

THE ROMANIAN CONSULATE IN MONASTIR (BITOLA), 1892–1915. AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

During the reign of Carol I, the Kingdom of Romania's interest in the Romanian communities of the Balkans reached its peak. Between 1880 and 1904, consulates were established in Thessaloniki, Monastir, and Ioannina, with the primary objective of maintaining ties with the Aromanians in the region. On June 1, 1892, a new career consulate was opened in Monastir/Bitolia during the administration of Lascăr Catargiu. The choice of this city was motivated by the presence in the region, and specifically in Monastir, of a significant Aromanian population, as well as numerous schools and churches supported by Romania for the Aromanian communities in the area.

Keywords: Monastir, Romania, Aromanian, Diplomacy, Bitolia.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Age of Consuls begins in Bitola¹²⁸ (Monastir during the Ottoman period) in October 1851, with the arrival of Friedrich Westermayer, Austria's first vice-consul. In 1852 and again in 1854, representatives from England and France were sent to the city. In 1859, the French representative withdrew, and in the same year a Greek consul arrived in Bitola, followed by a Russian consul in 1861. Serbia opened a consulate here in 1888–1889; France reopened it in 1894, Italy in 1895, and Bulgaria in 1909 (having opened a commercial agency in 1897). No German consul was appointed; the Austro-Hungarian consul was tasked with representing the interests of German, Spanish, and Swiss citizens as well. American interests were represented by the British consulate. During the wars of 1897 and 1912–1913, Greek interests were defended by France, while Serbian and Bulgarian interests were defended by Great Britain between 1912 and 1913. The consular corps in Bitola was divided into two major groups: one consisting of the five representatives of the Great Powers – Austria-Hungary, Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy – and another consisting of representatives of the Balkan states (Greece, Serbia, Romania, and

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¹²⁸ A city currently located in the Republic of North Macedonia, it was part of the Ottoman Empire and the seat of the Monastir Vilayet from 1892 to 1913; after 1913, it became part of Serbia. Due to the war and the proximity of the military front to the area, the Romanian consulate ceased its activity in 1915.

Bulgaria). While the former were observers, the latter group was directly involved in the national rivalry in the region. All were designated as consuls, although technically the representatives of the Great Powers generally held the title of vice-consul. The Balkan countries frequently maintained consul and a vice-consul in Bitola. The appointment to this post was not viewed with much enthusiasm by diplomats, given that numerous consuls had been assassinated in these regions. Most of those sent to Bitola already had professional experience in the Balkans, and particularly in the Ottoman Empire, before arriving in Bitola¹²⁹. Romania, the only country that did not share a border with the Ottoman Empire, proposed a policy of intervention in the region aimed at protecting and preserving the cultural and spiritual heritage of the Aromanian communities, known at the time as Macedo-Romanians. During the reign of Carol I¹³⁰, the Kingdom of Romania's interest in the Romanian communities of the Balkans reached its peak. Between 1880 and 1904, consulates were established in Thessaloniki, Monastir, and Ioannina, with the primary objective of maintaining ties with the Aromanians in the region.

Toward the end of the 19th century, Dimitrie Brătianu, Minister Plenipotentiary in Constantinople, a fervent defender of Romanian schools in the Balkans and a leading member of the Macedo-Romanian Cultural Society, advocated for the establishment of new consulates in addition to the one just founded in Thessaloniki. In a letter addressed to the same V.A. Urechia, the Romanian diplomat emphasized the following points:

“Work hard with the deputies to secure a more substantial subsidy for us. Pursue with determination the matter of establishing connections with the schools in Macedonia. Secure the establishment of consulates in Ioannina and Bitola; even if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs lacks the funds for this, we will do what we can”¹³¹.

This case also confirms the role played by the Macedo-Romanian Cultural Society as a driving force behind Romanian foreign policy in the Balkans, as well as its involvement in establishing diplomatic missions south of the Danube – an effort aimed at protecting the Aromanian communities.

2. THE OPENING OF ROMANIA'S CONSULATE/DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN MONASTIR/BITOLIA

On June 1, 1892, a new career consulate was opened in Monastir/Bitolia during the administration of Lascăr Catargiu. The choice of this city was motivated by the

¹²⁹ Bernard Lory, “Un poste consulaire en Macédoine, Bitola-Monastir 1851–1912” [“A consular post in Macedonia, Bitola-Monastir 1851–1912”], in *Cahiers Balkaniques*, 2011, pp. 38–39, passim.

¹³⁰ Although the first Romanian schools were opened in the Balkans during the reign of Alexandru Ioan Cuza, the movement did not gain significant momentum until King Carol ascended the throne.

¹³¹ „Lucrați bine pe deputați ca să ni se acorde un subsidiu mai însemnat. Urmăriți cu bărbăție chestiunea legăturilor făcute școlilor din Macedonia. Dobândiți înființarea consulatelor în Ianina și Bitolia; chiar de n-ar avea fonduri pentru aceasta Ministerul de externe, vom face ce vom putea”, in Simion Țovaru, *Problema școlii românești din Balcani [The Question of the Romanian School in the Balkans]*, Bucharest, 1934, p. 32.

presence in the region, and specifically in Monastir, of a significant Aromanian population, as well as numerous schools and churches supported by Romania for the Aromanian communities in the area. The first consul of this consulate was Spiru Constantinescu, a staunch supporter of the Conservatives¹³².

His perspective on the organization of the Aromanian issue was diametrically opposed to that of Inspector Apostol Mărgărit (supported by the Liberals), a fact that led to a series of conflicts which ultimately prompted the ministers of public instruction and foreign affairs, Take Ionescu and Alexandru Lahovari, respectively, to attempt to dismiss the influential inspector. King Carol's opposition, however, was decisive. As a result of the tense situation between the inspector and the consul, Take Ionescu decided that the subsidy for the teaching staff would no longer be distributed by the inspector, but by the consulate¹³³.

When the Liberal cabinet returned to power in October 1896, Consul Constantinescu was recalled from his post, although the new Minister of Public Instruction, Spiru Haret, stripped Inspector Mărgărit of his unlimited powers, while formally retaining him in his position¹³⁴.

When Spiru Constantinescu assumed consular duties in Monastir in 1892, this first-class consular office had the following staff: a head of office holding the rank of consul with a salary of 800 lei per month, a chancellor with 400 lei per month, an interpreter earning 350 lei per month, and a doorman earning 120 lei per month. The rent for the premises was set at 2,000 lei per year, with 600 lei for office expenses and 300 lei for heating the building. When the first Romanian consul took office in Monastir, the consulates of Austria-Hungary, Russia, England, Serbia, and Greece were already in operation¹³⁵.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the consuls of the Balkan powers were increasingly attuned to the interests of local communities and their internal disputes; indeed, they were increasingly approached by the local population, who submitted petitions, memoranda, and other similar documents.

3. LIST OF ROMANIAN CONSULS IN MONASTIR/BITOLIA

June 1, 1892-1896 – Spiru Constantinescu
1898 – C. I. Alexianu
1900–1901 – Spiru Constantinescu
1901–1904 – Alexandru Pădeanu.

¹³² Max Demeter Peyfuss, *Chestiunea Aromână [The Aromanian Question]*, Bucharest, Encyclopedic Publishing House, 1994, p. 73.

¹³³ Simion Țovaru, *quoted work*, p. 33.

¹³⁴ Max Demeter Peyfuss, *quoted work*, p. 74.

¹³⁵ Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bucharest (further A.M.F.A.B), Constantinopol Fund, Vol. 46-Spiru Constantinescu, unpage; A.M.A.E., Fund Problema 77, Vol. C-33-Constantinescu Spiru, unpagged.

1904–1905 – Dimitrie Georgescu
1905–1906 – Constantin Contzescu
1906–1907 – Dimitrie Penescu
1907–1911 – Constantin Brăileanu
1911–1912 – G.C. Ionescu¹³⁶
1913–November 1915 – Emanoil Piteșteanu

3.1. Spiru Constantinescu

He was born in Bucharest, on December 19, 1855, and held a Law degree at the Law School in Bucharest. Constantinescu went through all the stages of a diplomatic path, from copyist within the Ministry's central apparatus (November 1, 1875), office deputy head (May 20, 1878), office head, second-class, chancellor within the Consulate in Ruschuk (not sworn into office) (September 23, 1879), head of the consulate general in Thessaloniki (September 6, 1886), transferred to the Central Administration (June 15, 1887), chancellor (director) of the general consulate in Thessaloniki (April 9, 1888), vice-consul and chancellor of the general consulate in Budapest (September 1, 1889), seconded, in the same capacity, to Sofia (November 1, 1890). On May 29, 1892, Romania's Consulate in Monastir was established, by means of a Royal Decree, whose first chief was Spiru Constantinescu. He stayed in Monastir until 1901 (with a longer break between 1897-1900), being subsequently transferred to Thessaloniki until April 1904. In June 1905, he was arriving in Constantinople holding the same position of consul of the office, a position he held until the end of March 1912. As of April 1, 1912, he took over again the position of head of the consulate in Thessaloniki until October 1913, decision of the foreign minister, Titu Maiorescu¹³⁷. He was awarded from the very beginning of his career with a number of honors: The "Faithful Service" Medal, first class (1881), office of the "Medgidie Order" (1888), knight of the "Star of Romania" Order (1888)¹³⁸. On May 9, 1911, while working as a consul in Constantinople, he was awarded by King Carol, the "Crown of Romania Order" as Commander¹³⁹.

3.2. Christu I. Alexianu

He was born in Crușevo (Krusevo-North Republic of Macedonia) as an Ottoman citizen. In 1899, his appointment as Romanian consul in Bitolia was denied by the ottoman state. D.A. Sturdza proposed him for the position after Spiru Constantinescu became unavailable, describing him to the king as the former prosecutor at the Court of Appeals in Craiova.

¹³⁶ A.M.F.A.B., Fund Constantinopol, Vol. 46-Spiru Constantinescu, unpaget.

¹³⁷ A.M.F.A.B., Constantinopol, Vol. 46, Spiru Constantinescu, unpaget; A.M.F.A.B., Fund, Problema 77, Vol. C-33-Spiru Constantinescu, unpaget.

¹³⁸ ***, *Anuarul Diplomatic pe 1891 [Diplomatic Yearbook for 1891]*, Bucharest, 1891, p. 25.

¹³⁹ A.M.F.A.B., Fund Constantinopol, Vol. 46, Spiru Constantinescu, unpaget.

“Mr. Minister, [...] I have the honor to inform you that, due to circumstances beyond my control, I am unable to accept the position you have kindly offered me”¹⁴⁰.

Nevertheless, he was listed in the records of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as consul in Bitolia from December 15 to 31, 1898¹⁴¹.

3.3. Alexandru Pădeanu

He was born on January 7, 1853, in Brussa (Burssa), Ottoman Empire. He held a law degree and was a graduate of the Higher School of Oriental Languages in Constantinople. In 1880, he was hired as a Turkish translator at the State Printing Office, and a year later he held the same position at the Ministry of the Interior. In 1890, he was the official Turkish translator for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between April 1, 1893, and September 1896, he served as chancellor at the Romanian Consulate in Constantinople¹⁴² and Thessaloniki (from July 1, 1893)¹⁴³ from October 1, 1896, until January 1897, he was appointed vice-consul in charge of managing the Romanian Diplomatic Agency in Sofia. From Sofia, he was transferred to the same position and later served as manager at the consulate in Monastir until September 1900, when he returned to the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs¹⁴⁴. In Monastir, he was tasked by his superiors at the ministry with working alongside Apostol Mărgărit on matters concerning the situation of the Aromanian communities. The recommendations from Bucharest also included a call for unity, given that the area where Pădeanu was to carry out his work was the scene of intrigues that were severely disrupting the Aromanian community¹⁴⁵.

In April 1901, he was appointed consul in Bitola, and in March 1904 he was transferred to Ioannina to serve in the same capacity as head of the consular office. His final diplomatic post was in Ruse between August 1, 1905, and April 1, 1916, when he resigned and applied for his pension benefits¹⁴⁶. Decorations received: Officer of the Order of Medgidie (1886), Knight of the Order of the Crown of Romania (1887)¹⁴⁷.

3.4. Dimitrie Georgescu

He was born on January 8, 1865. He graduated from the Law School¹⁴⁸. He made his debut within the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs holding the position of copyist in

¹⁴⁰ „Domnule Ministru, [...] subsemnatul am onoarea a vă face cunoscut că, din împrejurări de natură, așa că nu-mi stă în putință a le înlătura, nu pot primi postul ce ați binevoit a-mi încredința”, in A.M.F.A.B., Fund Problema 77, Vol. A-28-Christu I. Alexianu, unpaget.

¹⁴¹ *Ibidem*.

¹⁴² A.M.F.A.B., Fund Problema 77, Vol. P. 45, Alexandru Pădeanu, unpaget.

¹⁴³ A.M.F.A.B., Fund Constantinopol, Vol. 54, Alexandru Pădeanu, unpaget.

¹⁴⁴ A.M.F.A.B., Fund Problema 77, Vol. P. 45-Alexandru Pădeanu, unpaget.

¹⁴⁵ Georgeta Filitti, “Alexandru Pădeanu”, in *Biblioteca Bucureștilor*, IX, No. 4/2006, pp. 10-12.

¹⁴⁶ A.M.F.A.B., Fund Problema 77, Vol. P. 45-Alexandru Pădeanu, unpaget.

¹⁴⁷ ***, *Anuarul diplomatic pe 1891 [Diplomatic Yearbook for 1891]*, Bucharest, 1891, pp. 35-36.

¹⁴⁸ A.M.F.A.B., Fund Constantinopol, Vol. 53, Dimitrie Georgescu, unpaget, A.M.F.A.B., Problem 77, Vol. G-24-Dimitrie Georgescu, Part. II., unpaget.

1885, subsequently getting the positions of register officer (1888), second class bureau chief (1889), chancellor of the general consulate in Odessa, seconded member of the ministry as navigation bureau chief (1890)¹⁴⁹. In 1891 he was working within the consulate in Ruschuk and the same year he moved to Thessaloniki. In 1892 he was transferred to Ismail, and in 1894 to Ruschuk. Since March 1, 1896, Dimitrie Georgescu, from his position of bureau chief within the commercial and consular department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Central Administration he was appointed vice-consul and chancellor of Romania's consulate in Constantinople, replacing Jeronym Leon. Starting with February 1, 1901, he was transferred as consul to Ruschuk. Between September and November 1903 he was temporarily seconded to Constantinople, where he held the position of general consul director. Starting with April 1, 1904, he was appointed full consul to Monastir, replacing Alexandru Pădeanu, transferred to Ioannina. Since April 1, 1905, he was transferred to Thessaloniki as general consul¹⁵⁰. In September 1906, he was sent back to Ruschuk, as general consul. In 1908, he worked as general consul in Chernivtsi. He returns in 1916 to the central apparatus of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in 1917, he went on a mission to Chernivtsi. Since December 1, 1919, he was appointed director of the Minister's Office¹⁵¹.

At the beginning of his mandate in Thessaloniki, an assassination attempt against him, against the vice-consul Trifon, against inspector Lazăr Duma and against professor Cionga was organized. On this occasion, only Lazăr Duma was badly injured¹⁵². Starting with September 1, 1906, he is sent back to Ruschuk as holder of the office¹⁵³.

3.5. Constantin Contzescu

Constantin Contzescu belonged to an old noble family from Wallachia, mentioned as early as the 17th century. His father was Matei Contzescu (1814-1884), his grandmother was Zinca Mavrodin. Constantin was married to Polixenia Filality¹⁵⁴. In 1894 he was an archivist within the Accounting Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From here, he was transferred to the position of editor within the Commercial and Consular Affairs Directorate¹⁵⁵. Constantin Contzescu was promoted from Monastir to the consulate in Thessaloniki, also acquiring the rank secretary of legation¹⁵⁶. In 1897, while he was a legation attaché to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was in charge of the consulate's affairs in Ruschuk during the vacation of Tomescu,

¹⁴⁹ ***, *Anuarul diplomatic pe 1891 [Diplomatic Yearbook for 1891]*, Bucharest, 1891, p. 28.

¹⁵⁰ A.M.F.A.B., Fund Constantinopol, Vol. 53, Dimitrie Georgescu, unpagued.

¹⁵¹ A.M.F.A.B., Fund Problema 77, Vol. G-24-Dimitrie Georgescu, Part. II., unpagued.

¹⁵² Constantin Papanace, *Originea și conștiința națională a aromânilor, [The Origin and National Identity of the Aromanians]*, Bucharest, Predania Publishing House, 2012, p. 50.

¹⁵³ A.M.F.A.B., Fund Constantinopol, Vol. 53-Dimitrie Georgescu, unpagued.

¹⁵⁴ Octav George Leca, *Familiile Boerești Române. Istoric și Genealogie, [Romanian Noble Families: History and Genealogy]*, Bucharest, Minerva Publishing House, 1899, p. 173.

¹⁵⁵ A.M.F.A.B., Problema 77, Vol. M-48, Victor Mărgăritescu, unpagued.

¹⁵⁶ Stoica Lascu, "The situation of the Balkan Roumanians reflected in 'Revista Macedoniei' (Bucharest; 1905-1906)", in *Analele Universității din Craiova, History Series, XIX, No. 2, 26 (2014)*, p. 71.

the full consul¹⁵⁷. He managed to get the second-class secretary position within the central administration, and from this position he moved to the diplomatic office in Paris. Starting with May 1904, he was transferred to Constantinople. From April 1, 1905, he was appointed consul in Monastir, replacing Dimitrie Georgescu¹⁵⁸. Only one year after he was transferred as consul in Thessaloniki until 1907, when he was promoted to first class legation secretary. After a three-year break, he returned to the consulate in Thessaloniki, between 1910 and 1912. Later on he was called back to the central apparatus of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for a legation councilor position¹⁵⁹. According to other information, he even got the position of legation councilor in Athens. In 1914 he was legation councilor in Paris. Awards received: the “Crown of Romania” Order, as Officer, in May 1911¹⁶⁰.

3.6. Dimitrie C. Penescu

He was born in 1874. He graduated the Law School at the University of Bucharest. He took all the hierarchical steps until he acquired the position of plenipotentiary minister, second class, in 1920. In 1900, he worked as third class legation secretary in Athens. In 1903, he was a legation secretary in Belgrade¹⁶¹, and one year later he was second-class legation secretary within the central apparatus of the Ministry¹⁶². Between 1906 and 1907, he was appointed consul in Monastir. From 1907 until 1910, he worked as consul in Thessaloniki¹⁶³. Following a prior familiarization with the Italian diplomatic environment, as a legation councilor in Rome, he was subsequently appointed Romania’s plenipotentiary minister attached to the Holy See between 1920 and 1928¹⁶⁴. He ended his diplomatic career from the position of Head of Mission in Stockholm¹⁶⁵.

3.7. Constantin Brăileanu

He was born in 1867 in Bilca, Suceava. His father, George Brăileanu, was a teacher and the principal of the village school. After graduating from high school in

¹⁵⁷ ***, *Epoca*, II, No. 557 (September 1897), p. 3.

¹⁵⁸ A.M.F.A.B., Constantinopol, Vol. 53-Dimitrie Georgescu, unpagued.

¹⁵⁹ A.M.F.A.B., Problema 77, Vol. C-13-Contzescu Constantin, unpagued.

¹⁶⁰ A.M.F.A.B., Fund Constantinople, Vol. 46-Spiru Constantinescu, unpagued.

¹⁶¹ A.M.F.A.B., Problem 77, Vol. P-15-Dimitrie C. Penescu, unpagued.

¹⁶² A.M.F.A.B., Problema 77, Vol. M-48-Mărgăritescu Victor, unpagued.

¹⁶³ A.M.F.A.B., Problema 77, Vol. P.-49-Emanoil Pitișteanu, unpagued.

¹⁶⁴ ***, *România-Vatican. Relații diplomatice. I. 1920–1950 [Romania-Vatican. Diplomatic Relations. I. 1920–1950]*, Bucharest, Encyclopedic Publishing House, 2003, pp. 3–4; For his activity to the Holy See, Adrian-Bogdan Ceobanu, Cristina Elena Brăgea and Dimitrie C. Penescu: “Biographical aspects of the first Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Romania to the Holy See (1920–1928)”, in Adrian Vițalariu, Ionuț Nistor and Adrian-Bogdan Ceobanu (eds.), *Romanian Diplomacy in the 20th Century. Biographies, Institutional Pathways, International Challenges*, Berlin, Peter Lang, 2021, pp. 17–64.

¹⁶⁵ Adrian Vițalariu, “Romanian Diplomats in the Scandinavian Countries”, in *Revista Română de Studii Baltice și Nordice [The Romanian Journal for Baltic and Nordic Studies]*, Vol. 6, 2 (2014), pp. 147–167.

Suceava, he enrolled in the Faculty of Forestry in Vienna in 1886. He did not complete his university studies because his family could no longer afford to support him financially. In 1890, Constantin Brăileanu arrived in Bucharest, and his knowledge of German helped him secure a position at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1892, he began as a copyist, and in 1892 he was promoted to calligrapher at the recommendation of Minister Lahovary. In 1894, he was deputy head of the Division of Personnel, Protocol, and the Secretariat of Orders; in 1896, he became head of that division; and from 1903, he served as head of the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between 1891 and 1895, he attended the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy at the University of Bucharest. In 1899, he received his bachelor's degree in law and letters. On August 4, 1905, he joined the consular corps and was appointed consul in Ioannina, a post he held until May 1, 1906. He was then transferred (01.03.1907) to the consulate in Monastir, where he remained until October 1911. In March 1912, Constantin Brăileanu was sent as consul to Constantinople, a decision made by Minister Titu Maiorescu. He held this position until April 1920, when he was delegated to serve as general inspector for the counties of his native Bukovina in the efforts to integrate this new province into the structure of the Romanian state. He was also drawn to parliamentary politics, running for the position of deputy for the Siret-Rădăuți constituency. In December 1920, he returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters as consul general in the Border Division, serving on the joint commission for establishing the borders between Romania and Czechoslovakia¹⁶⁶. Awards received: "Faithful Service" 1st Class (1893), "Crown of Romania" in the rank of Knight (1897), "Crown of Romania" in the rank of Officer (1904), "Crown of Romania" in the rank of Commander (1921), "Manhood and Faith" (1913), "Osmania" (1903), "Saint Anne" (1898)¹⁶⁷.

3.8. Gheorghe Constantin Ionescu

He was born on January 18, 1870, in the locality of Cojasca, Dâmbovița County. He graduated the Teacher Training School in Bucharest, in 1891, led by Alexandru Odobescu and the Teacher Training School in Paris – Auteuil, in 1895. He worked as a schoolmaster in Bucharest, from September 1, 1896, he was schoolmaster of the Romanian School in Sofia, and between 1906 and 1908 he was a school inspector, school organizer for the minorities in Dobrogea and for the "Csangos" in the area of Bacău. He was proficient in French, German and Bulgarian. From August 2, 1902, until 1906, he was seconded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as vice-consul in Monastir. Starting on February 1, 1910, he was appointed chief of the Romanian School and Church Service in Turkey and Bulgaria within the Central Administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a 550 lei salary per month. By means of a Royal Decree dated December 5, 1911, he was appointed starting on

¹⁶⁶ According to the website www.scoalabilca.ro, Accessed on April 23, 2025:

¹⁶⁷ A.M.F.A.B., Fund Problema 77, Vol. B-40- Brăileanu Constantin, unpaginated.

January 1, 1912, consul of Romania in Monastir, replacing Constantin Brăileanu, transferred to Constantinople¹⁶⁸. From November 1, 1913, G. C. Ionescu was transferred from Monastir to Thessaloniki¹⁶⁹, replacing Spiru Constantinescu, who retired. Six years later, in 1919, he was appointed general consul and commissioner of the government in Sofia, and since December 1, 1920, he was general consul in Constantinople until 1932. Since 1924, he represented Romania within the Turkish-Romanian Court of Arbitration, created following the Treaty of Lausanne, and since October 1929, he was a member within the Straits Commission. On May 1, 1932, he applies for his dismissal:

“I end my career with a clear conscience of the man and clerk who did his best to fully carry out his duties”¹⁷⁰.

3.9. Emanoil Pitișteanu

He was born in Paris on December 23, 1873. He received his law degree in Bucharest in 1897. He was married to Elena Dosty. He was fluent in French, German, and Italian. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on November 11, 1893, as a copyist. On February 1, 1896, he was promoted to editor, and on June 1, 1899, he was appointed deputy head of office. From January 16, 1901, he served as secretary-archivist at the Consulate General of Romania in Constantinople. From April 1, 1904, he served as chancellor within the Central Administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until May 1, 1904, when he was seconded to the Consulate General in Thessaloniki, from where he was transferred to Constantinople on February 25, 1905, to the same position as chancellor. Starting on April 6, 1905, he served at the Consulate General in Constantinople, having been promoted to vice-consul. From September 15, 1906, he was recalled to the Ministry's headquarters, serving as vice-consul with the salary of a chancellor, and on September 1, 1911, he was appointed vice-consul at the Consulate General in Budapest. On April 1, 1912, he was transferred to the post of consul in Ioannina, replacing Sebastian Greceanu, who had been transferred to Ismail. He remained in this post until October 1, 1913, when he was sent to serve as consul in Monastir. At the end of 1915, when Monastir was occupied by Bulgarian troops, he returned to the Ministry's headquarters. On October 1, 1918, he was promoted to consul general in the Central Administration

¹⁶⁸ A.M.F.A.B., Problema 77, Vol. I-13-G. C. Ionescu, unpaget.

¹⁶⁹ Several reports from Thessaloniki, sent by Gheorghe Constantin Ionescu in 1917-1918, were recently published by the historian Petronel Zahariuc: “Muntele Athos și Marea Unire” [“Mount Athos and the Great Union”], in *Analele Științifice ale Universității “Alexandru Ioan Cuza”*, Special issue: „Marea Unire a Românilor (1918) – Istorie și actualitate” [“The Great Union of the Romanians (1918) – History and Actuality”], Tom LIX/ 2018, Petronel Zahariuc, Adrian-Bogdan Ceobanu and Adrian Vițalariu (eds.), Iași, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University Press, pp. 211–226.

¹⁷⁰ „Îmi închei cariera cu conștiința curată a omului și a funcționarului care a făcut tot ce i-a stat în putință pentru a-și îndeplini pe deplin îndatoririle”, in A.M.F.A.B., Fund Problema 77, Vol. I-13-G. C. Ionescu, unpaget.

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On December 1, 1920, he was appointed Consul of Romania in Rusciuk until March 1, 1927, when he was recalled to the Central Administration. Beginning July 1, 1928, he was temporarily seconded to the consular office in Constantinople, where he served as manager of that diplomatic mission. As of January 1, 1930, he retired due to reaching the mandatory retirement age. Decorations: “Star of Romania, Officer Class”, “Crown of Romania, Knight Class”, “Avântul Țării” Medal, the “Manhood and Faith” Medal, 1st Class, the “Jubilee Medal”, the “Legion of Honor” in the rank of Knight, the “Order of Franz Joseph I” in the rank of Officer, and the “Order of Saint Sava” in the rank of Commander¹⁷¹.

4. FINAL REMARKS

The structure of the consulate in Monastir at the beginning of the 20th century (1905) was as follows: Constantin Contzescu, consul; Lazăr Duma, “honorary vice-consul, charged with inspecting Romanian schools and churches in Turkey”; George C. Ionescu, honorary vice-consul, charged with administering Romanian schools and churches in Turkey; Constantin Metta, dragoman¹⁷². This consulate played a key role in the Aromanian issue, as the heads of this diplomatic mission were, on more than a few occasions, the true architects of relations between the Aromanians and the local Ottoman/Serbian authorities, the articulated form of Romanian policy in the Balkans, an intermediate segment – yet one of major importance – between the political actors in Bucharest on the one hand and the Aromanian communities and the Ottoman and later, Serbian authorities in the region on the other.

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¹⁷¹ A.M.F.A.B., Fund Problema 77, Vol. P-49-Emanoil Pitișteanu, unpaget.

¹⁷² A.M.F.A.B., Problema 77, Vol. C-13-Contzescu Constantin, unpaget.

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