orientare pentru Carieră



Lithograph, V.A. Urechia Library Collection, Galați

THEODOR AMAN

Born: March 20 / April 1, 1831, Câmpulung Muscel
Died: August 19 / 31, 1891, Bucharest

Painter and graphic artist, educator, founder of the first Romanian Fine Arts schools in Iași and Bucharest. According to some sources, his grandfather had served as a physician at the Sultan's court; after the death of a patient, fearing retribution, he fled with his family to Craiova—at that time, Dimitrie Mihali Dimo, Theodor Aman's father, was only eight years old.

Theodor Aman played a decisive role in organizing Romanian art education. He was the director of the Bucharest school (1864).

He collaborated with the Macedo-Romanian Cultural Society and contributed to the *Macedo-Romanian Album* of 1880, being a firm supporter of the Macedo-Romanian cause.



Theodor Aman Museum, Bucharest, 8 C.A. Rosetti Street (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)



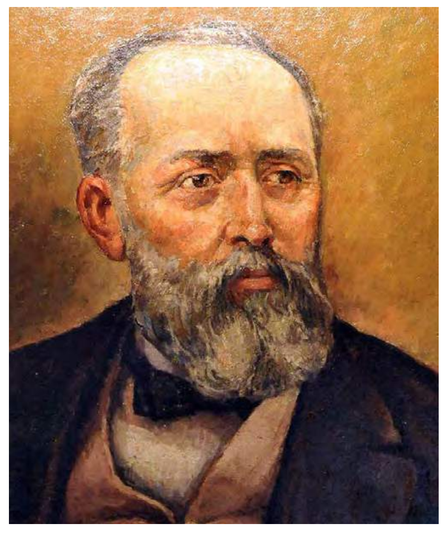
Monument dedicated to Eugeniu Carada, Bucharest, Headquarters of the National Bank of Romania (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2023)

EUGENIU CARADA

Born: November 29 / December 11, 1836, Craiova
Died: February 10 / 23, 1910, Bucharest

Journalist, politician, poet, playwright, and translator of theatre pieces; some of his poems became part of the popular repertoire. He was also an art collector and patron of the fine arts. As a politician, he was active in the National Liberal Party (PNL), serving as a strategic mastermind behind the Brătianu family.

As an economist, Carada was noted for his deep, original thinking tailored to Romania's conditions and needs. He advocated for the creation of a robust national industry and commerce, supported by effective transportation and solid credit institutions—foundations for a prosperous state. He played an essential role in the adoption of the 1866 Constitution and in founding the National Bank of Romania.



Portrait of E. Carada, in the Gallery of Governors at the National Bank of Romania: bnr.bluecactus.ro/guv/



culturalia.ro

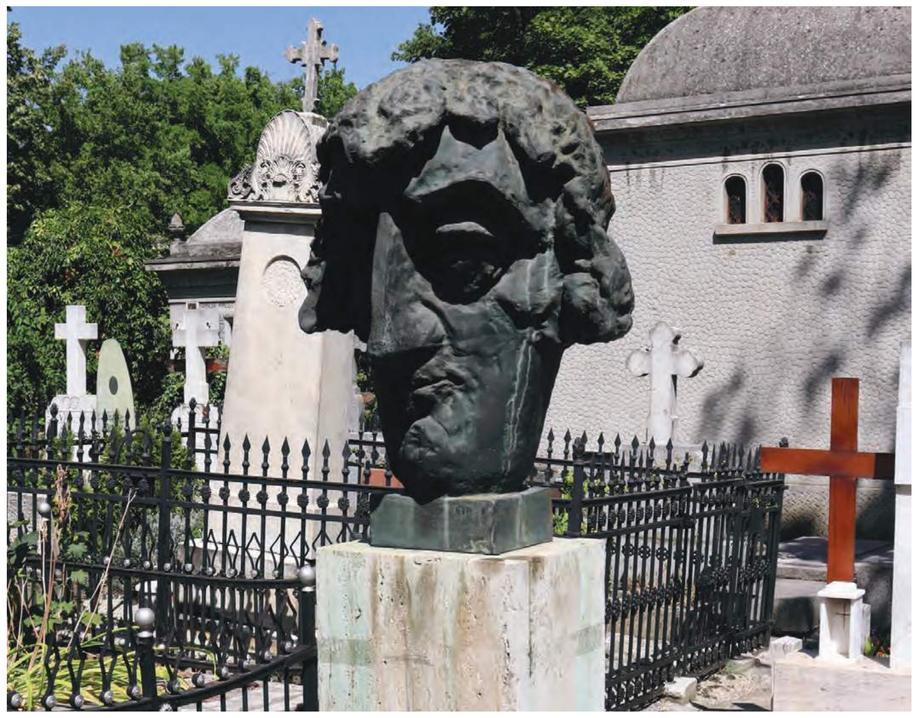
TOMA CARAGIU

Born: August 21, 1925, Hrupiște (Argos Orestiko), Greece
Died: March 4, 1977, Bucharest

Actor. He emigrated to Romania with his family, initially settling in the Quadrilateral, and later in Ploiești. He enrolled in Law School but later abandoned it in favor of attending the Conservatory of Music and Dramatic Art in Bucharest, under Victor Ion Popa's tutelage.

He began his acting career at the National Theatre in Bucharest (1948); on April 1, 1951, he joined the State Theatre in Constanța, and in 1953, became director of the State Theatre in Ploiești. In 1965, he moved to Bucharest, joining the Bulandra Theatre.

"I have strived to be a complete actor. I don't know if I succeeded, but that has always been my obsession. I believe an actor must be able to play Lear one night and be a circus clown the next."



Funerary monument of Toma Caragiu – Bellu Cemetery, Bucharest, created by his sister, Geta Caragiu, 249 Calea Șerban Vodă (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2023)

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SCMR Archive

ION CARAMITRU

Born: March 9, 1942, Bucharest
Died: September 5, 2021, Bucharest

Descendant of an Aromanian family from the Pindus Mountains. His father was a political pris-oner during the communist regime. Ion Caramitru was a stage and film actor, director, and politi-cian. He appeared in over 40 feature films. He became a prominent figure during the Romanian Revolution of 1989, being among those who broadcast from the Romanian Television studio. He served as Minister of Culture between 1996 and 2000, and later as President of UNITER (The Romanian Theatre Union). From May 2005, he held the position of Director of the National Theatre of Bucharest. He was also President of the Macedo-Romanian Cultural Society, known for his vocal stance against the recognition of Aromanians as a separate minority in Romania.



Ion Caramitru's funerary monument – Bellu Cemetery, Bucharest, 249 Calea Șerban Vodă (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2023)



George Chițu House, Craiova, 84 Calea Unirii (audiotravelguide.ro)

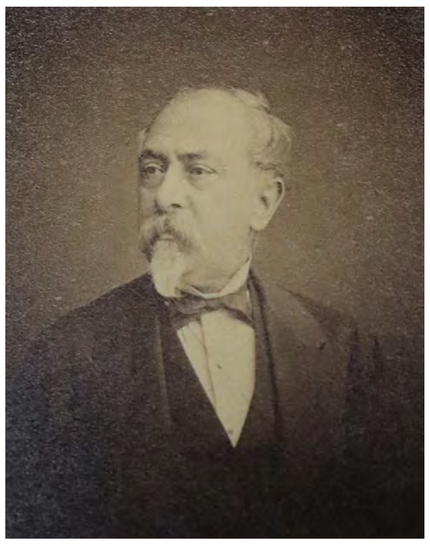
GEORGE CHIȚU

Born: August 24 / September 5, 1828, Obroga
Died: October 27 / November 8, 1897, Mirila village, Bobicești Commune, Olt County

Statesman and publicist. Participant in the 1848 Revolution in Wallachia. He later enrolled at the University of Vienna, where he studied Law. Entering the judiciary, he became President of the Tribunal and Prosecutor at the Court of Appeals in Bucharest, and was the first Dean of the Dolj Bar Association. In April 1866, as Mayor of Craiova, he organized a triumphal reception for Prince Carol. In 1867, he was elected Deputy of Craiova, and later served as Senator. He held multiple ministerial roles: Minister of Religious Affairs and Public Instruction, Minister of Finance (1881), Minister of the Interior (1882), and again Minister of Religious Affairs and Public Instruction.



Portrait by D. William, V.A. Urechia Library



Gh. Costaforu (UB Museum Collection)

GHEORGHE (GEORGE) COSTAFORU

Born: October 26 / November 7, 1820, Bucharest
Died: November 28 / December 10, 1876, Bucharest

First Rector of the University of Bucharest. A graduate of St. Sava School, he pursued his studies in Paris starting in 1845, as a state scholar. A document from the heritage of the Universi-ty of Bucharest Museum attests to his activity in the Romanian Students' Society in Paris. The same document also notes his extensive work in education: from November 15/27 until Oc-tober 28/November 11, 1876, he served as Professor of Law (Civil Law, Civil Procedure, Crim-inal Law), and from October 2/14, 1856 to October 1859, he was Director of the School Board (later titled the Public Instruction Directorate). Between July 4/16, 1864 and March 2/14, 1871, he served as Rector of the University of Bu-charest. He was also active in the judiciary and politics—serving as Deputy, Senator, Minister, and entrusted with portfolios in foreign affairs, domestic affairs, and finance.



House in Bucharest, built in 1894 by the French architect J.E. d'Alfonce de Saint Omer for the Costa-Foru family; 7 Aleea Mitropoliei (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)

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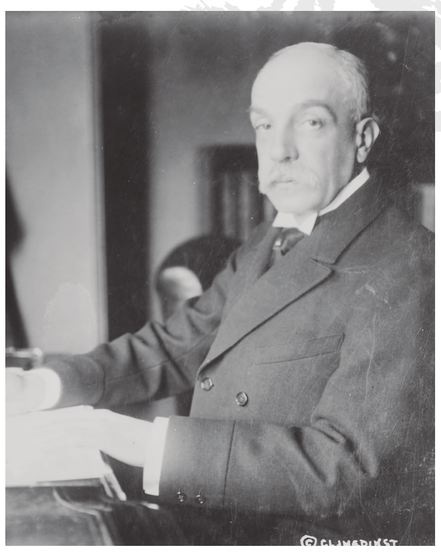
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ÖNB, Portrait Collection, onb.digital

CONSTANTIN (KONSTANTIN) DUMBA

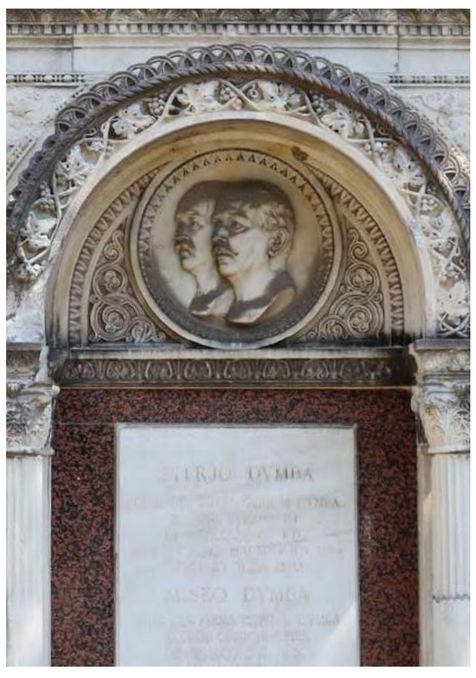
Born: June 17/29, 1856, Vienna
Died: January 6, 1947, Steindorf am Ossiacher See(d), Carinthia, Austria

Diplomat. Son of Theodor Dumba (1818–1880) and Ana Dumba. His mother, Ana (née Vrani), came from an Aromanian family in the Clisura region.
His father, Theodor, descended from Nicolae Dumba—brother of Sterie Dumba—both of whom had arrived together in Vienna at the beginning of the 19th century. Constantin Dumba was baptized on July 6/28, 1856, by Archimandrite C. Liveropoulos at the Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity on Fleischmarkt Street in Vienna. Between January 11/23, 1894 and December 15/27, 1895, he served as Minister Plenipotentiary of the Austro-Hungarian Legation in Bucharest. He later held diplomatic posts in Paris, Belgrade, and eventually the United States.



Dumba Palace in Vienna, family residence, Parkring 4 (Photo: Florentina Nițu, 2024)





Funerary monument of Sterie and Mihail Dumba, Central Cemetery of Vienna, Simmeringer Hauptstraße 234 (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)

MIHAIL (MICHAEL) DUMBA

Born: November 5/17, 1828, Vienna
Died: December 15/28, 1894, Vienna

Brother of Nicolae Dumba and son of Sterie Dumba. He owned a textile factory in Tatendorf and served as Director of the Austrian National Bank and Consul General of Greece. Together with his brother Nicolae, he remained co-owner of vast estates. In Romania, they purchased the Lița, Afumați, and Bragadiru estates in the Marginea district (today in Teleorman County). At the time of ownership, before the agrarian reforms following World War I, the total surface of these estates held by the Dumba brothers reached 14,000 hectares. The family had kinship ties with the Mihail family of Craiova.



ÖNB, Portrait Collection, onb.digital



ÖNB, Portrait Collection, onb.digital

NICOLAE DUMBA

Born: July 5/17, 1830, Vienna, Austrian Empire
Died: March 23 / April 5, 1900, Budapest, Austro-Hungary

Industrialist, financier, liberal politician, and great patron of the arts. On his initiative and in his own home, Johann Strauss composed the famous waltz "The Waves of the Danube". He financed the construction of the Vienna Philharmonic (Musikverein).
A member of the Imperial Diet and Imperial Senate, he consistently advocated for the interests of the Kingdom of Romania. At the age of 35, he became President of the Imperial Austrian Bank. He supported the literary society "Junimea Română", composed of Romanian students abroad, to whom he donated 20,000 ducats. A Privy Councillor to Emperor Franz Joseph (1848–1916), Nicolae Dumba was also a patron of painters such as Hans Makart and Gustav Klimt.



Vienna Philharmonic "Musikverein," inaugurated on January 6/18, 1870, built with financial support from Nicolae Dumba, Musikvereinsplatz 1 (Photo: Florentina Nițu, 2024)

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V. Eftimiu Collection, Municipal Library, Bucharest

VICTOR EFTIMIU

Born: January 24 / February 5, 1889, Boboștița, Albania
Died: November 27, 1972, Bucharest

Son of a Macedonian-Romanian merchant, Gheorghe [Ghergo] Eftimiu, who opened a grocery store in Bucharest. Playwright, prose writer, and poet. Theater director and general director of theaters. For a short period, he led the National Theatre and the Opera of Cluj (August 1 – December 31, 1927). In 1932, he received the National Prize for Literature. Full member of the Romanian Academy. Published press articles under numerous pseudonyms in favor of the Macedonian-Romanians. A 33rd-degree Freemason, he was the Worshipful Master of the Bucharest Lodge "Meșterul Manole." After a brief period of disgrace, he was reinstated and rehabilitated by the communist authorities.



Eftimiu-Ivănescu House, abandoned for several years, Silvestru St. 50, corner with Dacia Blvd. (Photo: Roxana Pădure, 2024)



Gerota Family Residence, Bucharest – where Dimitrie Gerota hosted Constantin Brâncuși, Jean Louis Calderon St. 9 (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)

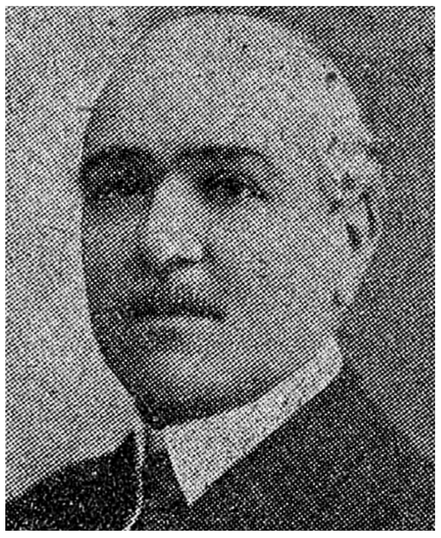
DIMITRIE GEROTA

Born: July 17/29, 1867, Craiova
Died: March 3, 1939, Bucharest

Son of the Aromanian priest Dimitrie Constantin Gerota and Maria Gerota. Physician and professor at the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest; from October 1897, taught anatomy at the National School of Fine Arts in Bucharest, where one of his students was Constantin Brâncuși. A founder of Romanian medicine, together with Carol Davila. Made notable contributions in the fields of urology and radiology. Developed a technique for injecting lymphatic vessels, known in medical literature as the "Gerota method." Founder of Dr. Gerota Sanatorium. Corresponding member of the Romanian Academy.



wikipedia.org, Dr. Ion Gerota's personal archive



Vasile Militaru. A Chapter in the Country's Cultural History, digibuc.ro

ION (IOAN) GHIULAMILA

Born: 1872, Gopești, Turkish Macedonia
Died: August 27, 1936, Bucharest

Doctor, orthopedic surgeon, and inventor of devices to assist disabled individuals. Cordescu mentions him among graduates of the Boys' Primary School in Gopești (1897–1898 and 1900–1901), and the Commercial Section of the Romanian Colony School in Sofia. In April 1900, he appears as an intern at the Brâncovenesc Central Hospital in Bucharest. Founding member and general director of the "War Invalids" Society, established in 1917 in Iași. President of the Macedo-Romanian Cultural Society; author of studies on Macedonian-Romanians.



Ghiulamila Family Tomb, Bellu Cemetery, Bucharest, Șerban Vodă Road 249 (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)

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Portrait by Miklós Barabás, culturalia.ro

EMANUIL GOJDU

Born: February 9/21, 1802, Oradea, Habsburg Empire
Died: February 3/15, 1870, Pest, Hungary

He came from a family of Aromanian merchants (his father, Athanasie Popovici-Gojdu, and his mother, Ana Poynar) from Moscopole. He studied at the Law Academy in Oradea, then in Pojon (Bratislava) and completed his studies at the University of Pest. He was closely connected to the Romanian elite of the time; he knew Andrei Șaguna, the future metropolitan. He became an authority on civil law in Budapest. He was an influential figure in the Hungarian capital. He was a large landowner and financier. He was the supreme committee of Caraș, representative in the House of Magnates (Senate) in Budapest. He financially supported many talented Romanians in their studies.



The Gojdu Courts in Budapest, Hungary, a complex of commercial and residential buildings located between 20 Király Street and 8 Holló Street (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)



Main entrance to the Dimitrie Gusti National Village Museum, 30 Pavel D. Kiseleff Road, Bucharest (vatra-mcp.ro)

DIMITRIE GUSTI

Born: February 13/25, 1880, Iași
Died: October 30, 1955, Bucharest

Studied in Berlin and Leipzig, under Wilhelm Wundt, Paul Barth, and Karl Bücher. Earned his doctorate in philosophy with the thesis *Egoismus und Altruismus. Zur soziologischen Motivation des praktischen Wollens*. Professor at the University of Iași, in the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy, from 1910. In 1920, he joined the Faculty of Letters at the University of Bucharest. He initiated monographic research on Romanian villages, his method contributing to the construction of the *Gustian School.* He was a member of the Romanian Academy and even its president in 1944. Conflict with the communists led to his removal from the University and the Academy.



ziarullumina.ro



Spiru C. Haret, around 1891 (UB Museum Collection)

SPIRU C. HARET

Born: February 15/27, 1851, Iași
Died: December 17/30, 1912, Bucharest

Scholar, mathematician, sociologist, liberal politician, Minister of Cults and Public Instruction. Organizer of modern Romanian education. His maternal grandmother was of Aromanian origin. He studied mathematics and physics at the Sorbonne. He obtained his doctorate, being the first Romanian to defend a doctoral thesis in Paris, with a thesis on celestial mechanics entitled *On the Invariance of the Major Axes of Planetary Orbits*. Professor at the University of Bucharest and Iași. He taught rational mechanics at the Faculty of Sciences, Physics and Mathematics Department, between 1878 and 1910. Member of the Romanian Academy. Minister of Education (1897-1899; 1901-1904; 1907-1910). In recognition of his importance, a crater on the Moon bears his name.



The Spiru Haret Memorial House in Bucharest, converted into an office building, retaining only the original exterior decorations, Str. Gheorghe Manu 7 (Photo: Marian Crăciun 2024)

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Press photo, ROL Agency, gallica.bnf.fr

TAKE IONESCU

Born: October 13/25, 1858, Ploiești, Prahova County
Died: June 2, 1922, Rome

On his mother's side, he came from a family of Aromanians.
He made a name for himself as a lawyer, publicist, diplomat, and politician.
He contributed to many publications in Romania and abroad, supporting the affirmation of the national ideal. He contributed to many publications in Romania and abroad, supporting the affirmation of the national ideal. In 1884, he began his political career, serving as a liberal and then conservative deputy, seven times minister in various departments: Cults, Public Instruction, Finance, Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and President of the Council of Ministers.
He was a supporter of Romanians living abroad, with a special concern for Macedo-Romanians. The establishment of the Little Entente (Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia) was his last political act.



Take Ionescu's vacation home in Sinaia, closed due to legal "problems," is for sale at Aleea Tache Ionescu 2 (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)



Nicolae Iorga Memorial Museum – Vălenii de Munte, Prahova County Prahova, housed in the buildings owned by the family of the great historian, an architectural monument from the 18th century. XVIII; Str. George Enescu, no. 3 (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2023)

NICOLAE IORGA

Born: June 17/29, 1871, Botoșani, Botoșani County
Died: November 27, 1940, Strejnic, Prahova County

Professor at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy and Rector of the University of Bucharest, he was constantly concerned with the fate of the Aromanians, to whom he gave a special place in his research. His name is associated, among other things, with the Romanian Institute in Saranda (Albania), conceived as a pillar of support for research, education, and the identity of Balkan Romanians, especially the Farsherots. About his family's origins, with direct reference to the area occupied by the Institute, Iorga said: "People from Pind, from the Adriatic, sent their offspring to Botoșani around 1760 as merchants, the Romanian name, from Gheorghe, showing which family they belonged to, while the nickname Galeongiul, sailor of the Turkish imperial fleet, proves their status as free soldiers, not serfs like the Greeks on the continent and the Slavs. The East, with its warm sun, its blue sea, its orange groves, the smile of the Adriatic, and the mountains where Greek mythology was born, through this heritage are so deeply mine, and as fate would have it, thanks to the gracious gift of the King of Albania, I have my estate at Santi Quaranta in front of old Corciră, my feet will perhaps touch a land known to my ancestors" (N. Iorga, *A Man's Life. As It Was*).



Medal dedicated to Iorga, from 1921, on the historian's 50th birthday (UB Museum Collection)



ÖNB, Portrait Collection, onb.digital

IACOB (JAQUES) N. LAHOVARI

Born: January 16/28, 1846, Bucharest
Died: February 7, 1907, Paris

He attended the Military War School in Bucharest (1862-1864), then the Staff Officers' School in Paris (1865-1869); at the same time, he attended the Polytechnic School and the Faculty of Sciences. Participated in the War of Independence as a major and as Chief of Operations at the General Headquarters. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1877 and to colonel in 1883. Military attaché in Berlin 1884-1891. In 1891, Brigadier General; three times Minister of War. In 1899, he became commander of the Army Corps. He was a reformer of the army. From 1901, he was a deputy and senator and then, from 1904, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1904-1907).



The Lahovary House, designed in the Neo-Romanian style, like the Chapel in Bellu Cemetery, by Ioan Mincu, today Pavilion 4 of the "Dr. I. Cantacuzino" Clinical Hospital, Bucharest, Ioan Movilă 5-7 (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)

MEMORIA LOCURILOR 2.0 DESTINE AROMÂNEȘTI

RACING THE SOUTH-DANUBIAN ROMANIANS

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Departamentul de Consiliere și Orientare pentru Carieră



Portrait by D. William, Collection of the "V.A. Urechia" Library Galați, bvau.ro

GHEORGHE (GEORGE) MANU

Born: July 26/August 7, 1833, Bucharest
Died: May 16/29, 1911, Bucharest

He embraced a military career, attending the Cadet School in Potsdam. He studied in Germany and was an officer in the Prussian army (1853). Returning to his country in 1858, he organized the artillery and taught artillery courses at the Officers' School for Artillery. Creator of the Romanian artillery; Minister of War (1869-1870; 1888-1889; 1904-1906); Mayor of Bucharest (1874-1877); Prime Minister (1889-1891); President of the Chamber of Deputies (1891-1895); artillery officer, Major General (1906).



The Gheorghe Manu House, currently returned to a descendant of the family; it functioned as a kindergarten, then there were plans to turn it into a museum; Calea Victoriei 192 (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)



The "Jean Mihail" Palace, built between 1900 and 1907 in neo-Gothic style for the landowner Constantin Dinu Mihail, is now the headquarters of the Art Museum in Craiova; Calea Unirii 15 (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2023)

CONSTANTIN MIHAIL

Born: March 20/April 1, 1831, Câmpulung Muscel
Died: August 19/31, 1891, Bucharest

Painter and graphic artist, educator, founder of the first Romanian schools of fine arts in Iași and Bucharest. According to some sources, his grandfather had been a doctor at the Sultan's court; after the death of a patient, out of fear, he took his family and came to Craiova, at a time when Dimitrie Mihali Dimo – Theodor Aman's father – was only 8 years old. He played a decisive role in the organization of Romanian art education. He was director of the school in Bucharest (1864). He collaborated with the Macedo-Romanian Cultural Society. He published in the *Macedo-Romanian Album* in 1880, being a supporter of the Macedo-Romanian cause.



muzeuldeartacraiova.ro



Nicolae Minovici (Romanian Academy Library Collection)

NICOLAE MINOVICI

Born: October 23/November 4, 1868, Râmnicu Sărat
Died: June 26, 1941, Bucharest

Graduate of the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest, after attending the School of Fine Arts in Bucharest for one year. He obtained his doctorate in medicine in 1898, with a thesis that was unique for that period: *Tattoos in Romania*. After specializing in Berlin, he became a laboratory assistant and assistant professor at the Department of Histology of the Faculty of Medicine, then head of works, lecturer, and professor at the Department of Legal Medicine of the University of Bucharest. He founded the Rescue Society (1905), the first in Romania, the Emergency Hospital (1936), and the Dr. Nicolae Minovici National Art Museum to satisfy his passion for collecting art objects, especially folk art.



The Dr. Nicolae Minovici Museum of Folk Art ("Vila Minovici" or "Vila cu clopoței" [Villa with Bells]); built in 1905 to house the private collection (icons, ceramics, textiles, wooden objects, etc.) of N. Minovici (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2023)

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ALEXANDRU MOCIONI DE FOEN

Born: November 4/16, 1841, Budapest
Died: April 1/14, 1909, Birchiș, Arad

Moscopole and settled in Banat. Ioan Mocioni de Foen (1780-1854) and his five sons: Petru, Andrei, Antoniu, Gheorghe, and Lucian, were leaders in the struggle for national affirmation of Romanians in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He became a member of parliament at the age of 24, serving several terms in the Hungarian Chamber of Parliament in Budapest. He was the initiator of the Romanian National Party, which fought for the rights of Romanians in Banat and Crișana. He was a patron of the arts and president of Astra in Sibiu.
He sponsored the Petru Maior Society in Budapest and founded the Albina Bank.



The Mocioni Palace in Foeni, Timiș County, undergoing reconstruction, following the financing of repairs with European funds (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)



The tomb of Andrei Scrima in the cemetery of Cernica Monastery (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)

ANDREI SCRIMA

Born: December 1, 1925, Gheorghieni, Ciuc County
Died: August 19, 2000, Bucharest

Descendant of Aromanians who settled in Gheorghieni. Disciple of Anton Dumitriu, professor and head of the Department of Logic and History of Philosophy at the University of Bucharest. Involved in the "Rugul aprins" movement. He obtained a scholarship to study at the University of Benares with the help of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Vice President of India, who was impressed by the young monk's knowledge of Sanskrit. He escaped communist persecution by emigrating. Representative of Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople at the Second Vatican Council, organized at the initiative of Pope John XXIII.



Photograph on the funerary monument in the Cernica Monastery Cemetery, M. Crăciun, 2024



arhivadearhitectura.ro

GHEORGHE SIMOTTA

Born: June 6/18, 1891, Vlahoclisura, today Kleisoura, Greece
Died: March 31, 1979, Bucharest

Refugee in Romania in 1910, with his mother and grandmother. His interest in architecture was sparked after meeting the painter G. Mirea, director of the School of Fine Arts. He was advised to pursue engraving, but the young Simotta enrolled in the Higher School of Architecture, graduating in 1916 as a student of Ion Mincu. He collaborated with Petre Antonescu. Initially a disciple of the , he later developed a personal style with Balkan resonance, influenced by Byzantine decorative art. He designed the Patriarchal Palace on Mitropoliei Hill, the Darvari Hermitage, and the Army House. He was a professor at the Faculty of Architecture.



The Gheorghe Simota House, located on Patriarchal Hill, near the Costaforu House, one of the first buildings in Bucharest with a terraced roof; 15 Mitropoliei Alley (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)

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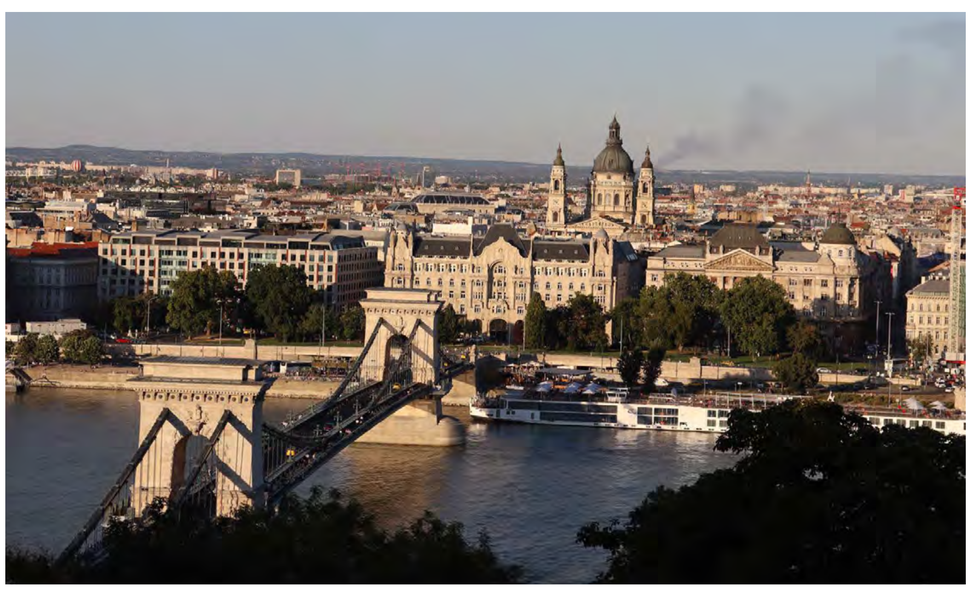
ANASTASE SIMU

Born: March 25 / April 6, 1854, Brăila
Died: February 28, 1935, Bucharest

Son of Panait Simu and Dumitra, large landowners and farmers from Brăila. In 1873, at the age of 19, he inherited his uncle's fortune. He studied at universities in Paris and Brussels, obtaining a Law degree in Paris. He worked at the court in Brăila, then entered the diplomatic service. An active member of various scientific and cultural societies. Honorary member of the Romanian Academy. A great collector of paintings, sculptures, bas-reliefs, drawings, engravings, icons, embroideries, porcelain, ceramics, etc. Starting in 1907, he began constructing a museum to house his collection. The museum was inaugurated on May 21, 1920, and was donated to the Romanian nation; it was demolished by the communists in 1964.



The Anastase Simu House in Sinaia, also known as the Retezat Villa, designed by Karel Líman, chief architect of the Romanian Royal House; Mihail Kogălniceanu Street No. 68 (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2014)



The Chain Bridge (Széchenyi) in Budapest. The first permanent bridge between Buda and Pest, opened to the public in 1849, was primarily financed by Macedonian-Romanian Baron George Sina. (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)

SIMEON GHEORGHE DE SINA

Born: August 15/27, 1810, Vienna
Died: April 15/27, 1876, Vienna

Son of Simeon Sina (b. 1753, Moscopole), who became one of the great bankers of the Austrian monarchy. His son, Gheorghe Simeon Sina, managed the family business for over three decades (trade, textile industry, banking). He was the main financier, alongside Count Széchenyi István, of the "Chain Bridge" in Budapest. He was ennobled as a reward for his major philanthropic acts. Toward the end of his life, he owned 99 estates totaling over 240,000 iugăre of land in Hungary, Austria, Czechia, Moravia, and the Romanian Principalities. The wealthiest banker in the Austrian Monarchy. He donated funds for the construction of the Orthodox Cathedral "Holy Trinity" in Vienna.



Collection of the Hungarian National Museum, museumap.hu



culturalia.ro

ANDREI ȘAGUNA

Born: December 20, 1808 / January 1, 1809, Miskolc, Hungary
Died: June 28, 1873, Sibiu, Austro-Hungary

Orthodox Metropolitan of Transylvania, an active advocate for the rights of Orthodox Christians and Romanians in Transylvania. Of Aromanian origin, his parents came from Grabova (Albania). Attended the Catholic Gymnasium (1826) in Pest; studied philosophy and law at the University of Pest, and theology in Vršac. In 1833, he became a monk under the name Andrei, joining the Order of Saint Basil. Along with Ioan Lemeni, Greek-Catholic bishop, he presided over the Great Assembly of Blaj (May 3/15, 1848), where national rights for Romanians were demanded. He organized and restructured theological education in Sibiu. First president of the cultural association "Astra" in Sibiu.



Mausoleum of Metropolitan Șaguna in Rășinari, Sibiu County (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2023)

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160 DE ANI UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCUREȘTI 330 DE ANI DE TRADIȚIE ACADEMICĂ

through the UB Museum

Muzeul Universității din București

and the Department of Career Counselling and Guidance.

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Collection of the Central University Library of Bucharest

ALEXANDRU TZIGARA-SAMURCAȘ

Born: March 23 / April 4, 1872, Bucharest
Died: April 1, 1952, Bucharest

Descendant of an old family of minor nobility. Specialized in art history and museography in Germany and France, where he earned his doctorate (1896). University professor of Art History at the University of Cernăuți (1926–1929), then in Bucharest at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters. Corresponding member of the Romanian Academy since 1938. Considered the founder of Romanian museology. In October 1906, Al. Tzigara-Samurcaș was appointed director of the Museum of Ethnography, National Art, Decorative Art, and Industrial Art (today the Romanian Peasant Museum). He dedicated his entire life to this museum, which he led for 39 years.



Building of the Romanian Peasant Museum, originally the Museum of Ethnography, National Art, Decorative Art, and Industrial Art, founded by Royal Decree No. 2,777 of July 13, 1906, under the leadership of Al. Tzigara-Samurcaș (muzeultaranuluiroman.ro)

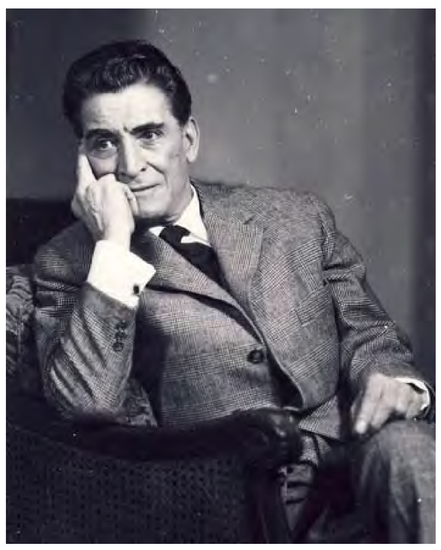


The house where George Vraca lived, located at Gina Patrichi Street No. 7, Bucharest (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2024)

GEORGE VRACA

Born: November 25 / December 7, 1896, Bucharest
Died: April 17, 1964, Bucharest

Son of Iancu (Ion) Vraca and great-grandson of Petre Vraca, born in 1787 at the foot of the Pindus Mountains, who in 1824 provided an army of Greeks and Aromanians to Lord Gordon George Byron. Wounded and decorated for acts of heroism in World War I. Attended the Faculty of Agronomy, graduating in 1915. He was drafted in the autumn of 1916 and fought with the 2nd Border Regiment at Oituz, Cașin, and Tg. Ocna, where he was wounded and decorated. During recovery, meetings with Maria Ventura, C.I. Notarra, and G. Enescu drew him toward the arts. He became an actor at Bulandra, the National Theatre, and Nottara.



wikimedia.org



zf.ro

EVANGHELIE (VANGHELE) ZAPPA

Born: August 23 / September 4, 1800, Labova Mare, Gjirokastër region – Albania
Died: June 19 / July 1, 1865, Broșteni

Son of merchant Vasile Zappa from Labova, in the Albanian Epirus region. He joined the fighting corps of Ali Pasha of Ioannina against the Turks, then served in the army of revolutionary Markos Botsaris, an independence fighter praised in Aromanian folklore, eventually becoming his aide-de-camp. Until 1831, he administered the Vlach villages in that area. He came to Wallachia in 1832–1833 (the date is still debated and uncertain). Later, in 1844, he requested Romanian naturalization. He was respected by rulers Al. Ghica, Al. Ioan Cuza, and Gh. Bibescu. Founder of the Cultural Society "Romanian Athenaeum." He is the initiator of the Modern Olympic Games.



The Zappeion, the first building constructed specifically for the revival of the Olympic Games in the modern world, in Athens, Greece, through the donations of Evangelis Zappas (Photo: George Papadopol, 2023)

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Departamentul de Consiliere și Orientare pentru Carieră

160 YEARS OF ROMANIAN SCHOOLING IN THE BALKANS

The desire of the Macedonian Romanians to be educated in Romanian created the need to establish schools in their Balkan communities and, indirectly, the need for teachers equally fluent in the Aromanian dialect and the literary language. The first Romanian school south of the Danube was opened by Dimitrie Atanasescu on July 2/14, 1864, in his family home in Târnova, following the publication of the decree of April 16/28, 1864, issued by Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza and signed by Dimitrie Bolintineanu. Article 1 of that decree stated:

"We authorize the Minister of Religious Affairs and Public Instruction to grant the student D. Athanasescu from Macedonia the sum of two thousand lei (2,000) from the funds allocated under the 'acts of benevolence' line, credited to this Ministry in the past year for the maintenance of formerly endowed monasteries, as assistance for his return to his homeland to open there a primary school for teaching the Romanian language."

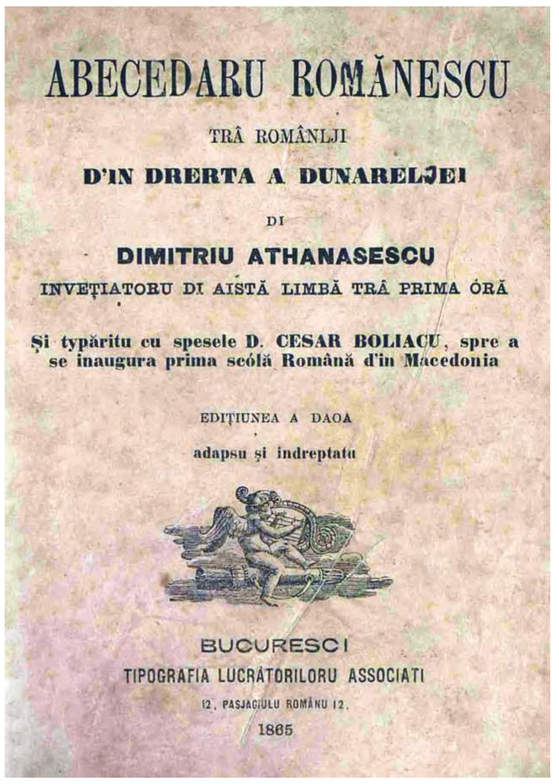
At the same time, Macedonian Romanian students began to come to the country to study, with the intention of returning to their native villages. The first group of such students was brought to Bucharest to the school established beside the "Saint Apostles" Church by Father Averchie. Having come to Bucharest on church business, he was present in 1863 at the ceremony in which Alexandru Ioan Cuza presented tricolor flags to the army. During the military parade, he stepped out of the crowd and exclaimed, "And I am an Aromanian."



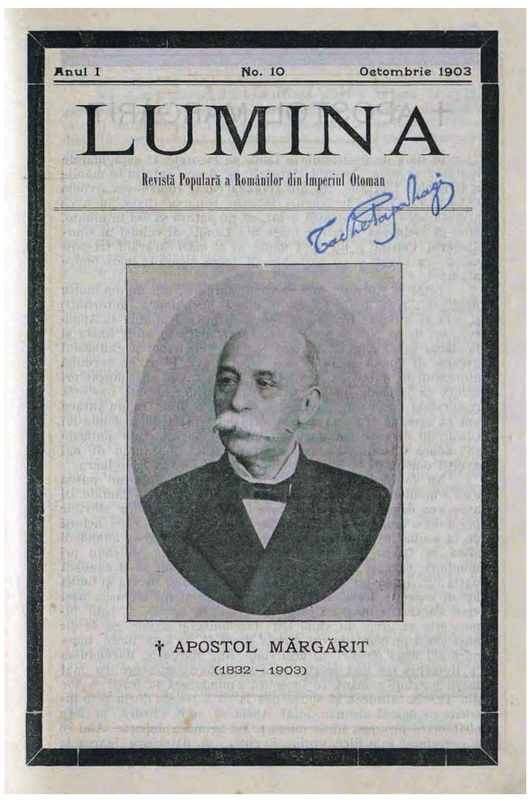
Dumitru Atanasescu, portrait published in the October 1905 issue of *Lumina* magazine, on the occasion of the 25th Jubilee celebration of the Romanian High School in Bitola (digibuc.ro)



The family of the school principal in Veria and two Aromanian priests (SCMR Archive)



Cover of the first primer intended for the Aromanians (digibuc.ro)



Portrait of the "apostle of the Macedonian schools" on the cover of *Lumina* magazine (digibuc.ro)



Archimandrite Averchie and the first Aromanian pupils, in the *Macedo-Romanian Album* published by the Macedo-Romanian Cultural Society in 1880 (SCMR Archive)

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160 YEARS OF ROMANIAN SCHOOLING IN THE BALKANS

The first generation of students at the Macedonian-Romanian School near the "Saint Apostles" Church included: Tuliu Tacit and Gheorghe Dautti from Abela [Avdela – ed. note], Apostol Teodorian and Domenico Goma from Perivole; Gușu Papacostea from Veria, originally from Abela; Dumitru Ioachim from Abela; Bușu Sairili and Dumitru Papinian from Abela; Dumitru Badralexi from Veria; and Nicolae Popilian from Veria, also originally from Abela. Many of them returned to Macedonia as teachers and went on to establish Romanian schools.

Thanks to the involvement of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Instruction, the boundless enthusiasm of those committed to the cultural advancement of the Balkan Romanians, and the efforts made since 1860 by the figures gathered around the Macedonian-Romanian Committee—and later, the Macedonian-Romanian Cultural Society—Romanian schools began to open in an increasing number of Macedonian-Romanian communities. By 1880, 24 Romanian schools had been established. By 1893, that number had grown to 75 primary schools. In the year 1900, the peak was reached, with 113 primary schools, 5 secondary schools, and over 30 churches where services were held in both Romanian and the Aromanian dialect.

In the 1902/1903 school year, 84 primary schools were operating, along with high schools in Bitola and Thessaloniki, teacher training schools, commercial schools, vocational schools, and gymnasiums—all supported by the Romanian state. The Romanian state continued to subsidize Romanian schools and churches until 1945. The Romanian public, along with many political figures, remained deeply concerned about the fate of the Balkan Romanians, which was widely considered a matter of national importance.



Românii din comuna Românească „LIVEZI" Vilaetul Salonic (Macedonia) fotografiați spre amintire în ziua scoaterei autorizației școalei române împreună cu revizorul școlar D. DAN și institutorul școalei C. CANACHEU

The Romanians of Livezi (near Thessaloniki), on the day the Romanian school's authorisation was revoked, together with school inspector D. Dan and teacher C. Canacheu, 1904 (SCMR Archive)



The Central Boys' School in Kruševo, The Ottoman Empire (wikipedia.org)



The Romanian High School in Bitola, photograph by the Manakia Brothers (State Archive of the Republic of North Macedonia, wikipedia.org)



CERCETĂRI
DESPRE
ŞCOALELE ROMÂNESCI
DIN
TURCIA
DE
Theodor T. Burada

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— 16, Strada Brezoianu, — 16.
1890

Cover of T. Burada's study on schools in the Ottoman Empire (digibuc.ro)



ANUL III — No. 10 festival — Octombrie 1905

APARE ODATĂ PE LUNĂ

LUMINA

REVISTĂ POPULARĂ A ROMÂNILOR DIN IMPERIUL OTOMAN
„PUBLICAȚIE A CORPULUI DIDACTIC ȘI BISERICESC DIN TURCIA"

JUBILEUL DE 25 DE ANI
AL
Liceului Român din Bitolia
1880–1905

CONSILIUL DE REDACȚIE:
ION D. ARGINTEANU, Director
D-r Tașcu Trifon — C. I. Cosmescu
D-ra Elena Aurelian — D. Gosmulei
Stèrie Ciumetti — Tașcu Pucerea
Coe Adam — P. Baravace, *secretar*
George Zuca, *casier*

Redacția și Administrația: Liceul Român, Bitolia (Monastir)

SUMARUL: O zi de sărbătoare, *Direcțiunea*. — Cum s'a serbat Jubileul, *I. Argințeanu*. — Raportul despre mersul Liceului în curs de 25 de ani, *Ion D. Argințeanu*. — Discurs ocasional, *Coe Adam* — Speranța Armânilor, (poesie), *Ion D. Argințeanu*. — Cum s'a deschis prima școală română, *Dimitrie Atanasescu*. — Lumina (poesie), *G. Ceara*. — Telegrame și adrese de felicitare. — Explicația ilustrațiilor din text: V. Glotariu, Primul local de gimnasiu românesc, Actualul local de Liceu, Actualul lo al de Internat, Dimitrie Atanasescu, Scenă din piesa *Iubiuerea și Luminile*.

Commemorative issue of *Lumina* magazine, October 1905, dedicated to the Romanian High School in Bitola (digibuc.ro)

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160 YEARS OF ROMANIAN SCHOOLING IN THE BALKANS

After 1945, silence fell over the "Macedonian question." Romanian schools were closed and taken over by the authorities of the countries in which they operated. In 1944–1945, communist regimes were established in Yugoslavia and Albania under Josip Broz Tito and Enver Hoxha; the promises made were not honored. In Greece, a civil war broke out, with the Aromanians involved in the conflict between democratic and communist forces. In February 1946, "the Greek government ordered the closure of Romanian schools, the immediate takeover of the buildings, furnishings, and archives of Romanian educational institutions in Greece, and the mass expulsion of Romanian-nationality teachers." The police authorities detained all Romanian teachers found in Athens in camps. The issue of mother-tongue education was never raised again, especially since ethnic minorities are still not officially recognized to this day.

In Bulgaria, the three remaining Romanian schools were closed in May 1945. In Yugoslav Banat, during the 1946–1947 school year, there were 32 Romanian primary schools, one mixed high school, and a teacher training school (in Vršac), all supported by two boarding facilities. The teaching staff included 98 teachers, paid by the Romanian state. These institutions were also eventually shut down.

After 1990, the Romanian state did not pursue the recovery of the properties belonging to schools and churches in the Balkan Peninsula. The operation of schools in the Aromanian dialect or in Romanian has been sporadic and initiated by local communities or associations, such as the "Aromanians of Albania" Cultural Association or the "Nicolae Iorga" Foundation in Saranda, Albania, which supported the opening of Aromanian schools in Divjaka, Korçë, and Selenicë.

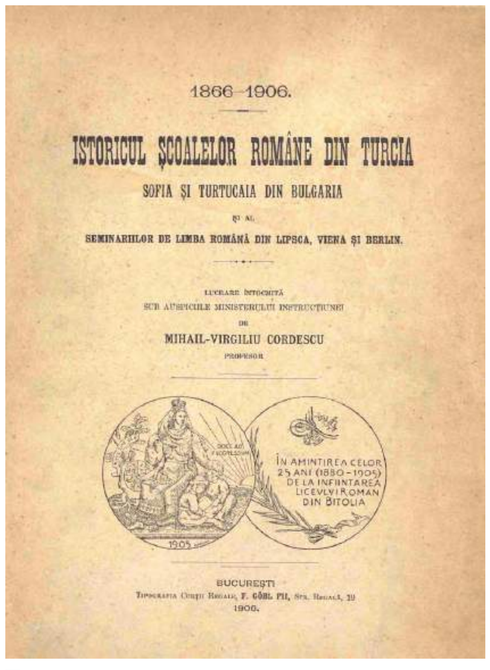
The Romanian state has provided support to ethnic Macedonian-Romanians in Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Serbia through study scholarships at both pre-university and university levels. Since the start of the program, several thousand Macedonian-Romanians have benefited from this support, with some returning to their countries of origin and successfully pursuing careers in the fields in which they were trained.



The Romanian delegation at the gate of the Aromanian school in Kruševo, in Fr. Lebrun, Macedonia, 1911 (digibuc.ro)



The Romanian school in Korçë, 1911 (Archive of the "Nicolae Iorga" Foundation, Saranda)



Study by M.-V. Cordescu, dedicated to the schools in Macedonia (digibuc.ro)



Pupils of the school in Turia, in M.-V. Cordescu, *History of the Romanian Schools in Turkey* (digibuc.ro)



△The Aromanian school in Divjaka, Albania, opened by the local Aromanian community (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2012)



▽Members of the community and representatives of the "N. Iorga" Foundation of Saranda in Elbasan, in 2022, after the installation of a memorial plaque at the former Romanian school in the locality (Archive of the "Nicolae Iorga" Foundation, Saranda)



Grave of Apostol Mărgărit, inspector for Romanian schools in the Balkan Peninsula, in the Romanian Cemetery in Bitola (Photo: Marian Crăciun, 2012)

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